



Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty)
Ltd

VERKYKERSKOP WEF CLUSTER

Consolidated Stakeholder Engagement Report

VOLUME 1 OF 2





Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd

VERKYKERSKOP WEF CLUSTER

Consolidated Stakeholder Engagement Report

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GLOSSARY

Abbreviation	Definition
CA	Competent Authority
CAA	South African Civil Aviation Authority
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FSBP	<u>Free State Biodiversity Plan</u>
I&APs	interested and affected parties
Mulilo	Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)
PLM	Phumelela Local Municipality
PPP	Public Participation Process
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency Limited
SAWS	South African Weather Service
SER	Stakeholder Engagement Report
SKA	Square Kilometre Array
SPV	Special Purposed Vehicle
WEF	Wind Energy Facility
WSP	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

1 INTRODUCTION

Changes made from the Draft Report have been underlined in this Final Stakeholder Engagement Report (SER) (Final Scoping Report (FSR) phase) for ease of reference.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd (Mulilo) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to meet the requirements under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), for three wind energy facilities (WEFs), collectively known as the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster, located near the town of Verkykerskop in the Free State Province. The Verkykerskop WEF Cluster is made up of the following WEF projects:

- Groothoek WEF (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2666)
- Kromhof WEF (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2667)
- Normandien WEF (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2665)

A combined Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken for all projects mentioned above, and as such this Stakeholder Engagement Report (SER) is applicable to all projects.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Verkykerskop WEF Cluster is located near the town of Harrismith in Ward 5 of the Phumelela Local Municipality (PLM) and in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality (TMDM) in the Free State Province (**Figure 1-1**).

The Verkykerskop WEF Cluster is made up of the three WEF Projects. Each project will be applied for under a separate Special Purposed Vehicle (SPV).

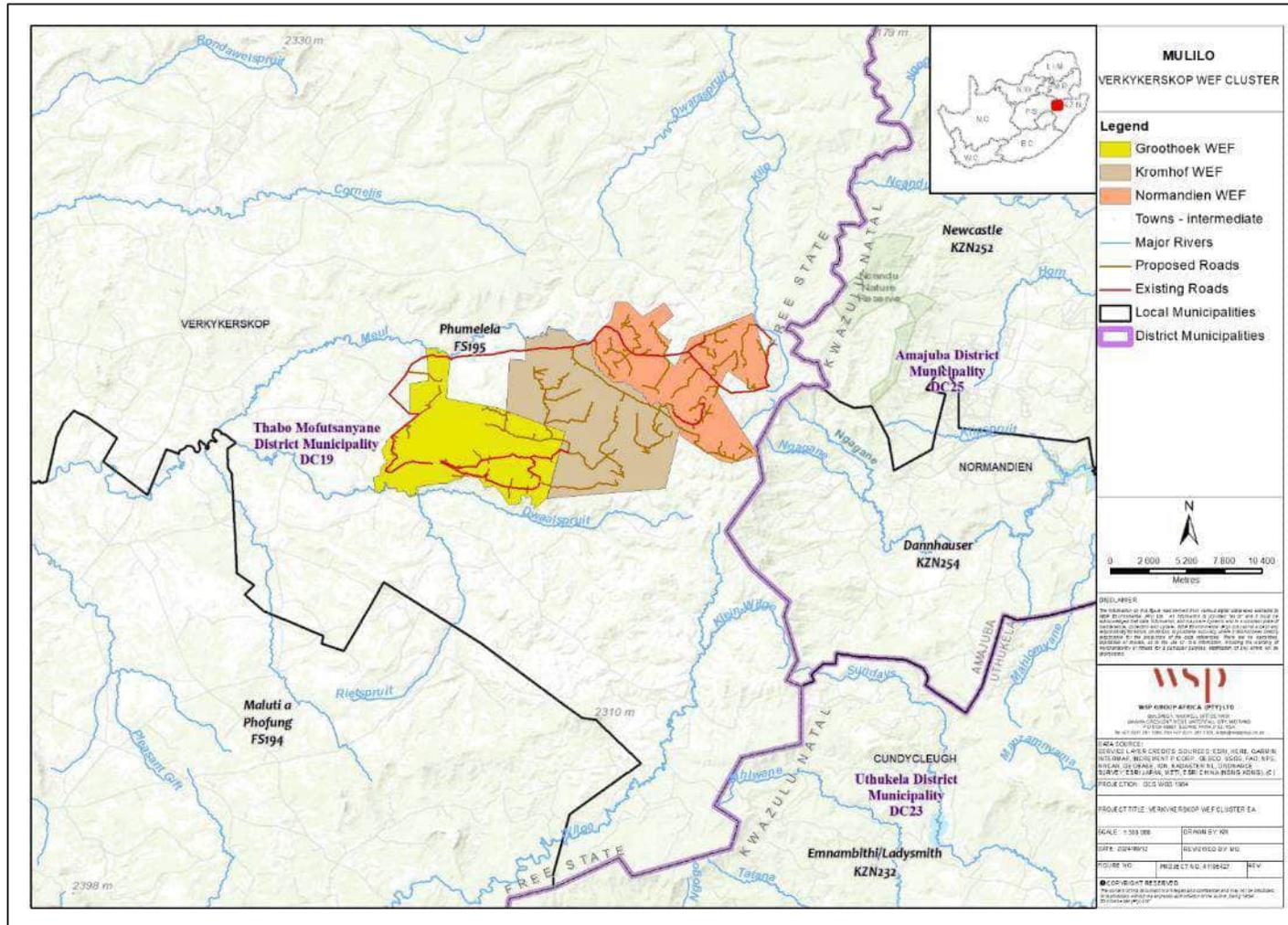


Figure 1-1 - Regional locality map of Verkykerskop WEF Cluster

1.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

There are three WEF applications associated with the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster as indicated in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 – Verkykerskop WEF Cluster Environmental Applications

Project	Applicant	Details	Reference Number	Environmental Process
Groothoek WEF	Groothoek Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW	Still to be issued	Scoping & EIA Process
Kromhof WEF	Kromhof Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW	Still to be issued	Scoping & EIA Process
Normandien WEF	Normandien Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW	Still to be issued	Scoping & EIA Process

1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

WSP was appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Process for the proposed project. This SER was compiled as part of the EA Process and must be read in conjunction with the Scoping Reports in support of the EA applications. **Table 1-2** details the relevant contact details of the EAP.

Table 1-2 – Details of the EAP

EAP:	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person:	Ashlea Strong
Physical Address:	Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, 1685
Postal Address:	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685
Telephone:	011 361 1392
Fax:	011 361 1301
Email:	Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com
EAP Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Masters in Environmental Management, University of the Free State ■ B Tech, Nature Conservation, Technikon SA ■ National Diploma in Nature Conservation, Technikon SA
EAPASA Registration Number:	EAPASA (2019/1005)



To adequately identify and assess potential environmental impacts, the EAP was supported by a number of specialists, the details of which are provided in the Scoping Reports.

STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

Neither WSP nor any of the authors of this Report have any material present or contingent interest in the outcome of this Report, nor do they have any business, financial, personal or other interest that could be reasonably regarded as being capable of affecting their independence. WSP has no beneficial interest in the outcome of the assessment.

1.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is understood to be a series of inclusive and culturally appropriate interactions aimed at providing stakeholders with opportunities to express their views, so that these can be considered and incorporated into the decision-making process. Effective public participation requires the prior disclosure of relevant and adequate project information to enable stakeholders to understand the risks, impacts, and opportunities of the proposed Project.

Basic reasons why the public are involved in the PPP:

- The environment is held in public trust; therefore, use of environmental resources is everyone's concern;
- To ensure that projects meet the citizens' needs and are suitable to the affected public;
- The project carries more legitimacy, and less hostility, if interested and affected parties (I&APs) are able to influence the decision-making process; and
- The final decision is deemed informed when local knowledge and values are included and when expert knowledge is publicly examined.

1.4.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the PPP can be summarised as follows:

- Identify relevant individuals, organisations and communities who may be interested in or affected by the proposed Project;
- Clearly outline the scope of the proposed Project, including the scale and nature of the existing and proposed activities;
- Identify viable proposed Project alternatives that will assist the relevant authorities in making an informed decision;
- Identify shortcomings and gaps in existing information;
- Identify key concerns, raised by I&APs that should be addressed in the subsequent specialist studies;
- Highlight the potential for environmental impacts, whether positive or negative; and
- To inform and provide the public with information and an understanding of the proposed Project, issues and solutions.

1.4.2 WHAT IS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

An I&AP is defined as any person, group of persons or organisations interested in or affected by an activity, and any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity.

The difference between an I&AP and a registered I&AP:

- An I&AP can be directly or indirectly impacted on by a proposed activity.

- A registered I&AP is a person whose name has been placed on the register of registered I&APs. According to the PPP Guidance document, 2017, only registered I&APs will be notified:
 - Of the availability of reports and other written submissions made to the Competent Authority (CA) by the Applicant, and be entitled to comment on these reports and submissions; and
 - Of the outcome of the application, the reasons for the decision, and that an appeal may be lodged against a decision.

For the purpose of this report, registered I&APs will be referred to as Stakeholders.

Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of the Stakeholders

Stakeholders have the right to bring to the attention of the CA any issues that they believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application. The rights of stakeholder are qualified by certain obligations, namely:

- Stakeholders must ensure that their comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), or within any extension of a timeframe agreed by the Proponent, EAP or competent authorities;
- Serve a copy of the comments submitted directly to the competent authorities, the Proponent or the EAP; and
- Disclose to the EAP any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they might have in the approval or refusal of the application.

The roles of stakeholders in a public participation process usually include one or more of the following:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritisation of issues that need to be investigated;
- Making suggestions on alternatives and means of preventing, minimising and managing negative impacts and enhancing proposed Project benefits;
- Assisting in or commenting on the development of mutually acceptable criteria for the evaluation of decision options;
- Contributing information on public needs, values and expectations;
- Contributing local and traditional knowledge; and
- Verifying that their issues have been considered.

In order to participate effectively, stakeholders should:

- Become involved in the process as early as possible;
- Advise the EAP of other stakeholders who should be consulted;
- Contribute towards the design of the public participation process (including timeframes) to ensure that it is acceptable to all stakeholders;
- Follow the process once it has been accepted;
- Read the material provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved;
- Give timeous responses to correspondence;
- Be respectful and courteous towards other stakeholders;
- Refrain from making subjective, unfounded or ill-informed statements; and
- Recognise that the process is confined to issues that are directly relevant to the application.

1.5 APPROACH TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Our approach to stakeholder engagement is based on the following principles:

- Undertake meaningful and timely participation with stakeholders;
- Focus on important issues during the process;
- Undertake due consideration of alternatives;
- Take accountability for information used;
- Encourage co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership over the proposed Project lifecycle;
- Apply “due process” particularly with regard to public participation as provided for in the EIA Regulations; and
- Consider the needs, interests and values of stakeholders.

The Public Participation guideline in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, drafted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (now DFFE) in 2017, tabulates the level of Public Participation required for various levels of anticipated project impacts. This table has been used to identify additional Public Participation methods which are required for the Project. Highlighted cells (red) indicate the applicable response to the anticipated impacts. Results of the process are shown in **Table 1-3**.

Table 1-3 – Level of Public Participation as per Public Participation Guideline (DEA, 2017)

Scale of Anticipated Impacts	Recommended Response	
	If “Yes”	If “No”
Are the impacts of the project likely to extend beyond the boundaries of the local municipality?	Formal Consultation with other affected municipalities should be carried out during the PPP.	No need to have a formal consultation with other municipalities during PPP. Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA must be met.
Are the impacts of the project likely to extend beyond the boundaries of the province?	Formal Consultation with other affected provinces should be carried out during the PPP.	No need to have a formal consultation with other provinces during PPP. Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA must be met.
Is the project a greenfields development (a new development in a previously undisturbed area)?	Extensive consultation with Registered Interested and Affected Parties (RI&APs) might be required before a decision is taken on the project to in order to gather more information, and to ensure that there is minimal impact on the environment.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Does the area already suffer from socio-economic problems (e.g. job losses) or environmental problems (e.g. pollution), and is the project likely to exacerbate these?	Extensive consultation with RI&APs within the area should be undertaken, to gather more information on both the socio-economic and environmental problems.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.

Scale of Anticipated Impacts	Recommended Response	
	If “Yes”	If “No”
Is the project expected to have a wide variety of impacts (e.g. socio-economic and ecological)?	Thorough consultation needs to be conducted with RI&APs, in order to address variety of impacts.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Public and environmental sensitivity of the project:		
Are there widespread public concerns about the potential negative impacts of the project?	Broader consultation with all RI&APs will need to be undertaken.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Is there a high degree of conflict among RI&APs?	There might need to be more consultation to ensure that there is consensus reached among RI&APs.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Will the project impact on private land other than that of the applicant?	Consultation with the private landowner must be done, and all their concerns need to be addressed.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Does the project have the potential to create unrealistic expectations (e.g. that a new factory would create a large number of jobs)?	Thorough consultation that addresses the perceptions of unrealistic expectations needs to be carried out.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Potentially affected parties:		
Has very little previous public participation taken place in the area?	More thorough public participation should take place within the area, to ensure that all potential and RI&APs participate.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Did previous public participation processes in the area result in conflict?	Additional consultation might be needed to ensure that issues of conflict are addressed effectively.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Are there existing organisational structures (e.g. local forums) that can represent I&APs?	Organizational structures might minimise conflict whilst maximising the participation.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Is the area characterised by high social diversity (i.t.o. socio-economic status, language or culture)?	Proper consultations that address language and cultural diversity should be promoted.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Were people in the area victims of unfair expropriations or relocation in the past?	PPP should be extensive and address any unfair practices that occurred in the past.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.

Scale of Anticipated Impacts	Recommended Response	
	If “Yes”	If “No”
Is there a high level of unemployment in the area?	The PPP should ensure that there are no unrealistic expectations created due to the project. The consultation should ensure that any unrealistic expectations are adequately addressed before the project starts.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met.
Do the RI&APs have special needs (e.g. a lack of skills to read or write, disability, etc)?	Consultation should include mechanisms that will ensure full participation by people with special needs.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance with EIA Regulations must be met. Minimum requirements for PP in accordance with the Act must be met as well as best practices relating to PP.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TO DATE

2.1 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

A pre-application meeting was held on **06 February 2024** with the DFFE in order to discuss the proposed Project. The minutes of this meeting and approval from the DFFE are included in **Appendix C.1**.

2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Section 41 of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended) states that written notices must be given to identified stakeholders as outlined in **Table 2-1**.

Relevant authorities (Organs of State) have been automatically registered as stakeholders. In accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), all other persons must request in writing to be placed on the register, submit written comments, or attend meetings to be registered as stakeholders, and included in future communication regarding the Project.

Table 2-1 – Interested and Affected Parties

NEMA Requirement	Discussion
(i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land	<p>The project activity is located on various portions of privately owned land. The landowners have been included on the stakeholder database. The land portions associated with the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 ■ Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 ■ Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 ■ Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 ■ Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 ■ Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 ■ Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982

NEMA Requirement	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 ■ Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 ■ Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478
(ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken	All landowners have been contacted to confirm whether there are any occupiers on the land portions. Where applicable, occupiers have been included on the database.
(iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken	Adjacent landowner details were collected and have been included on the stakeholder database. Where applicable, occupiers have been included on the database.
(iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area	Ward Councillors of Ward 5 (PLM) have been included on the stakeholder database.
(v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area	The project is located in PLM located within the TMDM. Both Local and District Municipalities have been included on the stakeholder database.
(vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	DFFE has been, and will continue to be, consulted. The Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (FS DEDTEA) has been included on the stakeholder database.
(vii) any other party as required by the competent authority.	<p>All tiers of government, namely, national, provincial, local government and parastatals have been included on the stakeholder database. Inclusive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DFFE; ■ DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation; ■ DFFE: Protected Areas; ■ Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS); ■ Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE); ■ FS DEDTEA; ■ Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; ■ Free State Department of Rural Development and Land Reform; ■ Free State Department of Water and Sanitation; ■ Free State Tourism Authority; ■ KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; ■ KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; ■ KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health; ■ KwaZulu-Natal Department of Mineral Resources and Energy; ■ Department of Public Works; ■ National Department of Transport; ■ South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL);

NEMA Requirement	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA); ■ South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA); ■ Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS); ■ Square Kilometre Array (SKA); ■ South African Weather Service (SAWS); ■ BirdLife South Africa; ■ PLM; ■ TMDM; ■ Newcastle Local Municipality; ■ Dannhauser Local Municipality; ■ Amajuba District Municipality; ■ South African National Parks; ■ Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife; ■ Department of Defence Force; ■ Transnet Freight Rail; ■ Eskom Holdings SOC Limited; ■ South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI); and ■ Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). <p>For a full list of registered stakeholders please refer to Appendix A.</p>

Appendix A provides a list of stakeholders registered on the Project database. The stakeholder database will be updated throughout the EA process.

2.3 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

2.3.1 DIRECT NOTIFICATION

Notification of the proposed Project was issued to potential and existing Stakeholders, via direct correspondence (i.e., site notices, emails, SMSs, etc.) on 22 January 2025. Copies of the notification letters have been included in **Appendix B.1**.

Proof of email and SMS notification is included in **Appendix B.4** of this report.

2.3.2 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of GNR 982, as amended, the proposed project was advertised in two local newspapers. The purpose of the advertisement is to notify the public about the proposed project and to invite them to register as stakeholders. A copy of the advertisement and proof of publication is included in **Appendix B.2**. The advertisement publication details are provided in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2 – Dates on which the advert will be published

Newspaper	Distribution Type	Language	Reach	Publication Date
Northern Natal News	Newspaper	English and Afrikaans	Dundee, Newcastle, Volkrust, Vryheid, Madadeni, Escourt, Danhouse, Utrecht, Paul Pieterburg, Glencoe, Colenso, Ladysmith,	4 October 2024

Newspaper	Distribution Type	Language	Reach	Publication Date
			Bergville, Winterton, Weenen, Mooriver	
Eastern Free State Issue	Newspaper	English and Sesotho	Bethlehem, QwaQwa, Setsing, Witsieshoek, Harrismith, Kestell, Reitz, Senekal, Ficksburg	3 October 2024

2.3.3 SITE NOTICES

In accordance with GNR 326 Section 41(2)(a-b) site notices have been developed (see **Appendix B.3**) and were placed at strategic points in close proximity to the proposed Project site. Proof of placement of the site notices is included in **Table 2-3**.

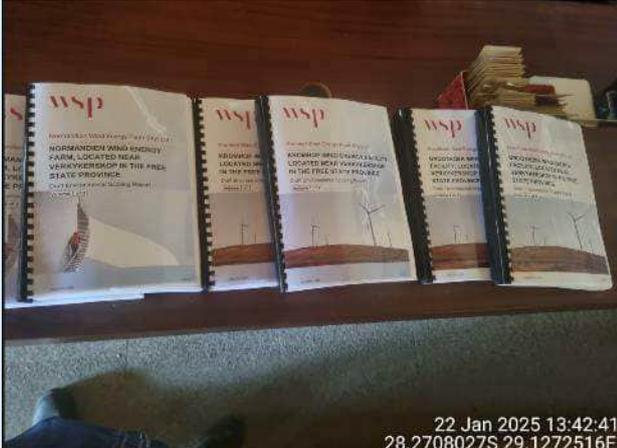
Table 2-3 – Dates on which the advert will be published

<u>Venue / Location</u>	<u>Photograph</u>
<u>Site Notice 1</u> <u>27°40'38.27"S</u> <u>29°33'49.59"E</u>	
<u>Site Notice 2</u> <u>27°58'46.61"S</u> <u>29°23'36.75"E</u>	

<u>Venue / Location</u>	<u>Photograph</u>
<p><u>Site Notice 3</u> <u>27°56'0.50"S</u> <u>29°31'22.05"E</u></p>	 <p>22 Jan 2025 15:51:06 27.933473009285385S 29.52279254020625E</p>
<p><u>Site Notice 4</u> <u>27°56'23.34"S</u> <u>29°26'30.25"E</u></p>	 <p>22 Jan 2025 15:33:57 27.93981599247483S 29.44173588267994E</p>

<u>Venue / Location</u>	<u>Photograph</u>
<p><u>Public Notice 1</u></p> <p><u>28°16'18.97"S</u></p> <p><u>29° 7'39.49"E</u></p>	 <p>22 Jan 2025 13:43:55 28.2719374S 29.127635E 60 Warden Street Harrismith iNtabazwe Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Free State</p>
<p><u>Public Notice 2</u></p> <p><u>27°55'15.13"S</u></p> <p><u>29°16'45.04"E</u></p>	 <p>22 Jan 2025 14:30:35 27.9208681S 29.2791785E R722 Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Free State</p>

<u>Venue / Location</u>	<u>Photograph</u>
<p>Public Notice 3</p> <p><u>27°40'38.27"S</u></p> <p><u>29°33'49.59"E</u></p>	 <p>23 Jan 2025 10:53:41 27.67729719837897S 29.563774562446397E Memel Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Free State</p>
<p>Public Notice 4</p> <p><u>27°45'27.36"S</u></p> <p><u>29°55'52.21"E</u></p>	 <p>23 Jan 2025 09:31:12 27.7576011S 29.9311691E</p>

<u>Venue / Location</u>	<u>Photograph</u>
<p><u>VKB Verkykerskop, Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road</u></p>	 <p>22 Jan 2025 13:42:41 28.2708027S 29.1272516E</p>
<p><u>Verkykerskop General Dealer</u></p>	 <p>22 Jan 2025 14:28:13 27.920886357692968S 29.279108477505073E R722 Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Free State</p>

<u>Venue / Location</u>	<u>Photograph</u>
<u>Newcastle Library</u>	
<u>Zamani Library</u>	

2.3.4 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS

The Draft Scoping Reports were placed on public review for a period of 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**, at the venues as follows:

- Hard Copy: Verkykerskop: VKB Verkykerskop, Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road;
- Hard Copy: Memel: Zamani Library, Eeufees Street
- Hard Copy: Harrismith: Harrismith Library, 27 Murray Street;
- Hard Copy: Newcastle: Newcastle Library, 66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD
- Electronic Copy: WSP Website (<https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>); and
- Electronic Copy: Datafree Website (<https://wsp-engage.com/>).

The Draft Reports were made available to Commenting Authorities via a One Drive link.

In order to ensure maximum participation of all I&APs, reports were shared on the Datafree website.

Proof of display is included in **Appendix B.5**.



2.3.5 AVAILABILITY OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) will be submitted to DFFE on **7 March 2025**. The FSR will be made available as follows:

- Electronic Copy: WSP Website (<https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>); and
- Electronic Copy: Datafree Website (<https://wsp-engage.com/>).

2.4 STAKEHOLDER REGISTRATION

All I&APs that either called in or sent written correspondence, such as emails, fax, or post, to the EAP have been added to the database and their comments and/or queries have been responded to.



3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

All concerns, comments, viewpoints, and questions (collectively referred to as 'issues') received during the comment period have been documented and responded to adequately in this Comment and Response Report (CRR) included in **Table 3-1**. The original comments and responses are included in the FSR as **Appendix D** of this SER.

3.1 DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

Table 3-1 - Comments received during the Draft Scoping Report Review Period and associated responses

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<u>Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)</u>			
<p><u>Morgan Griffiths</u> <u>22 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good afternoon WSP Group Africa</u> <u>Thank you for contacting WESSA for comments on these three EIA applications.</u> <u>WESSA supports the development of renewable energy power installations, as a cleaner alternative to the burning of fossil fuels. In balancing the positives and negatives of this technology, WESSA is satisfied that wind power plants are a much cleaner power generating technology than carbon-based energy extraction. But wind energy facilities (WEFs) do have a few negatives that need to be considered and mitigated, namely:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this response.</u> <u>Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>Land-use issues:</u> <u>WESSA recommends that WEFS are only sited at lower-quality locations such as brownfields, abandoned mining land, or existing transportation and transmission corridors. Greenfield sites should be avoided.</u> <u>The EIA should consider assessing the impact of this large-scale solar facility on the receiving land's diversity and abundance of native pollinator insects, birds, and bats. The EIA should also develop technologies and methodologies to better monitor and understand</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this response.</u> <u>A soil and Land use and Land Capability was undertaken for the project. The results are discussed in Section 6.11 of the FSR for each project site. The study highlights that the "site falls outside of an area that is classified as a Protected Agricultural Area". The study is appended in G.4 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.11 of the DSR, Appendix G.4 of the FSR</u> <u>Section 6.2.1, 6.2.5 and Section 8.1 of the FSR;</u> <u>Appendix G.6 and G.7 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>interactions between large-scale wind facilities and avifauna species, as well as mitigate any currently know and later identified impacts.</u></p> <p><u>Understanding that vegetation around and under the turbines needs to be managed for fire risk, WESSA recommends very careful management of the site vegetation, so as to prevent erosion, alien invasive plant infestation and loss of local biodiversity.</u></p> <p><u>The impacts of the service roads, pipelines and electricity lines need to be also carefully considered as part of the project. For instance, while the power plant infrastructure may have minimal impacts, the installation of a connecting powerline across a wetland or know (large) bird flightpath may cause severe environmental harm.</u></p>	<p><u>In addition, avifaunal studies have been undertaken for the proposed project, and pre-construction monitoring of avifauna is on-going for each WEF. The results of the avifaunal assessment are discussed in Section 6.2.5 and the potential impacts have been included in Section 8.1 of the FSR and is appended to Appendix G.7. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p> <p><u>The results of the terrestrial biodiversity assessment are discussed in Section 6.2.1 and the potential impacts have been included in Section 8.1 of the FSR and appended to Appendix G.6 of the FSR . A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p> <p><u>A fire risk protocol plan will be discussed and included in the EMPr during the Draft EIA phase to manage the impacts associated with vegetation.</u></p> <p><u>Impacts associated with the associated infrastructure (service roads, pipelines and electricity lines) have been considered in the specialist scoping reports and the results are discussed in Section 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of the DSR and the potential associated impacts is discussed in Section 8.1 of the FSR.</u></p> <p><u>The connection of the powerline will be a separate process and therefore does not form part of the current project scope, therefore, impacts on wetland</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of the FSR,</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Water-use:</u></p> <p><u>WESSA recognises that the power plant infrastructure and facilities may periodically need to be cleaned with water. We are concerned about where this water will be sourced, and what impact that this will have; as well as to the cumulative impact of whatever cleaning chemicals are used on the receiving environment? Can rainwater be collected for use for cleaning instead? Can water and chemical use be limited by alternative, less impactful methods (such as air-hosing?)</u></p>	<p><u>crossings associated with the powerline will be assessed separately.</u></p> <p>APPLICANT:</p> <p><u>A wind facility does not require cleaning in the way a solar facility requires the solar panels to be cleaned. Operational water requirement on an average wind farm is approximately 80 kL/per turbine/year. Water use on site is primarily for domestic use at the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Building as well as road maintenance and dust suppression.</u></p> <p><u>The applicant will consider the use of rainwater harvesting, as well as using environmentally friendly cleaning agent during operations.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Birds Mortality:</u></p> <p><u>Mortality through birds' collision with turbines blades or transmission lines.</u></p> <p><u>The developments of wind energy affect birds through direct mortality and through habitat loss and degradation. High mortality rate of birds has been recorded due to the development of wind farms and thus this poses a threat to wildlife species. The birds can be injured or get killed when they collide with the rotating wind blade due to changes in air pressure caused by the spinning turbines, as well as from habitat disruption.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges those comments and confirms that the impacts to avifauna as highlighted by WESSA have been considered during the draft scoping phase. The result of the avifaunal assessment is discussed in Section 6.2.5 and the potential impacts have been included in Section 8.1 of the FSR and is appended in Appendix G.7. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p> <p>APPLICANT:</p>	<p>Section 6.2.5 and Section 8.1 of the FSR</p> <p>Appendix G.7</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Birds flying in the turbine rotor swept zone are potentially at risk of collision and serious injury or death. Birds can collide with the earth wire of transmission lines which are thin and hard to see and thus leads to birds being killed or injured.</u></p> <p><u>Mortality through electrocution on distribution lines. Raptors and other large perching birds are the greatest threat from electrocution at the pylons of wind farm-associated powerlines. Electrocution rates at the pylons of low- or medium-voltage lines can be high and disproportionately affect some species that use pylons of low-voltage lines as perches when hunting or for nesting. Some of these birds that are risk due to wind turbines collision and electrocution are at the Southern African are martial eagle, black harrier, Ludwig's bustard, blue crane and Verreaux's eagle.</u></p> <p><u>Barrier effects to migratory birds Multiple wind farms in the same landscape may create barriers for bird species although such impacts have not been extensively studied. As some species do show high collision avoidance rates, it is likely that their flight paths will change, especially if there are large numbers of closely spaced turbines in a landscape.</u></p> <p><u>Migratory birds are particularly affected by wind turbines as they often travel in large flocks along set routes. Any obstacles blocking their flight paths will not only cause fatalities but may force them to burn crucial energy reserves diverting their route or abandon much-needed rest stops altogether. For example, migrating raptors</u></p>	<p><u>Long Term bird monitoring and assessment in line with all applicable guidelines is underway and will be completed for the EIA phase.</u></p>	

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	<p><u>appear to adjust their flight trajectories to avoid new wind farms. Such barrier effects may become increasingly apparent as more wind farms are developed and monitoring (including of tagged birds) improves.</u></p> <p><u>Recommended mitigation measures</u></p> <p><u>Winds turbines should also include the new technology enhancement such as Avian radar system that detects birds as far as approximately 6 and half kilometres. If the system detects that there are birds that are in danger of flying into the rotating turbines, then it automatically shut the rotating turbines and restart when the birds have passed.</u></p> <p><u>The scoping studies in an EIA process should ensures that there is an incorporation of existing internationally and national research on birds' activities, such as peak seasons of migration of bird, the distribution of bird's species in an ecosystem, habitat data, the time of the day when birds usual fly by at rotor-swept height. This information may assist to temporary pause rotation of turbines to avoid collisions.</u></p> <p><u>Painting two-thirds of a single blade of each wind turbine blades a different colour to increase visibility to birds and making it easier for birds of prey to detect the rotating blades.</u></p> <p><u>Designing low- or medium-voltage powerlines, or adding insulation to existing poles and wires, to reduce the risk of electrocution of birds or other wildlife from contact. Measures to change the design of transmission lines to</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges the comment and confirms that the recommendations made will be considered by the Applicant and specialist, where deemed applicable by the specialist, included in the EMPr during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, the avifauna specialist has confirmed that their final impact assessment will include consideration of the factors you have mentioned, i.e. of existing international and national research on birds' activities, such as peak seasons of migration of bird, the distribution of bird's species in an ecosystem, habitat data, the time of the day when birds usual fly by at rotor-swept height.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p><u>The applicant will most definitely be open to implementing a range of mitigation measures as recommended by the specialist. We have also done a lot of research into various mitigation measures and will shortly be implementing blade painting at one of our operational facilities as part of a research trail partnered with UCT. Furthermore, we agree that there are some very exciting technologies for</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>reduce bird collisions aim to reduce the vertical spread of lines, increase the visibility of lines, and/or decrease the span length.</p> <p>Specific measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <u>Reducing the number of vertical wires levels by adjusting the conductor heights to reduce the number of potential collisions points.</u> ■ <u>Stringing wires as low as possible.</u> ■ <u>Keeping wire span lengths as short as possible to minimise line height as birds usually respond to seeing lines by increasing height.</u> ■ <u>Using wires with a thicker diameter or bundling wires to increase visibility.</u> 	<p><u>automatic shutdown on demand, especially AI based camera tracking systems. We would be open to implementing such systems on this WEF if advised by the specialist.</u></p> <p><u>The mitigation measures recommended for MV power lines are noted, and will be discussed with the avifaunal specialist and the engineers and implemented where possible.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Bats Mortality:</u></p> <p><u>Mortality of bats through electrocution of large bat species, particularly fruit bats, has been identified as an issue associated with distribution lines. Some of the groups of bats are long-lived species with a low reproductive rate and thus this makes them more vulnerable to extinction due to electrocution. There is limited evidence of risks to bats, although electrocution of large bat species, particularly fruit bats, has been identified as an issue associated with distribution lines.</u></p> <p><u><i>Mortality of bats through collisions</i></u></p> <p><u>Moving wind turbines creates zones of low pressure as the air flows over them. Species that comes near to the moving wind turbines may suffer from barotrauma</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>A bat assessment was undertaken for each proposed WEF, and the results of the studies is discussed and included in Section 6.2.6 of the FSR, and the potential impacts have been considered and highlighted in Section 8.1 of the FSR and appended in Appendix G.7. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.2.6 and Section 8.1 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Appendix G.7 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p><u>because of injury caused by sudden pressure changes. Barotrauma is a significant cause for bats fatalities at wind turbines. Wildlife biologists have found that bats are most active when wind speeds are low.</u></p>		
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>The wind turbines should be kept motionless during the times of low speeds to reduce the bat deaths by more than the half without significantly affecting the production of power. Another effective minimisation measure is thus to increase the wind speed at which turbines become operational.</u></p> <p><u>The scoping study should include the following: Collation and review of existing literature (including the latest research undertaken both locally and internationally); maps and aerial photographs; and habitat data to identify habitats which may be used by bats; data on bat distributions, roosts, bat sightings, migration routes, and likely foraging and commuting areas on or close to the proposed wind energy facility site.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that the recommendations made will be considered by the Applicant and specialist and included in the EMPr during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p><u>We agree that increasing the “cut in speed” at which the turbines become operational is an accepted international best practice mitigation. We are open to implemented this according to the recommendations discussed and agreed on with the bat specialist, following the final data analysis and impact assessment.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>Habitat Loss Through Disturbance and Displacement:</u></p> <p><u>Wind farm general have a small scale of physical footprint and man land uses such as agriculture are compatible, with only small areas of turbine foundations and infrastructure made unavailable for use.</u></p> <p><u>However, the construction of wind energy turbines and their associated facilities requires clearance of vegetation and displacement of lands and thus this has caused</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Habitat loss was assessed in the terrestrial biodiversity report. The results of the terrestrial biodiversity is discussed in Section 6.2.1 and the potential impacts have been included in Section 8.1 of the FSR. The study is appended in Appendix G.6 of the FSR. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D – SER;</u></p> <p><u>Appendix 6 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>habitat loss. Wind farms trigger some species to avoid places where wind farms are developed, resulting in displacement and effective loss of habitat. Changes in species abundance with the presence of wind farms can affect predator-prey dynamics and ecosystem function although, the nature and prevalence of this impact is still poorly understood.</u></p>		
	<p><u>WESSA recommends:</u></p> <p><u>Screening tools should be used to determine Key biodiversity areas and critical biodiversity areas and such areas should be avoided or minimised. The screening tools should be used at initial stages of planning and design to guarantee and safeguard that best practices in micro siting should be developed so that it can help to reduce the potential land use impacts of offshore and land-based wind projects.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that DFFE Screening Report was undertaken for each WEF and was used by each specialist for their scoping reports. The screening reports for each project is appended in Appendix E of the FSR.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, key biodiversity areas and critical biodiversity areas were screened and identified and included in the terrestrial biodiversity report. The results of the terrestrial biodiversity is discussed in Section 6.2.1 and the potential impacts have been included in Section 8.1 of the FSR. The study is appended in Appendix G.6 of the FSR. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix E of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>Landscape Visibility:</u></p> <p><u>Winds farms should not be located near the nature game reserves as this may affect the visibility of the landscape scare the giant herbivores animals and affect the visibility of the nature reserves. The tourism industry located near wind farms might as well be affected as the major tour</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>A Visual Assessment was undertaken for the Scoping phase of the project. The results are discussed in Section 6.3.4 of the FSR for each project site. The study is appended in G.2 of the</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.3.4 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Appendix G.2 of FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>operators will direct their tourists to game reserves where there are no visual impacts caused by the winds farms. Local communities may also feel a loss of cultural values (e.g., where sacred sites are impacted), including a sense of place and belonging. Wind farms may also impact the aesthetic value of an area, in turn negatively impacting the tourism potential or land value.</u></p>	<p><u>FSR. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p> <p><u>The proposed WEF cluster is not situated near any nature or game reserves.</u></p>	
	<p><u>WESSA Recommends:</u></p> <p><u>That winds farms should not be located within 25 kilometres of any nature/game reserve, protected/wilderness area, natural heritage site or biosphere core area.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>According to the terrestrial biodiversity scoping report “No nationally protected areas are situated within the project area, with the closest feature listed on the National Protected Areas Register (DFFE, 2022) being the Ngandu Private Forest and Grassland Reserve and Umsonti Private Nature reserve to the East of the Project area.”</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider and include the recommendation in the EMPr during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.2.1 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Appendix G.6 the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>Fire:</u></p> <p><u>Wind turbines can start fire as a result from lightning strike or electrical or mechanical malfunction leading to ignition, which spreads to the surrounding plastics and fibreglass nacelle. Most of the times when turbines catch fires cannot be easily extinguished due to the heights of the wind turbines. They are normally left to burn and, in the process, toxic fumes and sparks are generated and can</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider and include the recommendation in the EMPr during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>scatter flaming debris over a wide area, starting secondary fires. A wind turbine fire can spread to the surrounding environment, sparking wildfires, and potentially spreading into nearby communities.</u></p> <p><u>WESSA Recommends:</u></p> <p><u>The operators must continuously ensure that electronic controllers and safety sub-systems that monitors different aspects of wind turbines such as generator, tower, and environment are functioning well to determines electrical and mechanical faults within wind turbine and to ensure that they are operating in a safe manner within prescribed limits. These systems can temporarily shut down the turbine due to high wind, electrical load imbalance, vibration, and other problems.</u></p> <p><u>The owners, facilitators, or operators of the wind farms must communicate their commitment and assurance on prevention and protection of fire suppression with landowners and other community stakeholders.</u></p>	<p><u>The developer confirms that a fire management plan will be included in the EMPr to assist in the control and spread of fire.</u></p> <p><u>Your comment is acknowledged with regards to the spread of turbine related fires and the health and safety, and turbine maintenance protocols will be put in places for operations.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Noise and Vibrations</u></p> <p><u>The wind turbines generate sound as they turn in wind. The sound generated by wind turbines is aerodynamic, caused by the movement of turbine blades through the air. There is also mechanical sound generated by the turbine itself. Overall sound levels depend on turbine design and wind speed. The noise and vibrations of the giant turbines may negatively impact on mega-fauna, especially elephants, as previously existing studies have shown that the sound generated from wind turbines interferes with the</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>A Noise Assessment was undertaken for the Scoping phase of the project. The results are discussed in Section 6.3.6 of the FSR for each project site. The study is appended in G.3 of the FSR. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report.</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider and include the recommendation in the EMPr</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.3.6 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Appendix G.3 the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>ability of elephants to communication. Elephant hear and communicate using low frequency sound; they can hear up to 10 kilometres away. The sound generated from wind blades affects people as well as they cause nuisance and increases stress level.</u></p> <p><u>WESSA Recommends:</u> <u>That wind farms must not be located within 10 kms of elephant habitats. That technological advance, such as minimizing blade surface imperfections and using sound-absorbent materials can be used to reduce wind turbine noise.</u></p>	<p><u>during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Introduction of invasive alien species</u></p> <p><u>Movement of equipment, people or components may facilitate the introduction of invasive alien species (IAPs), for example through its transport in soil on machinery or attached to clothing, etc. The creation of new habitats, for instance by land disturbance during construction or by creating open spaces, may also facilitate the spread of invasive alien species already present on the site.</u></p> <p><u>WESSA Recommends:</u> <u>That due care is taken to prevent IAPs from invading and spreading from the development footprint, including the service corridors. The EMP for the site should long-term IAP control.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider and include the recommendation in the EMPr during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>
	<p><u>Hazardous construction materials:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>The turbine blades, tower and generation unit include hazardous materials. WESSA calls upon by the applicant/WEF developer to comply with national environmental standards and international best practice in the manufacturing, recycling and disposing of these hazardous materials.</p>	<p>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider and include the recommendation in the EMPr during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</p> <p>APPLICANT:</p> <p>The developer confirms that we will comply with all relevant and applicable standards and legislation regarding the recycling and disposing of any hazardous substances over the full life-cycle of the facility, including the decommissioning phase.</p>	
	<p><u>Local Community Beneficiation:</u></p> <p>Wind power plant construction and operation in some of the country's most begotten and poverty-stricken areas can go a long way to providing much needed employment and skills to local communities. The development can contribute to a long-term positive through committing to socio-economic upliftment and (enviro-) education programmes, environmental stewardship and conservation initiatives.</p> <p>We refer you to the attached IUCN comprehensive guide for project developers on mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development.</p> <p>WESSA trusts that these issues will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the EIA documents and in the decision-making process.</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>A Social Assessment was undertaken for the Scoping phase of the project. The results are discussed in Section 6.3.5 of the FSR for each project site. The study is appended in G.11 of the FSR. A full impact assessment will be included in the Draft EIA report</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment, and the guideline provided will be considered during the EIA phase of the project, where applicable.</p>	<p>Section 6.3.5 of the FSR</p> <p>Appendix G.11 the FSR</p> <p>Appendix D of the SER</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Battery Energy Storage Systems:</u></p> <p><u>Many renewable energy generation applications now include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). They form a strategic technology, aimed at storing energy produced by the proposed generation facility, for later release into the transmission grid as required. This then smooths the supply of renewable energy into the energy grid reducing the need for carbon-based energy generation. However, BESS technology does have some negative environmental impacts that need to be mitigated.</u></p> <p><u>The BESS systems require cleared land for the containerized battery units, transformer facility, roads and fencing; which creates impacts of cleared vegetation, loss of biodiversity and hardening of surfaces. These impacts need to be mitigated, with WESSA advocating that the BESS be built only on disturbed land. Most of the BESS systems are composed of sealed battery packs. Batteries suffer from cycle ageing: deterioration caused by charge-discharge cycles; which causes a loss of performance (capacity or voltage decrease) and can cause overheating leading to critical failure (electrolyte leaks, fire, explosion). The BESS site then needs a fire response plan and possibly fire-breaks around them.</u></p> <p><u>The disposal of these batteries poses a severe environmental risk, from toxic chemicals and minerals leaking from cracked battery cases. Hence these batteries will preferably need to be recycled, otherwise properly disposed of. The BESS operational management plan should include dealing with aged/broken batteries.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The BESS facilities will be assessed as part of the Grid Connection Assessment, which will be separate authorisation processes.</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment, and the recommendation provided will be considered during the EIA phase of the project.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>WESSA recommends that there should be a national initiative that manages, promotes and fosters the responsible recycling and/or disposal of these type of batteries. This initiative could be funded by renewable energy producers, their associations, battery manufacturers and battery importers. Funding could be from a surcharge on the import or local manufacture of these types of batteries.</u></p> <p><u>Yours faithfully Morgan Griffiths</u></p>		
<u>National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)</u>			
<p><u>John Geeringh</u> <u>22 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Please send me a KMZ file of the affected properties and proposed development. Please find attached Eskom requirements as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments to be read in conjunction with GN R 4143.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day John,</u> <u>Thank you for the requirement and setback guideline documents.</u> <u>As requested, please see the project kmz as requested.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>The applicant takes note of the Eskom requirements as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments to be read in conjunction with GNR 4143 and will implement the requirements accordingly in the final designs of the facilities.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)			
<p><u>Nrateng Mashiloane</u> <u>24 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good day,</u> <u>I hope this email finds you well.</u> <u>SACAA has no comments for the proposed development of the Verkykerskop wind energy facility cluster. The proposed development is outside the vicinity of aviation infrastructure which show no indication of major/negative impacts to aviation infrastructure and activities within the airport. However, a formal obstacle assessment is required for the proposed development as includes the wind turbines, powerline and associated infrastructure. Kindly lodge an application as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Nrateng Mashiloane</u> <u>Aviation Environmental Compliance Department</u> <u>Aviation Safety Infrastructure (ASI)- Aviation Environmental Compliance</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Nrateng</u> <u>The email was received, thank you.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>The applicant is aware of the SACAA requirements and will accordingly, apply for the required obstacle approvals at the relevant times in the development process.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (KZNDARD)			
<p><u>Bongiwe Thabede</u> <u>27 January 2025</u></p>	<p><u>Greetings Applicant</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Bongiwe,</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<u>Email</u>	<p>Kindly note that the received application is in <u>Verkykerskop in Free State which outside our KwaZulu-Natal province.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards</u></p> <p><u>Bongiwe</u></p> <p><u>Thabede</u></p>	<p><u>Thank you for your comment.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	
<u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Biodiversity and Conservation</u>			
<p><u>Tebego Kgaphola</u></p> <p><u>29 January 2025</u></p> <p><u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Nompumelelo Lekalakala (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.</u></p> <p><u>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</u></p> <p><u>Regards,</u></p> <p><u>Tebego Kgaphola</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Tebego,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for the update. Mrs Makitla and Ms Lekalakala have been included in the project database.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good Day,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your response. Please find the kml file for the development footprints/application site attached.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation</u></p>		
<p><u>Nompumelelo Lekalakala</u> <u>24 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good day,</u> <u>Can you please share the reports in a PDF format or weshare.</u> <u>Nompumelelo Lekalakala</u> <u>B&C: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA</u> <u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</u> <u>Environment House</u> <u>473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets</u> <u>Pretoria</u> <u>C ell: 012 339 9411 Email: nlekalakala@dffe.gov.za</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Dear Nompumelelo,</u> <u>Thank you for your email. Please note that the commenting period for this proposed project ended on 21 February'25. However, we look forward to receiving the Department's comments.</u> <u>Please find the link below to the OneDrive folder with the project information. I have given you access to the folder.</u> <u>Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports</u> <u>Alternatively, here is the link to the website with a link to download the reports in pdf: Environmental Reports for Public Review WSP</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Jashmika Maharaj</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>Don't you have a CBA map and other maps of the cluster?</u> <u>Nompumelelo Lekalakala</u> <u>B&C: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA</u> <u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</u> <u>Environment House</u> <u>473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Dear Nompumelelo,</u> <u>Please refer to the Terrestrial biodiversity scoping report – Appendix G.6 for the CBA maps.</u> <u>I have attached the pdfs for ease of reference.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	Pretoria Cell: 012 339 9411 Email: nlekalakala@dffe.gov.za	Kind regards, Jashmika Maharaj	
Nompumelelo Lekalakala 25 February 2025 Email	Good morning, Kindly see attached comments for your attention. Nompumelelo Lekalakala B&C: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Environment House 473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets Pretoria Cell: 012 339 9411 Email: nlekalakala@dffe.gov.za	EAP: Dear Nompumelelo The Departments is well received and will be responded to in the CRR for the project. Kind regards, Jashmika Maharaj	Appendix D – SER
Nompumelelo Lekalakala 25 February 2025 Letter (via email)	Dear Ms Maharaj <u>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE PROVINCE</u> <u>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Report and Plan of Study. However, the EIA report must comply with the following:</u>	EAP: WSP acknowledges the Biodiversity Conservation Directorates comment of no objection. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.	Appendix D – SER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</u> 	EAP: The assessment protocols and procedures are included in Table 7-1 of the FSR for Grootheok,	Table 7-1 of the FSR

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
		<p><u>Kromhof and Normadien. WSP can confirm that to date the specialist assessments have been conducted in accordance with these protocols where required.</u></p> <p><u>In addition, WSP confirms that the EIA Report will comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</u></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The Environmental Impact Assessment report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</u> 	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The EIA Report will comply with all relevant guidelines for wind energy facilities.</u></p>	=
	<p><u>In conclusion, the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</u></p> <p><u>Yours faithfully</u> <u>Mr Seoka Lekota</u></p> <p><u>Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Mr. Seoka Lekota is included on the Stakeholder Database (Appendix A of the SER) and will continue to receive all communication relating to the project.</u></p>	<u>Appendix A of the SER</u>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)			
<u>Zodwa Kumalo</u> 18 February 2025 <u>Email</u>	<u>Good day</u> <u>On behalf of Tseliso.Ntili, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your email.</u> <u>Kind Regards,</u> <u>Zodwa Kumalo</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day,</u> <u>Received, thank you.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
<u>Petunia Ramunenyiwa</u> 17 February 2025 <u>Email</u>	<u>Good day</u> <u>Dear Sbo</u> <u>Please forward to the relevant office.</u> <u>Thanks in advance.</u> <u>Petunia Ramunenyiwa</u> <u>CD: IGR,Sector Transformation and Provincial Governance 178 Francis Baard Street</u> <u>PRETORIA 0001</u> <u>377 Ndinaye 3rd Floor</u> <u>T: 012 336 8065</u> <u>C: 082 885 3915</u> <u>Ramunenyiwap@dws.gov.za</u>	=	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
<u>Makaringe Sibongile</u> February 17 <u>Email</u>	<u>Dear Colleagues</u> <u>Kindly find the email below for your attention and forwarding to the relevant office.</u> <u>Regards</u>	=	



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Sibongile Makaringe</u> <u>Chief directorate: IGR Sect Trans & PC</u> <u>188 Francis Baard Street</u> <u>Pretoria</u> <u>0001</u> <u>Tel: 012 336 8797</u> <u>Cell: 082 324 1391</u></p>		
<p><u>Lenong Pule</u> <u>17 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good morning, Colleagues,</u> <u>PPO, on behalf of the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State, I hereby would like to acknowledge receipt your mail with appreciation.</u> <u>I have been trying to contact your office but to no avail. Can you kindly check with me as to what town in the Free State does Verkykerskop falls. Chances are that if it falls within the Eastern Free State (Harrismith/QwaQwa), it belongs to Gauteng Regional Office. Kindly confirm that for me so that I can send this to the correct officials!</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Pule Joseph Lenong (PJL)</u> <u>Office of the Provincial Head</u> <u>Department of Water and Sanitation</u> <u>C/o Eastburger and Charlotte Maxeke Streets Bloem Plaza Building, Second Floor BLOEMFONTEIN</u> <u>9301</u> <u>051 405 9281</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Pule,</u> <u>The project is located in the Vaal water management area.</u> <u>Kind regards, Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	
<p><u>Lenong Pule</u> <u>21 February 2025</u></p>	<p><u>Good afternoon, WSP,</u> <u>The project is within the Gauteng Provincial Operations.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Pule,</u></p>	



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<u>Email</u>	<p>Kindly send all the information to: mamabolof@dws.gov.za</p> <p>Kind regards Pule Joseph Lenong (P JL) Office of the Provincial Head Department of Water and Sanitation C/o Eastburger and Charlotte Maxeke Streets Bloem Plaza Building, Second Floor BLOEMFONTEIN 9301 051 405 9281</p>	<p>The notification will be forwarded.</p> <p>Thank you Kind regards, <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	
	<p><u>Good afternoon,</u> <u>You are most welcome!</u></p>	<p>=</p>	

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p>N. Gaju 25 February 2025 Email-</p>	<p><u>DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT: PROPOSED GROOTHOEK WING ENERGY FACILITY LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, FREE STATE PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>Your document dated January 2025 received by the Department on the 22 January 2025 with project no. 41106427 refers to the above-mentioned project.</u></p> <p><u>The Department of Water and Sanitation (Department) evaluated the report in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and comments as follows:</u></p> <p><u>Water use authorisation:</u></p> <p><u>The proposed project is located in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality (TMDM) and Phumelela Local Municipality (PLM) (Ward 5), northeast of the town of Harrismith, in the Free State Province of South Africa.</u></p> <p><u>The Groothoek WEF will be developed to allow for up to 300 MW for export from the facility. The proposed development footprint (buildable area) is approximately 150 hectares (ha) (subject to finalisation based on technical and environmental requirements), and the extent of the project area is approximately 6 170 ha.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges the Department comment of no objection. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>a) The report indicates that the proposed project will take place within 100m from the edge of the water resource and therefore triggers section 21(c)&(i) waters uses. In terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) any development within the 1:100year flood line and/or</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the Departments comment and confirms that the</u></p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<u>delineated riparian habitat or within 100m from the edge of a watercourse or within 500m radius from any boundary of a wetland must be authorized and registered before the proposed development may commence.</u>	<u>required water uses will be applied for in terms of National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998).</u>	
	<u>b) There must be a motivation to accompany the application that will indicating other options that were considered as means to avoiding the regulated areas and the shortfalls that lead to the current site selection.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this and confirm that a motivation indicating other options will be included in the EIA report. However, Section 4 of the FSR outlines the project alternatives.</u>	<u>Section 4 of the FSR</u>
	<u>c) Avoid direct contact with the water resource, if the direct contact cannot be avoided ensure that there is a plan to allow free movement of aquatic ecosystems. Also, ensure that the current state of the water resources is maintained as it is or improved.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>Any potential direct contact with water resources will be confirmed by the aquatic biodiversity specialist during the EIA phase. The Applicant will consider all recommendations made by the specialist to ensure that impacts to water resources is limited or avoided.</u>	=
	<u>d) The proposed roads must be accompanied by a motivation for proposing new roads while there are existing roads. The proposed off roads must avoid driving into or near any water resources.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u>	=
	<u>e) No batching of concrete may take place in or near a wetland/water course.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u>	=

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>f) <u>The provision of water and sanitation services must be clearly indicated, and the letter of agreement must form part of the documents that will be submitted for water use licence application in relation to the triggered water uses</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will consider this requirement during the water use application process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p>g) <u>Any water use activity that is not a Schedule 1 or Existing Lawful use must be authorized with this Department in terms of Section 22 reading together with Section 21 of the National Water Act, (Act No. 36 of 1998). However, the two mentioned water uses must be confirmed and verified by the department based on the provided information.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this requirement which will be considered during the water use application process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>General comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>A stormwater management plan must be in place. Contaminated stormwater must not be disposed of in the stormwater system as it will result in the contamination of water bodies and its disposal may also require analysis before disposal.</u> <u>All machinery must be in excellent condition and there must be no oil/fuel leaks from the equipment. Measure must be in place to prevent this, such as drip trays underneath parked machinery/equipment. A bounded area must be in place for the storage of diesel if the diesel generator is used as energy source.</u> 	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will consider this requirement during the water use application process. Furthermore, relevant recommendations will be included in the EMPr where applicable.</u></p>	<p>=</p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>No pollution of surface water or ground water resources may occur due to any activity on the property.</u> • <u>Solid waste must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.</u> • <u>All the requirements of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) must be always adhered to.</u> <p><u>Please note that should any pollution of water resources or soil be detected during operational phase or at any stage, this Department must be informed immediately. Appropriate remediation process must take place in consultation with this Department.</u></p> <p><u>Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. N Gaju should there be any queries.</u></p> <p><u>Yours faithfully</u> <u>PROTO-CMA</u> <u>Scientific Manager</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p>N. Gaju 25 February 2025 Email</p>	<p><u>DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT: PROPOSED KROMHOF WING ENERGY FACILITY LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, FREE STATE PROVINCE</u></p> <p>Your document dated January 2025 received by the Department on the 22 January 2025 with project no. 41106427 refers to the above mentioned project.</p> <p>The Department of Water and Sanitation (Department) evaluated the report in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and comments as follows:</p> <p><u>Water Use Authorisation:</u></p> <p>The proposed project is located in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality (TMDM) and Phumelela Local Municipality (PLM) (Ward 5), north east of the town of Harrismith, in the Free State Province of South Africa.</p> <p>The Kromhof WEF will be developed to allow for up to 300 MW for export from the facility. The proposed development footprint (buildable area) is approximately 150 hectares (ha) (subject to finalisation based on technical and environmental requirements), and the extent of the project area of applicable farm portions is approximately 7 269 ha.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p>WSP acknowledges the Department's comment of no objection. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p>a) The report indicate that the proposed project will take place within 100m from the edge of the water resource and therefore triggers section 21(c)&(i) waters uses. In terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) any</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the Departments comment and confirms that the</p>	<p>=</p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<u>development within the 1:100year flood line and/or delineated riparian habitat or within 100m from the edge of a watercourse or within 500m radius from any boundary of a wetland must be authorized and registered before the proposed development may commence.</u>	<u>required water uses will be applied for in terms of National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998).</u>	
	<u>b) There must be a motivation to accompany the application that will indicating other options that were considered as means to avoiding the regulated areas and the shortfalls that lead to the current site selection.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this and confirms that a motivation indicating other options will be included in the EIA report. However, Section 4 of the FSR outlines the project alternatives.</u>	<u>Section 4 of the FSR</u>
	<u>c) Avoid direct contact with the water resource, if the direct contact cannot be avoided ensure that there is a plan to allow free movement of aquatic ecosystems. Also, ensure that the current state of the water resources is maintained as it is or improved.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>Any potential direct contact with water resources will be confirmed by the aquatic biodiversity specialist during the EIA phase. The Applicant will consider all recommendations made by the specialist to ensure that impacts to water resources is limited or avoided.</u>	=
	<u>d) The proposed roads must be accompanied by a motivation for proposing new roads while there are existing roads. The proposed off roads must avoid driving into or near any water resources.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u>	=
	<u>e) No batching of concrete may take place in or near a wetland/water course.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u>	=

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>f) <u>The provision of water and sanitation services must be clearly indicated and the letter of agreement must form part of the documents that will be submitted for water use licence application in relation to the triggered water uses</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will consider this requirement during water use application process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p>g) <u>Any water use activity that is not a Schedule 1 or Existing Lawful use must be authorized with this Department in terms of Section 22 reading together with Section 21 of the National Water Act, (Act No. 36 of 1998). However, the two mentioned water uses must be confirmed and verified by the department based on the provided information</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this requirement which will be considered during water use application process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>General comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>A stormwater management plan must be in place. Contaminated stormwater must not be disposed of in the stormwater system as it will result in the contamination of water bodies and its disposal may also require analysis before disposal.</u> <u>All machinery must be in excellent condition and there must be no oil/fuel leaks from the equipment. Measure must be in place to prevent this, such as drip trays underneath parked machinery/equipment. A bounded area must be in place for the storage of diesel if the diesel generator is used as energy source.</u> <u>No pollution of surface water or ground water resources may occur due to any activity on the property.</u> 	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will consider this requirement during water use application process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Solid waste must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.</u> • <u>All the requirements of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) must be always adhered to.</u> <p><u>Please note that should any pollution of water resources or soil be detected during operational phase or at any stage, this Department must be informed immediately. Appropriate remediation process must take place in consultation with this Department.</u></p> <p><u>Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. N Gaju should there be any queries.</u> <u>Yours faithfully</u> <u>PROTO-CMA</u> <u>Scientific Manager</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
<p><u>N. Gaju</u> <u>25 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT: PROPOSED NORMANDIAN WING ENERGY FACILITY LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, FREE STATE PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>Your document dated January 2025 received by the Department on the 22 January 2025 with project no. 41106427 refers to the above-mentioned project.</u></p> <p><u>The Department of Water and Sanitation (Department) evaluated the report in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and comments as follows:</u></p> <p><u>Water Use Authorisation:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges the Department comment of no objection. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>The proposed project is located in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality (TMDM) and Phumelela Local Municipality (PLM) (Ward 5), northeast of the town of Harrismith, in the Free State Province of South Africa.</p> <p>The Normandien WEF will be developed to allow for up to 300 MW for export from the facility. The proposed development footprint (buildable area) is approximately 150 hectares (ha) (subject to finalisation based on technical and environmental requirements), and the extent of the project area is approximately 6 067 ha.</p> <p>a) The report indicate that the proposed project will take place within 100m from the edge of the/ water resource and therefore triggers section 21(c)&(i) waters uses. In terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) any development within the 1:100year flood line and/or delineated riparian : habitat or within 100m from the edge of a watercourse or within 500m radius from any boundary of a wetland must be authorized and registered before the proposed development may commence.</p> <p>b) There must be a motivation to accompany the application that will indicating other options that were considered as means to avoiding the regulated areas and the shortfalls that lead to the current site selection.</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the Departments comment and confirms that the required water uses will be applied for in terms of National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998).</p> <p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this and confirms that a motivation indicating other options will be included in the EIA report. However, Section 4 of the FSR outlines the project alternatives.</p>	<p>=</p> <p>Section 4 of the FSR</p>

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	c) <u>Avoid direct contact with the water resource, if the direct contact cannot be avoided ensure that there is a plan to allow free movement of aquatic ecosystems. Also, ensure that the current state of the water resources is maintained as it is or improved.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>Any potential direct contact with water resources will be confirmed by the aquatic biodiversity specialist during the EIA phase. The Applicant will consider all recommendations made by the specialist to ensure that impacts to water resources is limited or avoided.</u>	=
	d) <u>The proposed roads must be accompanied by a motivation for proposing new roads while there are existing roads. The proposed off roads must avoid driving into or near any water resources.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u>	=
	e) <u>No batching of concrete may take place in or near a wetland/water course.</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u>	=
	f) <u>The provision of water and sanitation services must be clearly indicated, and the letter of agreement must form part of the documents that will be submitted for water use licence application in relation to the triggered water uses</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will consider this requirement during water use application process.</u>	=
	g) <u>Any water use activity that is not a Schedule 1 or Existing Lawful use must be authorized with this Department in terms of Section 22 reading together with Section 21 of the National Water Act, (Act No. 36 of 1998). However, the two mentioned water uses must be</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this requirement which will be considered during water use application process.</u>	=

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	<p><u>confirmed and verified by the department based on the provided information.</u></p>		
	<p><u>General comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A stormwater management plan must be in place. Contaminated stormwater must not be disposed of in the stormwater system as it will result in the contamination of water bodies and its disposal may also require analysis before disposal.</u> • <u>All machinery must be in excellent condition and there must be no oil/fuel leaks from the equipment. Measure must be in place to prevent this, such as drip trays underneath parked machinery/equipment. A bounded area must be in place for the storage of diesel if the diesel generator is used as energy source.</u> • <u>No pollution of surface water or ground water resources may occur due to any activity on the property.</u> • <u>Solid waste must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.</u> • <u>All the requirements of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) must be always adhered to.</u> 	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will consider this requirement during water use application process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Please note that should any pollution of water resources or soil be detected during operational phase or at any stage, this Department must be informed immediately.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will include this point as a recommendation in the EIA report and EMPr to be considered by the Applicant.</u></p>	<p>=</p>



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	<p><u>Appropriate remediation process must take place in consultation with this Department.</u></p> <p><u>Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. N Gaju should there be any queries.</u></p> <p><u>Yours faithfully</u> <u>PROTO-CMA</u> <u>Scientific Manager</u></p>		
<u>MTN</u>			
<p><u>Christopher Dobson</u> <u>22 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good day,</u></p> <p><u>Further to the below, please provide more information with regards to the site build plans in order for our planners to identify potential network impacts.</u></p> <p><u>Thanks</u></p> <p><u>Warm regards,</u></p> <p><u>Christopher Dobson</u> <u>Supervisor - Property Supervisor</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Christopher</u></p> <p><u>Please see the project kmz attached as requested.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
<p><u>Conny Dubula</u> <u>13 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Hi</u></p> <p><u>Please provide us a polygon indication the area affected.</u></p> <p><u>Warm regards,</u></p> <p><u>Conny Dubula</u> <u>Coordinator - Way-Leave Co-ordinator</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Conny</u></p> <p><u>WSP has previously shared the project kmz. It has been attached for ease of reference.</u></p> <p><u>Please advise if this will suffice.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	C: +27 83 212 5822	Public Participation Office	
<u>Open Serve</u>			
<p><u>Yogan Moodley</u> 14 February 2025 <u>Open Serve</u></p>	<p><u>Hi</u> <u>Please can you provide a KMZ for the sites listed below</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd</u> • <u>Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd</u> • <u>Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd</u> <p><u>Kind regards</u> <u>Yogan Moodley</u> <u>Wayleave Officer</u> <u>Network Engineering and Build - Eastern Region,</u> <u>Mobile: +27 (0) 81 436 7203</u> <u>Fax: +27 (0) 86 478 8236</u> <u>Email: YoganM@openserve.co.za</u> <u>Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/yoganm</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Yogan,</u> <u>Please see the project kmz attached.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
<u>Amajuba District Municipality</u>			
<p><u>Nothile Mthimkhulu</u> <u>Amajuba District Municipality</u> <u>22 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Greetings</u> <u>Kindly send us the documents for our comments.</u> <u>Nothile Mthimkhulu</u> <u>Kind regards,</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Nothile</u> <u>Please find the documents at the following link:</u> <u>Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>

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	<p><u>Deputy Director: Environmental Management, Amajuba District Municipality</u></p>	<p><u>Additionally, the reports can be accessed on the following websites: https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents and https://wsp-engage.com/</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that those in copy have been added to the project database.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	
<u>BirdLife South Africa</u>			
<p><u>Samantha Ralston-Paton</u></p> <p><u>Birdlife South Africa</u></p> <p><u>22 January 2025</u></p> <p><u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good day</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your email.</u></p> <p><u>Please register BirdLife South Africa as an I&AP.</u></p> <p><u>Importantly please confirm that the relevant reports are on the website link provided, as I cannot see them my side.</u></p> <p><u>Thank you Sam</u></p> <p><u>Samantha Ralston-Paton</u></p> <p><u>Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Sam.</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that your details have been updated on the stakeholder database.</u></p> <p><u>We look forward to your participation in this process.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
<p><u>Sam Ralston</u></p> <p><u>21 February 2025</u></p> <p><u>Letter (via email)</u></p>	<p><u>Good Day</u></p> <p><u>Please see our comments attached.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards</u></p> <p><u>Sam</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Sam,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your comments. They will be included in the comments and responses report.</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p><u>RE: DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, FREE STATE (I.E. GROOTHOEK, KROMHOF AND NORMANDIEN WIND ENERGY FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATION INFRASTRUCTURE)</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Scoping Reports for the above proposed wind energy facilities (WEFs). BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy infrastructure. However, we are concerned that the location of the proposed facilities is not compatible with the desired state of the habitat, as outlined in provincial, national, and international conservation plans. We are also concerned that the proposed WEFs could have significant residual negative impacts (i.e. after mitigation) on a number of threatened birds and migratory species. It is unlikely that biodiversity offsets and compensation will be effective in addressing these impacts.</u></p>	<p><u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and concerns regarding the location of the project. This will be considered further during the EIA Phase, in which we will also be provided with more detailed specialist input to guide the layout of the project.</u></p> <p><u>Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>The desired state of the habitat:</u></p> <p><u>All three proposed WEFs overlap with a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), including irreplaceable CBAs, Ecological Support Areas, National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Areas,</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that the project sites overlap with the Eastern Free State Escarpment Key Biodiversity Area (KBA ID S471) as outlined in Section 6.2.1. of the FSRs.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.2.1 of the FSRs</u></p>

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	<p>wetlands, and core habitats for threatened species. Most of these areas should, therefore, be maintained or rehabilitated to a natural, or near natural state.</p>	<p>WSP acknowledges this comment, and this will be considered by the avifauna, aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity specialist impact assessments during the EIA phase of the project.</p>	
	<p>Furthermore, there are KBAs to the south and to the east of the proposed development cluster (i.e. Eastern Free State Grassland and KZN Escarpment KBA respectively). These KBAs are both triggered by birds, which are likely to move through the landscape, and their locations should be reflected in subsequent reports.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP acknowledges this comment, and this will be considered by the avifaunal specialist impact assessments during the EIA phase of the project.</p> <p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST: Noted by The Biodiversity Company (TBC). We can produce a more zoomed out map going forward and will do so for the EIA phase reporting.</p>	<p>=</p>
	<p>The proposed WEFs are also close to the Sneeuwberg Protected Environment (PE). A request has recently been submitted to declare additional properties as part of this PE, specifically in the area between the existing PE and the proposed WEFs.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP acknowledges this comment, and this will ensure that the Sneeuwberg Protected Environment (PE) is also considered where applicable during the EIA phase of the project.</p> <p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST: Noted by TBC. This will be incorporated.</p> <p>APPLICANT: We are of the opinion, that in certain instances, the development of a WEF is not incompatible with the existence of a Protected Environment (PE). In fact, we believe that wind energy development can play</p>	<p>=</p>

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		<p><u>a significant positive role in biodiversity stewardship, by encouraging landowners associated with wind farms to also, “sign up” and join the PE, and the WEF can assist in the management thereof. There is nothing in law that excludes the development of a WEF in a PE, as long as it is a compatible land use with that particular PE’s gazetted management plan.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Similarly, the WEFs are near the Upper Wilge PE, with the Normandien site located approximately 10 km from this protected area.</u></p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>Yes, the Upper Wilge PE has been included in Figure 3-8 of each report.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>We are of the opinion, that in certain instances, the development of a WEF is not incompatible with the existence of a Protected Environment (PE). In fact, we believe that wind energy development can play a significant positive role in biodiversity stewardship, by encouraging landowners associated with wind farms to also, “sign up” and join the PE, and the WEF can assist in the management thereof. There is nothing in law that excludes the development of a WEF in a PE, as long as it is a compatible land use with that particular PE’s gazetted management plan.</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that a notice of intention to declare the Upper Wilge</u></p>	

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		PE was published in 2021. To our knowledge, it is still not Gazetted.	
	A further gaps is that the scoping reports fail to mention the <u>Free State Protected Area Expansion Strategy</u> . We suggest that this should be indicated in the final Scoping and EIA Reports.	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that the Free State Protected Area Expansion Strategy is considered in the FSR and will also be included in the EIAR.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>Noted by TBC.</u></p>	=
	<p><u>Risk of significant residual negative impacts</u></p> <p><u>With regards to impacts on birds, BirdLife South Africa is deeply concerned about the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) sites, as all three locations contain and border critical bird habitats. These areas support breeding and foraging grounds, as well as flight corridors for numerous species of conservation concern. Several threatened species, including Endangered and Critically Endangered species, rely on these habitats for survival.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and concerns regarding the location of the project. This will be considered further during the EIA Phase, in which we will also be provided with more detailed specialist input to guide the layout of the project.</u></p> <p><u>This will be considered by the avifaunal specialist impact assessments during the EIA phase of the project.</u></p>	=
	While we understand the proposed “optimised” layouts are preliminary, we are extremely concerned that proposed roads and turbines overlap with areas identified as high sensitivity and recommended for avoidance.	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and concerns regarding the location of the project.</u></p> <p><u>This will be considered further during the EIA Phase, in which we will also be provided with more detailed specialist input to further optimise the</u></p>	=

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		<p>layout of the project. It is acknowledged that the first level of the mitigation hierarchy is avoidance.</p> <p>APPLICANT: <u>While some mapping may still show infrastructure in high risk or even “no-go areas”, that is the point of the scoping phase, i.e. to identify these higher risk areas, and refine and change the layout that will be assessed further in the EIA phase. We confirm that in the EIA phase mapping, all turbines will be removed from the no go areas that will be identified and finalised during the EIA phase.</u></p>	
	<p><u>We are particularly concerned by the risks of habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance, and species displacement, especially for species that have specific habitat requirements. Furthermore, there is a significant collision risk for both resident and migratory birds. The proximity of the Normandien site to the Great Escarpment is especially alarming, as this area serves as a migratory corridor where flocks of global significance move through and would face a high risk of turbine collisions, including mass mortalities. Some migratory species, for example Amur Falcon, have already suffered high mortality rates at operational WEFs in South Africa. Altitudinal migrants such as Denham’s Bustard may also be affected.</u></p>	<p>EAP: <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that this will be considered by the avifaunal specialist impact assessments during the EIA phase of the project.</u></p> <p><u>It should be noted that the specialists will be compiling a vulture multi-species action plan and a terrestrial biodiversity plan to effectively support the strategy to reduce the impact to avifauna and other protected biodiversity species. The specialist reports are scoping phase report, therefore, a more detailed impact assessments are still required and will be compiled during the EIA phase with an aim to improve the recommended plans.</u></p>	=
	<p><u>Given these concerns, we urge the applicant to withdraw these applications and investigate alternative locations</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p>	=

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	<p><u>that present a lower risk to biodiversity. The following, more detailed comments and recommendations should in no way be seen as a BirdLife South Africa support further consideration of these sites for WEF development.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP and the applicant acknowledges this comment.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>The applicant has conducted various internal screening exercises across the country, to identify potential development areas. Some of these areas have already been dropped. It was decided to proceed with further investigations and the commencement of an EIA process at the proposed Verkykerskop Cluster, because of the significant amount of land available (that can accommodate extensive loss of developable land given the high sensitivities), potential availability of Grid, and the excellent wind resource. We will therefore not withdraw the application.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Habitat condition - mining:</u></p> <p><u>According to the Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Scoping Report(s), the area is described as “ecologically stressed due to anthropogenic impacts such as agriculture and mining.” Additionally, Table 8-1 of the Scoping Report(s) states: “Limit vegetation removal to the infrastructure and mining footprint area only.” As far as we are aware, there is no mining in the area. This should be clarified or corrected in the final Scoping and EIA Reports.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP can confirm that there is no mining within the project area, and this has been corrected in the FSRs.</u></p> <p><u>TERRESTRIAL SPECIALIST:</u> <u>The habitat condition description is generic desktop data used to describe a “Largely natural with few modifications” category (DWS 2016). This is not a copy and paste error. This can be amended to indicate that no mining is present in the area.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>Habitat condition - crops and wetlands</u></p> <p><u>The Aquatic Biodiversity Scoping Report(s) indicate that the wetlands in the area were previously part of a larger wetland system, have been damaged by agricultural activities. However, this does not mean that these habitats are of low conservation value.</u></p> <p><u>It is also important to bear in mind that despite their transformed state, croplands remain important habitat for birds. Their conservation value should not be discounted. For example, crops may be overwintering grounds for Endangered Botha's Lark and they are important foraging habitat for cranes during the winter. Cranes are likely feed in the croplands and to roost and breed in the remaining wetlands. These birds may move between these two habitats and face a risk of turbine collisions.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>Noted by TBC and will be considered in the EIA phase assessments.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Data collection and modelling:</u></p> <p><u>Given the sensitivity of the receiving environment, BirdLife South Africa welcomes that two years of bird data has been collected. It is a pity that these data (i.e. from November 2023 to October 2024) were not presented in the Avifaunal Scoping Report(s) dated January 2025. This would have afforded us an opportunity to engage in more detail.</u></p> <p><u>We are, however, surprised that, given the outcome of the first year of monitoring, the applicant chose to continue investing in bird studies, despite the obvious red flags to development. Had we been consulted, BirdLife South</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>It must be noted that two additional seasons of bird monitoring (in Jan/Feb 2025 and March 2025) monitoring is currently underway to further assess the potential effectiveness of a carcass management system being implemented in the area with the support of the local farmers. All monitoring data will be included in the Draft EIA Report for public review.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>Africa's recommendation would have been to investigate more suitable locations for WEF development (site alternatives). While we generally support more robust data analysis and acknowledge that refined habitat suitability modelling and collision-risk modelling will be undertaken, we are concerned that there is already sufficient information to indicate that the sites are unsuitable for wind energy development. Additional studies are only likely to confirm this. At best, further studies may help marginally reduce the potential significance of impacts, but it is unlikely that this reduction will be significant enough to reduce impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP and the Applicant will continue to engage with BirdLife SA and other key stakeholders during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>The outcome of the first year of monitoring did not necessarily preclude development from the full area considered. Rather, a decision was taken to continue monitoring in line with guidelines for a second year, to fully maximise data collection and understand sensitivities on a detailed site-specific scale. We believe that with this site-specific spatial avoidance, and detailed careful planning, a WEF, with reduced turbine numbers is still possible in this area.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, the applicant has conducted various internal screening exercises across the country, to identify potential development areas. Some of these areas have already been dropped. It was decided to proceed with further investigations and the commencement of an EIA process at the proposed Verkykerskop Cluster, because of the significant amount of land available (that can accommodate extensive loss of developable land given the high sensitivities), potential availability of Grid, and the excellent wind resource.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Limitations in data collection:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p>	<p><u>-</u></p>

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	<p>While we note that the data presented thus far is preliminary, the following limitations have been noted:</p> <p>a) <u>The Avifaunal Scoping Report(s) (Section 2.2.4) indicate that focal point surveys were conducted at the same time each survey. We assume these surveys were timed to maximise the detection probability of the target species but suggest that should be clarified.</u></p> <p>b) <u>With regards to the Kromhok site, we are concerned that the intact grassland on the plateau north of Vantage Point 5 on the appears to have been poorly surveyed (see Figures 2-2 and 2-4).</u></p> <p>c) <u>The southern part of Kromhof, between GPS coordinates number 33, 34 and 70 in Figure 3-1 of the Scoping Report, was also not included the avifaunal specialist report, although roads are proposed in this area.</u></p> <p>d) <u>The southern section of the proposed Normandien WEF was also not well surveyed. There was only one walked transect there, and no point counts. This is the largest section of CBA1 in the proposed WEF (Figure 3-1), and has lots of potentially suitable habitat for Yellowbreasted Pipit and several other priority species (Figure 3-3 and 3-4).</u></p> <p>e) <u>The northern arm of the proposed Goothoek WEF also not surveyed.</u></p>	<p>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase where more detailed surveys will be undertaken.</p> <p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</p> <p>a) <u>Noted by TBC, yes efforts were made to visit focal points at times that optimized attendance by the target receptor and will clarify that in final report.</u></p> <p>b) <u>TBC acknowledges that there are some areas of the site which remain less intensively sampled. The large size, remoteness and ruggedness of the terrain impose practical and resource constraints on realistically surveying all areas with the same level of intensity within a reasonable time-frame Similar habitat on either side of this spur were, however, extensively searched during walked transect and point count surveys. Preliminary modelling of habitat suggests that the habitat may be suitable for Rudd's Lark but based on observations from site they tend to avoid the thinner spurs. The more intensive habitat modelling to follow should help to better refine this area's suitability for threatened high altitude passerines and the core habitat delineations will be adapted accordingly.</u></p> <p>c) <u>This a boundary communication issue that TBC raised when the WSP scoping report came out. This is being clarified as there are no proposed turbines in this area. This area used to form part of</u></p>	

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		<p>another application called Markgraaf WEF which was discontinued. As such this area was extensively sampled (subject to same 2-year protocol. Its inclusion / exclusion in the final report is being clarified.</p> <p>APPLICANT: Full avifaunal monitoring coverage of all proposed development areas is not practical or reasonable for a development of this size in this location, nor is it a requirement of the best practice monitoring guidelines. The specialist has confirmed that the surveys comply with all guidelines requirements, and that coverage achieved is more than suitable to accurately assess the impact of the proposed developments.</p>	
	<p>While the terrain and access might be challenging, a lack of data should not be translated into a low assessed sensitivity. We trust that the next phase of the assessment will include more robust delineation and verification of avifaunal habitats in all areas where turbines and associated infrastructure have been proposed. We strongly urge that a precautionary approach is adopted, taking into account the limitations of available data and likelihood of interannual variation.</p>	<p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST: Noted by TBC as discussed in point (b).</p>	
	<p><u>Site Ecological Importance:</u> We strongly recommend that approach of assessing Site Ecological Importance, as outlined in SANBI's Species</p>	<p>EAP:</p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>Environmental Assessment Guidelines should be used. This helps ensure a consistent recommendation across different proposed developments.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>TBC does adopt this approach for habitat sensitivity assessment and will make its use more obvious during the final report.</u></p> <p><u>TERRESTRIAL SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>The Gazetted Biodiversity Protocols for Terrestrial Biodiversity indicates: A specialist report that includes an opinion on whether the proposed development aligns with the objectives or purpose of the protected area and the zoning as per the protected area management plan.</u></p> <p><u>From a SEI perspective protected areas would fall under “Very High” SEI, in such instances Avoidance mitigation is the only mitigation possible.</u></p>	
	<p><u>High to very high avifaunal sensitivity not clearly reflected in the Scoping Reports:</u></p> <p><u>We are concerned that the overall high to very high avifaunal sensitivity has not been clearly reflected in the Scoping Reports and associated maps. For example, the consolidated sensitivity maps presented in the Scoping Reports omit to show the buffer for Cape Vultures, although this defined as high sensitivity. It is also not clear why the preliminary sensitivity maps in the avifaunal report</u></p>	<p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and has since updated the map to indicate the buffer for Cape Vulture (Appendix D of the FSR).</u></p> <p><u>WSP is aware if the error and has since included the preliminary sensitivity map from the avifaunal study in Section 6.2.5 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Section 6.2.5 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p>(Figures 5-2) where not included in the draft Scoping Report, but kernel density maps were (Figure 6-16). The latter presents an incomplete indication of the avifaunal sensitivity.</p>		
	<p><u>Significance:</u></p> <p>It would be helpful if the methodology and rationale for the preliminary significance rating presented in the Avifaunal Screening Report(s) were provided in more detail. For example, we are of the opinion that, if a site includes a large portion of suitable habitat for high-altitude threatened endemic species like Yellow-breasted Pipit (Vulnerable) and Rudd’s Lark (Endangered), and the species have been confirmed breeding at this location, the loss and fragmentation of habitat could be of Very High significance. As the specialist notes: “Even relatively small habitat losses or alterations in these areas restricted and rare habitat specialists.” These species are triggering species for the KBA.</p> <p>Similarly, the record of Botha’s Lark at the proposed Normandien WEF is highly noteworthy, given the dire status of this species.</p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p>Agreed by TBC and noted.</p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p>Areas of suitable habitat and core habitat for Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd’s Lark will be delineated and excluded from development, with no turbines placed in these areas.</p>	
	<p><u>Unreasonable comparisons:</u></p> <p>The Scoping Reports (e.g. P 159-160 for Groothoek) compare the loss of habitat to that of other developments (e.g. solar farms). This is not very helpful, unless a solar</p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p>Noted by TBC. This will be addressed in the EIA Phase.</p> <p><u>EAP:</u></p>	

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	<p>farm is a realistic alternative that will be assessed in the EIA process.</p>	<p>The EAP is of the opinion that such comparisons are useful to show that WEFs have relatively low levels of habitat loss in comparison to other technologies.</p>	
	<p><u>Loss and fragmentation of CBAs: BirdLife South Africa does not support the loss and fragmentation of habitat, and therefore the development of wind energy and associated infrastructure, within CBAs. CBAs represent the most efficient network needed to meet biodiversity targets. Irreplaceable CBAs are the only place available to meet these targets. In addition to the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, plus the likely fatalities of birds and bats, WEFs can result in a number of sub-lethal impacts that may negatively affect the functioning of ecosystems and the delivery of ecosystem services (e.g. changes in microclimate and trophic cascades). We do not, therefore, believe that WEFs are compatible with conservation objectives of CBAs, unless those WEFs will result in the restoration of degraded habitats.</u></p> <p><u>Botha's Lark, Rudd's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit: The proposed wind energy farm development in Verkykerskop presents a serious threat to several highly sensitive and endangered grassland bird species, particularly Botha's Lark (Spizocorys fringillaris), Rudd's Lark (Heteromirafra ruddi), and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Anthus chloris).</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>Avifauna Specialist:</u> <u>Acknowledged by TBC. To be considered during the EIA Phase.</u></p> <p><u>TERRESTRIAL SPECIALIST:</u> <u>The CBA categories are mapped based on GIS data and not groundtruthing, the possibility therefore exists that CBA areas could cover other land uses, detailed verification of all CBA areas will be completed and were found to be accurate, will be avoided.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p>Habitat suitability models indicate that the entire Verkykerskop area, including all three proposed WEF, is unsuitable for wind energy development, as it consistently ranks as high-priority habitat for these species. The presence of these threatened birds underscores the ecological significance of this site and the need for its protection.</p> <p>The Normandien Wind Energy Facility (WEF) is particularly concerning, as data from the past two years confirm the presence of Botha's Lark and Rudd's Lark within the project area, reinforcing the area's importance as a stronghold for this highly localized species. With an estimated global population of only 340 individuals, the loss of habitat in this region would be devastating. The repeated observations of Rudd's Lark, another range-restricted and highly threatened species, further highlight the critical need to safeguard this site from development. The scoping report for the project explicitly acknowledges the threats posed to these species, yet the proposed development continues to move forward despite these risks. This raises serious concerns about the adequacy of mitigation measures</p> <p>and the overall suitability of the site for wind energy infrastructure. Given that Botha's Lark is extremely sensitive to disturbance and avoids modified landscapes, even minor habitat alterations could have significant negative consequences for the species.</p> <p>The construction of roads, turbine infrastructure, and maintenance activities will fragment and degrade this</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the importance of the CBAs and sensitivities species the habitat supports has been considered during the scoping phase. However, the specialists will provide a more detailed impact assessment for the EIA Phase. As mentioned, ongoing engagement with BirdLife SA and other key stakeholders will be undertaken during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</p> <p>The intention of the Scoping Phase is to identify the issues such that they can be assessed in the EIA Phase. Once all data is available the layout can be planned to avoid the high use areas used by these species by reducing turbines and refining the layout in the EIA phase.</p> <p>It must be noted that the mitigation measures presented in the FSR are preliminary and will be finalised during the EIA phase.</p> <p>The Applicant has noted that they would be open to discuss possible additional shut down of higher risk turbines (i.e. Those closer to suitable lark habitat)</p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>fragile grassland ecosystem, reducing available habitat and likely displacing already dwindling populations. Wind turbines also introduce the risk of direct collisions, further endangering species already facing steep declines. The cumulative impact of infrastructure expansion and habitat alteration in this critical area could accelerate the decline of Botha’s Lark, Rudd’s Lark, and Yellowbreasted Pipit, pushing them closer to extinction.</u></p> <p><u>These species are habitat specialists and tend to be restricted to small patches of intact, high rainfall, plateau grasslands. While restricted to specific habitats, these species may also have minimum thresholds for habitat size and may not occupy patches reduced by habitat loss or fragmentation. We therefore do not support the construction or expansion of roads and other infrastructure in habitat for these species.</u></p>	<p><u>during key breeding times, when these birds display.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>Acknowledged by TBC. To be considered during the EIA phase.</u> <u>TBC requests Birdlife SA to confirm what data that they are referring to and to provide this for consideration.</u></p>	
	<p><u>The avifaunal specialist regards the “destruction of nestlings of ground-nesting species during access road construction “as low significance. We suggest that this needs to be revisited. Nests of some endemic species (e.g. Yellow-breasted Pipit and Denham’s Bustard) are exceptionally difficult to find, and impacts will be difficult to mitigate during construction. Signage and induction are not likely to be adequate and stopping construction during the summer months is unlikely to be feasible (species such as Rudd’s Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit that breed throughout summer). It is unclear if displaced birds will return to the site after construction.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>Acknowledged by TBC.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>Similarly, the scoping report(s) suggest that mitigation for sensory disturbances could include limiting construction to areas and times outside of breeding seasons for birds. This would include the majority of spring and summer months, and given the presence of ground nesting, threatened, grassland endemics, some of which were recorded during the surveys, would also include large territories in intact grassland. Is this considered feasible by the applicant?</u></p>	<p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>This is feasible. The applicant would be open to implementing this or a similar mitigation measure as recommended by the project specialist.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Impacts on wetlands:</u> <u>The project area has been assessed as having High sensitivity due to its proximity to significant aquatic features, specifically a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) wetland cluster and rivers in good ecological condition within 500 m of the project boundary. These aquatic ecosystems warrant particular conservation attention, as estuaries and wetlands represent South Africa's most threatened and least protected ecosystem types (Skowno <i>et al.</i>, 2019[1]). Their limited spatial extent makes them inherently more vulnerable to ecological collapse compared to larger, more widely distributed ecosystems.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p>	=
	<p><u>Although the wetlands are located on the outskirts of the proposed WEF sites, their proximity and the area's topography raise significant concerns. The placement of WEF infrastructure and roads above these wetlands may lead to sedimentation and erosion, both during construction and throughout operations. Additionally,</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment. A detailed impact assessment will be undertaken by the specialist during the EIA phase which will outline the potential significance of pollution to water</u></p>	=

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	<p><u>spillages and other sources of pollution could negatively impact these largely natural freshwater systems and the species they support, including the potentially White-winged Flufftail (Critically Endangered).</u></p>	<p><u>resources and their subsequent impact on bird species.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, a species specialist is being sub-contracted to do a detailed habitat modelling and survey for White-winged Flufftail, to identify suitable wetlands, which will be excluded from development.</u></p> <p><u>AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>Please note that the mitigation measures included in the FSR are preliminary and will be refined during the EIA phase to more appropriate and site-specific.</u></p>	
	<p><u>The proposed mitigation measures for habitat loss and alteration of wetlands are insufficient as they fail to consider impacts at the catchment scale. While direct modifications to wetlands are addressed, the measures do not account for indirect effects from broader catchment-level changes that could significantly alter or degrade wetland ecosystems. Changes to hydrology, sedimentation patterns, and water quality within the wider catchment area have the potential to adversely impact wetland persistence and ecological function, even when the wetlands themselves are not directly modified.</u></p>	<p><u>AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>Please note that the mitigation measures included in the FSR are preliminary and will be refined during the EIA phase to more appropriate and site-specific.</u></p> <p><u>In addition, the wetland buffers will be confirmed during the EIA phase such that they can guide the areas for construction/ disturbance.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Wetlands are highly sensitive to disturbance. If they are affected during construction, the impacts could persist through the operational phase and even into decommissioning, when turbine removal may result in similar disturbances as those experienced during construction.</u></p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>Available tracking data will be sourced where possible. Radar is a promising measure in this regard. We know from observations that Amur Falcon and Red-footed Falcon move through these</u></p>	
	<p><u>The wetlands potentially affected by the proposed developments may be stop-over sites for migrants transitioning through the landscape. We therefore recommend that tracking data should be acquired from past studies/literature to identify which migrants are using</u></p>		

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	<p><u>this area and when. Alternatively, other methods (e.g., radar or tracking studies) should be included in the plan of study for impact assessment to assess the risk to migratory birds.</u></p> <p><u>White-winged Flufftail:</u></p> <p><u>The report identifies extensive sedge-dominated habitat suitable for White-winged Flufftail (WwF), though this habitat faces potential disruption due to inundation from a recently constructed large dam. The full impact of the dam on habitat availability cannot be determined for several years, as seasonal variations in water levels will influence the extent and quality of suitable wetlands.</u></p> <p><u>The reports note documented WwF populations both north and south of the proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF). This spatial distribution suggests the WEF site may intersect a potential migration corridor between these populations. We endorse the recommendation to engage an avian specialist to conduct comprehensive habitat modeling and acoustic monitoring. To ensure robust data collection, we recommend this assessment be conducted across multiple seasons, encompassing both drought and high-rainfall periods.</u></p> <p><u>Recommendations for spatial avoidance and buffers:</u></p> <p><u>While we understand that the data presented in preliminary, we suggest that “industry best practice” is not a good rationale for the buffers presented in Table 5-1 of the Avifaunal Report(s). We suggest that data should be presented to justify the recommendations, and it should</u></p>	<p><u>areas while foraging en route to KZN. Concentrations appear highest along the Muel River Valley.</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the importance of the White-winged Flufftail (WwF) has been considered during the scoping phase. However, the specialists will provide a more detailed impact assessment for the EIA Phase. The recommendations made by BirdLife SA are noted and will be considered by the specialist. As mentioned, ongoing engagement with BirdLife SA and other key stakeholders will be undertaken during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>TBC is aware of the potential risks to White-winged Flufftail. These aspects are being addressed as part of the habitat modelling study being conducted as well as wetland surveys for potential presence of this species. This specialist investigation was initiated some time back and is ongoing. AfriAvian was commissioned to conduct the study as we believe they are best equipped and informed to do so. TBC has also deployed acoustic devices in key</u></p>	<p><u>=</u></p>



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	<p><u>be clear whose expert opinion these recommendations are based on.</u></p> <p><u>It is not clear what the basis was for suggesting that “intensive mitigation” is appropriate in the second tier of proposed buffers. BirdLife South Africa’s approach is to recommend “no go” buffers and “precautionary buffers”, with the understanding that robust data collection can be used to refine site-specific avoidance and mitigation recommendations within the latter. We suggest that it was premature for the specialist to suggest mitigation may be appropriate within these areas.</u></p>	<p><u>wetland locations. We may need to call a meeting with WSP AfriAvian, TBC and Mulilo to discuss the potential and feasibility of continuing this survey through the dry season and the implications for reporting. It is also acknowledged that Dr. Kyle Lloyd should be informed on the matter.</u></p> <p><u>TBC notes comments on buffers. We assert that our terminology is more specific and avoids the ambiguity associated with “precautionary buffer”. A similar tiered approach is also being used by AfriAvian. With regards to zone 2 this is an area which is in excess of the recommended buffer size normally recommended by the literature. As such this is an area certain types of development may be acceptable provided appropriate mitigation is employed or deemed possible. We have not yet specified which if any of the development types are viable / not viable in these areas from an avifaunal perspective.</u></p>	

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	<p><u>Verreaux's Eagle:</u></p> <p><u>In the absence of two years of data collection, or the use of the Verreaux's Eagle Risk Assessment (VERA) model, BirdLife South Africa recommends a buffer of 5.2 km around Verreaux's Eagle nest (see the second edition of BirdLife South Africa's Guidelines for Verreaux's Eagle and Wind Farms (2021)1. This precautionary buffer is missing from Table 5-1 of the Avifaunal Scoping Report(s). This should be corrected.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>Our interpretation is that 2 years of data have been collected, hence the 3.7 km buffer given that no breeding was observed at the nests with buffer implications for the development during the course of the two-year study. However, re-occupation is of a nest is always a possibility and we will update the sensitivities to include this precautionary (zone 2) buffer.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p><u>A 3.7km no-go buffer is recommended by the guidelines if 2 years of monitoring are completed and the flight data shows that the species is not at high risk. It is our understanding of the monitoring that this is the case here.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>Secretarybird:</u></p> <p>Please refer to BirdLife South Africa's Guidance note for minimising the impacts of infrastructure development on Secretarybirds1. In addition to the avoidance of nests buffer, we recommend a habitat-based approach - i.e. the avoidance the loss of large, contiguous habitat. This recommendation is not reflected in the Scoping Reports.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment. However, the specialists will provide a more detailed impact assessment for the EIA Phase. The recommendations made by BirdLife SA is noted and will be considered by the specialist. As mentioned, ongoing engagement with BirdLife SA and other key stakeholders will be undertaken during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p>Noted. This will be incorporated into the EIA report.</p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Bearded Vulture:</u></p> <p>The Avifaunal Scoping Report(s) also incorrectly states: "... following the COVID 19 pandemic, the nest has not been comprehensively monitored." BirdLife South Africa monitors this nest annually on behalf of the Bearded Vulture Task Force. Following a period where no birds were present, they have returned in recent years (est. around 2021 or 2022) and have shown definite breeding behaviour even though a specific nest could not be located. Carina Pienaar has also recorded a Bearded Vulture feeding near the Witkoppe mountain, and landowners have reported them recently more and more throughout the AOI all the way from Nelsonskop to</p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p>Noted, TBC is aware of Carina's monitoring of the nest, it appears this statement is an artifact of the first drafts of the report produced a long time ago. This will be updated. We are also aware of Reid et al. (2015), I have previously geo-reference some of their maps which, show Bearded Vulture activity, especially that of Juveniles over the AOI. This has been relayed to Mulilo multiple progress reporting and Reid is cited in the scoping reports. We will nevertheless get in touch with Prof. Amar in the interim, thank you for the contact.</p>	

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	<p><u>Memel, suggesting that it is likely that likelihood of Bearded Vulture will flying in the Verkykerskop Cluster.</u></p> <p><u>Reid et al. (2015) developed a collision risk model for Bearded Vulture which takes into account topography and may assist in developing a site specific indication of areas recommended for avoidance than the circular buffers used in the Scoping Report. This model is available through Prof. Amar at the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute at the University of Cape Town.</u></p> <p><u>Cape Vulture:</u> <u>A Cape Vulture occupancy model (Cervantes et al.2023) is also available to support avoidance recommendations, and would provide a more nuanced indication of the collision risk compared to the limited buffers used in Table 5-1. The National Environmental Screening Tool includes a simplified version of this model, and indicates that the area is of high sensitivity. Fatality monitoring at WEFs elsewhere in South Africa suggests that fatalities of Cape Vulture are very likely within this sensitivity class, including at WEFs with livestock carcass management and observer-led shutdown on demand in place.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, while we understand that the reports present just one year of survey data, please note that the number of Cape Vultures breeding at Nelsonskop has increased to an estimated 7 nests (based on expert input received from Sonja Krueger and Brent Coverdale (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife) during a visit in November 2024).</u></p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>TBC has been in contact with Francisco Cervantes. He kindly gave us access to the model spatial data on GitHub. It has been used to inform the Cape Vulture sections of the report. However, these models appear to underpredict Cape Vulture utilisation of the AOI. This is likely due to a lack of roost data from the region. We are thus in contact with Dr. Gareth Tate of EWT as he is responsible the collection and assimilation of this data for the utilisation distribution to ensure more accurate roost numbers are incorporated. For now, and as mentioned in Cervantes et al.2023, SABAP2 reporting rate data provides a more accurate representation of cape vulture activity in this extralimital area.</u></p> <p><u>Thanks for the information provided by Sonja and Brent’s survey this will be incorporated.</u></p>	

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	<p>The Avifaunal Scoping Report indicates that the applicant, “Mulilo will be initiating a carcass management project within the project area in collaboration with the local landowners and their staff” with the intention of recording any changes in vulture attendance. BirdLife South Africa recognises that Livestock Carcass Management may be a useful mitigation measure at operational wind farms, but the ethics of implementing this strategy at proposed facilities warrant serious consideration. South Africa’s Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures lists food availability as secondary threat to Cape and Bearded vultures. No details about this management approach were provided, and it unclear if the intention is to move carcasses to another location or remove them.</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase. WSP can confirm that more detail regarding the Carcass Management Plan will be included in the EIA Phase Avifauna Assessment.</p> <p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</p> <p>This aspect of the project is run by Mulilo, and the Applicant is best positioned to address this comment.</p> <p>APPLICANT:</p> <p>On page 17 of BirdLife SA’s Cape Vulture and Wind Monitoring Guidelines (BLSA, 2018), it states : “If limiting the availability of food on site is proposed as mitigation and is required to reduce collision-risk to acceptable levels a) the mitigation hierarchy must have been exhausted and b) the effectiveness of this approach must be verified during the preliminary avifaunal assessment and impact assessment process”</p> <p>Our goal therefore of implementing carcass management “now” (or as of 1 Feb 2025), is two fold: a) to see if a reduction of vulture activity is observed during additional-pre-con monitoring and 2) to test the effectiveness and logistical practicalities, of implementing such a program. We</p>	<p>=</p>

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		<p>are open to further discussions around the ethics of this program, and potential ways that food can be supplied at alternative locations (i.e. supplementary feeding sites, procured, paid for and managed by the applicant).</p>	
	<p><u>Core habitat of threatened raptors (slopes >20%):</u> <u>We support the avoidance of slopes greater than 20%, and recommend that these areas should be buffered – birds are not likely to be restricted to those slopes. Turbine blades also should not be permitted to extend into these buffers.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this recommendation which will be considered by the specialist and added to the draft EIAR and the EMPR for the project.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>Noted by TBC, some consideration will need to be given to the size of these buffers.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Connectivity between habitats:</u> <u>In addition to buffering roosts and breeding sites, habitats for threatened species (including high altitude grassland and wetlands) should be buffered and connectivity modelling undertaken to reduce the risk of disturbance, displacement and collisions of birds moving to and from these areas. We assume this work will be undertaken by AfriAvian and presented in the next report.</u></p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>TBC notes that this is one of the fundamental reasons behind their commissioning.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Flight corridors:</u> <u>We assume the “flight corridors” (Figures 5-1) were delineated based on the flight density models presented in</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p>the avifaunal reports, but it is unclear how the thresholds were set to delimit these areas.</p> <p>We understand that these figures will be updated in the next phase of the assessment, and suggest that further details be provided.</p>	<p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</p> <p>These areas were delineated based on a combination of a flight path density intersection model (which is similar to a kernel density estimation used for points but for lines) and visual observations from fieldwork.</p>	
	<p>Based on a visual comparison of the flight density model in Figure 4-17, and the “flight corridors” in Figure 5-1, it seems that the western flight corridor may be missing from the latter figure for Kromhof. Please clarify.</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is confirmed and updated by the specialist during the EIA phase.</p> <p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</p> <p>This area was deemed to be an artifact of sampling bias as that “hot zone” just where the VP is but does not necessary represent a favoured corridor. Year 2 data will help to refine the flight corridors maps.</p>	=
	<p>Powerline collisions:</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring at Ingula Nature Reserve can be used to help assess the likely significance of powerline collisions, after mitigation. An average of 5 priority threatened species (e.g. Cape Vulture, cranes, Denham’s Bustard) are killed by collision per annum along the Ingula-Majuba 400kV line, which traverses a similar habitat type, land use, and avifaunal species composition.</p>	<p>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</p> <p>Thank you for this useful information. This impact is addressed under a different impact heading on powerline collisions and electrocution (6.2.2.2). The impact rating was given a Medium significance.</p> <p>EAP:</p> <p>Please note that the 132kV Powerlines are not included in this application. These will be assessed under separate applications. Furthermore, electrical</p>	

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	<p><u>The undulating landscape and frequent misty/rainy conditions of the Eastern Free State, contribute to high powerline collision rates for birds, even when the lines are marked with conventional flappers or alternating black/white pigtails. Increased wind speeds during winter, when mist/rain are less likely, makes manoeuvrability for large species like cranes more difficult.</u></p> <p><u>In light of the above, we question the finding in the Scoping Report(s) that the significance of the impacts from roadkill/other mortalities, and from sensory disturbances during construction will be low (Table 8-4).</u></p>	<p><u>connections associated with the WEF will be underground as far as technically possible.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Mitigation (collision risk):</u></p> <p><u>Even if the proposed layouts are further “optimised” and significant efforts are made to avoid important habitats and flight corridors, BirdLife South Africa remains concerned that effectively mitigating the impacts on bird species to acceptable levels may not be possible or feasible.</u></p> <p><u>Observer-led shut down-on-demand (SDoD) and livestock food management may help reduce impacts on large bodied raptors, these measures have not been effective in eliminating the risk of fatalities in South Africa. In light of the high passage rates of species of conservation concern, we are concerned that the residual fatality rate (after mitigation) on large bodied birds may not be sustainable, even under ideal conditions. The effectiveness of shutdown on demand (observer-lead and camera assisted) will, however, be compromised by the</u></p>	<p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p><u>The layouts will not only be “optimised” but they will also be reduced in terms of turbine numbers. Following the completion of all studies and finalisation of the no-go areas and sensitivities, the number of turbines will likely be reduced, and a Final Layout will be put forward for assessment in the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>We disagree, in that Observer led shut down on demand has indeed been proven to be extremely effective for raptors on a number of operational projects in South Africa and Kenya.</u></p> <p><u>We will also investigate the potential to utilise technology-based camera systems, e.g. Biosecco/Identiflight, which have proven to be</u></p>	<p><u>=</u></p>

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	<p><u>frequent misty/cloudy conditions and low visibility experienced in summer. In winter, the challenging weather is likely to further hinder observer-led SDoD.</u></p> <p><u>Importantly, SDoD is unlikely to be effective for small-bodied species (e.g. White-winged Flufftail, Rudd’s and Botha’s Lark, Yellow-breasted Pipit) or night-flying birds. There is also insufficient data about the temporal movement patterns of these species inform a robust “temporal avoidance” or curtailment strategy.</u></p> <p><u>In short, although we acknowledge the list of mitigation measures proposed, which includes a contingency budget “to cater for significant mortality events”, tracking studies, and a Biodiversity Management Plan, but we are unconvinced that it will be possible or feasible reduce impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p> <p><u>Offsets:</u></p> <p><u>We note that biodiversity offsets for the loss of have been proposed as “mitigation” for the loss of habitat for range-restricted grassland species. However, we are concerned that</u></p> <p><u>1) Opportunities to avoid and minimise impacts have not been thoroughly exhausted.</u></p> <p><u>2) It has not been demonstrated that it will be possible or feasible to effectively offset (or compensate) the loss of habitat. We are concerned that effective offsetting will be very difficult to achieve for habitat specialists that occur in very small ranges and are already threatened.</u></p>	<p><u>highly effective for a range of species internationally. Radar technology can also be considered.</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The recommendations made by BirdLife SA are noted and will be considered by the specialists. As mentioned, ongoing engagement with BirdLife SA and other key stakeholders will be undertaken during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p> <p><u>TERRESTRIAL SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>The National Biodiversity Offset Guideline published 25 March 2022, forms the basis for any offset discussions, this document indicates <i>“that the mitigation hierarchy, including due consideration of project alternatives to avoid or minimise impacts, has been appropriately applied before considering biodiversity offsetting”</i>.</u></p>	

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	<p><u>While a robust policy framework for offsetting fatalities of threatened species is not available in South Africa, should development proceed (against BirdLife South Africa's recommendations), we suggest that compensation or offsets for fatalities will be required.</u></p>		
	<p><u>Biodiversity Stewardship:</u></p> <p><u>BirdLife South Africa encourages WEFs to contribute to the protection and rehabilitation of biodiversity in and around their sites. However, this can be complicated by the fact that WEFs are typically not the landowners. It is therefore essential that the applicant demonstrates that they have secured the necessary agreements needed for measures proposed in the EIA to be implemented, including Biodiversity Stewardship.</u></p> <p><u>The feasibility of using Biodiversity Stewardship as a mitigation strategy must also be carefully considered. WEFs and Biodiversity Stewardship can only coexist if the development does not compromise the reasons for designating the site as a Protected Environment. Given that such declarations often aim to safeguard pristine grasslands, wetlands, and the diverse populations of threatened bird species—including high-altitude grassland endemics, vultures, and cranes—the establishment of a WEF in these areas may well conflict with the conservation objectives.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that this is considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p><u>We confirm that through our lease agreements with landowners, we will endeavour to secure the necessary agreements needed to implement all measures proposed in the EIA and EMPs, including Biodiversity Stewardship, should this be required.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Cumulative impact assessment:</u></p> <p><u>We support the proposal to extend the area considered in</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>the cumulative impact assessment beyond the minimum 30km radius recommended by DFFE. However, we suggest that, in the context of bird fatalities and loss of habitat of range-restricted endemics, it would be appropriate extend the cumulative impact assessments to a more biologically meaningful scale (e.g. the affected population). We recommend consulting IUCN’s recently released <i>Guidance on biodiversity cumulative impact assessment for wind and solar developments and associated infrastructure</i>².</u></p>	<p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that recommended guideline is considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>This document was consulted in the drafting of the avifaunal scoping reports.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p><u>Should the applicant wish continue with the EIA processes despite the substantial concerns, we urge that:</u></p> <p><u>a) a more robust avoidance strategy is implemented, based on the outcome additional avifaunal studies and taking into consideration our above recommendations;</u></p> <p><u>b) the applicant confirms that the all the proposed mitigation measures are considered feasible (including temporal curtailment of wind turbines);</u></p> <p><u>c) that necessary landowner agreements are in place to allow for monitoring and mitigation for the duration of impacts;</u></p> <p><u>d) a robust biodiversity offset and compensation strategy is developed, and it is confirmed that it will be possible and feasible to reduce the residual impacts on birds to sustainable levels; and</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment. A more detailed impact assessment will be provided for the EIA Phase.</u></p> <p><u>The recommendations made by BirdLife SA are noted and will be considered by the Applicant and specialists to inform their impact assessment so that the most suitable and effective mitigation measures can be implemented.</u></p> <p><u>As mentioned, ongoing engagement with BirdLife SA and other key stakeholders will be undertaken during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p>e) <u>compliance with commitments to monitor, mitigate and offset impacts on birds are audited by an independent expert annually, with consequences for non-compliance.</u></p> <p><u>Please note that, despite the above recommendations, BirdLife South Africa does not support the proposed developments.</u></p> <p><u>Yours sincerely,</u> <u>Samantha Ralston-Paton (with input from Carina Pienaar and Matthew Orolowitz). Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager</u> <u>Email: energy@birdlife.org.za</u></p>		
<u>Endangered Wildlife Trust – African Crane Programme</u>			
<p><u>AppeBradley Gibbons</u> <u>22 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>I would like to register as an interested and affected party for the following wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State:</u></p> <p><u>Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd</u> <u>Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd</u> <u>Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd</u></p> <p><u>My email address is: bradleyg@ewt.org and the email address for the Endangered Wildlife Trust is eia@ewt.org</u></p> <p><u>Bradley Gibbons</u> <u>Senior Field Officer, African Crane Conservation Programme</u> <u>Sungazer Working Group Chairperson</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Bradley</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that you have been added to the project stakeholder database.</u></p> <p><u>We look forward to your participation in the process.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>



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	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>Attached, please find the response from the Endangered Wildlife Trust regarding the Kromhof Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd application.</u></p> <p><u>Regards</u></p> <p><u>Bradley</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Bradley,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your comments.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>Response to the Kromhof Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd application, located near Verkykerskop, Free State Project Reference: 41106427</u></p> <p><u>The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation, founded in 1973 and operating throughout southern Africa. The EWT conserves threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa by initiating research and conservation action programmes, implementing projects that mitigate threats facing species diversity and supporting sustainable natural resource management. The EWT furthermore communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. The responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>While the EWT supports the just transition to renewable energy, these proposed developments are only considered feasible if they follow the mitigation hierarchy and the species environmental assessment guideline and</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will address this requirement during</u></p>	<p><u>=</u></p>

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	<p><u>avoid unnecessary and unsustainable environmental impacts. We further support wind energy, but only where all possible options for avoiding, reducing, minimising, and offsetting of impacts (in that order) have been considered and implemented.</u></p>	<p><u>the compilation of the impact assessment in the EIA phase for the project.</u></p>	
	<p><u>The demand for energy is increasing globally and Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) are considered a viable option for renewable energy production. There are, however, concerns over the impacts of wind farms on wildlife in three key aspects: the disturbance or displacement of species from their habitats due to the construction of the associated WEF infrastructure; bird and bat collisions with turbine blades; and collisions and electrocutions on energy infrastructure associated with WEFs. This concern is compounded by the potential cumulative impacts of ongoing wind energy developments posing a direct risk to collision-prone species across sensitive areas, and an amplified level of disturbance and loss of habitat for wildlife in areas that overlap with WEFs</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the potential impacts to avifaunal and bat have been considered during the scoping phase. The results of the studies are discussed in Section 6.2 of the FSR. The avifaunal scoping assessment is included as Appendix G.7 of the FSR and the bat assessment is included as Appendix G.8 of the FSR.</u> <u>Additionally, all ground-truthed findings will be included in the EIA report to address this requirement during the compilation of the impact assessment in the EIA phase for the project.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.2 of the FSR</u> <u>Appendix G.7 of the FSR</u> <u>Appendix G.8 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>The EWT believes that some of the impacts of WEFs can be avoided and reduced using suitable remedial actions and mitigation measures. Accordingly, we recommend four priority measures that must be considered and implemented to ensure minimum impact of wind energy on wildlife.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. This will be considered by the specialist during the compilation of their studies in the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>Risk to Avifaunal Species:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>The avifaunal species that the EWT is concerned about are all mentioned on page 98 to 102 in the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (Table 6-4). The Avifaunal Scoping Assessment is also an accurate reflection of the birds located in the area. The EWT staff members are familiar with this area and can confirm the presence of red data and threatened bird species.</u></p> <p><u>The fact that the area is found within a Critical Biodiversity Area, part of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy and Key Biodiversity Area (Eastern Free State Escarpment), we conclude that this area is sensitive and provides an important habitat for the priority species of concern.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. This will be considered by the specialist during the compilation of their studies in the EIA phase.</u></p>	
	<p><u>The EWT is greatly concerned about the potential loss of biodiversity in these areas and it is not clear what the impact of disturbance to the area will be during the construction phase and operational phase.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. The potential impacts to biodiversity will be discussed in the impact assessment in the EIA report and the EMPr during the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>We understand the impacts of wind farms on priority avifaunal species on both local South African case studies as well as international examples. Therefore, the EWT concludes that the wind farm will pose a high risk to these priority species and we therefore oppose this application.</u></p> <p><u>Regards,</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment. It should be noted that the specialist input will also be considered during the EIA phase to inform the layout of the proposed WEFs so that any adverse impacts priority avifaunal and bat species can be minimised or avoided.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>Bradley Gibbons</u> <u>Endangered Wildlife Trust Email: bradleyg@ewt.org.za</u> <u>Phone: +27 82 566 5803</u></p> <p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>Attached, please find the response from the Endangered Wildlife Trust regarding the Normandien Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd application.</u></p> <p><u>Regards</u> <u>Bradley</u></p> <p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>Response to the Normandien Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd application, located near Verkykerskop, Free State Project Reference: 41106427</u></p> <p><u>The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation, founded in 1973 and operating throughout southern Africa. The EWT conserves threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa by initiating research and conservation action programmes, implementing projects that mitigate threats facing species diversity and supporting sustainable natural resource management. The EWT furthermore communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Bradley,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your comments.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. The responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p> <p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

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	<p><u>While the EWT supports the just transition to renewable energy, these proposed developments are only considered feasible if they follow the mitigation hierarchy and the species environmental assessment guideline and avoid unnecessary and unsustainable environmental impacts. We further support wind energy, but only where all possible options for avoiding, reducing, minimising, and offsetting of impacts (in that order) have been considered and implemented.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will address this requirement during the compilation of the impact assessment in the EIA phase for the project.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
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	<p><u>implemented to ensure minimum impact of wind energy on wildlife.</u></p>	<p><u>considered by the specialist during the compilation of their studies in the EIA phase.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Risk to Avifaunal Species:</u></p> <p><u>The avifaunal species that the EWT is concerned about are all mentioned on page 99 to 102 in the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (Table 6-5). The Avifaunal Scoping Assessment is also an accurate reflection of the birds located in the area. The EWT staff members are familiar with this area and can confirm the presence of red data and threatened bird species.</u></p> <p><u>The fact that the area is found within a Critical Biodiversity Area, part of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy and Key Biodiversity Area (Eastern Free State Escarpment), we conclude that this area is sensitive and provides an important habitat for the priority species of concern.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. This will be considered by the specialist during the compilation of their studies in the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
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	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>Attached, please find the response from the Endangered Wildlife Trust regarding the Groothoek Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd application</u></p> <p>Regards Bradley</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Bradley,</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your comments.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p> <p><u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>Response to the Groothoek Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd application, located near Verkykerskop, Free State Project Reference: 41106427</u></p> <p><u>The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation, founded in 1973 and operating throughout southern Africa. The EWT conserves threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa by initiating research and conservation action programmes, implementing projects that mitigate threats facing species diversity and supporting sustainable natural resource management. The EWT furthermore communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. The responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

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	<p><u>broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region.</u></p>		
	<p><u>While the EWT supports the just transition to renewable energy, these proposed developments are only considered feasible if they follow the mitigation hierarchy and the species environmental assessment guideline and avoid unnecessary and unsustainable environmental impacts. We further support wind energy, but only where all possible options for avoiding, reducing, minimising, and offsetting of impacts (in that order) have been considered and implemented.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and will address this requirement during the compilation of the impact assessment in the EIA phase for the project.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>The demand for energy is increasing globally and Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) are considered a viable option for renewable energy production. There are, however, concerns over the impacts of wind farms on wildlife in three key aspects: the disturbance or displacement of species from their habitats due to the construction of the associated WEF infrastructure; bird and bat collisions with turbine blades; and collisions and electrocutions on energy infrastructure associated with WEFs. This concern is compounded by the potential cumulative impacts of ongoing wind energy developments posing a direct risk to collision-prone species across sensitive areas, and an amplified level of disturbance and loss of habitat for wildlife in areas that overlap with WEFs.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the potential impacts to avifaunal and bat have been considered during the scoping phase. The results of the studies are discussed in Section 6.2 of the FSR. The avifaunal scoping assessment is included as Appendix G.7 of the FSR and the bat assessment is included as Appendix G.8 of the FSR.</u> <u>Additionally, all ground-truthed findings will be included in the EIA report to address this requirement during the compilation of the impact assessment in the EIA phase for the project.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 6.2 of the FSR</u> <u>Appendix G.7 and G.8 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>The EWT believes that some of the impacts of WEFs can be avoided and reduced using suitable remedial actions and mitigation measures. Accordingly, we recommend</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>four priority measures that must be considered and implemented to ensure minimum impact of wind energy on wildlife.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. This will be considered by the specialist during the compilation of their studies in the EIA phase.</u></p>	
	<p><u>Risk to Avifaunal Species:</u></p> <p><u>The avifaunal species that the EWT is concerned about are all mentioned on page 94 to 98 in the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (Table 6-3). The Avifaunal Scoping Assessment is also an accurate reflection of the birds located in the area. The EWT staff members are familiar with this area and can confirm the presence of red data and threatened bird species.</u></p> <p><u>The fact that the area is found within a Critical Biodiversity Area, part of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy and the eastern part in a Key Biodiversity Area (Eastern Free State Escarpment), we conclude that this area is sensitive and provides an important habitat for the priority species of concern.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. This will be considered by the specialist during the compilation of their studies in the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>The EWT is greatly concerned about the potential loss of biodiversity in these areas and it is not clear what the impact of disturbance to the area will be during the construction phase and operational phase.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment and confirms that the specialist was informed of EWTs recommendation. The potential impacts to biodiversity will be discussed in the impact assessment in the EIA report and the EMPr during the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>



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	<p>We understand the impacts of wind farms on priority avifaunal species on both local South African case studies as well as international examples. Therefore, the EWT concludes that the wind farm will pose a high risk to these priority species and we therefore oppose this application.</p> <p>Regards, Bradley Gibbons Endangered Wildlife Trust Email: bradleyg@ewt.org.za Phone: +27 82 566 5803</p>	<p>EAP: WSP and the Applicant acknowledges this comment. It should be noted that the specialist input will also be considered during the EIA phase to inform the layout of the proposed WEFs so that any adverse impacts priority avifaunal and bat species can be minimised or avoided.</p>	=
<u>VulPro</u>			
<p><u>Meagan Bromfield</u> <u>19 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Jashmika and Ashlea</u> <u>WSP</u> <u>Please find attached, VulPro's Comments on the Draft Scoping Reports for the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster that includes Groothoek WEF, Kromhof WEF and Normandien WEF north of Harrismith, Free State Province.</u> <u>Please acknowledge that comments for the following projects have been received.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Meagan Bromfield</u></p> <p><u>Dear Andrea</u> <u>My sincere apologies, I did not see your email on Wednesday indicating as such.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Hi Megan</u> <u>On second look it seems that you sent us the Dwaalboom Comments – not your comments for Verkykerskop WEF cluster.</u> <u>If you could send us the correct comments that would be great.</u> <u>Thanks so much</u> <u>Kind regards</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Hi Meagan</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>

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	<p>Please find attached</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Meagan Bromfield Renewable Energy Consultation Associate</p>	<p>Please could you send us your comments for the Verkykerskop WEF cluster. the ones received (as attached are for the Dwaalboom Project – which is not one of ours.</p> <p>If you could send us the correct comments ASAP that would be great.</p> <p>Thanks so much Kind regards</p>	
<p>Meagan Bromfield</p> <p>24 February 2025</p> <p>Letter (via email)</p>	<p>Dear Jashmika Maharaj and Ashlea Strong</p> <p><u>COMMENT: DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS (DSR) FOR THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITIES CLUSTER (DFFE Reference Nos: unknown)</u></p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports (DSR) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) Cluster (Groothoek WEF, Kromhof WEF and Normandien WEF), located north of Harrismith in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality and Phumelela Local Municipality, Free State Province, South Africa. Our comments apply to all facilities.</p> <p><u>VulPro’s vulture tracking data, which was partially incorporated into the avifaunal assessment, supports the specialists’ findings regarding the high presence of Cape Vultures (Gyps coprotheres). Our data confirms the presence of four (4) Cape Vulture cliff roosts and the Nelson’s Kop colony, as documented by the avifaunal specialists. Additionally, VulPro’s tracking data identifies</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</p> <p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment. The avifaunal impact assessment will provide a more detailed overview of the sensitive bird species within the project footprint to and will inform the EIA report during the EIA phase.</p>	<p>Appendix D - SER</p> <p>:</p>

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	<p><u>another roost(s) (not included in the assessment) approximately 50 km southwest of the proposed development near Manyenyeza Peak and the Love Alive Lions Sanctuary (Rensburgskop). The data also corroborates the avifaunal specialists' observations that Cape Vultures frequently use Eskom transmission lines cutting through the project area as overnight roosting sites. Furthermore, VulPro's tracking data indicates that White-backed Vultures (Gyps africanus) are occasional visitors to the area. Although VulPro does not have tracking data for Bearded Vultures (Gypaetus barbatus), we are aware of their presence and breeding activity in the region. While VulPro has extensive Cape Vulture tracking information, it is important to note that our data reflects regional philopatry, which may result in certain areas—such as the Eastern Free State—being underrepresented.</u></p>	<p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>TBC thanks Vulpro for the additional information, this will be incorporated into the final report.</u></p>	
	<p><u>VulPro met with Mulilo and avifaunal specialists from The Biodiversity Company on 24 October 2024 to briefly discuss these findings. During this meeting, VulPro expressed serious concerns about the impact these WEFs will have on vultures. Additionally, VulPro highlighted the ongoing vulture mortalities at operational WEFs within the Cookhouse REDZ, where vulture-specific mitigation measures—particularly vulture food management programmes—have failed to prevent fatalities.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that the concerns expressed by VulPro has been considered by the EAP, Applicant and the specialist during the scoping phase. The mitigation measures to reduce and prevent vulture mortalities and to will be further investigated during the EIA Phase.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p> <p><u>The projects in the Cookhouse REDZ were assessed with less knowledge of the risk and available mitigation measures than is now the case,</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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		<p><u>and consequently did not have a full set of mitigation included in the EMP, as will be the case at the Verkykerskop projects. Furthermore, the proposed projects will have mitigation implemented from the outset, which mitigation will be properly budgeted for and planned. That was not the case in the Cookhouse REDZ, where impacts arose unexpectedly and projects then had to manage adaptively, in many cases without budget.</u></p>	
	<p><u>VulPro acknowledges the stated efforts in developing and prioritising a 'Vulture and Raptor Action Management Plan', which is intended to be informed, in part, by the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa. This initiative's strategies for vultures should extend beyond managing food availability to encompass the broader ecological and behavioural factors influencing vulture movement. It must account for other critical attractants, including water sources, roosting sites, and key landscape features that vultures rely on for lift while soaring. Without addressing these factors comprehensively, the plan fails to reduce collision risks to the critical threshold—near zero—for vulture fatalities.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that the concerns expressed by VulPro has been considered by the EAP, Applicant and the avifaunal specialist during the scoping phase. The mitigation measures set out in the 'Vulture and Raptor Action Plan' Management to reduce and prevent vulture mortalities and to will be further investigated during the EIA Phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>The Verkykerskop WEF Cluster will cumulatively comprise up to 170 turbines across approximately 19,506 ha—a vast area that will effectively be neutralised as a safe foraging habitat for vultures and other birds. As a mitigation measure, the DSR proposes a vulture food management programme, relocating available food to designated feeding sites further from the turbines.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that the concerns expressed by VulPro has been considered by the EAP, Applicant and the avifaunal specialist during the scoping phase. The mitigation measures provided by the specialist during the</u></p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p>However, unlike in the Cookhouse REDZ—where such measures could theoretically be implemented due to the presence of only the Agieskloof Cliff Roost north of the developments, this site lies between multiple vulture roosts and, as noted by avifaunal specialists, falls within a movement corridor between the Northwest and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. Given these limitations and the ongoing failures observed in similar programmes, VulPro is doubtful that such a measure can be effectively implemented in high-risk areas such as this.</p> <p>Furthermore, the DSR references a contingency mitigation budget to address significant mortality events through 'habitat alteration', yet it is unclear what this entails. We strongly oppose any form of habitat alteration that compromises vulture foraging behaviour under the guise of mitigation, as such actions prioritise development over conservation. Similarly, VulPro does not condone the practice of biodiversity offsetting in areas of high avifaunal sensitivity, as offsets cannot adequately compensate for the direct and cumulative risks posed by WEF developments.</p>	<p>scoping phase will be updated and reviewed with the specialists findings during the EIA phase ensuring that the mitigation measures are more detailed.</p> <p>APPLICANT:</p> <p>The figures presented in this report are based on a maximum number of turbines, which will be reduced in line with the sensitivities received from specialists and spread over an area of approximately 19,950 Ha. It must be noted that typically the footprint of the WEF is <2-3% of the area/farms making up the project.</p> <p>Furthermore, a food management program is not the only mitigation measure being recommended. An extensive suite of mitigation measures, including blade painting and shut down on demand (SDoD) are being considered.</p>	
	<p>Global bird conservation experts agree that the most effective way to reduce bird mortality from wind energy is to site turbines away from areas of high bird activity. In areas of high sensitivity, where risks are particularly pronounced, mitigation measures cannot fully address these threats. The Cape Vulture, a regionally endangered species, legally requires the highest level of protection. Based on our experience with Mulilo—both in this project</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and the concerns expressed by VulPro. However, WSP confirms that the stakeholder engagement process has been transparent process with a comprehensive database to ensure that all key stakeholders were informed about the project. Therefore, this report provides the comments and</p>	<p>Section of 4 of the FSR</p>

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	<p>and in others within the Stormberg REDZ—we have serious reservations about the developer’s true commitment to vulture conservation.</p> <p>We remain concerned that the consultation process is being treated as a procedural formality rather than as a genuinely inclusive and transparent engagement with informed and experienced stakeholders.</p>	<p>responses from all key stakeholders whose concerns have been considered and responded to. It should be noted that the Applicant has demonstrated continuous efforts to engage in multiple sessions with the specialist to determine alternatives which resulted in the revision of the project layout. The initial project scope was to develop four WEFs within Verkykerskop , totalling up to approximately 255 turbines. Due to the high sensitivities highlighted by the specialists, the Applicant then eliminated one WEF resulting in only three facilities being proposed. This is outlined in Section of 4 of the FSR. The Applicant and EAP also engaged in numerous sessions with the terrestrial and avifaunal specialists to determine the most effective strategies to minimise the mortalities to protected species, hence the project was delayed until the most suitable plans were considered before releasing the project for public comment.</p> <p>However, as mentioned above, the mitigation measures provided by the specialist during the scoping phase will be updated and reviewed with the specialists findings during the EIA phase ensuring that the mitigation measures are more detailed.</p> <p>APPLICANT:</p> <p>Total avoidance of all areas used by Cape Vulture will result in virtually no projects in the northern</p>	



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	<p>Given the high sensitivity of this area for Cape Vultures and Bearded Vultures, we maintain that any proposed mitigation measures are unlikely to reduce the risk to medium or low levels. Therefore, VulPro strongly objects to the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Yours sincerely <u>Meagan Bromfield</u> VulPro Renewable Energy Consultation Associate</p>	<p>parts of the Eastern Cape, much of KZN, and large areas of the north eastern Free State. Developers need to find a balance between avoiding various species (both animals, birds and plants), bringing development to areas that require social upliftment, and finding good wind resource and capacity.</p> <p>The applicant is committed to sustainable levels of vulture conservation in that we continually aim to find rational, justifiable and reasonable mitigation measures and practical ways in which wind energy and vultures can co-exist, and in this regard, we find the latest positive developments in SDoD encouraging. With regards to the Stormberg Project, Mulilo acquired the project and significantly improved the proposed mitigations, revised the layout and reduced turbines, in an effort to minimise bird impacts.</p> <p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that the concerns expressed by VulPro will be considered during the compilation of the EIA report and EMPr.</p>	<p>Appendix D - SER</p>

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<p><u>Caroline Lötter</u> <u>21 February 2025</u> <u>Letter (via Email)</u></p>	<p><u>To whom it may concern</u></p> <p><u>IMPACT ON AVIFAUNA FROM THE PROPOSED GROOTHOEK, KROMHOF, AND NORMANDIEN WIND FARMS NEAR MEMEL IN THE FREE STATE</u></p> <p><u>Having undertaken a number of field surveys as the appointed bat specialist company for the proposed Verkykerskop wind energy facility (WEF) cluster, having carefully reviewed the Avifaunal Scoping Reports for the proposed Groothoek, Kromhof, and Normandien WEFs, and having worked at 10 operational wind farms in South Africa since 2014, Inkululeko Wildlife Services (IWS) can only conclude that each of the three WEFs comprising the proposed Verkykerskop WEF cluster are fatally flawed from a bird impact perspective.</u></p> <p><u>Specific points of concern, upon which this conclusion is based, include the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The clearly documented local high diversity and high activity (including breeding activity, and foraging/commuting activity within turbine rotor sweep height) of various highly threatened, endemic, and/or High-risk bird species – as further supported by IWS' independent observations which include:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Most significantly, the observation of an estimated 200 Cape Vultures at 28,04783 S, 29,52242 E within the Cluster. During IWS site visits, vultures were observed utilising a variety of habitats and flying in and out of</u> 	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u> <u>We disagree that the project is fatally flawed. Such a conclusion should not be made based on scoping level data/reports or based on a layout that is yet to be finalised, and likely reduced in turbine numbers. Furthermore, the project specialist has agreed that the project can proceed to the EIA phase monitoring.</u></p> <p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges the specific points of concern highlighted in the comment. These points of concern have been shared with the Applicant as well as with the Avifauna specialist for consideration during the EIA phase studies.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u> <u>TBC thanks IWS for these observations and will incorporate them into the final reports.</u></p> <p><u>APPLICANT:</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p> <p>=</p> <p>=</p>

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	<p><u>rotor sweep whilst flying above ridges, between ridges, and down from ridges into the central valleys.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>More than 25 Cape Vultures were observed near Biggs' Farm at 28,04455 S, 29,54404 E, soaring above the ridge, utilising updraughts/thermals, and moving continually within turbine rotor sweep height.</u> ○ <u>A Secretarybird at 27,97152 S, 29,57472 E.</u> ○ <u>Two Blue Cranes at 27,97845 S, 29,47735 E, among other locations. Blue Crane were observed utilising the various wetland ecosystems, and also sections of agricultural land in the study area.</u> ○ <u>Lanner Falcon at 27,951201 S, 29,603619 E, flying down from the ridges across the valleys and onto the adjacent ridges. This species is a known predator of doves/pigeons and game birds, which were observed in large numbers in local agricultural fields. With a potential reduction in Lanner Falcon, there may be a reduction in the ecosystem services provided by these, resulting in increased damage to crops.</u> ○ <u>Southern Bald Ibis were seen scattered throughout the study area at various locations.</u> 	<p><u>The applicant noted IWS's observation of intermitted high numbers of vultures on that specific day(s). However, one must take in consideration that a specific event could have triggered the gathering of a large number of vultures. The context and the reason for the increase in vulture activity is not canvassed by IWC, other than a mere observation and not as part of specific avifauna study.</u></p> <p><u>It is respectfully submitted that the observation of a flock of 200 vultures was likely due to the presence of a carcass on site. Carcass management/food management, is an effective way to reduce Cape Vulture activity in an area, and this mitigation strategy is specifically being tested and considered, and will continue to be a priority during the EIA Phase.</u></p> <p><u>The relevant Avifauna specialist studies were undertaken by the mandated Avifauna specialists under a specific scope with a single, however, materially important objective: to ensure that suitable sustainable mitigation measures are considered and recommended, consistent to specific avifauna species, i.e. mitigation measures specifically proven to be effective for Cape Vulture, such as observer based Shut Down on demand (SDoD) measures to mention but one rational, but</u></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Grey Crowned Crane were observed on a few occasions near wetlands or in agricultural fields.</u> ○ <u>A flock of four Denham’s Bustard was observed utilising similar habitat to the cranes.</u> ○ <u>Martial Eagle was seen near Mount Pelan Auction, soaring in turbine rotor sweep height whilst using updraughts along the ridges.</u> ○ <u>Two Black Harrier were observed on the R35 outside Memel, suggesting that the area is suitable at least for foraging, but also likely breeding by this species.</u> 	<p><u>sustainable mitigation measure. Furthermore, prior to considering mitigation measures, further avoidance will be implemented by moving turbines and/or reducing the number of proposed turbines.</u></p> <p><u>It is important to reiterate that the Avifauna specialist was commissioned as an experienced and recognised vulture specialist with the specific mandate to identify a rational, justifiable and reasonable, sustainable vulture impact mitigation solution.</u></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The probable destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of threatened grassland and seasonal and permanent wetlands representing Critical Biodiversity Areas 1 and 2, and Ecological Support Areas 1 and 2.</u> • <u>The probable destruction, disturbance and/or displacement of avifauna that are representative of the various Important Bird Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, Protected Areas, and other areas that are currently flagged under the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy within the region.</u> • <u>The lack of long-term studies from South Africa confirming that implemented bird fatality mitigation</u> 	<p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. The specialists will provide a more detailed impact assessment for the EIA Phase.</u></p> <p><u>The recommendations made by IWS key are noted and will be considered by the specialists during the EIA phase.</u></p> <p><u>As mentioned, ongoing engagement with key stakeholders will be undertaken during the EIA phase to understand the level of additional studies that are required to reduce the potential significance of impacts to acceptable levels.</u></p> <p><u>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</u></p>	=

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	<p><u>measures are adequate in terms of minimizing impacts on avifauna to Low or Insignificant levels.</u></p> <p><u>Given this, the proposed wind farms are unlikely to meet IFC Performance 6 Standards, since PS6 could be violated by destruction or degradation of Critical Habitat and destruction, disturbance, or displacement of certain avifaunal Species of Conservation Concern such as Botha's Lark.</u></p> <p><u>Should development of one or more of these proposed WEFs be approved, this will set a terrible precedent for development of WEFs within areas of South Africa of highest biodiversity conservation importance. Indeed, on what grounds could potential development of wind farms in similarly conservation important areas such as the St Lucia Isimangaliso World Heritage site, the Kruger National Park, or Table Mountain be prohibited?</u></p>	<p><u>TBC acknowledges this point.</u></p> <p>APPLICANT:</p> <p><u>Thank you for your comments. Your comments will be considered and taken into account by the appointed project avifaunal specialist during the EIA phase. We note, however, that IWS is the appointed bat specialist on the project and is therefore not privy to the experiences and knowledge of the site-specific bird specialist appointed to prepare the final impact assessment on avifauna.</u></p> <p><u>Long-term Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) is being implemented and tested at various operational wind farms in SA. It has proven to be extremely effective.</u></p>	

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	<p><u>Approval of these projects will be a confirmation from authorities that short-term economic profits outweigh the value of preserving irreplaceable natural heritage in South Africa.</u></p> <p><u>If one or more of these WEF projects is approved, what exactly would have been the purpose or value of:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The guidance on birds and wind energy in South Africa such as by Jenkins et al. 2015, Simmons et al.2020, and particularly Pfeiffer and Ralston-Paton 2018?</u> <u>The global and regional IUCN Red List Assessments for avifauna in South Africa?</u> <u>Pertinent conservation efforts of NGOs such as VulPro and EWT?</u> <u>The Free State Conservation Plan (C-Plan)?</u> <u>The National Environmental Screening Tool?</u> <u>Key Biodiversity and Important Bird Areas in the region?</u> <u>Formal and informal Protected Areas in the region?</u> <u>The National Protected Area Expansion Strategy?</u> <u>National legislation including NEMA, NEMBA, NEMPA, and more.</u> <u>International guidance such as IFC PS 6?</u> 	<p><u>up to 100% effective for preventing vulture mortality, at most sites (e.g. Golden Valley, Excelsior and Kipeto WEFs) over a number of years.</u></p> <p><u>Destruction or degradation of critical habitat does not automatically mean non-compliance to PS6.</u></p> <p><u>In early-stage site screening, the applicant always screens out world heritage sites, national parks, nature reserves and RAMSAR wetland sites.</u></p> <p><u>TERRESTRIAL SPECIALIST:</u></p> <p><u>The CBA categories are mapped based on GIS data and not groundtruthing, the possibility therefore exists that CBA areas could cover other land uses, detailed verification of all CBA areas will be completed and where found to be accurate, will be avoided.</u></p> <p><u>In addition, the Gazetted Biodiversity Protocols for Terrestrial Biodiversity indicates: A specialist report that includes an opinion on whether the proposed development aligns with the objectives or purpose of the protected area and the zoning as per the protected area management plan.</u></p> <p><u>From a SEI perspective protected areas would fall under “Very High” SEI, in such instances Avoidance mitigation is the only mitigation possible.</u></p>	

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	<p>IWS can confirm, from the results of monitoring the efficacy of different bird fatality mitigation measures at several WEFs in South Africa, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Observer-led shutdown is not sufficiently effective at preventing or minimizing priority bird fatalities when compromised by factors such as inclement weather, landowner issues, disease outbreaks, and bird observer issues to name a few.</u> • <u>Acoustic bird deterrents are not sufficiently effective at preventing or minimizing priority bird fatalities when these birds are engaged with or distracted by e.g. social or reproductive activities or behaviour.</u> • <u>Carrion removal can be onerous and ineffective especially when large areas with difficult terrain need to be patrolled often during inclement weather, and when landowners are not in support of large animal carcass searching and swift removal on their properties.</u> • <u>Blade painting has not yet been proven to be effective for Cape Vultures and many of the other avian Species of Conservation Concern that occur in the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster.</u> • <u>Should mitigation measures be implemented at the proposed WEFs, and should these happen to be highly effective (which is unlikely based on all available evidence to date), has consideration been given to:</u> 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible displacement of certain avian Species of Conservation Concern from the study region, and the potential impact of this at a regional, national, or global scale? - The economic impact on each WEF of rigorous avifaunal impact mitigation? What if turbines must be regularly shutdown during the day to mitigate priority bird fatalities, and what if turbine curtailment must also be applied to mitigate bat fatalities at night? What if numerous IdentifFlight, BioSeco, Biodiv SafeWind, or similar systems must be purchased, monitored, and maintained throughout the life of each WEF? • Appropriate offsets for residual impacts of these projects on threatened avifauna and the habitats and other resources that these depend on – has this been adequately considered? Will sufficient financial provision be made to offset every fatality of every threatened bird species throughout the life of each WEF? <p>We trust that these comments will be given due consideration by the applicable EAP, developer, local landowners, and all authorities.</p> <p><u>Dr Caroline Lötter, Pr. Nat. Sci for Inkululeko Wildlife Services</u></p>		
<p><u>Free State Department: Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs</u></p>			

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p>Nomasomi Tshingo</p> <p>22 January 2025</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Free State Department: Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs</p>	<p><u>Good day</u></p> <p>For any permit related queries, you can forward an email to the permit office;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Cynthia Seghobane: seghobanec@destea.gov.za (051 400 9526)</u> ▪ <u>Pius Letsoalo: letsoalop@destea.gov.za (051 400 9536)</u> ▪ <u>Johaness Mosia: mosiaj@destea.gov.za (051 400 9527)</u> <p>For Professional Hunting queries, you can forward an email to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Lourens Goosen: goosenl@destea.gov.za (051 400 9534/ 066 487 2881)</u> ▪ <u>Nomasomi Tshingo: tshingon@destea.gov.za (051 400 9494/ 066 487 2786)</u> 	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Good day Nomasomi.</u></p> <p><u>The notification has been shared with the below and they have been added to the stakeholder database.</u></p> <p><u>We look forward to your participation in this process.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
<p><u>Redcap</u></p>			
<p>Nwabisa Ndaku</p> <p>Redcap</p> <p>22 January 2025</p> <p>Email</p>	<p><u>Good day,</u></p> <p><u>I hope you are well.</u></p> <p><u>Please Register me as I & AP for the Verkykerkop Wind Energy Facility Cluster.</u></p> <p><u>Please send me the link to the documents as well.</u></p> <p><u>Please send me a confirmation for the registration.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.Good day Nwabisa</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that you have been added to the project stakeholder database.</u></p> <p><u>We look forward to your participation in the process.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Best Regards</u> <u>Nwabisa Ndaku</u></p>	<p><u>Kind regards</u></p>	
<u>G7 Energies</u>			
<p><u>Kathryn Winstanley</u> <u>G7 Energies</u> <u>23 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good afternoon,</u> <u>I trust you are well.</u> <u>As per the email below, please could I request that Caryn du Rand with email address eia@g7energies.com be registered as an I&AP for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility Cluster.</u> <u>Thank you very much.</u> <u>Kind Regards,</u> <u>Kathryn Winstanley Environmental Project Developer</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Kathryn</u> <u>Kindly note that Caryn du Rand has been included in the stakeholder database.</u> <u>Should yourself and Wasim also be added on the database?</u> <u>Kind regards</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
	<p><u>Good afternoon,</u> <u>Thank you for confirming. Just including Caryn in the database is sufficient.</u> <u>Thank you.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Kathryn Winstanley - Environmental Project Developer</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.Good day,</u> <u>Noted, Thank you</u> <u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	
<u>South African National Roads Agency SOC (SANRAL)</u>			

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p><u>Ria Barkhuizen</u> <u>South African National Roads Agency SOC (SANRAL)</u> <u>27 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good day</u> <u>Please forward your application to SANRAL Eastern Region erstatutory@nra.co.za as this falls under their jurisdiction.</u> <u>Kind regards</u> <u>Ria</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>Good day Ria</u> <u>Thank you. The notification has been shared with them.</u> <u>Kind regards</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
<u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</u>			
<p><u>Salome Mambane</u> <u>27 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u> <u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED GROOTHOEK WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, IN THE PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.</u> <u>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</u> <u>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u> <u>WSP confirms that the I&APs were provided with an opportunity to comment on the FSR from 22 January to 21 February 2025.</u> <u>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant take note that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</u></p> <p><u>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</u></p> <p><u>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards, Salome Mambane Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Priority Infrastructure Developments Tel: 012 399 9385 Cell: 063 684 5431 Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za</u></p>		



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p>Salome Mambane 27 January 2025 Email</p>	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p><u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KROMHOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, IN THE PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.</u></p> <p><u>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 23 January 2025. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</u></p> <p><u>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the I&APs were provided with an opportunity to comment on the FSR from 22 January to 21 February 2025.</u></p> <p><u>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant take note that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</u></p> <p><u>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</u></p> <p><u>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards,</u> <u>Salome Mambane</u> <u>Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Priority Infrastructure Developments</u> <u>Tel: 012 399 9385</u> <u>Cell: 063 684 5431</u> <u>Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za</u></p>		



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p>Salome Mambane 27 January 2025 Email</p>	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p><u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR PROPOSED NORMANDIEN WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, IN THE PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.</u></p> <p><u>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 23 January 2025. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</u></p> <p><u>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the I&APs were provided with an opportunity to comment on the FSR from 22 January to 21 February 2025.</u></p> <p><u>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant take note that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</u></p> <p><u>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</u></p> <p><u>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards,</u> <u>Salome Mambane</u> <u>Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Priority Infrastructure Developments</u> <u>Tel: 012 399 9385</u> <u>Cell: 063 684 5431</u> <u>Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za</u></p>		
<p><u>Salome Mambane</u> <u>24 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Ms Strong</u></p> <p><u>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 300MW NORMANDIEN WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, IN THE PHUMELELA LOCAL</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>MUNICIPALITY AND THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated January 2025 and received by the Department on 23 January 2025, refer.</u></p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</u></p>		
	<p><u>(a) Listed activities and specific comments:</u></p> <p><u>(i) The draft Scoping report and application form mention the following towns, i.e. Harrismith, Verkykerskop, Ermelo, Breyten, as being near to the proposed Normandien Wind Energy Farm. Please indicate one nearest town, that will be referred to in the application.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that due to the scale of the project, the proposed WEFs will cross many properties that falls within several towns as mentioned in the application. For the purpose of the application please refer to Verkykerskop.</u></p>	<p><u>=</u></p>
	<p><u>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application form. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that all the relevant listed activities are specific to the project and have been included in the application and Section 5 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 5 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(iii) Listed Activity 3, their applicability needs to be confirmed and finalised – these need to be updated and confirmed by the specialists. Furthermore, it must still be confirmed whether the 2015 Free State Biodiversity Plan has been adopted by the Competent Authority.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the applicability to Listed Activity 3 was confirmed during the scoping phase in conjunction with the results of the terrestrial biodiversity studies. Should the findings of the</u></p>	<p><u>Section 5.1 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment,</u> <u>Format of Comment,</u> <u>Name of</u> <u>Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
		<p><u>specialist change during the EIA phase then an amended application will be submitted.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, WSP can confirm that the Free State Biodiversity Plan was approved and adopted by the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs on 14 October 2024.</u></p> <p><u>WSP can confirm that the scoping reports have been updated accordingly.</u></p>  <p>The image shows an official approval document titled 'APPROVAL'. It states: 'The Free State Biodiversity Plan as described herein is hereby officially approved by the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs'. The document includes five sections with signatures and dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed and compiled by: Dr. Nacelle B. Collins (Production Scientist), Date: 14/10/2024 Supervised by: Mr. Dave Bayer (Acting Director: Biodiversity Management and Research), Date: 14/10/2024 Supported by: Ms. Mphahlele Mkhalebi (Director: Env. Policy, Planning and Coordination), Date: 14/10/2024 Recommended by: Dr. Mphahlele Nkomo (MOD: DEST/EA), Date: 14/10/2024 Approved and adopted by: Ms. Blaise Rockman (MEC: DAR/EA), Date: 16/10/2024 </p>	

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>(iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that the listed activities applied for and submitted in the FSR have not changed and therefore no amended application will be submitted during this phase of the project.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>(v) Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution substation. Should this gazette apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and is aware of the legislative requirement to provide a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, if the proposed development is within 2km of an Eskom MTS. The proposed project is not within 2km of an Eskom MTS.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps:</u></p> <p><u>(i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the coordinates of associated infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all maps to be included in the reports (including specialist).</u></p> <p><u>(iii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that the layout and sensitivity maps provided in the FSR complies with all the requirements listed in b(i) – (vi). The layout and sensitivity maps are included in Appendix D of the FSR and in Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirm that google maps have not been utilised.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u> <u>Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>a) <u>The proposed position of the wind turbines, internal and external roads, substations, gate house and security, operational and maintenance buildings and the concrete batching plant;</u></p> <p>b) <u>All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown areas etc. (existing and proposed);</u></p> <p>c) <u>Battery Energy Storage System;</u></p> <p>d) <u>Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</u></p> <p>e) <u>All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and</u></p> <p>f) <u>Buildings, including accommodation.</u></p> <p>(iv) <u>Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</u></p> <p>a) <u>The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas (if any), heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</u></p> <p>b) <u>Buffer areas; and c) All “no-go” areas.</u></p> <p>(v) <u>The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</u></p>		

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	(vi) Google maps will not be accepted.		
	<p><u>(c) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p><u>(i) All Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be of the proposed Normandien Wind Energy Farm and must be signed by the relevant specialists, then attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that all Specialist Declaration forms have been completed and included in Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>
	<p><u>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, turbine positions and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that all studies include a terms of reference that complies with (ii)a -g. All studies comply with this requirement and have been included in Appendix G.1-G11 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix G.1-G11 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The detailed description of all limitations is also included in Section 2.7 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 2.7 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that no-go areas have been considered and included in Section 4.4 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 4.4 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>d) <u>Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>No-go areas were also indicated in the sensitivity map – Appendix D of the FSR and in Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u> <u>Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>e) <u>All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider this during the EIA phase. In addition, all studies undertaken during the scoping phase will be updated and completed during the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p>f) <u>Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will continue engagement with Birdlife South Africa and SABAA throughout the EIA process.</u> <u>The comments already provided by BLSA are acknowledged.</u> <u>These stakeholders will be further consulted as part of the EIA process.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p>g) <u>Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that mitigation measures and recommendations made by specialists will be included the draft EIA report.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>(iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure to comply with the Departments requirement during the EIA phase.</p>	=
	<p>(iv) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations made by specialists are in line with the most recent guidelines and will be included the draft EIA report.</p>	=
	<p>(v) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that Section 7 of the FSR complies with this requirement and this information will be updated during the EIA phase where applicable. WSP confirm that the specialist assessments have been and will continue to be conducted in accordance with the relevant protocols.</p>	<u>Section 7 of the FSR</u>
	<p>(vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that all Specialist Declaration forms have been completed and included in Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</p>	<u>Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>(vii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that the Site Verification Report is included in Appendix F of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix F of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that all specialists for the project are SACNASP registered. The relevant certificates and qualifications are included in Appendix B.1 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix B.1 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(d) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p><u>(i) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</u></p> <p><u>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that a cumulative assessment is included in Section 8.2 of the FSR and considers similar projects within 50km of the project site. A detailed and comprehensive cumulative assessment including the specialist findings will be provided in the EIA report.</p>	<p><u>Section 8.2 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p>c) <u>The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</u></p> <p>d) <u>A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</u></p>		
	<p><u>(e) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p><u>(i) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p><u>WSP confirm that the Public Participation Process is being conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 2.6 and 9.8 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(ii) The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and within the seven statutorily protected areas. The most significant of which being the Upper Wilge Protected Environment championed by BirdLifeSA. Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows:</u></p> <p><u>a) Biodiversity Conservation Directorate</u></p> <p>- <u>Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota</u></p> <p>- <u>Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za</u></p> <p><u>b) Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate</u></p> <p>- <u>Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda</u></p> <p>- <u>Email: TNethononda@dffe.gov.za</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the comments from the BirdLifeSA and DFFE Biodiversity Conservation has been received and is responded to in this table. The original comments are included in Appendix D of this SER.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>

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	<p>(iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.</p> <p>(iv) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final SR.</p> <p>(v) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p> <p>(vi) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP confirms that all comments received have been included in this SER and has been addressed with input from the Applicant and the relevant specialists.</p> <p>The original comments are included in Appendix D of the SER and will be appended as Appendix C to the FSR.</p> <p>Photographic evidence of the site notices placed during the PP phase have been included in this SER. The photographs also include the required information as requested.</p> <p>The proof of the newspaper publication is included in Appendix B.2 of the SER and does include the full page.</p> <p>WSP confirm that the comments received have not been split and arranged in categories or summaries.</p> <p>Minutes of the pre-application meeting with DFFE is included in Appendix H of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p> <p><u>Appendix C to the FSR.</u></p> <p><u>Appendix H of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Appendix B.2 of the SER</u></p>

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	<p><u>(vii) The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.</u></p>		
	<p><u>(viii) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.</u></p>		
	<p><u>(ix) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.</u></p>		
	<p><u>(x) The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.</u></p>		
	<p><u>(xi) Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.</u></p>		
	<p><u>(xii) Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.</u></p>		
	<p><u>General</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p>	<p><u>:</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p> <p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>WSP confirms that the FSR will be submitted to the DFFE by the 7 March 2025, which is within the required timeframe of the regulations.</p>	
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</p>	<p>=</p>
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP and the Applicant take note of this reminder.</p>	<p>=</p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Dr Sabelo Malaza</u> <u>Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations</u> <u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</u> <u>Signed by: Ms Masina Morudu</u> <u>Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects</u></p>		
<p><u>Sabelo Malaza</u> <u>25 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Ms Strong</u></p> <p><u>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 300MW GROOTHOEK WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, IN THE PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.</u></p> <p><u>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated January 2025 and received by the Department on 23 January 2025, refer.</u></p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>(a) Listed activities and specific comments:</u></p> <p><u>(i) The draft Scoping report and application form mention the following towns, i.e. Harrismith, Verkykerskop, Ermelo, Breyten, as being near to the proposed Normandien Wind Energy Farm. Please indicate one nearest town, that will be referred to in the application.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that due to the scale of the project, the proposed WEFs will cross many properties that falls within several towns as mentioned in the application. For the purpose of the application please refer to Verkykerskop.</u></p>	<p><u>:</u></p>

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	<p><u>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application form. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that all the relevant listed activities are specific to the project and have been included in the application and Section 5 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 5 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(iii) Listed Activity 3, their applicability needs to be confirmed and finalised – these need to be updated and confirmed by the specialists. Furthermore, it must still be confirmed whether the 2015 Free State Biodiversity Plan has been adopted by the Competent Authority.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that the applicability to Listed Activity 3 was confirmed during the scoping phase in conjunction with the results of the terrestrial biodiversity studies. Should the findings of the specialist change during the EIA phase then an amended application will be submitted.</u> <u>Furthermore, WSP can confirm that the Free State Biodiversity Plan was approved and adopted by the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs on 14 October 2024.</u> <u>WSP can confirm that the scoping reports have been updated accordingly.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 5.1 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p><u>(iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link</u> https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p>	<p>EAP: <u>WSP confirms that the listed activities applied for and submitted in the FSR have not changed and therefore no amended application will be submitted during this phase of the project.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>(v) Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p>	<p>=</p>

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	<p><u>development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution substation. Should this gazette apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and is aware of the legislative requirement to provide a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. The Applicant has requested the letter, which will be in the Draft EIA report.</u></p>	
	<p><u>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps:</u></p> <p><u>(i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the coordinates of associated infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all maps to be included in the reports (including specialist).</u></p> <p><u>(iii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) The proposed position of the wind turbines, internal and external roads, substations, gate house and security, operational and maintenance buildings and the concrete batching plant;</u></p> <p><u>b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown areas etc. (existing and proposed);</u></p> <p><u>c) Battery Energy Storage System;</u></p> <p><u>d) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the layout and sensitivity maps provided in the FSR complies with all the requirements listed in b(i) – (vi). The layout and sensitivity maps are included in Appendix D of the FSR and in Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirm that google maps have not been utilised.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p>e) <u>All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and</u></p> <p>f) <u>Buildings, including accommodation.</u></p> <p>(iv) <u>Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</u></p> <p>a) <u>The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas (if any), heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</u></p> <p>b) <u>Buffer areas; and c) All “no-go” areas.</u></p> <p>(v) <u>The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</u></p> <p>(vi) <u>Google maps will not be accepted.</u></p>		
	<p>(c) <u>Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p>(i) <u>All Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be of the proposed Normandien Wind Energy Farm and must be signed by the relevant specialists, then attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that all Specialist Declaration forms have been completed and included in Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>

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	<p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</p> <p>a) <u>A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, turbine positions and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP confirms that all studies include a terms of reference that complies with (ii)a -g. All studies comply with this requirement and have been included in Appendix G.1-G11 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix G.1-G11 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>b) <u>Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>The detailed description of all limitations is also included in Section 2.7 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Section 2.7 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>c) <u>Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that no-go areas have been considered and included in Section 4.4 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Section 4.4 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>d) <u>Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>No-go areas were also indicated in the sensitivity map – Appendix D of the FSR and in Section 7.1 of the FSR</p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>e) <u>All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</u></p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider this during the EIA phase. In addition, all studies undertaken during the scoping phase will be updated and completed during the EIA phase.</p>	<p>=</p>

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	f) <u>Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will continue engagement with Birdlife South Africa and SABAA throughout the EIA process.</u></p> <p><u>The comments already provided by BLSA are acknowledged.</u></p> <p><u>These stakeholders will be further consulted as part of the EIA process.</u></p>	=
	g) <u>Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that mitigation measures and recommendations made by specialists will be included the draft EIA report.</u></p>	=
	(iii) <u>Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure to comply with the Departments requirement during the EIA phase.</u></p>	=
	(iv) <u>Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations made by specialists are in line with the most recent guidelines and will be included the draft EIA report.</u></p>	=

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	<p>(v) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that Section 7 of the FSR complies with this requirement and this information will be updated during the EIA phase where applicable. WSP confirm that the specialist assessments have been and will continue to be conducted in accordance with the relevant protocols.</p>	<p><u>Section 7 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>(vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that all Specialist Declaration forms have been completed and included in Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>
	<p>(vii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that the Site Verification Report is included in Appendix F of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix F of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>(viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists’ to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that all specialists for the project are SACNASP registered. The relevant certificates and qualifications are included in Appendix B.1 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix B.1 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p><u>(d) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p><u>(i) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</u></p> <p><u>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</u></p> <p><u>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</u></p> <p><u>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that a cumulative assessment is included in Section 8.2 of the FSR and considers similar projects within 50km of the project site. A detailed and comprehensive cumulative assessment including the specialist findings will be provided in the EIA report.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 8.2 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(e) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p><u>(i) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirm that the Public Participation Process is being conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40,</u></p>	<p><u>Section 2.6 and 9.8 of the FSR</u></p>

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	<p>(ii) The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and within the seven statutorily protected areas. The most significant of which being the Upper Wilge Protected Environment championed by BirdLifeSA. Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows:</p> <p>a) Biodiversity Conservation Directorate - Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota - Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za</p> <p>b) Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate - Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda Email: TNethononda@dffe.gov.za</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that the comments from the BirdLifeSA and DFFE Biodiversity Conservation has been received and is responded to in this table. The original comments are included in Appendix D of this SER.</p>	<p>Appendix D of the SER</p>
	<p>(iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.</p> <p>(iv) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the</p>	<p>EAP: WSP confirms that all comments received have been included in this SER and has been addressed with input from the Applicant and the relevant specialists. The original comments are included in Appendix D of the SER and will be appended as Appendix C to the FSR.</p>	<p>Appendix D of the SER Appendix C to the FSR. Appendix H of the FSR</p>

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<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.</p> <p>(x) <u>The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.</u></p> <p>(xi) <u>Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.</u></p> <p>(xii) <u>Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.</u></p>		
	<p><u>General</u></p> <p><u>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</u></p> <p><u>“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the FSR will be submitted to the DFFE by the 7 March 2025, which is within the required timeframe of the regulations.</u></p>	<p>=</p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>EAP: WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</p>	=
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Dr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Signed by: Ms Masina Morudu</p> <p>Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects</p>	<p>EAP: WSP and the Applicant take note of this reminder.</p>	=
<p>Sabelo Malaza 25 February 2025</p>	<p>Dear Ms Strong</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 300MW</p>	<p>EAP: WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</p>	Appendix D - SER



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<u>Email</u>	<p><u>KROMHOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP, IN THE PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.</u></p> <p><u>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated January 2025 and received by the Department on 23 January 2025, refer.</u></p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</u></p>		
	<p><u>(a) Listed activities and specific comments:</u></p> <p><u>(i) The draft Scoping report and application form mention the following towns, i.e. Harrismith, Verkykerskop, Ermelo, Breyten, as being near to the proposed Normandien Wind Energy Farm. Please indicate one nearest town, that will be referred to in the application.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that due to the scale of the project, the proposed WEFs will cross many properties that falls within several towns as mentioned in the application. For the purpose of the application please refer to Verkykerskop.</u></p>	-
	<p><u>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application form. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that all the relevant listed activities are specific to the project and have been included in the application and Section 5 of the FSR.</u></p>	<u>Section 5 of the FSR</u>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>(iii) <u>Listed Activity 3, their applicability needs to be confirmed and finalised – these need to be updated and confirmed by the specialists. Furthermore, it must still be confirmed whether the 2015 Free State Biodiversity Plan has been adopted by the Competent Authority.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the applicability to Listed Activity 3 was confirmed during the scoping phase in conjunction with the results of the terrestrial biodiversity studies. Should the findings of the specialist change during the EIA phase then an amended application will be submitted.</u></p> <p><u>Furthermore, WSP can confirm that the Free State Biodiversity Plan was approved and adopted by the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs on 14 October 2024.</u></p> <p><u>WSP can confirm that the scoping reports have been updated accordingly.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 5.1 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment,</u> <u>Format of Comment,</u> <u>Name of</u> <u>Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>(iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p>	 <p>EAP: WSP confirms that the applicability to Listed Activity 3 was confirmed during the scoping phase in conjunction with the results of the terrestrial biodiversity studies. Should the findings of the specialist change during the EIA phase then an amended application will be submitted. Furthermore, WSP can confirm that the Free State Biodiversity Plan was approved and adopted by the Free State Department of Economic, Small</p>	<p>-Section 5.1 of the FSR</p>

<u>Date of Comment,</u> <u>Format of Comment,</u> <u>Name of</u> <u>Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
		<p>Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs on 14 October 2024.</p> <p>WSP can confirm that the scoping reports have been updated accordingly.</p>  <p>The document is an approval form titled 'APPROVAL' for the Free State Biodiversity Plan. It is approved by the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. The document includes signatures and dates for: Developed and compiled by (Dr. Nacelle B. Collins, 14/10/2024), Supervised by (Mr. Dave Taylor, 19/10/2024), Supported by (Ms. Mphahlele Mokalabe, 14/10/2024), Recommended by (Dr. Mphahlele Mokalabe, 14/10/2024), and Approved and adopted by (Ms. Mphahlele Mokalabe, 16/10/2024).</p>	
	<p>(v) Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution substation. Should this gazette</p>	<p>EAP:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this comment and is aware of the legislative requirement to provide a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. The Applicant has requested the letter, which will be in the Draft EIA report.</p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.</u></p> <p><u>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps:</u></p> <p><u>(i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the coordinates of associated infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all maps to be included in the reports (including specialist).</u></p> <p><u>(iii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) The proposed position of the wind turbines, internal and external roads, substations, gate house and security, operational and maintenance buildings and the concrete batching plant;</u></p> <p><u>b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown areas etc. (existing and proposed);</u></p> <p><u>c) Battery Energy Storage System;</u></p> <p><u>d) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</u></p> <p><u>e) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the layout and sensitivity maps provided in the FSR complies with all the requirements listed in b(i) – (vi). The layout and sensitivity maps are included in Appendix D of the FSR and in Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirm that google maps have not been utilised.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u></p> <p><u>Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>f) Buildings, including accommodation.</p> <p>(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) <u>The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas (if any), heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</u></p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and c) All “no-go” areas.</p> <p>(v) <u>The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</u></p> <p>(vi) Google maps will not be accepted.</p>		
	<p><u>(c) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p>(i) <u>All Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be of the proposed Normandien Wind Energy Farm and must be signed by the relevant specialists, then attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that all Specialist Declaration forms have been completed and included in Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>
	<p><u>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that all studies include a terms of reference that complies with (ii)a -g. All studies</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix G.1-G11 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>a) <u>A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, turbine positions and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</u></p>	<p><u>comply with this requirement and have been included in Appendix G.1-G11 of the FSR.</u></p>	
	<p>b) <u>Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>The detailed description of all limitations is also included in Section 2.7 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 2.7 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>c) <u>Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that no-go areas have been considered and included in Section 4.4 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 4.4 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>d) <u>Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>No-go areas were also indicated in the sensitivity map – Appendix D of the FSR and in Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the FSR</u> <u>Section 7.1 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>e) <u>All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will consider this during the EIA phase. In addition, all studies undertaken during the scoping phase will be updated and completed during the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	f) <u>Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will continue engagement with Birdlife South Africa and SABAA throughout the EIA process.</u></p> <p><u>The comments already provided by BLSA are acknowledged.</u></p> <p><u>These stakeholders will be further consulted as part of the EIA process.</u></p>	=
	g) <u>Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and confirms that mitigation measures and recommendations made by specialists will be included the draft EIA report.</u></p>	=
	(iii) <u>Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure to comply with the Departments requirement during the EIA phase.</u></p>	=
	(iv) <u>Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</u>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations made by specialists are in line with the most recent guidelines and will be included the draft EIA report.</u></p>	=

<u>Date of Comment,</u> <u>Format of Comment,</u> <u>Name of</u> <u>Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>(v) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that Section 7 of the FSR complies with this requirement and this information will be updated during the EIA phase where applicable. WSP confirm that the specialist assessments have been and will continue to be conducted in accordance with the relevant protocols.</p>	<p><u>Section 7 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>(vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms is included in Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix B.2 of the FSR.</u></p>
	<p>(vii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that the Site Verification Report is included in Appendix F of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix F of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>(viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists’ to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> WSP confirms that all specialists for the project are SACNASP registered. The relevant certificates and qualifications are included in Appendix B.1 of the FSR.</p>	<p><u>Appendix B.1 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>(d) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p><u>(i) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</u></p> <p><u>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</u></p> <p><u>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</u></p> <p><u>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that a cumulative assessment is included in Section 8.2 of the FSR and considers similar projects within 50km of the project site. A detailed and comprehensive cumulative assessment including the specialist findings will be provided in the EIA report.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 8.2 of the FSR</u></p>
	<p><u>(e) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p><u>(i) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirm that the Public Participation Process is being conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40,</u></p>	<p><u>Section 2.6 and 9.8 of the FSR</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
		41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	
	<p>(ii) <u>The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and within the seven statutorily protected areas. The most significant of which being the Upper Wilge Protected Environment championed by BirdLifeSA. Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows:</u></p> <p>a) <u>Biodiversity Conservation Directorate</u> - <u>Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota</u> - <u>Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za</u></p> <p>b) <u>Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate</u> - <u>Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda</u> <u>Email: TNethononda@dffe.gov.za</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that the comments from the BirdLifeSA and DFFE Biodiversity Conservation has been received and is responded to in this table. The original comments are included in Appendix D of this SER.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>
	<p>(iii) <u>Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that all comments received have been included in this SER and has been addressed with input from the Applicant and the relevant specialists.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u> <u>Appendix C to the FSR.</u> <u>Appendix H of the FSR</u></p>
	<p>(iv) <u>Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the</u></p>	<p><u>The original comments are included in Appendix D of the SER and will be appended as Appendix C to the FSR.</u></p>	

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final SR.</p> <p>(v) <u>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</u></p> <p>(vi) <u>All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).</u></p> <p>(vii) <u>The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.</u></p> <p>(viii) <u>Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.</u></p> <p>(ix) <u>Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response</u></p>	<p><u>Photographic evidence of the site notices placed during the PP phase have been included in this SER. The photographs also include the required information as requested.</u></p> <p><u>The proof of the newspaper publication is included in Appendix B.2 of the SER and does include the full page.</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirm that the comments received have not been split and arranged in categories or summaries.</u></p> <p><u>Minutes of the pre-application meeting with DFFE is included in Appendix H of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix B.2 of the SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.</p> <p>(x) <u>The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.</u></p> <p>(xi) <u>Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.</u></p> <p>(xii) <u>Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.</u></p>		
	<p><u>General</u></p> <p><u>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</u></p> <p><u>“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP confirms that the FSR will be submitted to the DFFE by the 7 March 2025, which is within the required timeframe of the regulations.</u></p>	<p>=</p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>		
	<p><u>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p> <p><u>Yours sincerely</u> <u>Dr Sabelo Malaza</u> <u>Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations</u> <u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</u> <u>Signed by: Ms Masina Morudu</u></p> <p><u>Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP and the Applicant take note of this reminder.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
<u>Adjacent Landowners</u>			
<u>Cecile Wykes</u>	<u>Good day.</u>	<u>EAP:</u>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p><u>03 February 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Can you please add us to the interested and affected parties register regarding the Wind farm planned for the Verkykerskop/ Normandien area.</u></p> <p><u>Cecile Wykes</u> <u>Jerry Wykes</u></p> <p><u>We live on a farm halfway between Groothoek and Verkykerskop. Approximately 2km from the T junction with</u> <u>the Normandien road, opposite west of Groothoek where your notices were put up.. Please refer to the</u> <u>attachments – photographs of the notices.</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards</u> <u>Cecile Wykes</u></p>	<p><u>Good day,</u></p> <p><u>Kindly note that you have been included on the project database.</u></p> <p><u>We look forward to your participation in this process.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u> <u>Public Participation Office</u></p>	
<u>Interested and Affected Parties</u>			
<p><u>Nkosikhona Shabalala</u> <u>22 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Morning all and compliments of the season thank you for your email may I please request that you arrange a date of a meeting with us normandien residents at horse shoe guest house hall or anywhere around normandien or normandien auction sale yard so we get a chance to participate meaningfully in your project and get a chance to hear from you how your project will address energy crisis in normandien I believe that would be EIA meeting</u></p> <p><u>Thank you</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>Dear Nkosikhona</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your email and your request for a meeting.</u></p> <p><u>We have noted your request and will arrange such a meeting during the course of the EIA Phase.</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<u>South African National Parks</u>			
<u>Esther Howard</u> 23 January 2025 <u>Email</u>	<u>Dear Jashmika</u> <u>Thank you for sharing the information with SANParks. Could you kindly share the link with my colleague Letsie Coetzee, she deals with matters of this nature in the northern region. Her email address is as follows:</u> <u>letsie.coetzee@sanparks.org</u> <u>I have also copied her in this email.</u> <u>Kind regards</u>	<u>EAP:</u> <u>Dear Esther,</u> <u>Thank you, I appreciate your response.</u> <u>@Letsie Coetzee please find the attached notification email in respect of the 30-day public participation commenting period (22/01/2025 to 22/02/2025) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster.</u> <u>I have also included the links to the project documentation below for your convenience.</u> <u>WSP Website: https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</u> <u>WSP Data Free Website: https://wsp-engage.com/</u> <u>OneDrive:  Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports</u> <u>We look forward to receiving your comments.</u> <u>Kind regards,</u>	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>
<u>Letsie Coetzee</u> 23 January 2025 <u>Email</u>	<u>Good morning Jashmika,</u> <u>Thank you, links and files received.SANParks will provide comments on or before the 22nd of February 2025.</u>	-	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	Kind regards,		
<u>Esther Howard</u> <u>23 January 2025</u> <u>Email</u>	<u>Thank you kindly for sharing the link with Letsie.</u>	=	<u>Appendix D - SER</u>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<p>Letsie Coetzee 21 February 2025 Email</p>	<p>Dear Ms Strong,</p> <p><u>DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREESTATE PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>South African National Parks (SANParks) was made aware of the draft Scoping Reports (dSR) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility (WEF) Cluster (comprising of the Groothoek, Kromhof and Normandien WEFs) on the 22nd of January 2025, by means of emails to various SANParks Officials.</u></p> <p><u>SANParks is the appointed Management Authority of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park (GGHNP), as per the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 (NEM: PAA), as amended.</u></p> <p><u>Among other functions conferred on the Organisation by the said Act, SANParks must manage all existing national parks and any kind of protected area listed in section 9, assigned to it by the Minister in terms of Chapter 4 and Mountain zebra section 92, in accordance with the Act and any specific environmental management Act referred to in the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment. Responses to the specific comments are detailed below.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D - SER</u></p>
	<p><u>The proposed site for the Verkykerskop WEF is situated in excess of 85 kilometres (km) from the eastern boundary of the GGHNP and therefore no direct impacts due to the</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges this comment and has included this statement in Section 5 of the FSR.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 5 of the FSR</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>proposed development are foreseen on the Park or tankwa karoo its buffer zone.</p>		
	<p><u>After analysis of the applicable dSRs and associated reports, there are no pertinent matters of concern which SANParks wish to raise, pending the outcomes of the dSR stakeholder participation process and further review of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, when available. However, below follows some points for consideration.</u></p>	<p>EAP: <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and will make the draft EIA report available to SANParks for further comments during the EIA phase.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (2018) It is noted from the dSR that the proposed development area falls within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) areas. As per the dSR, it is agreed that the NPAES areas were identified through a systematic biodiversity planning process; present the best opportunities for meeting the ecosystem-specific protected area targets set in the NPAES; were designed with strong emphasis on climate change resilience and requirements for protecting freshwater ecosystems; and that these areas should not be seen as future boundaries of protected areas. However, the importance of these areas in South Africa's 30 by 30 target (as per the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) should not be overlooked.</u></p> <p><u>SANParks do not currently have any NPAES focus areas for the Verkykerskop WEF study area. However, it is expected that the relevant conservation entities for the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, due to the</u></p>	<p>EAP: <u>WSP acknowledges this comment. It is noted that SANParks do not currently have any NPAES focus areas within the study area, however, WSP will ensure that the specialist considers the NPAES areas in their impact assessment. In addition, WSP confirms that all relevant key stakeholders were included in the public commenting phase. The stakeholder comments have been addressed in this table and the original comments is included in Appendix D of the SER.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>proximity of the proposed development areas (especially Normandien) to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial border, will provide informed feedback on their respective views for the proposed development areas.</u></p>		
	<p><u>Clarification required Various documents (e.g. 21 Appendix H DFFE Pre-App Meeting Minutes; 18 Appendix G.9 Traffic Assessment Normandien; 16 Appendix G.7 Avifauna Assessment Normandien; 06 Appendix C Stakeholder Engagement Report Public) refers to the Markgraaff WEF. However, no dSR and associated specialist studies for this area was included in the documents as supplied on the 22nd of January 2025. Please clarify whether Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) should still expect a further DSR for a fourth WEF area.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP confirms that no FSR will be submitted for Markgraff since the project is not part of the current application process. Any mention of Markgraff is noted and has been removed from the FSR.</u></p>	<p>=</p>
	<p><u>General:</u></p> <p><u>Please kindly review the dSRs and associated documents for reference to the Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion - 20 Year Plan, which seems to be an incorrect reference for the applicable projects.</u></p> <p><u>A review of all documents, to ensure correct reference is made to the applicable proposed project (whether the name or activities), is furthermore advised. As per the attached screenshots below, some incorrect referencing was noted.</u></p> <p><u>Although it is to be expected that the same format will be used for the DSRs and/or specialist studies, incorrect</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> <u>WSP acknowledges this comment and has updated the FSR with the relevant and applicable legislative documents. The concern is noted therefore, the reports have been updated accordingly.</u></p>	<p>=</p>

<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>names and/or activities in the applicable studies cause I&APs to doubt whether the relevant document does indeed reflect on the specific impacts at hand, for any one of the proposed developments.</p> <p>Sincerely Yours, Ms. Letsie Coetzee EIA Coordination: Northern Region Parks Golden Gate Highlands – Mapungubwe – Marakele South African National Parks (SANParks) e: letsie.coetzee@sanparks.org</p>		
<u>Eco-Thunder</u>			
<p><u>Cathylene Putter</u> <u>31 August 2024</u> <u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good day.</u></p> <p><u>I hope this email finds you well.</u></p> <p><u>I am writing on behalf of Eco Thunder consulting, a leading socio-economic and visual impact assessment consultancy. We have extensive experience in conducting comprehensive assessments for various projects across different sectors. Given the surge in renewable energy projects and our expertise in this domain, we are keen to contribute and collaborate.</u></p> <p><u>We would like to formally request that we be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on your company's database.</u></p> <p><u>This will enable us to stay informed and provide valuable input on renewable energy projects that we may be working on / are close to our existing projects.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The I&AP has been added to the project database in Appendix A of the SER.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix A of the SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Thank you for considering our request. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.</u></p> <p><u>Warm regards,</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards</u></p>		
<u>WKN Windcurrent</u>			
<p><u>Zakiya Abrahams</u></p> <p><u>07 January 2025</u></p> <p><u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Hi Ashlea,</u></p> <p><u>It was good to meet you last year at the Green Hydrogen Womens event. I hope you're doing well?</u></p> <p><u>Please may you add me as an I&AP for the Normandien, Groothoek and Kromhof Wind Farms and send a link to the Scoping reports? Thanks!</u></p> <p><u>Kind regards,</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>The I&AP has been added to the project database in Appendix A of the SER.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix A of the SER</u></p>
<u>NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY</u>			
<p><u>Mr. N.PJ Khathide</u></p> <p><u>29 January 2025</u></p> <p><u>Letter (via email)</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>PROPOSED KROMHOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY LOCATED NEAR VERKYERSKOP IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>Reference is made to the abovementioned matter.</u></p> <p><u>Please be advised that the Draft Environmental Scoping Report was scrutinized with the following findings:</u></p> <p><u>a. The project consists of a wind energy facility.</u></p>	<p><u>EAP:</u></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges the Municipality's no objection.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the SER</u></p>



<u>Date of Comment, Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p>b. <u>The said project is located at the boarder of Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Free state.</u></p> <p>c. <u>The project is not located within the Newcastle Municipalities area of jurisdiction. Having cited the abovementioned, this directorate notes that the project is situated at the periphery of the municipal boundary and does not register any objections to the proposal.</u></p> <p><u>Yours Faithfully,</u> <u>N.PJ KHATHIDE</u> <u>SED: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS</u></p>		

Appendix A

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE



41106427_ Verkykerskop Stakeholder Database

Project Name	Category	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Position
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	Personal details are redacted as required by the POPI Act.			Department of Public Works	Acting Deputy Director: General Policy
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Public Works	Director: Special and Major Projects
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Public Works	Director General
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Public Works	Manager: Tender Division
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Assistant Director: Water Use
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Director: Strategic Water Source & Wetlands
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Control Biodiversity Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Chief Director: Compliance Enforcement
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Chief Director: Legal Services
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Acting Deputy Director General
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Scientific Manager: Compliance Monitoring
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Chief Director: Infrastructure Development
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Planning and Information Management: Coordinator/Champion
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Production Scientist
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Project Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Proto-CMA
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Resource Directed Measures: SWRR
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Scientific Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments				Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Scientific Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Scientific Manager: Water Quality Planning			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Senior Manager			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Senior Secretary			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Water Resource Planning Engineer			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	Water Scientist			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	South African National Defence Force	Chief of Logistics: Renewable Energy Applications			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	South African National Defence Force	SO1 Military Integrated Environment Management (MIEM) Governance			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	South African Defence Force	Head of Communication			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)	Environmental Coordinator			
41106427 Verkykerskop	National Departments	South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)	Environmental Manager			
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation	South African National Parks	Regional Ecologist			
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation	South African National Parks	Scientist: Fresh Water Resources			
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation	South African National Parks	Water Manager: Aquatic Biodiversity Management			

41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation	Personal details are redacted as required by the POPI Act.	South African Wetland Society - Free State	Chairperson & DEA Provincial Coordinator
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		South African Wetland Society - Free State	Secretary
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Ncandu Nature Reserve	Conservation Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	Acting Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	Wildlife General Manager for Conservation Services
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Chelmsford Nature Reserve	Resort Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Leopard Dale Farm - Nature preserve	The Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		Wildtrust	Manager: Projects
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		South African National Parks	Environmental Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Nature Conservation		World Wildlife Fund - Grasslands	Programme Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Head of Department
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Head of Department
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Nature Conservation
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure	Head of Department
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Office Manager: Office of the HOD
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Head of Programme REID
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Provincial Office Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Social Development	Head of Department
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Water and Sanitation	Assistant Director
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Water and Sanitation	Control Engineering Technician
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Water and Sanitation	Deputy Director: Water Quality
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Water and Sanitation	Director: Proto -Catchment Management Agency
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Water and Sanitation	Provincial Head of Free State Operations
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Department of Water and Sanitation	Scientist Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		Free State Tourism Authority	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Head of Department
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Manager at Head of Department's Office
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Chief Director Environmental Management	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Head of Department	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Provincial Departments	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Chief Director	

41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments	Personal details are redacted as required by the POPI Act.	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Director
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Manager: Amajuba District - Newcastle
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Head of Department
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements and Public Works	Head of Department
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport	Head of Department
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development	Head of Department
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Energy Inspector
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Inspector
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	KZN Regional Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health	Head of Department
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		KwaZulu-Natal Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Energy Officer
41106427 Verkyerskop	Provincial Departments		Dundee Provincial Hospital	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkyerskop	Safety and Security Department		Normandien Police Station	Captain
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Phumelela Local Municipality	Director: Technical Services
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Phumelela Local Municipality	IDP and LED Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Phumelela Local Municipality	Mayor
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Phumelela Local Municipality	Municipal Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Phumelela Local Municipality	Ward 5 Councillor (Verkyerskop)
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Phumelela Local Municipality	Ward 1 Councillor (Memel)
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	LED Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	Manager: IDP
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	Manager: Technical Services
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	Mayor
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	Municipal Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	Executive Mayor
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	Municipal Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	Strategic Executive Director: Technical Services
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	IDP Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	Director Energy
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	Director LED
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Newcastle Local Municipality	Ward 2
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Dannhauser Local Municipality	Executive Mayor
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Dannhauser Local Municipality	Municipal Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Dannhauser Local Municipality	Director: Technical Services
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Dannhauser Local Municipality	IDP Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Dannhauser Local Municipality	Director LED
41106427 Verkyerskop	Local Municipality		Dannhauser Local Municipality	Ward 1
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Amajuba District Municipality	Executive Mayor
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Amajuba District Municipality	Municipal Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality		Amajuba District Municipality	LED Manager
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality	Amajuba District Municipality	Director Engineering	
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality	Amajuba District Municipality	Director Planning and Development Services	
41106427 Verkyerskop	District Municipality	Amajuba District Municipality	Environmental Manager	

41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's	Personal details are redacted as required by the POPI Act.	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) Head Office	Environmental Governance Programme Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) KwaZulu-Natal	Centre Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	Regional Chairperson
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) Free State	Project Coordinator
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	National Member
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	Head of Projects and Programmes
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Endangered Wildlife Trust	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Endangered Wildlife Trust	Senior Manager: Biodiversity Management and Nature-Based Solutions
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Birdlife South Africa	Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Greenpeace	Oil and Gas Campaigner
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Centre for Environmental Rights	Chief Operations Office
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Endangered Wildlife Trust	Conservation Programme Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Endangered Wildlife Trust	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		BirdLife South Africa	Head of Department
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Earthlife Africa	Director
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Groundwork	Director
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		Groundwork	Climate and Energy Senior Campaign Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Environmental NGO's		National Association for Clean Air	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Academic and Research		South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Chairperson
41106427 Verkykerskop	Academic and Research		Water Research Commission	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Academic and Research		South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Senior Scientist: Freshwater Biodiversity Programme
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Verkykerskop Country Village Restaurant, Central Hotel & Coffee Shop	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Mahem Guest House	Owner
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Dannhauser Malt (Pty) Ltd	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		OK Food Dannhauser	The Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Tanzanite Guest House- Dannhauser	The Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Top GS Trading CC	The Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		The Lapha Guesthouse	Owner
41106427 Verkykerskop	District Municipality		ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	Project Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd.	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		AMDA Developments (Pty) Ltd	Senior Development Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		AMDA Developments (Pty) Ltd	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Red-cap Innovative Energy	Senior Project Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Project Developer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		EDF Renewables	Project Developer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		EDF Renewables	Project Development Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Sola Group	Project Developer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Sentech Ltd	Coverage Planner: RF Networks
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Sentech Ltd	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		MTN Head Office	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business	MTN	National Property Manager	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business	Telkom South Africa - Free State	Regional Manager	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business	Telkom SOC Limited	Manager	

41106427 Verkykerskop	Business	Personal details are redacted as required by the POPI Act.	Telkom SOC Limited	Wireless Planning Development & Support
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Telkom SOC Limited	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Vodacom - KZN/MPU	Regional Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Vodacom - Free State	Team Leader
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Vodacom - Head Office	Company Secretary
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Vodacom	Property Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Vodacom	Senior Specialist Plan and Design Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Cell C Limited- Head Office	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Cell C Limited- Head Office	Project Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		Dannhauser Pharmacy	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Business		South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Corporate Services Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Mining/Industry		Buffalo Coal Dundee Corporate Office	Chairman
41106427 Verkykerskop	Mining/Industry		Buffalo Coal Dundee Corporate Office	Information Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	Agriculture		Normandien Farms- Sawmill	General Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Agriculture		Memel VKB Silo Storage Facility	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Agriculture		AFGRI Dannhauser Silo Corporate Office	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	Education		Umcebo Primary School	Acting Principal
41106427 Verkykerskop	Education		Dannhauser Secondary School	Principal
41106427 Verkykerskop	Community Based Organisation		Dannhauser Masjidun Noor Mosque	Chairman
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Obstacle Inspector
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entities		South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Database Coordinator
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Unit Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entities		South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Executive Manager: Weather and Climate Services
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Executive Manager: Infrastructure and Information Systems
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Head of Technical Services
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS)	Manager: Corporate Sustainability and Environment
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS)	Chief Technology and Information Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS)	Executive Manager: Engineering
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Spectrum and Telecoms Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	South African SKA Site Bid Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Chief Executive Officer
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Renewable Energy Specialist
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Senior Engineer: Distribution Licencing
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Senior Environmental Advisor
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd - Free State	Land Development Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd - Free State	Senior Advisor Environmental Management
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Transnet SOC Limited	Sales and Business Development Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity		Transnet SOC Limited	Business Development Manager
41106427 Verkykerskop	State Owned Entity	Transnet Properties	Manager	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Landowners	Bibbey Familie Trust	Owner	
41106427 Verkykerskop	Landowners	Gelooft Boerdery Pty Ltd	Owner	

Appendix B

NOTIFICATIONS



Appendix B.1

NOTIFICATION LETTERS





Our Ref: 41106427

22 January 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478 	

Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
 Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
 Midrand, 1685
 South Africa

Tel.: +27 11 254 4800
 wsp.com

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), as amended, and therefore, authorisation to undertake the listed activities must be sought via respective Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes. The anticipated listed activity numbers associated with the proposed projects are reflected in the table below. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), details provided below.

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
		11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
Scoping EIA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek WEF Kromhof Wind WEF Normandien WEF 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA for 132kV powerline, on-site substation and associated infrastructure for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek 132kV Grid Connection Kromhof 132kV Grid Connection Normandien 132kV Grid Connection 	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

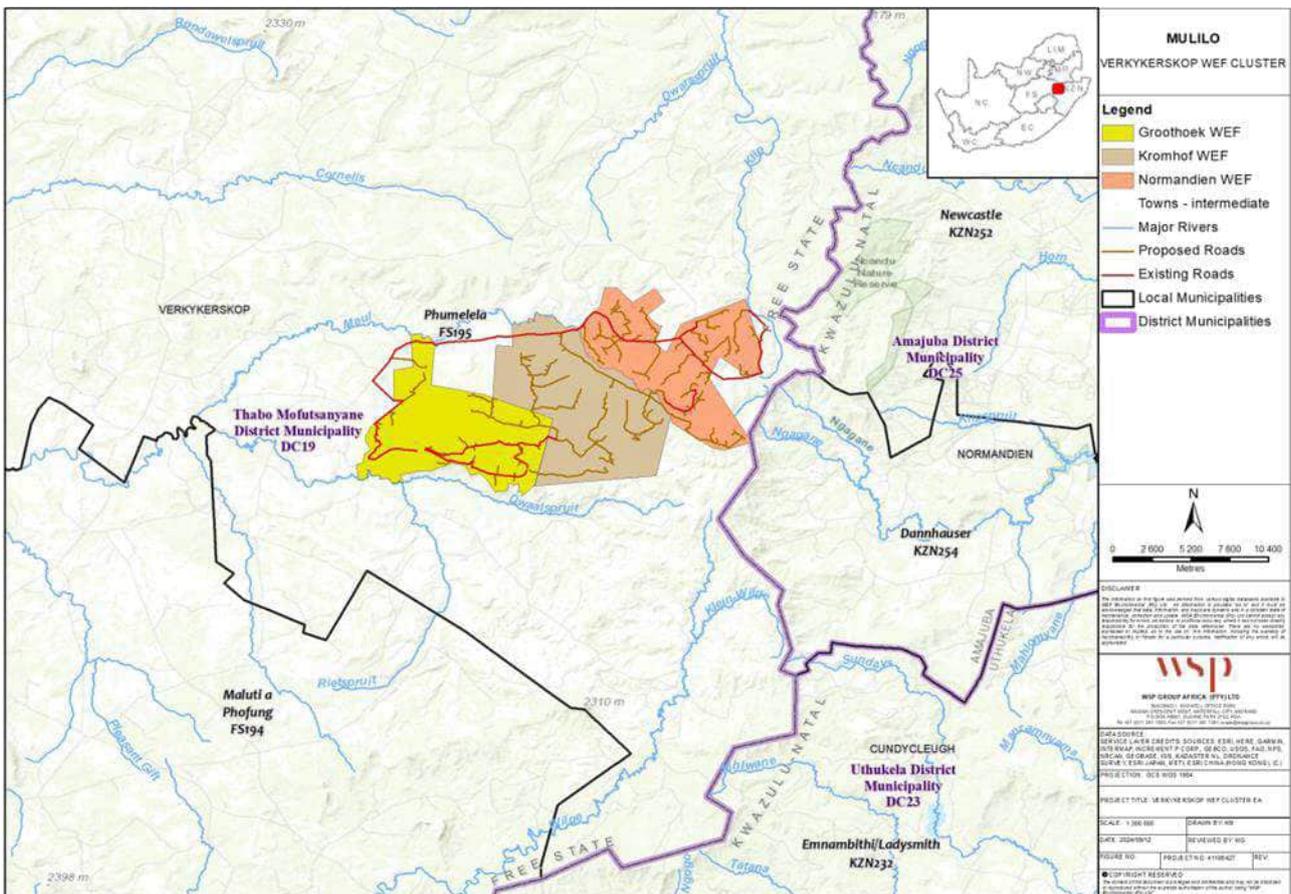


Figure 1: Locality of the project site (map is for orientation purposes only)



DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Draft Scoping Reports (DSRs) are available for public comment from **22 January 2025 until 21 February 2025**. The reports will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSRs will be available for review at the following venues:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.co.m/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
<p>WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.</p>					

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

Contact the WSP Public Participation Office to register as a stakeholder and to receive further information:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.



Our Ref: 41106427

22 January 2025

Geagte Gesag,

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE VERKYKERSKOP-WINDENERGIEFASILITEITSGROEP WAT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE BEHEL, VRYSTAAT

Kennisgewing word gegee in terme van Regulasie 41(2) of GNR 982 (soos gewysig), gepubliseer kragtens artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indien van verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING

Die aansoekers wat omskryf word in die tabel hieronder wil 'n Windenergiefasiliteitgroep (WEF-groep) vestig naby Verkykerskop in die Vrystaat en dit behels verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde goedkeuring sluit die volgende prosesse vir basiese evaluering (BA) en verslae oor omvang en impak op die omgewing (S&EIR):

Aansoeker	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW Windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyn, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie lyn en substasie	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyn, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie lyn en substasie	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyn, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie lyn en substasie	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 0 van Plaas Schoonzicht Nr.80• Deel 0 van Plaas Groothoek Nr. 89• Deel 0 van Plaas Kromdraai Nr. 273• Deel 0 van Plaas Kransbank Nr.288• Deel 0 van Plaas Kranspunt Nr.459• Deel 0 van Plaas Van Kope Nr.1319• Deel 0 van Plaas Leiden Nr. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 0 van Plaas Myn-Burg Nr. 3• Deel 0 van Plaas Naauw Kloof Nr. 4• Deel 0 van Plaas Krom Hof Nr. 530• Deel 0 van Plaas Puntje Nr. 1240• Deel 0 en 1 van Plaas Aanfield Nr. 253• Deel 0, 1, 2 en 3 van Plaas Ox Hoek Nr. 98• Deel 0 van Plaas Christina Nr. 90• Deel 0 van Plaas Mooiplaats Nr. 391	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 0 van Plaas Brak Krans Nr. 554• Deel 0 van Plaas Rooi Koppen Nr. 600• Deel 0 van Plaas Goedgedacht Nr. 724• Deel 0 van Plaas Kruger Wens Nr.1062• Deel 0 van Plaas Scotland Nr. 1238• Deel 0 van Plaas Lusthof Nr.1321• Remaining Extent van die Plaas Welgelukt Nr 1416• Deel 0 van Plaas Inzicht Nr. 1428	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 0 van Plaas Rooibeesberg Nr. 14898• Deel 1 van Plaas Johanna Nr. 1395• Deel 1 and Remainder van Plaas Bull Hoek Nr. 329• Deel 1 van Plaas Goede Hoop Nr. 982• Deel 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder van Plaas Driekoppen Nr. 485• Remaining extent van Plaas Johanna Nr. 1395• Deel 0 van Plaas Markgraaff's Rest Nr. 478

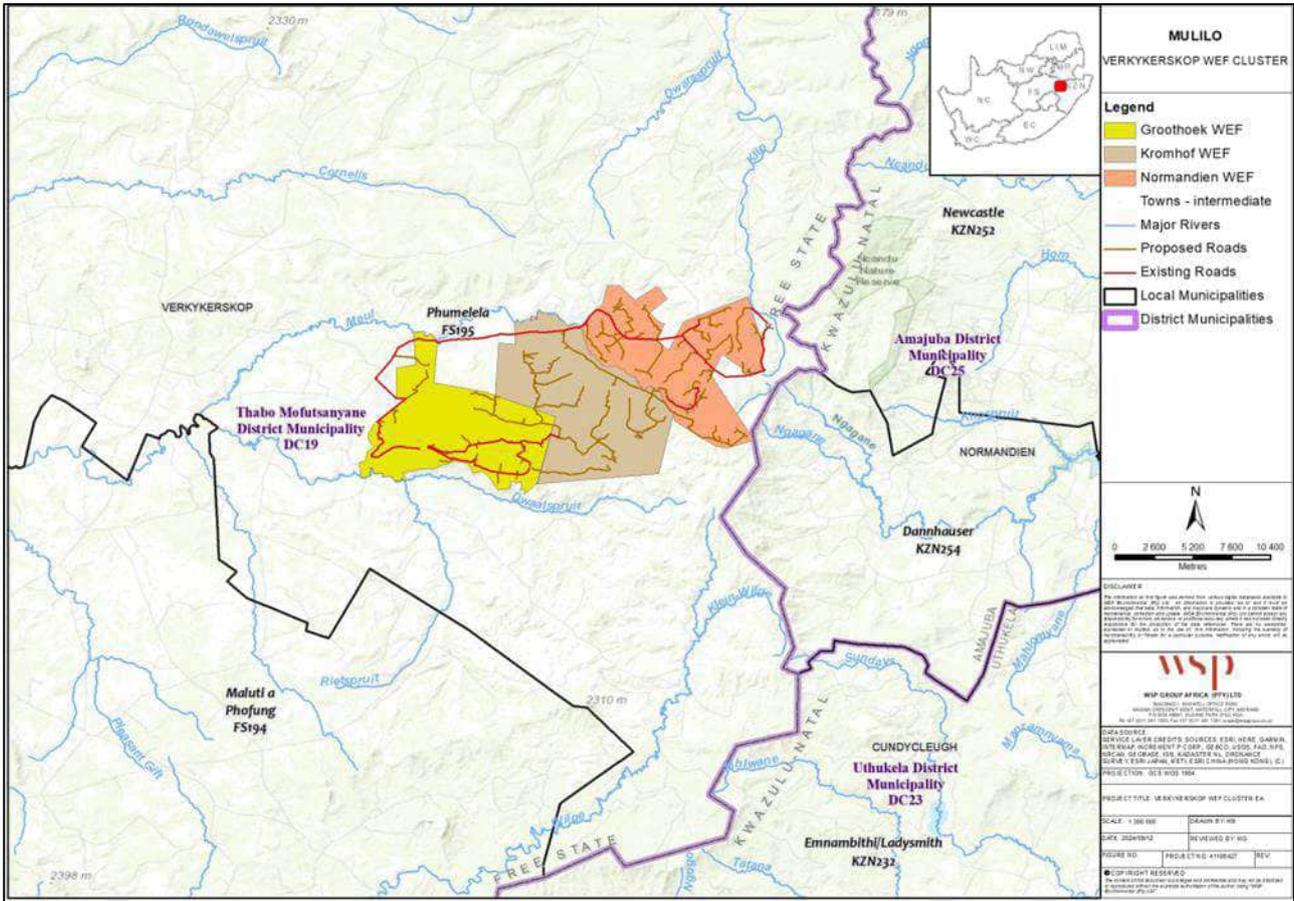
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Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
South Africa

Tel.: +27 11 254 4800
wsp.com

OMGEWINGS AANSOEKE

Die voorgestelde projekte beïnvloed verskeie genoteerde aktiwiteite wat vervat is in die Regulasies vir die evaluering van impak op die omgewing (EIA), genoteerde kennisgewing 1 (GNR983), genoteerde kennisgewing 2 (GNR984) en genoteerde kennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig. Dit beteken dat goedkeuring vir die genoteerde aktiwiteite verkry moet word deur middel van onderskeie prosesse om verslae voor te berei oor omvang en impak op die omgewing (S&EIR). Die verwagte genoteerde nommers van aktiwiteite wat verband hou met die voorgestelde projekte word aangedui in die tabel hieronder. Indien u 'n volledige afskrif van die genoteerde aktiwiteite wil hê, moet u asseblief met die omgewingsgoedkeuringspraktisyn (skakelbesonderhede hieronder) skakel..

Naam van projek	Genoteerde kennisgewing	Toepaslike artikels van beïnvloed word							
		11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
EIA - Omvang vir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA vir 132 kV-kraglyn, substasie op perseel en verwante infrastruktuur vir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek 132kV netwerkverbinding • Kromhof 132kV netwerkverbinding • Normandien 132kV netwerkverbinding 	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (waar van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Artikel 53	Oppervlakgebruik kragtens artikel 53 van die Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Mineraal- en Petroleumhulpbronne (Wet 28 van 2002)							
NHRA	Artikel 38(8)	Oorsig van 'n evaluering van omvang wat verband hou met 'n evaluering van omvang wat verband hou met 'n aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring							



Figuur 1: Ligging van die projekwebwerf (kaart is slegs vir oriëntasiedoeleindes)

KONSEP OMVANGBEPALINGSVERSLAG BESKIKBAAR VIR PUBLIEKE KOMMENTAAR:

Die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag (DSR) is beskikbaar vir publieke kommentaar vanaf **22 Januarie 2025 tot 21 Februarie 2025**. Die verslae sal beskikbaar wees vir aflaai vanaf die skakel en QR-kode hieronder. Gedrukte kopieë van die DSR sal beskikbaar wees vir hersiening by die volgende lokale:

Naam van openbare plek	Adres	Naam van openbare plek	Adres	VIR MEER INLIGTING, KONTAK ASSEMBLIEF: Kantoor vir openbare deelname; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; Posbus 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Faks: 086 582 1561 E-pos: gld.pp@wsp.com	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eupees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP gaan sekere van u persoonlike inligting as belanghebbende en party wat geraak word (I&AP) verwerk vir die doel van registrasie as I&AP en sodat u besonderhede in ons databasis opgeneem kan word indien u					



<p>instem dat dit gedoen kan word. WSP gebruik die besonderhede om in die toekoms met u te skakel oor ander relevante projekte. WSP verwerk in alle gevalle u persoonlike inligting volgens die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting, Wet 4 van 2013. U is geregtig daarop om u regte oor u data uit te oefen en u kan ons laat weet indien u registrasie as I&AP gekanselleer en onttrek moet word en u nie meer u inligting in ons databasis wil hê nie.</p>		
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

REGISTRASIE:

Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd het WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) aangestel om die onderskeie prosesse vir BA en S&EIR te hanteer. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbendes om kommentaar te kan lewer oor die voorgestelde projekte, word versoek om volledige skakelbesonderhede (naam, telefoonnommers en adresse) te stuur aan die EAP by die adresse wat hieronder aangedui word. Geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal in die toekoms alle korrespondensie ontvang en individueel in kennis gestel word van verdere geleenthede om deel te neem aan die proses.

Skakel met die WSP-kantoor vir openbare deelname om te registreer as belanghebbende en om verdere inligting te verkry:

Kantoor vir openbare deelname; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd,

Pos: Posbus 6001, Halfway House 1685;

Tel: 011 254 4800;

Faks: 086 582 1561;

E-pos: gld.pp@wsp.com

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP gaan sekere van u persoonlike inligting as belanghebbende en party wat geraak word (I&AP) verwerk vir die doel van registrasie as I&AP en sodat u besonderhede in ons databasis opgeneem kan word indien u instem dat dit gedoen kan word. WSP gebruik die besonderhede om in die toekoms met u te skakel oor ander relevante projekte. WSP verwerk in alle gevalle u persoonlike inligting volgens die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting, Wet 4 van 2013. U is geregtig daarop om u regte oor u data uit te oefen en u kan ons laat weet indien u registrasie as I&AP gekanselleer en onttrek moet word en u nie meer u inligting in ons databasis wil hê nie.



Our Ref: 41106427

22 January 2025

Ratehang Bankakarolo,

TSEBISO KA NTSHETSOPELE E SISINGWANG YA VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, E KENYELLETSANG MEHATO E FAPANENG A TUMELLO HO TSA TIKOLOHO, FOREISTATA

Molawana wa 41(2) wa GNR 982 (jwalo ka ha o fetotswe) o phatlaladitsweng tlasa karolo ya 24 le 24D ya Molao wa naha wa Taolo ya Tikoloho (No. 107 wa 1998) (NEMA) (jwalo ka ha o fetotswe) bakeng sa ho kengwa ha dikopo tse fapaneng tsa ditumello ho tsa tikoloho mabapi le mesebetsi e hlwauweng ka ho ya ka GNR 983, GNR 984 le GNR 985 (jwalo ka ha o fetotswe).

TLHALOSO LE SEBAKA:

Batshehetsi ba boletsweng lenaneng le mona ka tlase ba sisinya ho hloma sehlopha sa Wind Energy Facility (WEF), e kenyelletsang dikopo tse fapaneng bakeng sa tumello ya tsa tikoloho, haufi le Verkykerskop kahara Foreistata. Ditumello tse sisingwang di kenyelletsa ho latelang, Tekolo ya Motheo le mehato ya Ho Lekanya Bonamo (BA) le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (S&EIR):

Motshetsi	Projeke	Thekenoloji	Bohato
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) ho kenyelletswa le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW WEF ho kenyelletswa le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW WEF ho kenyelletswa le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Schoonzicht No.80 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Groothoek No. 89 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kromdraai No. 273 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kransbank No.288 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kranspunt No.459 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Van Kope No.1319 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Leiden No. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Myn-Burg No. 3 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Naauw Kloof No. 4 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Krom Hof No. 530 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Puntje No. 1240 Karolo ya 0 le 1 ya Polasi Aanfield No. 253 Karolo ya 0, 1, 2 and 3 ya Polasi Ox Hoek No. 98 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Christina No. 90 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Mooiplaats No. 391 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Brak Krans No. 554 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Rooi Koppen No. 600 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Goedgedacht No. 724 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kruger Wens No.1062 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Scotland No. 1238 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Lusthof No.1321 Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Welgelukt No. 1416 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Inzicht No. 1428 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Rooibeesberg No. 14898 Karolo ya 1 ya Polasi Johanna No. 1395 Karolo ya 1 le Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Bull Hoek No. 329 Karolo ya 1 ya Polasi Goede Hoop No. 982 Karolo ya 2, 3, 4, 5 le Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Driekoppen No. 485 Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Johanna No. 1395 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Markgraaff's Rest No. 478

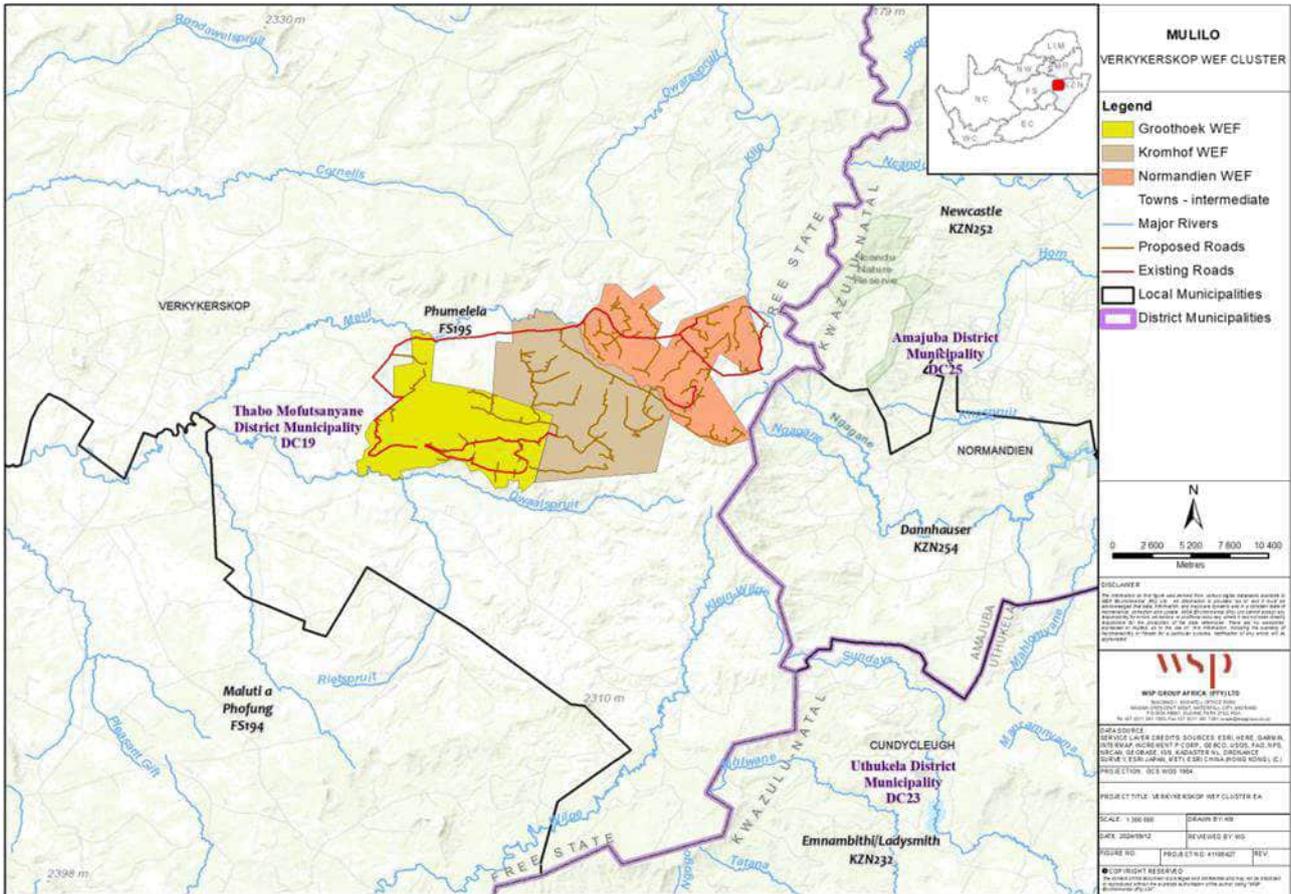
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
South Africa

Tel.: +27 11 254 4800
wsp.com

TSHEBETSO TSA TIKOLOHO:

Diprojeke tse sisintsweng di susumetsa mesebetsi e meng e boletsweng Melawaneng ya Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 1 Tekolo ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (GNR983), Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 2 (GNR984) le Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 3 (GNR985), jwalo ka ha e fetotswe, mme ka hoo, tumello ya ho etswa ha mesebetsi e boletsweng e tshwanetswe ho fumanwa ka tshebetso tsa Ho Lekanya Bonamo (BA) le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (S&EIR). Dipalo tse boletsweng mme tse lebelletsweng tse amanang le diprojeke tse sisintsweng di bontshwa lenaneng le mona ka tlase. Ha o batla ho fumana khopi e felletseng ya mesebetsi ena e boletsweng, re kopa hore o iteanye le Mosebeletsi wa Tekolo ya Tikoloho (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)), atereseng eo ho fanweng ka yona mona ka tlase.

Lebitso la Projeke	Tsebiso ya Ngodiso	Disosa tse Sebetsang							
		11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho bakeng sa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
Tekolo ya Motheo ya mehala ya motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene e setsheng le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo bakeng sa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek 132kV Grid Connection • Kromhof 132kV Grid Connection • Normandien 132kV Grid Connection 	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (jwalo ka ha e sebediswa)	Karolo ya 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Karolo ya 53	Tshebediso ya bokahodimo ba tikoloho ka ho ya ka Karolo ya 53 ya Molao wa Ntshetsopele ya Mehlopi ya Petroliamo le Diminerale (MPRDA) (No. 28 wa 2002)							
NHRA	Karolo ya 38(8)	Tlhahlobo ya Tekolo ya Tshusumetso e amanang kopo ya Tumello ya tsa Tikoloho							



Setšoantšo 1: Sebaka sa sebaka sa morero

MORALO OA TLALEHO EA SCOPING (DSR) E TENG BAKENG SA MAIKUTLO A SECHABA:

Moralo oa Tlaleho ea Scoping (DSR) e teng bakeng sa maikutlo a sechaba ho tsoa ho **22 Pherekhong 2025 ho fihlela la 21 Hlakubele 2025**. Litlaleho li tla fumaneha bakeng sa ho khoasolla sehokelong le khoutu ea QR e ka tlase. Likopi tse hatisitsoeng tsa DSR li tla fumaneha bakeng sa ho hlahlojoa libakeng tse latelang:

Lebitso la Sebaka sa Setjhaba	Aterese	Lebitso la Sebaka sa Setjhaba	Aterese	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eufoes St, Memel - 058 913 8300	Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Mohala: 011 254 4800; Fekse: 086 582 1561 Emeile: gld.pp@wsp.com	
VKB Verkyerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		



<p>WSP e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding e itseng ya motho ka seqo e mabapi le wena jwalo ka motho ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng bakeg sa merero ya hore o kgone ho ingodisa ho ba motho ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng ekasitana le ho boloka dintlha tsa hao ho databeise ya rona, ha o re dumella ho etsa jwalo. WSP e tla sebedisa dintlha tsena ho iteanya le wena ka diprojeke tse ding tse tshwanetseng nakong e tlang. WSP kamehla e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding ya seqo ya hao ka ho ya ka Molao wa Tshireletso ya Tlhahisoleseding ya Motho ka Seqo 4 wa 2013. O dumelletswe ho sebedisa ditokelo tsa hao jwalo ka monga dintlha mme o re tsebise ha o batla ho hlakolwa ngodisong ya ho ba motho ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng, kapa haebe ha o sa batla, dintlha tsa ho iteanya le wena di tloswe databeising ya rona.</p>		
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NGOLISISO

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) e khethiloe e le Setsebi sa Tekolo ea Tikoloho (EAP) ke Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd ho laola mekhoa e fapaneng ea S&EIR, BA, le seabo sa sechaba. Mekha e lakatsang ho ingolisa ka molao e le bankakarolo e le hore ba fane ka maikutlo a bona mabapi le merero e sisintsoeng ba koqjoa ho fetisetsa lintlha tsa bona tse felletseng ho EAP ho lintlha tse fanoeng ka tlase. Bankakarolo ba ngodisitsweng ba tla romelwa mangolo ohle a kamoso mme ba tsebiswe ka bomong ka menyetla e eketsehileng ya ho nka karolo ditshebetsong.

Ikopanye le Ofisi ea Seabo sa Sechaba ea WSP ho ingolisa joalo ka bankakarolo le ho fumana lintlha tse ling:

Ofisi ea Seabo sa Sechaba; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Poso: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685;

Mohala: 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Tšireletso ea Boitsebisob ba Botho: WSP e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding e itseng ea botho ka uena joaloka motho ea nang le thahasello le ea amehileng (I&AP) ka sepheo sa ho u nolofalletsa ho ngolisa joaloka I&AP le ho boloka lintlha tsa hau polokelong ea rona, haeba u lumela hore re etse joalo. WSP e tla sebelisa lintlha tsena ho ikopanya le uena ka merero e meng e amehang nakong e tlang. WSP e tla lula e sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding ea hau ho latela Molao oa Ts'ireletso ea Litaba tsa Botho oa 4 oa 2013. O na le tokelo ea ho sebelisa litokelo tsa hau joalo ka sehlooho sa data mme o re tsebise haeba u lakatsa ho hlakolwa ho ba I & AP kapa ha u se joalo. nako e telele u batla hore lintlha tsa hau tsa puisano li kenyelelitsoe ho database ea rona.

Appendix B.2

NEWSPAPER ADVERT



MEHATO YA HO FANA KA TUMELLO HO TSA TIKOLOHO

TSEBISO KA NTSHETSOPELE E SISINGWANG YA VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, E KENYELLETSANG MEHATO E FAPANENG A TUMELLO HO TSA TIKOLOHO, FOREISTATA

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)

TLHALOSO LE SEBAKA: Batshehetsi ba boletsweng lenaneng le mona ka tlase ba sisinya ho hloma sehlopha sa Wind Energy Facility (WEF), e kenyellelsang dikopo tse fapaneng bakeng sa tumello ya tsa tikoloho, haufi le Verkykerskop kahara Foreistata. Ditumello tse sisingswang di kenyelleltsa ho latelana, Tekolo ya Motheo le mehato ya Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho:

Motshahetsi	Projeke	Thekenoloji	Bohato
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) ho kenyelleltsa di meralo ya motheo e amanang le yona	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Transmission Line and Substation Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW WEF ho kenyelleltsa di meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mehala ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW WEF ho kenyelleltsa di meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mehala ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA

Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Schoonzicht No. 80 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Groothoek No. 89 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Kromdraai No. 273 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Kransbank No.288 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Kranspunt No.459 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Van Kope No. 1319 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Leiden No. 2 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Myn-Burg No. 3 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Krom Hof No. 530 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Puntje No. 1240 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karolo ya 0 le 1 ya Polasi ya Aanfield No. 253 • Karolo ya 0, 1, 2 le 3 ya Polasi ya Ox Hoek No. 98 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Christina No. 90 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Mooiplaats No. 391 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Brak Krans No. 554 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Goedgedacht No. 724 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Kruger Wens No. 1062 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Scotland No. 1238 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi ya Welgelukt No. 1416 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Inzicht No. 1428 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Karolo ya 1 ya Polasi ya Johanna No. 1395 • Karolo ya 1 and Remainder ya Polasi ya Bull Hoek No. 329 • Karolo ya 1 ya Polasi ya Goede Hoop No. 982 • Karolo ya 2, 3, 4, 5 Le Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi ya Driekoppen No. 485 • Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi ya Johanna No. 1395 • Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi ya Markgraaff's Rest No. 478
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TSHEBETSO TSA TIKOLOHO: Diprojeke tse sisingswang di susumetsa mesebetsi e meng e boletsweng Melawaneng ya Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 1 Tekolo ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (GNR983), Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 2 (GNR984) le Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 3 (GNR985), jwalo ka ha e fetotswe, mme ka hoo, tumello ya ho etswa ha mesebetsi e boletsweng e tshwanetswe ho fumana ka tshebetso tsa Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho. Dipalo tse boletsweng mme tse lebelletsweng tse amanang le diprojeke tse sisingswang di bontshwa lenaneng le mona ka tlase. Ha o batla ho fumana khopeli e felletseng ya mesebetsi ena e boletsweng, re kopa hore o iteanye le Mosebeletsi wa Tekolo ya Tikoloho (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)), atereseng eo ho fanwang ka yona mona ka tlase.

Project Name	Tsebiso ya Ngodiso	Disosa tse Sebetsang							
Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho bakeng sa: • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
Tekolo ya Motheo ya mehala ya motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene e setsheng le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo bakeng sa: • Ho hokelwa ho Marangrang a Motlakase wa 132kV Groothoek • Ho hokelwa ho Marangrang a Motlakase wa 132kV Kromhof • Ho hokelwa ho Marangrang a Motlakase wa 132kV Normandien	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (jwalo ka ha e sebediswa)	Karolo ya 21	21 (a), 21 (c), le 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Karolo ya 53	Tshebediso ya bokahodimo ba tikoloho ka ho ya ka Karolo ya 53 ya Molao wa Ntshetsopele ya Mehlopi ya Petroliamo le Diminerale (No. 28 wa 2002)							
NHRA	Karolo ya 38(8)	Tlhahlobo ya Tekolo ya Tshusumetso e amanang kopo ya Tumello ya tsa Tikoloho							

NGODISO: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) e kgethuwe ho ba EAP ke Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd, ho tsamaisa mehato ya Tekolo ya Motheo le mehato ya Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Tshusumetso ya Tikoloho ka ho latelana. Mekgato kapa batho ba batlang ho ingodisa ka tlwaelo ho ba bakgathatema ba tla fana ka tshwaelo ya bona Diprojekeng tse Sisingswang ba kotjwa hore ba romele dinlha tse felletseng tsa moo ho ka iteangwang le bona ho tsona ho EAP diatereseng tseo ho fanwang ka tsona mona ka tlase. Bakgathatema ba ngodisitsweng ba tla romelwa dikgokahano tsohle tsa nakong e tlant mme ba tsebiswe ka bongwe ka menyella e meng ya ho nka karolo tshebetsoneng ena.

Iteanye le Ofisi ya Bonkakarlo ba Setjhaba ya WSP hore o ingodise jwalo ka mkgathatema le ho fumana tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng: Ofisi ya Bonkakarlo ba Setjhaba: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Poso: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Mohala:** 011 254 4800; **Fekse:** 086 582 1561; **Emile:** gld.pp@wsp.com

Tshireletso ya Tlhaloso le Sebaka: WSP e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding e itseng ya motheo ka seqo e mabapi le wena jwalo ka motheo ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng bakeng sa merero ya hore o kgone ho ingodisa ho ba motheo ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng ekasitana le ho boloka dinlha tsa hao ho database ya rona, ha o re dumella ho etsa jwalo. WSP e tla sebedisa dinlha tsona ho iteanya le wena ka diprojeke tse ding tse tshwanetseng nakong e tlant. WSP kamehla e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding ya seqo ya hao ka ho ya ka Molao wa Tshireletso ya Tlhalosoleseding ya Motho ka Seqo 4 wa 2013. O dumelletsewe ho sebedisa ditokelo tsa hao jwalo ka monga dinlha mme o re tsebise ha o batla ho hlakolwa ngodisong ya ho ba motheo ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng, kapa haebe ha o sa batla, dinlha tsa ho iteanya le wena di tloswe databaseing ya rona.



OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE VERKYKERSKOP-WINDENERGIEFASILITEITSGROEP WAT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE BEHEL, VRYSTAAT

Kennis word hiermee gegee kragtens Regulasie 41(2) of GNR 982 (soos gewysig), gepubliseer kragtens artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indien van verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING: Die aansoekers wat omskryf word in die tabel hieronder wil 'n Windenergiefasiliteitgroep (WEF-groep) vestig naby Verkykerskop in die Vrystaat en dit behels verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde goedkeurings sluit die volgende prosesse vir basiese evaluering (BA) en verslae oor omvang en impak op die omgewing (S&EIR)

Aansoeker	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW Windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyen, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie en substasie	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyen, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie en substasie	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyen, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie en substasie	BA

PLAAS NAME

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deel 0 van plaas Schoonzicht Nr 80 • Deel 0 van plaas Groothoek Nr 89 • Deel 0 van plaas Kromdraai Nr 273 • Deel 0 van plaas Kransbank Nr 288 • Deel 0 van plaas Kranspunt Nr 459 • Deel 0 van plaas Van Kope Nr 1319 • Deel 0 van plaas Leiden Nr 2 • Deel 0 van plaas Myn-Burg Nr 3 • Deel 0 van plaas Naauw Kloof Nr 4 • Deel 0 van plaas Krom Hof Nr 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deel 0 van plaas Puntje Nr 1240 • Deel 0 en 1 van plaas Aanfield Nr 253 • Deel 0, 1, 2 en 3 van plaas Ox Hoek Nr 98 • Deel 0 van plaas Christina Nr 90 • Deel 0 van plaas Mooiplaats Nr 391 • Deel 0 van plaas Brak Krans Nr 554 • Deel 0 van plaas Rooi Koppen Nr 600 • Deel 0 van plaas Goedgedacht Nr 724 • Deel 0 van plaas Kruger Wens Nr1062 • Deel 0 van plaas Scotland Nr 1238 • Deel 0 van plaas Luthof Nr1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oorblywende deel van plaas Welgelukt Nr 1416 • Deel 0 van plaas Inzicht Nr 1428 • Deel 0 van plaas Rooibeesberg Nr 14898 • Deel 1 van plaas Johanna Nr 1395 • Deel 1 en res van plaas Bull Hoek Nr 329 • Deel 1 van plaas Goede Hoop Nr 982 • Deel 2, 3, 4, 5 en res van plaas Driekoppen Nr 485 • Oorblywende deel van plaas Johanna Nr 1395 • Deel 0 van plaas Markgraaff's Rest Nr 478
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OMGEWINGSAANSOEKE: Die voorgestelde projekte beïnvloed verskeie genoteerde aktiwiteite wat vervat is in die Regulasies vir die evaluering van impak op die omgewing (EIA), genoteerde kennisgewing 1 (GNR983), genoteerde kennisgewing 2 (GNR984) en genoteerde kennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig. Dit beteken dat goedkeuring vir die genoteerde aktiwiteite verkry moet word deur middel van onderskeie prosesse om verslae voor te berei oor omvang en impak op die omgewing (S&EIR). Die verwagte genoteerde nommers van aktiwiteite wat verband hou met die voorgestelde projekte word aangedui in die tabel hieronder. Indien u 'n volledige afskrif van die genoteerde aktiwiteite wil hê, moet u asseblief met die omgewingsgoedkeuringspraktisyn (skakelbesonderhede hieronder) skakel.

Naam van projek	Genoteerde kennisgewing	Toepaslike artikels van beïnvloed word							
EIA - Omvang vir: • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA vir 132 kV-kraglyen, substasie op perseel en verwante infrastruktuur vir: • Groothoek 132 kV-netwerkverbinding • Kromhof 132 kV-netwerkverbinding • Normandien 132 kV-netwerkverbinding	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (waar van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Artikel 53	Oppervlaktegebruik kragtens artikel 53 van die Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Minerale- en Petroleumhulpbronne (Wet 28 van 2002)							
NHRA	Artikel 38(8)	Oorsig van 'n evaluering van omvang wat verband hou met 'n evaluering van omvang wat verband hou met 'n aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring							

REGISTRASIE: Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd HET WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) aangestel om die onderskeie prosesse vir BA en S&EIR te hanteer. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbendes om kommentaar te kan lewer oor die voorgestelde projekte, word versoek om volledige skakelbesonderhede (naam, telefoonnommers en adresse) te stuur aan die EAP by die adresse wat hieronder aangedui word. Geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal in die toekoms alle korrespondensie ontvang en individueel in kennis gestel word van verdere geleenthede om deel te neem aan die prosesse.

Skakel met die WSP-kantoor vir openbare deelname om te registreer as belanghebbende en om verdere inligting te verkry:
Kantoor vir openbare deelname; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Pos: Posbus 6001, Halfway House 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800;
Faks: 086 582 1561; E-pos: gld.pp@wsp.com

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP gaan sekere van u persoonlike inligting as belanghebbende en party wat geraak word (I&AP) verwerk vir die doel van registrasie as I&AP en sodat u besonderhede in ons databasis opgeneem kan word indien u instem dat dit gedoen kan word. WSP gebruik die besonderhede om in die toekoms met u te skakel oor ander relevante projekte. WSP verwerk in alle gevalle u persoonlike inligting volgens die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting, Wet 4 van 2013. U is geregtig daarop om u regte oor u data uit te oefen en u kan ons laat weet indien u registrasie as I&AP gekanselleer en onttrek moet word en u nie meer u inligting in ons databasis wil hê nie.



ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA

FARM NAMES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No. 80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No. 288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No. 459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No. 1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No. 1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Luthof No. 1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478
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ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), as amended, and therefore, authorisation to undertake the listed activities must be sought via respective Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes. The anticipated listed activity numbers associated with the proposed projects are reflected in the table below. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), details provided below.

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable triggers							
Scoping EIA for: • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA for 132kV powerline, on-site substation and associated infrastructure for the: • Groothoek 132kV Grid Connection • Kromhof 132kV Grid Connection • Normandien 132kV Grid Connection	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

Contact the WSP Public Participation Office to register as a stakeholder and to receive further information: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561; E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.





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BAKENPARK: empty site **R450 000**
VUKA: shop with rental income **R350 000**
BOHLOKONG: Vacant land next to captain charles **R350 000**
DE BULT: empty site 600m² **R195 000**
JACKETVIEW: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Kitchen, dining open plan, Two outside rooms well fenced **R800 000**
PAUL ROUX: Empty stand 2974m² **R220 000**
VUKA: 3 bedroom house Kitchen dining and lounge **R395 000**
OLD LOCATION: 3 bedr, facebrick House, Open plan, 1 garage **R595 000**
EXT 8: 2 bedr, Kitchen, bathroom, 2x garage **R550 000**
EXT 1: 4 roomed house with outside rooms not finished with big yard at the corner **R450 000**
EXT 1: 3 bedroom house kitchen and dining room with cupboard, Buildings cupboard tiled **R450 000**

SMALL HOLDINGS: prices start at **R1 2M**
FARMS: prices start at **R1 5M**
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: prices start from **R1 2M**

EUREKA: vacant site **R600 000**
LA PROVENCE: Vacant site **R900 000**
PHUTHADITJHABA: joint municipal 4 room house **R450 000**
DISASTER PARK BLUEGUMBOSCH: RDP House **R190 000**
BLUEGUMBOSCH L: vacant stand **R150 000**

Agents Needed. Must have own transport and cellphone
 Email-CV's to propbluekey@gmail.com

RE/MAX MALUTI
We simply get the job done, from sale to sold!!

HOUSES FOR SALE

4 BEDROOMS KHABISI **R600 000-00**
 3 BEDROOMS KESTELL **R650 000-00**
 3 BEDROOMS KESTELL **R1 445 000-00**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

STUDENT BOCHABELA
 ACCOMMODATION- 4 ROOMS **R230 000-00**
 STUDENT BOCHABELA
 ACCOMMODATION- 6 ROOMS **R450 000-00**
 STUDENT MPHATLATSANE
 ACCOMMODATION- 6 ROOMS **R475 000-00**

TO LET

1 BEDROOM FLAT PHAMONG **R1 400-00 PM**
 1 BEDROOM PHAMONG **R 700-00 PM**
 3 BEDROOMS DE BULT **R6 000-00 PM**

VACANT SITE

400SQM WITH KHABISI **R75 000**
 FOUNDATION- 6 ROOMS

TEBOHO LETSELA
073 277 8595 / 058 492 0008
4770 MAMPOI ROAD, PHUTHADITJHABA, FREE STATE

IMESA to run traditional council elections

On Thursday, 19 September Thabo Molaba, Project Coordinator from the Institute of Election Management Services in Africa (IME-SA) in the Free State said that the Free State government appointed IMESA to run and administer traditional council elections. In these election the community has the opportunity to elect people who will represent them in the Council of Traditional Leaders. Elections for traditional community representatives in the traditional councils will be held on 19 October.

Free State COGTA is calling on communities in the 12 traditional councils to participate in the election of 40% of the representatives in the traditional council.

According to Molaba the elec-

tions will be held in the following traditional councils: Kholokwe Traditional Council (Harrismith), Phomolong Traditional Council, Thibella Traditional Council, Dinkoeng Traditional Council, Thaba Bosiu Traditional Council, Matsieng Traditional Council, Bolata Traditional Council, Namahadi Traditional Council, Monontsha Traditional Council and Mabelela Traditional Council (all in Qwaqwa).

This will be

the first time in the Free State that community members elect their representatives (40%) in the traditional council. The other 60% of the representatives in the traditional council are elected by the traditional leader.

In photo: IMESA Project Coordinator Free State Thabo Molaba
 By Letsielo Mosia



"A thriving democracy needs sustainable community media"

Saturday, 28 September was World News Day, a global initiative to draw public attention to the role that journalists play in providing trustworthy news and information that serve citizens and democracy.



Matefu Mokoena is a former SABC and City Press journalist, Thabo Mofutsanayana District Municipality Communication Manager and Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality Communication Manager, and now also a Pastor. He said, "As we mark this important day on the media and journalism calendar, what comes to my mind are the daily hardships of community media."

which should be considered for funding when municipalities fund small businesses in their area. Mokoena said that community media is poorly supported financially, yet the most needed one for local news which seldom receives the attention of the mainstream media.

He said that a local newspaper or radio station should not only be remembered when it has to cover an event or attend a media briefing, it must also be remembered when it comes to advertising. "Sadly, most of the time the majority of local media gets overlooked, when it is time to issue adverts, by the public and private sectors," said Mokoena.

He indicated that community media includes our own local radio stations, newspapers, online media and TV stations that bring us local news and information in multiple formats and platforms, which include social media platforms such as Facebook, Youtube and X, among others.

He added that one cannot overemphasize the fact that community media needs money in order to keep on informing the community, which is in dire needs of information about issues and challenges in their own local areas. As much as the local media gives space and airtime to the news makers and policy-makers, so should be the amount of financial support in terms of advertisements, sponsorships, advertorials, grants and other forms of financial support.

"The survival of local media is also crucial in the face of misinformation and disinformation. Just imagine a society without media or a community without information! A thriving democracy needs a sustainable community media," he concluded.

According to Mokoena, the local media is not only a news outlet but it is also a small business

In photo: Former journalist for the SABC, City Press and Thabo Mofutsanayana District Municipality and Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality Communication Manager Matefu Mokoena.
 By Letsielo Mosia

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES
NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

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FARM NAMES

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- Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416
- Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428
- Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeek No. 14898
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 Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800;
 Fax: 086 582 1561; E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.



Wanted rapist murdered

On Thursday, 26 September the Namahadi Police found the body of a man suspected to be a serial rapist, lying in the street surrounded by members of the community. The suspect suffered injuries and a deformed face.



Eastern Free State SAPS Communication Officer W/O Mmako Mophiring said it is alleged that on 26 September at about 20h45 the police received a complaint that residents of Letshalemaduke village, Qwaqwa were chasing a man believed to be a serial rapist, wanted by police.

victim was identified positively by a family member. A case of murder is being investigated. Mophiring reminded the community that mob justice is unlawful. People committing these acts will be arrested and will face the might of the law.

The police attended to the complaint and upon their arrival near a lodge, they found a group of more than 100 people standing at the crime scene. The suspect was declared dead by Emergency Medical Service personnel. The

In photo: Eastern Free State SAPS Communication Officer W/O Mmako Mophiring.
 By Letsielo Mosia

WHAT'S ON!

RED PEPPERS
 PRESENT A MASSIVE SHOW
 LESIKA LA SEEMA (QWA2)
 PRAISE WITH

SEDIBA SA MATSHIDISO (SASOL)
 DATE: 06 OCT 2024
 TIME: 12H00-LATE
 ADM: R100 TICKET SINGLE AND R180 COUPLE
 VENUE: MULTI PURPOSE

PHUTHADITJHABA SEFELA: O MPALE MORENA JESU
 For tickets contact: Sala's:076 948 3027 or T-man: 083 863 0686

Legal notice



DECEASED ESTATE NOTICE

In the estate late of MAHOHODI GLADYS MOKOENA

Identity Number: 500320 0740 08 1

In the life of 1314B BOLATA, WITSIESHOEK, 9870, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Who passed away on 26TH of OCTOBER 2022

Estate No: 005888/2024.

KINDLY TAKE NOTE that anyone who has a claim against the above mentioned deceased estate is to lodge the claim within 30 (THIRTY) days from date of this publication at the executor as stated below: THE AGENT: JOHANNET DANIEL VAN DER WALT VAN AARDT & VAN DER WALT ATTORNEYS

5B PRESIDENT BOSHOF STREET, BETHLEHEM, 9700, TELNO. 058 303 0557, E-MAIL: conveyancing@vaattorneys.co.za, REF: MOK138/0001/JP

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

1. NKETOANA MUNICIPALITY

2. PULE JAMES MOKOENA, 2234 JOE MODISE SECTION MAMAFUBEDU, PETRUS STEYN. ID NO: 8306286000081

3. TAVERN

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

5. TWINS & TWINS, 901 JEAN SECTION, MAMAFUBEDU, PETRUS STEYN

6. NONE

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

1. MALUTI A PHOFUNG MUNICIPALITY

2. THABO JAMES MOLABA, 12137 MANDELA PARK, EXTENSION 4 WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 92022266274086

3. LIQUOR STORE

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

5. MOLABA OFF SALES, 12137 MANDELA PARK, WITSIESHOEK 9870

6. N/A

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

1. MALUTI A PHOFUNG MUNICIPALITY

2. THABO JAMES MOLABA, 12137 MANDELA PARK, EXTENSION 4 WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 92022266274086

3. LIQUOR STORE

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

5. MOLABA OFF SALES, 12137 MANDELA PARK, WITSIESHOEK 9870

6. N/A

Legal notice

Form FSLA 2 - Notice of intentions to apply in terms of sections 27 read with section 31 for registration Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010. Notice is hereby given that SENZO JERRY MOKOENA, RAYMOND MATSOELE intends to lodge an application on 04/10/2024, particulars of which appeared here underneath: Municipality - MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, Full names SENZO JERRY MOKOENA, RAYMOND MATSOELE, 2505 PABALLONG VILLAGE, WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 9502135714083, 9409035662083. Kind registration applied for - RESTAURANT, Kind of product to be sold/manufactured - ALL TYPES OF LIQUOR, Name under which business is to be conducted & full address of premises - MALUTI MART RESTAURANT, 2517C PABALLONG VILLAGE, WITSIESHOEK 9870. Name of & distance to institutions of learning, NONE Any person may, within 21 days from 04/10/2024 Date of publication in Provincial Gazette) lodge in terms of section 33 of the Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010 an objection in writing to the Free State Liquor (address set out hereunder). The objection must be clearly indicated the full names, identity number, residential address & telephone numbers, if any where applicable, its registered number & address of its office of the objector. The must be also identify the application to which it relates. The application may be inspected during the office of the Authorities during their office hours. The address of the relevant Office of the Liquor Authority is 85 Henry Street Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9301

Place: WITSIESHOEK

application on 02/08/2024, particulars of which appeared here underneath: Municipality - MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, Full names SELLO LETHETSA, 1423 BOLATA (THEOSANE) WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 8904175853089. Kind registration applied for - LIQUOR STORE, Kind of product to be sold/manufactured - ALL KINDS, Name under which business is to be conducted & full address of premises - LETHETSA BOTTLE STORE 1487 BOLATA (THEOSANE) WITSIESHOEK 9870. Name of & distance to institutions of learning, NONE Any person may, within 21 days from 04/10/2024 Date of publication in Provincial Gazette) lodge in terms of section 33 of the Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010 an objection in writing to the Free State Liquor (address set out hereunder). The objection must be clearly indicated the full names, identity number, residential address & telephone numbers, if any where applicable, its registered number & address of its office of the objector. The must be also identify the application to which it relates. The application may be inspected during the office of the Authorities during their office hours. The address of the relevant Office of the Liquor Authority is 85 Henry Street Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9301

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

1. MANTSOPA MUNICIPALITY

2. PONTSO CALPENIA MOHAPELOA, M663 THUSANONG MANYATSENG, LADYBRAND 9745. ID NO: 8006260659080

3. RESTAURANT

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

5. BARENG LIFESTYLE AND FOOD COURT, NO M2106 BRIGHTSIDE, MANYATSENG LADYBRAND 9745

6. NONE

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

1. MANTSOPA MUNICIPALITY

2. PONTSO CALPENIA MOHAPELOA, M663 THUSANONG MANYATSENG, LADYBRAND 9745. ID NO: 8006260659080

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5. BARENG LIFESTYLE AND FOOD COURT, NO M2106 BRIGHTSIDE, MANYATSENG LADYBRAND 9745

6. NONE

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

1. MALUTI A PHOFUNG MUNICIPALITY

2. THABO JAMES MOLABA, 12137 MANDELA PARK, EXTENSION 4 WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 92022266274086

3. LIQUOR STORE

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

5. MOLABA OFF SALES, 12137 MANDELA PARK, WITSIESHOEK 9870

6. N/A

Legal notice

Form FSLA 2 - Notice of intentions to apply in terms of sections 27 read with section 31 for registration Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010. Notice is hereby given that NTSWAKI ANASTATIA MOSIA intends to lodge an application on 04/10/2024, particulars of which appeared here underneath: Municipality - MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, Full names NTSWAKI ANASTATIA MOSIA, 1768 LUSAKA MAKWANE, WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 8601271006089. Kind registration applied for - TAVERN, Kind of product to be sold/manufactured - ALL TYPES OF LIQUOR, Name under which business is to be conducted & full address of premises - FROM BACKSTAGE TAVERN, 1045 KGBISI MAKWANE, WITSIESHOEK 9870 TO 1747 LUSAKA MAKWANE, WITSIESHOEK 9870. Name of & distance to institutions of learning, NONE Any person may, within 21 days from 04/10/2024 Date of publication in Provincial Gazette) lodge in terms of section 33 of the Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010 an objection in writing to the Free State Liquor (address set out hereunder). The objection must be clearly indicated the full names, identity number, residential address & telephone numbers, if any where applicable, its registered number & address of its office of the objector. The must be also identify the application to which it relates. The application may be inspected during the office of the Authorities during their office hours. The address of the relevant Office of the Liquor Authority is 85 Henry Street Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9301

Place: WITSIESHOEK

PIT AS PART OF THE SPECIAL MAINTENANCE OF THE QWA-QWA PROVINCIAL ROADS. Notice is hereby given in terms of GN R.983 and 985 of 4 December 2014 as amended under the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 as amended of intent to carry out the mentioned project which will follow an environmental authorisation application process for the following activities: GN R983: Activity 21; Process that require a mining permit application Activity 21 (E); CSRT is exempted from of section 106(1) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act. GN R983: Activity 27; Clearance of an area (< 20Ha) of indigenous vegetation GN R 985, Activity 12: Clearance of 300m² indigenous vegetation within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland. LOCATION - The proposed borrow pit development is located on Farm Witsieshoek 1928, within the Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality. General coordinates of proposed borrow pit a 28°35'12.24"S; 28°54'54.90"E PUBLIC INFORMATION - Interested and Affected Parties are invited to register and submit comments on the proposed development to EnviroMatrix by 30 October 2024. For further information, please contact: Janus at cell 066 485 3275 or e-mail: janus@emtrix.co.za

Legal notice

DISTRICT: THABO MOFUTSANYANA.

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3. RESTAURANT

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

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6. NONE

Legal notice

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3. LIQUOR STORE

4. ALL KINDS OF LIQUOR

5. MOLABA OFF SALES, 12137 MANDELA PARK, WITSIESHOEK 9870

6. N/A

Legal notice

Form FSLA 2 - Notice of intentions to apply in terms of sections 27 read with section 31 for registration Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010. Notice is hereby given that NTSWAKI ANASTATIA MOSIA intends to lodge an application on 04/10/2024, particulars of which appeared here underneath: Municipality - MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, Full names NTSWAKI ANASTATIA MOSIA, 1768 LUSAKA MAKWANE, WITSIESHOEK 9870. ID NO: 8601271006089. Kind registration applied for - TAVERN, Kind of product to be sold/manufactured - ALL TYPES OF LIQUOR, Name under which business is to be conducted & full address of premises - FROM BACKSTAGE TAVERN, 1045 KGBISI MAKWANE, WITSIESHOEK 9870 TO 1747 LUSAKA MAKWANE, WITSIESHOEK 9870. Name of & distance to institutions of learning, NONE Any person may, within 21 days from 04/10/2024 Date of publication in Provincial Gazette) lodge in terms of section 33 of the Free State Gambling & Liquor Act, 2010 an objection in writing to the Free State Liquor (address set out hereunder). The objection must be clearly indicated the full names, identity number, residential address & telephone numbers, if any where applicable, its registered number & address of its office of the objector. The must be also identify the application to which it relates. The application may be inspected during the office of the Authorities during their office hours. The address of the relevant Office of the Liquor Authority is 85 Henry Street Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9301

Place: WITSIESHOEK

Legal notice

SAREL VENTER ATTORNEYS



NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN DECEASED ESTATES. All persons having claims against the undermentioned estate must lodge it with the Executor concerned within 30 days (or as indicated) from date of publication hereof. A) Estate no: 009649/2016, Surname: ZIMU, Christian names: MASINGWANENG ELIZABETH. Date of birth: 1970-12-14, Identity no: 7012140440080, Last address: 20 LOKOMOTIVE STREET, HARRISMITH VRYSTAAT, Date of death: 2013-05-25, Master's Office: BLOEMFONTEIN. B) Only applicable if deceased was married in community of property/subject to

Fugitive brought to justice of murder

On September 19 2024, the Nongoma Regional Court sentenced Phakamani Mthimkhulu (30) to 15 years direct imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to the murder of his girlfriend, Sinegugu Zungu (28).

The incident took place in the KwaZiphethe area of Nongoma in September 2020.

Police investigations established that Mthimkhulu and Zungu were in a toxic, dysfunctional relationship in which physical abuse was commonplace.

Zungu had applied for an interim domestic violence interdict, which was granted and served on Mthimkhulu. On the day Zungu was murdered, Mthimkhulu went to Zungu's family home to fetch a cellphone that they allegedly shared. It is said that an argument ensued, as Zungu told Mthimkhulu that she no longer wanted to be in a relationship with him. Mthimkhulu, who was in possession of a knife, then stabbed Zungu twice and fled the scene.

While a docket was registered with Nongoma SAPS, Mthimkhulu remained at large. SAPS in Nongoma sought assistance from their Eswatini counterparts to trace Mthimkhulu. They were later informed by Eswatini police authorities that Mthimkhulu had been arrested in Eswatini for being in the country illegally.

The International Cooperation

Component (ICC) for the Department of Public Prosecutors (DPP) in KZN, together with deputy director of Public Prosecutions Advocate Deneshree Naicker, and senior state advocate, Naveen Sewparsat, worked with the investigating officer on the case and directed a request for the provisional arrest of Mthimkhulu to Eswatini, which was signed by DPP KZN Adv Elaine Harrison.

After Mthimkhulu's provisional arrest, a formal request for extradition was signed by DPP KZN and was transmitted through diplomatic channels to Eswatini.

An extradition enquiry was conducted in court in Eswatini, and the Eswatini Magistrate found Mthimkhulu liable for extradition. The Eswatini Prime Minister confirmed the Magistrate's ruling and issued an order to surrender Mthimkhulu to South Africa. Mthimkhulu was handed over to Interpol SA officials and was subsequently arrested on his arrival in SA by the investigating officer. The matter was subsequently enrolled before the Nongoma Magistrates' Court.

In aggravation of sentence, the prosecutor, Busisiwe Mfeka, argued that the crime of murder is a serious offence and that gender-based violence is prevalent. Mfeka requested the court to issue harsh sentences to deter other like-minded individuals. She further argued that Mthimkhulu had fled the country after

committing the offence and that the family of the deceased endured pain and stress for three years pending Mthimkhulu's arrest.

Mthimkhulu was sentenced accordingly, and he was declared unfit to possess a firearm.

"The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the successful finalisation of this matter. This case illustrates the effectiveness of processes within the ICC of the DPP KZN to extradite fugitives who have sought to hide outside SA.

It further benchmarks the strong diplomatic relationship and commitment between the Kingdom of Eswatini and South Africa in executing their obligations under the Treaty to ensure that fugitives are brought to book for the offences they have committed in the respective countries. Gender based violence is a priority focus area in the NPA's fight against crime. The strong message that is sent out by this case is that there is no place for fugitives to hide. Justice has finally been brought to the family of the deceased," said NPA regional spokesperson, Natasha Ramkisson-Kara.

"The NPA will continue to bring fugitives back to SA to stand trial in the cases against them. There are laws and treaties which must be followed and allow for the extradition to take place."

Adv Harrison acknowledged the excellent teamwork displayed by the ICC KZN, SAPS, Interpol SA, prosecutors, and

all other partners in the crime prevention cluster that achieved justice on behalf of the victims of crime.

She has stressed that in KZN this is a focus area and that there is zero tolerance for such crime. She further commented that all cases of this nature, whether they emanate from the rural or metropolitan areas, will receive the necessary attention.

"This case is yet again an indication that serious cases from the outlying areas in KZN are being dealt with as well," concluded Ramkisson-Kara.



ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA

FARM NAMES

- Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No. 80
- Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89
- Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273
- Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No. 288
- Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No. 459
- Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No. 1319
- Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2
- Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3
- Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4
- Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530
- Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240
- Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253
- Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98
- Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90
- Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391
- Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554
- Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600
- Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724
- Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No. 1062
- Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238
- Portion 0 of Farm Lushof No. 1321
- Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416
- Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428
- Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898
- Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395
- Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329
- Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982
- Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485
- Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395
- Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), as amended, and therefore, authorisation to undertake the listed activities must be sought via respective Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes. The anticipated listed activity numbers associated with the proposed projects are reflected in the table below. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), details provided below.

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable triggers							
Scoping EIA for: • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA for 132kV powerline, on-site substation and associated infrastructure for the: • Groothoek 132kV Grid Connection • Kromhof 132kV Grid Connection • Normandien 132kV Grid Connection	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GAWUL (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by Mulo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

Contact the WSP Public Participation Office to register as a stakeholder and to receive further information:
Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561; E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.



Ladysmith man sentenced to life for raping his 9-year old daughter

Last week, the Ladysmith Regional Court sentenced a 40-year-old man to a term of life imprisonment for the rape of his nine-year old daughter in November 2023.

The man and his daughter lived together, and on November 5, 2023, the young girl had just come out of the bathroom when her father accosted her in her bedroom. It is alleged that he closed the door and demanded to know why she was having sex with young boys but not with him.

When the girl did not answer, he pushed her onto the bed and raped her. The man was interrupted by his sister (the girl's aunt) who entered the room. His sister saw him pull up his pants and asked him what was going on. He did not reply and left the room.

The aunt noticed that the girl was having difficult walking asked her what had happened. She confided in her aunt that her father had raped her. The matter was then reported to the police and the girl was taken to a local hospital for medical attention. Her father was arrested two days later.

In court, prosecutor Shamanta Sewnath led the evidence of the victim as well as the evidence of the aunt who made the first police report. The girl's grandmother also testified. In his evidence, the doctor who examined the complainant at the hospital told the court about the bruising and bleeding he had noticed during his examination of the victim.

In a victim impact statement compiled by the victim's aunt and facilitated by court preparation officer, Khulekani Professor Mthembu, the court heard that the complainant was severely traumatised by the incident. She is now afraid of males and feels ashamed. She believes that she does not belong in society, and no longer enjoys the company of other children.

"Her was sentenced accordingly, and he was declared unfit to possess a firearm. Further, the court found him unfit to work with children and ordered that his name be listed in the National Register for Sex Offenders," stated regional spokesperson for the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Natasha Ramkisson-Kara.

"The NPA welcomes the successful finalisation of this matter. Together with our partners in the crime prevention cluster, we will fight for justice on behalf of the victims of crime."

(The views in this column do not necessarily represent those of the Northern Natal News or its proprietors)

IQBAL KHAN

Springboks hammer Argentina for the win

OFF THE BALL
by Iqbal Khan

*South Africa hammered Argentina in Nelspruit to win the Rugby Championship for the first time since 2019. The Springboks scored four first-half tries, with Apehele Fassi grabbing two before assisting Cheslin Kolbe. Player of the match Pieter-Steph du Toit also claimed the first of his two tries, while Argentina's score came through fly-half Tomas Albornoz. The turning point in the second half came when Pumas replacement Pablo Matera had a yellow card upgraded to a 20-minute red for making head contact when trying to clear out Vincent Koch. With full-back Santiago Carreras joining Matera in the sin-bin for a deliberate knock-on, Malcolm Marx took advantage from the back of a maul. Du Toit scored again before centre Jesse Kriel got on the end of Handre Pollard's dinked kick to score the final try of a ruthless display. Victory means the Springboks also avenged last weekend's one-point defeat in Argentina, which had denied them the title a week early. A shortened format in 2019 because of the Rugby World Cup means victory is the Springboks' first in a full tournament since 2009 - prior to Argentina's involvement in the competition. The wins adds to Rassie Erasmus' glittering coaching CV that now includes two World Cups, two Rugby Championships and a British and Irish Lions tour win. Despite defeat, this was the first time the Pumas had beaten all three teams in the

Rugby Championship to head into the final round still with an outside chance of the title. They finished the championship in third place after New Zealand beat Australia earlier on Saturday to take the runners-up spot.

*The southern hemisphere sides have wrapped up the Rugby Championship for another year.

This year's competition saw South Africa reclaim the title for the first time since 2019. New Zealand, Argentina and Australia all had mixed campaigns under new management. So what have we learned about all four sides before they head over to the northern hemisphere in November? Rassie Erasmus' policy of mixing his teams to build the depth of his squad for World Cups has hindered his side's Rugby Championship ambitions in the past, winning only the shortened format in 2019 under his tenure. This campaign Erasmus named near-enough his strongest side for the opening four rounds, resulting in four victories and their longest winning streak against New Zealand (four) in the professional era. The Springboks also tested the big-game mentality of Stormers fly-half Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu. He showed his temperament and massive boot from the kicking tee against Australia and New Zealand before suffering a knee injury. For someone who said he would "rather win the World Cup than sit at an 85% win rate", it will be interesting to see how the 51-year-old manages his squad in November after finally reclaiming the Rugby

Championship. South Africa play Scotland on 10 November, England on 16 November and then Wales on 23 November - what chances of a clean sweep?

*Olly Stone is just over two weeks away from getting married. For the fast bowler and his fiancée Jess, the big day is Saturday, 12 October. The complication is that on Friday, 11 October, Stone could be 5,000 miles away trying to take England to victory in the first Test in Pakistan. Not only is Stone hopping continents in order to say "I do", he is then planning to be back in Multan for the second Test starting the following Tuesday. Obviously Jess is leaving no stone unturned to ensure Olly is in church on time!

*Ethiopia dominated Sunday's Berlin marathon, with winners in both the men's and women's races and runners in five of the six podium places. Milkesa Mengesha, 24, beat Kenya's Cybrian Kotut by just five seconds in the men's event, pulling clear in the final stretch to finish in two hours, three minutes 17 seconds. Fellow Ethiopian Haymanot Alew was third.

Tigist Ketema, 26, claimed victory in the women's event in a time of two hours 16 minutes 42 seconds, more than two minutes ahead of compatriots Mestawot Fikir and Bosena Mulatie.

Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa broke the women's world record with a time of 2:11:53 in last year's race, but while Ketema was five minutes slower than that, her winning time was still the third fastest in the event.

OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE VERKYKERSKOP-WINDENERGIEFASILITEITSGROEP WAT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE BEHEL, VRYSTAAT

Kennis word hiermee gegee kragtens Regulasie 41(2) van GNR 982 (soos gewysig), gepubliseer kragtens artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indien van verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING: Die aansoekers wat omskryf word in die tabel hieronder wil 'n Windenergiefasiliteitgroep (WEF-groep) vestig naby Verkykerskop in die Vrystaat en dit behels verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde goedkeurings sluit die volgende Basiese Evaluering (BA) en Omvang- en Omgewingsimpakbepaling (S&EIR) prosesse in.

Aansoeker	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW Windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyne, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie en substasie	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyne, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie en substasie	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyne, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissie en substasie	BA

PLAAS NAME

- Deel 0 van plaas Schoonzicht Nr 80
- Deel 0 van plaas Groothoek Nr 89
- Deel 0 van plaas Kromdraai Nr 273
- Deel 0 van plaas Kransbank Nr 288
- Deel 0 van plaas Kranspunt Nr 459
- Deel 0 van plaas Van Kope Nr 1319
- Deel 0 van plaas Leiden Nr 2
- Deel 0 van plaas Myn-Burg Nr 3
- Deel 0 van plaas Naauw Kloof Nr 4
- Deel 0 van plaas Krom Hof Nr 530
- Deel 0 van plaas Puntje Nr 1240
- Deel 0 en 1 van plaas Aanfield Nr 253
- Deel 0, 1, 2 en 3 van plaas Ox Hoek Nr 98
- Deel 0 van plaas Christina Nr 90
- Deel 0 van plaas Mooiplaats Nr 391
- Deel 0 van plaas Brak Krans Nr 554
- Deel 0 van plaas Rooi Koppen Nr 600
- Deel 0 van plaas Goedgedacht Nr 724
- Deel 0 van plaas Kruger Wens Nr 1062
- Deel 0 van plaas Scotland Nr 1238
- Deel 0 van plaas Lusthof Nr 1321
- Oorblywende deel van plaas Welgelukt Nr 1416
- Deel 0 van plaas Inzicht Nr 1428
- Deel 0 van plaas Rooibesberg Nr 14898
- Deel 1 van plaas Johanna Nr 1395
- Deel 1 en res van plaas Bull Hoek Nr 329
- Deel 1 van plaas Goede Hoop Nr 982
- Deel 2, 3, 4, 5 en res van plaas Driekoppen Nr 485
- Oorblywende deel van plaas Johanna Nr 1395
- Deel 0 van plaas Markgraaff's Rest Nr 478

OMGEWINGSAANSOEKE: Die voorgestelde projekte behels verskeie gelysde aktiwiteite wat vervat is in die Omgewingsimpakbepaling Regulasies Noteringskennisgewing 1 (GNR983), Noteringskennisgewing 2 (GNR984) en Noteringskennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig. Dit beteken dat goedkeuring vir die gelysde aktiwiteite verkry moet word deur middel van die onderskeie omgewingsimpakbepalings prosesse (S&EIR). Die verwagte gelysde aktiwiteite nommers wat verband hou met die voorgestelde projekte word aangedui in die tabel hieronder. Indien u 'n volledige afskrif van die gelysde aktiwiteite wil hê, moet u asseblief met die omgewingsbeoordelingspraktisyn (skakelbesonderhede hieronder) skakel.

Naam van projek	Genoteerde kennisgewing	Toepaslike gelysde aktiwiteite wat beïnvloed word							
S&EIR vir: • Groothoek WEF • Kromhof Wind WEF • Normandien WEF	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA vir 132 kV-kraglyne, substasie op perseel en verwante infrastruktuur vir: • Groothoek 132 kV-netwerkverbinding • Kromhof 132 kV-netwerkverbinding • Normandien 132 kV-netwerkverbinding	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (waar van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Artikel 53	Oppervlakgebruik kragtens artikel 53 van die Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Minerale- en Petroleumhulpbronne (Wet 28 van 2002)							
NHRA	Artikel 38(8)	Oorsig van omgewingsimpakbepaling wat verband hou met 'n aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring							

REGISTRASIE: Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd het WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) aangestel om die onderskeie prosesse vir BA en S&EIR te hanteer. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbendes om kommentaar te kan lewer oor die voorgestelde projekte, word versoek om volledige kontakbesonderhede (naam, telefoonnommers en adresse) te stuur aan die EAP by die kontakbesonderhede wat hieronder aangedui word. Geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal in die toekoms alle korrespondensie ontvang en individueel in kennis gestel word van verdere geleenthede om deel te neem aan die prosesse.

Skakel met die WSP-kantoor vir Openbare Deelname om te registreer as belanghebbende en om verdere inligting te verkry:
Kantoor vir Openbare Deelname; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Pos: Posbus 6001, Halfway House 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800;
Faks: 086 582 1561; E-pos: gld.pp@wsp.com

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP gaan sekere van u persoonlike inligting as belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party (B&GP) verwerk vir die doel van registrasie as B&GP sodat u besonderhede in ons databasis opgeneem kan word indien u instem dat dit gedoen kan word. WSP gebruik die besonderhede om in die toekoms met u te skakel oor ander relevante projekte. WSP verwerk in alle gevalle u persoonlike inligting volgens die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting, Wet 4 van 2013. U is geregtig daarop om u regte oor u data uit te oefen en u kan ons laat weet indien u registrasie as B&GP gekanselleer en omtrent moet word en u nie meer u inligting in ons databasis wil hê nie.



Appendix B.3

SITE NOTICES





NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

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DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), as amended, and therefore, authorisation to undertake the listed activities must be sought via respective Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes. The anticipated listed activity numbers associated with the proposed projects are reflected in the table below. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), details provided below.

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
		11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
Scoping EIA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek WEF Kromhof Wind WEF Normandien WEF 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA for 132kV powerline, on-site substation and associated infrastructure for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek 132kV Grid Connection Kromhof 132kV Grid Connection Normandien 132kV Grid Connection 	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**. The reports will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.					

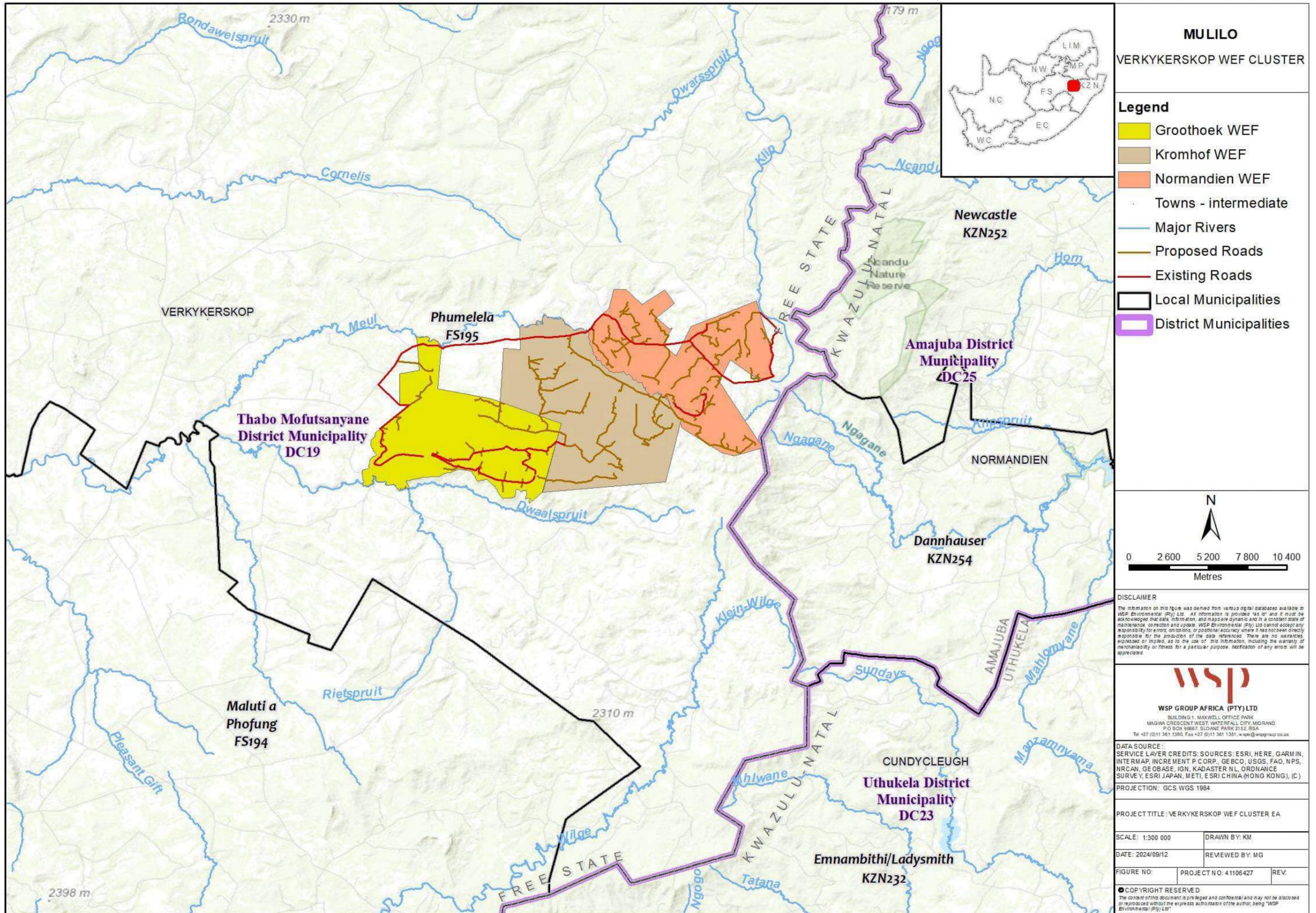


Figure 1: Locality of the project site (map is for orientation purposes only)

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE VERKYKERSKOP-WINDENERGIEFASILITEITSGROEP WAT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE BEHELST, VRYSTAAT

OMGEWINGSGOEDKEURINGSPROSESSE

Kennis word hiermee gegee kragtens Regulasie 41(2) of GNR 982 (soos gewysig), gepubliseer kragtens artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indien van verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING: Die aansoekers wat omskryf word in die tabel hieronder wil 'n Windenergiefasiliteitgroep (WEF-groep) vestig naby Verkykerskop in die Vrystaat en dit behels verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde goedkeurings sluit die volgende prosesse vir basiese evaluering (BA) en verslae oor omvang en impak op die omgewing (S&EIR):

Aansoeker	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW Windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyn, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissielyn en substasie	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyn, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissielyn en substasie	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Tot 300 MW WEF insluitend verwante infrastruktuur	Wind	S&EIR
	Tot 132 kV Kraglyn, substasie en verwante infrastruktuur	Transmissielyn en substasie	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deel 0 van Plaas Schoonzicht Nr.80 Deel 0 van Plaas Groothoek Nr. 89 Deel 0 van Plaas Kromdraai Nr. 273 Deel 0 van Plaas Kransbank Nr.288 Deel 0 van Plaas Kranspunt Nr.459 Deel 0 van Plaas Van Kope Nr.1319 Deel 0 van Plaas Leiden Nr. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deel 0 van Plaas Myn-Burg Nr. 3 Deel 0 van Plaas Naauw Kloof Nr. 4 Deel 0 van Plaas Krom Hof Nr. 530 Deel 0 van Plaas Puntje Nr. 1240 Deel 0 en 1 van Plaas Aanfield Nr. 253 Deel 0, 1, 2 en 3 van Plaas Ox Hoek Nr. 98 Deel 0 van Plaas Christina Nr. 90 Deel 0 van Plaas Mooiplaats Nr. 391 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deel 0 van Plaas Brak Krans Nr. 554 Deel 0 van Plaas Rooi Koppen Nr. 600 Deel 0 van Plaas Goedgedacht Nr. 724 Deel 0 van Plaas Kruger Wens Nr.1062 Deel 0 van Plaas Scotland Nr. 1238 Deel 0 van Plaas Lusthof Nr.1321 Deel 0 van Plaas Welgelukt Nr 1416 Deel 0 van Plaas Inzicht Nr. 1428 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deel 0 van Plaas Rooibeesberg Nr. 14898 Deel 1 van Plaas Johanna Nr. 1395 Deel 1 and Remainder van Plaas Bull Hoek Nr. 329 Deel 1 van Plaas Goede Hoop Nr. 982 Deel 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder van Plaas Driekoppen Nr. 485 Remaining extent van Plaas Johanna Nr. 1395 Deel 0 van Plaas Markgraaff's Rest Nr. 478

OMGEWINGSAANSOEKE: Die voorgestelde projekte beïnvloed verskeie genoteerde aktiwiteite wat vervat is in die Regulasies vir die evaluering van impak op die omgewing (EIA), genoteerde kennisgewing 1 (GNR983), genoteerde kennisgewing 2 (GNR984) en genoteerde kennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig. Dit beteken dat goedkeuring vir die genoteerde aktiwiteite verkry moet word deur middel van onderskeie prosesse om verslae voor te berei oor omvang en impak op die omgewing (S&EIR). Die verwagte genoteerde nommers van aktiwiteite wat verband hou met die voorgestelde projekte word aangedui in die tabel hieronder. Indien u 'n volledige afskrif van die genoteerde aktiwiteite wil hê, moet u asseblief met die omgewingsgoedkeuringspraktisyn (skakelbesonderhede hieronder) skakel..

Naam van projek	Genoteerde kennisgewing	Toepaslike artikels van beïnvloed word							
		11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
EIA - Omvang vir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek WEF Kromhof Wind WEF Normandien WEF 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
BA vir 132 kV-kraglyn, substasie op perseel en verwante infrastruktuur vir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek 132kV netwerkverbinding Kromhof 132kV netwerkverbinding Normandien 132kV netwerkverbinding 	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (waar van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Artikel 53	Oppervlakgebruik kragtens artikel 53 van die Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Minerale- en Petroleumhulpbronne (Wet 28 van 2002)							
NHRA	Artikel 38(8)	Oorsig van 'n evaluering van omvang wat verband hou met 'n evaluering van omvang wat verband hou met 'n aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring							

REGISTRASIE: Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd het WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) aangestel om die onderskeie prosesse vir BA en S&EIR te hanteer. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbendes om kommentaar te kan lewer oor die voorgestelde projekte, word versoek om volledige skakelbesonderhede (naam, telefoonnommers en adresse) te stuur aan die EAP by die adresse wat hieronder aangedui word. Geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal in die toekoms alle korrespondensie ontvang en individueel in kennis gestel word van verdere geleenthede om deel te neem aan die proses.

KONSEP OMVANGBEPALINGSVERSLAG BESKIKBAAR VIR PUBLIEKE KOMMENTAAR: Die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag (DSR) is beskikbaar vir publieke kommentaar vanaf **22 Januarie 2025 tot 21 Februarie 2025**. Die verslae sal beskikbaar wees vir aflaai vanaf die skakel en QR-kode hieronder. Gedrukte kopieë van die DSR sal beskikbaar wees vir hersiening by die volgende lokale:

Naam van openbare plek	Adres	Naam van openbare plek	Adres	VIR MEER INLIGTING, KONTAK ASSEBLIEF: Kantoor vir openbare deelname; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; Posbus 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Faks: 086 582 1561 E-pos: gld.pp@wsp.com	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eufeefs St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
<p>Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP gaan sekere van u persoonlike inligting as belanghebbende en party wat geraak word (I&AP) verwerk vir die doel van registrasie as I&AP en sodat u besonderhede in ons databasis opgeneem kan word indien u instem dat dit gedoen kan word. WSP gebruik die besonderhede om in die toekoms met u te skakel oor ander relevante projekte. WSP verwerk in alle gevalle u persoonlike inligting volgens die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting, Wet 4 van 2013. U is geregtig daarop om u regte oor u data uit te oefen en u kan ons laat weet indien u registrasie as I&AP gekanselleer en onttrek moet word en u nie meer u inligting in ons databasis wil hê nie.</p>					

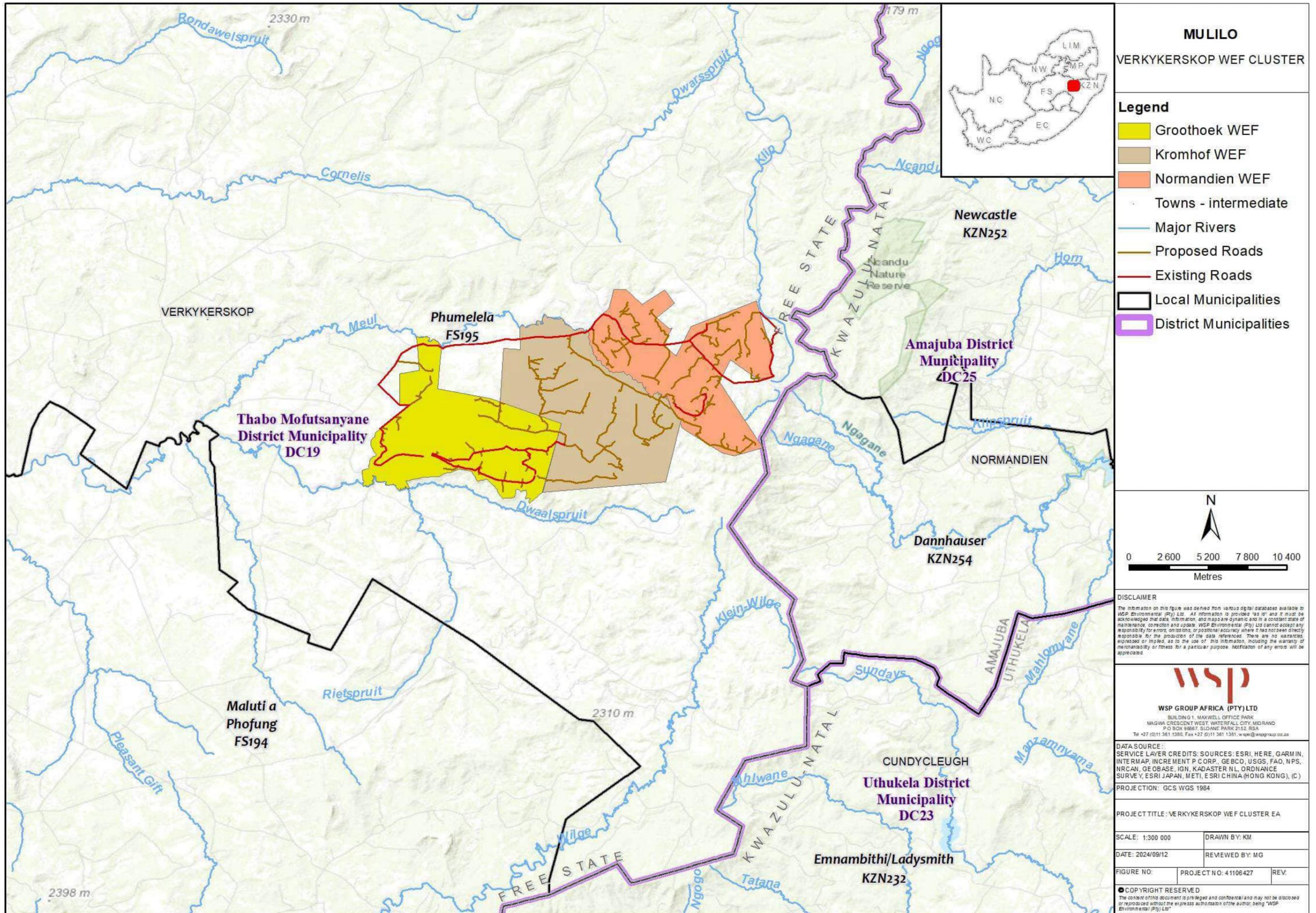
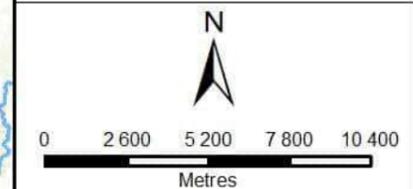


Figure 1: Locality of the project site (map is for orientation purposes only)

MULILO
VERKYKERSKOP WEF CLUSTER

Legend

- Groothoek WEF
- Kromhof WEF
- Normandien WEF
- Towns - intermediate
- Major Rivers
- Proposed Roads
- Existing Roads
- Local Municipalities
- District Municipalities



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The information on this figure was derived from various digital databases available to WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd. All information is provided 'as is' and it must be acknowledged that data, information and maps are dynamic and in a constant state of maintenance, correction and update. WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy where it has not been directly responsible for the production of the data referenced. There are no warranties expressed or implied, as to the use of this information, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Notification of any errors will be appreciated.

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DATA SOURCE:
SERVICE LAYER CREDITS: SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEBCO, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, ESRI JAPAN, METI, ESRI CHINA (HONG KONG), (C)
PROJECTION: GCS WGS 1984

PROJECT TITLE: VERKYKERSKOP WEF CLUSTER EA

SCALE: 1:300 000	DRAWN BY: KM
DATE: 2024/09/12	REVIEWED BY: MG

FIGURE NO:	PROJECT NO: 4-1106427	REV:
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TSEBISO KA NTSHEISOPELE E SISINGWANG YA VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, E KENYELLETSANG MEHATO E FAPANENG A TUMELLO HO TSA TIKOLOHO, FOREISTATA

MEHATO YA HO FANA KA TUMELLO HO TSA TIKOLOHO

Mona ho fanwa ka tsebiso ka ho ya ka Molawana wa 41(2) wa GNR 982 (jwalo ka ha o fetotswe) o phatlaladitsweng tlasa karolo ya 24 le 24D ya Molao wa naha wa Taolo ya Tikoloho (No. 107 wa 1998) (NEMA) (jwalo ka ha o fetotswe) bakeng sa ho kengwa ha dikopo tse fapaneng tsa ditumello ho tsa tikoloho mabapi le mesebetsi e hlauweng ka ho ya ka GNR 983, GNR 984 le GNR 985 (jwalo ka ha o fetotswe)

TLHALOSO LE SEBAKA: Batshehetsi ba boletsweng lenaneng le mona ka tlase ba sisinya ho hloma sehlopha sa Wind Energy Facility (WEF), e kenyellelsang dikopo tse fapaneng bakeng sa tumello ya tsa tikoloho, haufi le Verkykerskop kahara Foreistata. Ditumello tse sisingwang di kenyellelsa ho latelang, Tekolo ya Motheo le mehato ya Ho Lekanya Bonamo (BA) le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (S&EIR):

Motshehetsi	Projeke	Thekenoloji	Bohato
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) ho kenyelleltswa le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW WEF ho kenyelleltswa le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Ho fihla ho 300MW WEF ho kenyelleltswa le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Moya	S&EIR
	Ho fihla ho Mela ya Motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene, le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo	Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene	BA
Mehala ya Phepelo le Saposteishene			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Schoonzicht No.80 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Groothoek No. 89 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kromdraai No. 273 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kransbank No.288 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kranspunt No.459 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Van Kope No.1319 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Leiden No. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Myn-Burg No. 3 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Naauw Kloof No. 4 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Krom Hof No. 530 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Puntje No. 1240 Karolo ya 0 le 1 ya Polasi Aanfield No. 253 Karolo ya 0, 1, 2 and 3 ya Polasi Ox Hoek No. 98 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Christina No. 90 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Mooiplaats No. 391 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Brak Krans No. 554 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Rooi Koppen No. 600 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Goedgedacht No. 724 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Kruger Wens No.1062 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Scotland No. 1238 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Lusthof No.1321 Karolo e Setseng ya ya Polasi Welgelukt No. 1416 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Inzicht No. 1428 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Rooibeesberg No. 14898 Karolo ya 1 ya Polasi Johanna No. 1395 Karolo ya 1 le Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Bull Hoek No. 329 Karolo ya 1 ya Polasi Goede Hoop No. 982 Karolo ya 2, 3, 4, 5 le Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Driekoppen No. 485 Karolo e Setseng ya Polasi Johanna No. 1395 Karolo ya 0 ya Polasi Markgraaff's Rest No. 478

TSHEBETSO TSA TIKOLOHO: Diprojeke tse sisintsweng di susumetsa mesebetsi e meng e boletsweng Melawaneng ya Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 1 Tekolo ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (GNR983), Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 2 (GNR984) le Tsebiso ya Ngodiso ya 3 (GNR985), jwalo ka ha e fetotswe, mme ka hoo, tumello ya ho etswa ha mesebetsi e boletsweng e tshwanetswe ho fumanwa ka tshibetso tsa Ho Lekanya Bonamo (BA) le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho (S&EIR). Dipalo tse boletsweng mme tse lebelletsweng tse amanang le diprojeke tse sisintsweng di bontshwa lenaneng le mona ka tlase. Ha o batla ho fumanwa khopi e felletseng ya mesebetsi ena e boletsweng, re kopa hore o iteanye le Mosebeletsi wa Tekolo ya Tikoloho (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)), atereseng eo ho fanweng ka yona mona ka tlase.

Lebitso la Projeke	Tsebiso ya Ngodiso	Disosa tse Sebetsang							
Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Sephetho sa Tikoloho bakeng sa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek WEF Kromhof Wind WEF Normandien WEF 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(ii)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	23			
Tekolo ya Motheo ya mehala ya motlakase ya 132kV, saposteishene e setsheng le meralo ya motheo e amanang le hoo bakeng sa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groothoek 132kV Grid Connection Kromhof 132kV Grid Connection Normandien 132kV Grid Connection 	GNR 983	11	12	19	27	28			
	GNR 985	4	12	14	18	24			
GA/WUL (jwalo ka ha e sebediswa)	Karolo ya 21	21 (a), 21 (c), and 21 (i)							
MPRDA	Karolo ya 53	Tshebediso ya bokahodimo ba tikoloho ka ho ya ka Karolo ya 53 ya Molao wa Ntshetsopele ya Mehlopi ya Petroliamo le Diminerale (MPRDA) (No. 28 wa 2002)							
NHRA	Karolo ya 38(8)	Tihahlobo ya Tekolo ya Tshusumetso e amanang kopo ya Tumello ya tsa Tikoloho							

NGODISO: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) e kgethuwe ho ba EAP ke Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd, ho tsamaisa mehato ya Tekolo ya Motheo le mehato ya Ho Lekanya Bonamo le Tlaleho ya Tshusumetso ya Tikoloho ka ho latelana. Mekgatlho kapa batho ba batlang ho ingodisa ka tlwaelo ho ba bakgathatema ba tla fana ka tshwaelo ya bona Diprojekeng tse Sisintsweng ba kotjwa hore ba romele dintha tse felletseng tsa moo ho ka iteangwang le bona ho tsona ho EAP diatereseng tseo ho fanweng ka tsona mona ka tlase. Bakgathatema ba ngodisitsweng ba tla romelwa dikgokahano tsohle tsa nakong e tlang mme ba tsebiswe ka bonngwe ka menyetla e meng ya ho nka karolo tshibetsong ena.

MORALO OA TLALEHO EA SCOPING (DSR) E TENG BAKENG SA MAIKUTLO A SECHABA: Moralo oa Tlaleho ea Scoping (DSR) e teng bakeng sa maikutlo a sechaba ho tsoa ho **22 Pherekhong 2025 ho fihlela la 21 Hlakubele 2025**. Litlaleho li tla fumaneha bakeng sa ho khoasolla sehokelong le khoutu ea QR e ka tlase. Likopi tse hatisisoeng tsa DSR li tla fumaneha bakeng sa ho hlahlojoa libakeng tse latelang:

Lebitso la Sebaka sa Setjhaba	Aterese	Lebitso la Sebaka sa Setjhaba	Aterese	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Mohala: 011 254 4800; Fekse: 086 582 1561 Emeile: gld.pp@wsp.com	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
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WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
WSP e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding e itseng ya motho ka seqo e mabapi le wena jwalo ka motho ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng bakeg sa merero ya hore o kgone ho ingodisa ho ba motho ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng ekasitana le ho boloka dintlha tsa hao ho database ya rona, ha o re dumella ho etsa jwalo. WSP e tla sebedisa dintlha tsena ho iteanya le wena ka diprojeke tse ding tse tshwanetseng nakong e tlang. WSP kamehla e tla sebetsana le tlhahisoleseding ya seqo ya hao ka ho ya ka Molao wa Tshireletso ya Tlhahisoleseding ya Motho ka Seqo 4 wa 2013. O dumelletse ho sebedisa ditokelo tsa hao jwalo ka monga dintlha mme o re tsebise ha o batla ho hlakolwa ngodisong ya ho ba motho ya nang le kgahleho hape ya amehileng, kapa haebe ha o sa batla, dintlha tsa ho iteanya le wena di tloswe databaseing ya rona.					

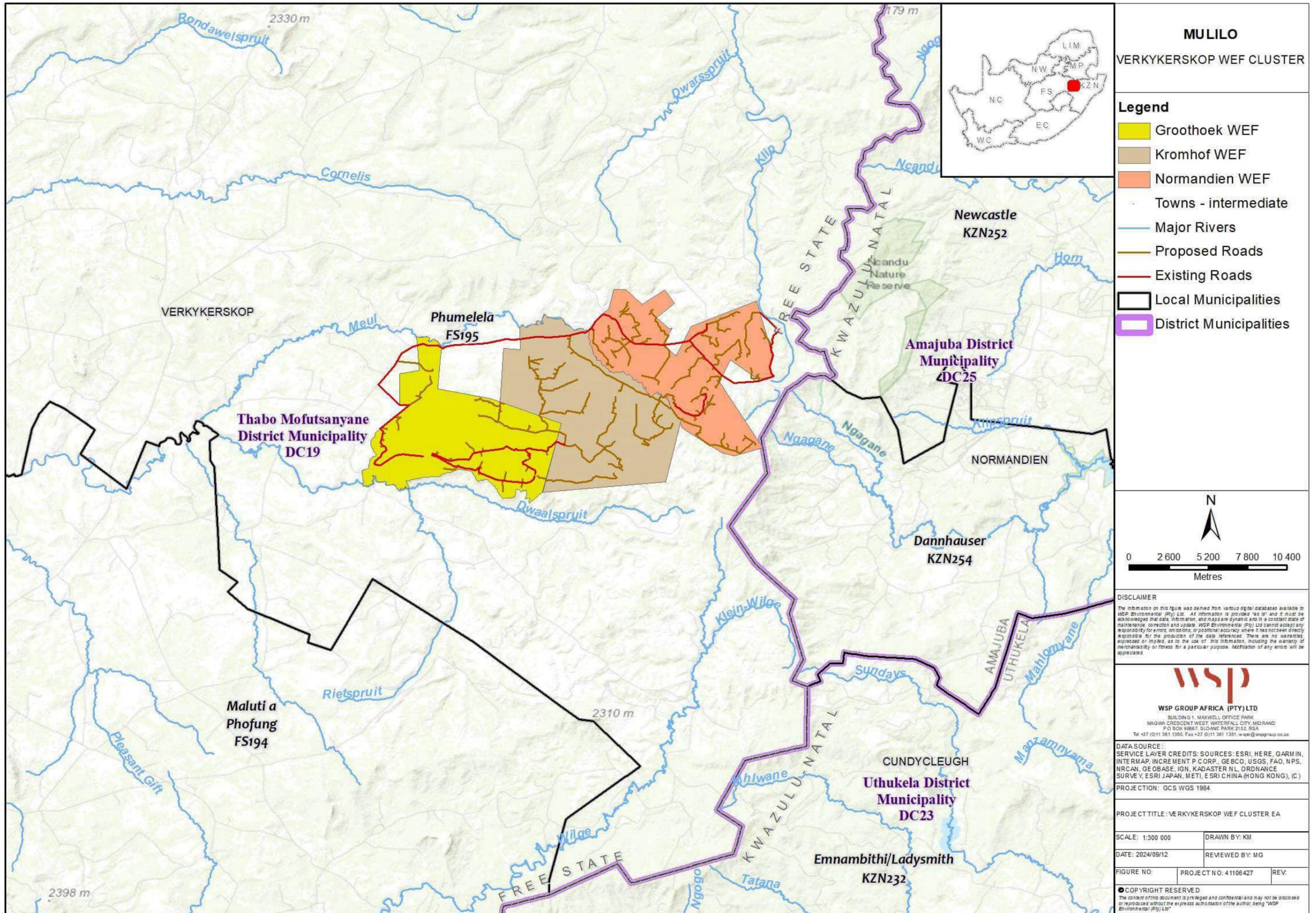
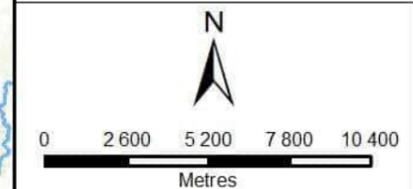


Figure 1: Locality of the project site (map is for orientation purposes only)

MULILO
VERKYKERSKOP WEF CLUSTER

Legend

- Groothoek WEF
- Kromhof WEF
- Normandien WEF
- Towns - intermediate
- Major Rivers
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- District Municipalities



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SERVICE LAYER CREDITS: SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEBCO, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, ESRI JAPAN, METI, ESRI CHINA (HONG KONG), (C)
PROJECTION: GCS WGS 1984

PROJECT TITLE: VERKYKERSKOP WEF CLUSTER EA

SCALE: 1:300 000	DRAWN BY: KM
DATE: 2024/09/12	REVIEWED BY: MG

FIGURE NO:	PROJECT NO: 4-1106427	REV:
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Appendix B.4

PROOF OF EMAILS AND SMSS



Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:25
Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 	

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025:**

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Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Euufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300			
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620			
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/			
OneDrive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports					

WSP contact details:

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E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

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Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 10:56
Subject: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
OneDrive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports				

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Kind regards,



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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building C, Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street, Bryanston, 2191, South Africa Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:26
Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Landowner,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620				
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/				

In order to assist with the completeness of our database, please can you provide us with the contact details (name, cell phone number and email address) of the below:

1. Tenants on your properties.
2. Employees at your properties.
3. Neighbouring land owner.
4. Neighbouring tenants.
5. Any other interested party

WSP contact details:

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Kind regards,



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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:22
Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Stakeholder,

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My Account



Message History Detail: Batch 2040265104

Time submitted 2025-01-22 08:28:22.0

Total messages 206

Total credits 207.00

Delivery summary

Delivery to network failed	0.97%
Delivered to mobile	84.95%
Delivery failed	2.91%
Blocked	0.97%
Delivered upstream	9.22%
Unroutable	0.97%

Recipient	Status	Credits	Completed time	Body	Help
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Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Concatenated SMS (part 1 of 2):

Notice of Public Review of Draft Scoping Reports for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster in the Free State- 22/01/2025 to 21/02/2025. Contact WSP at gld

Concatenated SMS (part 2 of 2):

.pp@wsp.com

Concatenated SMS (part 1 of 2):

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Appendix B.5

PROOF OF PUBLIC DISPLAY





Groothoek Wind Energy Facility (up to 300MW) and associated infrastructure, located near Ve...

Case ID: 24313
Case Status: [Proof of Payment Outstanding](#)
Heritage Authority(s): SAHRA
Proposal Description
Groothoek Wind Energy Facility (up to 300MW) and associated infrastructure, located near Verkykerskop in the Free State Province.
Province(s): Free State
Author: [Ashlea Strong](#)
Post date: 06/01/2025 - 15:47
Last modified: 09/01/2025 - 12:51

^ Application Form Submissions

[SAHRA S38 Development Application Form: Submission #1928](#)
Additional Submissions

SID	Date Completed	By	Type
32940	22/01/2025	Ashlea.Strong	Proof of Payment

^ Reports



Messages X

Kromhof Wind Energy Facility (up to 300MW) and associated infrastructure, located near Verk...

Case ID: 24314

Case Status: [Proof of Payment Outstanding](#)

Heritage Authority(s): SAHRA

Proposal Description

Kromhof Wind Energy Facility (up to 300MW) and associated infrastructure, located near Verkykerskop in the Free State Province.

Province(s): Free State

Author: [Ashlea.Strong](#)

Post date: 06/01/2025 - 15:52

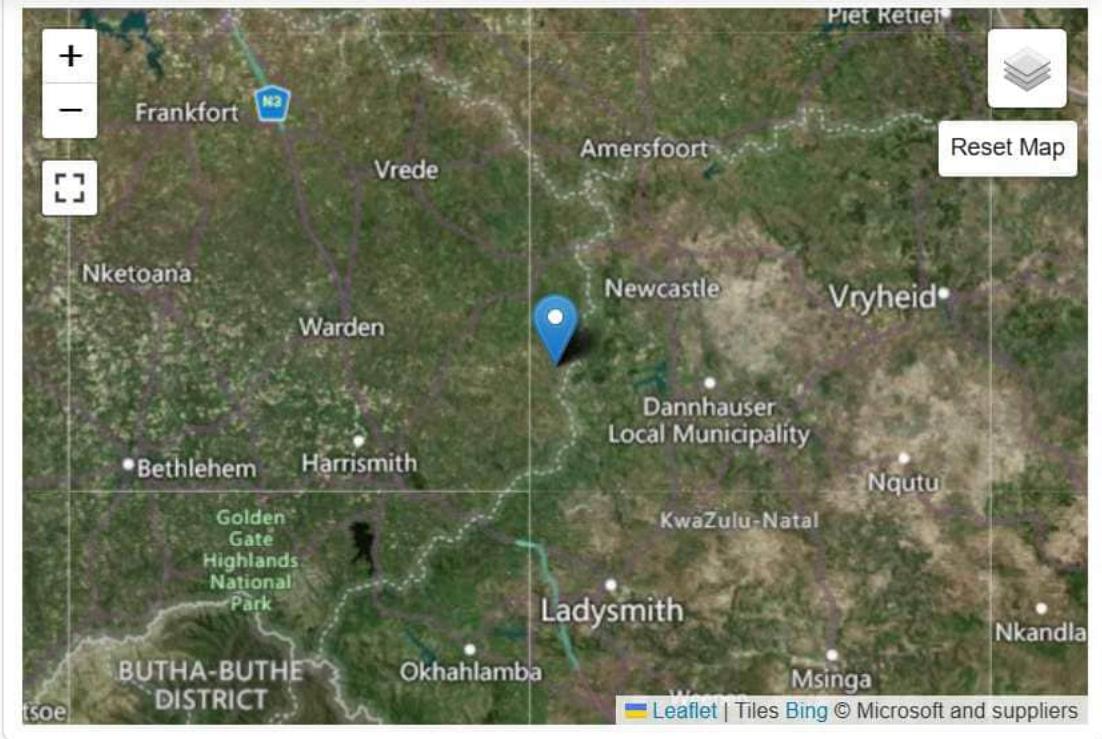
Last modified: 09/01/2025 - 12:51

Application Form Submissions

[SAHRA S38 Development Application Form: Submission #1929](#)

Additional Submissions

SID	Date Completed	By	Type
32945	22/01/2025	Ashlea.Strong	Proof of Payment



Messages X



Normandien Wind Energy Facility (up to 300MW) and associated infrastructure, located near ...

Summary

Case ID: 24315
Case Status: [Proof of Payment Outstanding](#)
Heritage Authority(s): SAHRA
Proposal Description
 Normandien Wind Energy Facility (up to 300MW) and associated infrastructure, located near Verkykerskop in the Free State Province.
 Province(s): Free State
Author: [Ashlea.Strong](#)
Post date: 06/01/2025 - 16:13
Last modified: 09/01/2025 - 12:51

Application Form Submissions

[SAHRA S38 Development Application Form: Submission #1930](#)
 Additional Submissions

SID	Date Completed	By	Type
32946	22/01/2025	Ashlea.Strong	Proof of Payment

Location



-
-
-
-
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-



Title of Project: Groothoek Wind Energy Facility located near Vekykerskop in the Free State Province

Document on Public Display: Draft Environmental Scoping Report

Public Review Period: 22 January 2025 - 21 February 2025

Contact Person: Public Participation Office (gld.pp@wsp.com)

- Draft Scoping Report_Groothoek WEF
- Appendix A1_CV EAP
- Appendix A2_EAP Declaration_Groothoek
- Appendix B1_Specialist CVs
- Appendix B2_Specialist Declarations
- Appendix C_Stakeholder Engagement Report_Public
- Appendix D_Maps
- Appendix E_Groothoek WEF_DFFE Screening Tool Report
- Appendix F_SSVR_Groothoek
- Appendix G.1_Geotechnical Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.2_Visual Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.3_Acoustic Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.4_Agricultural Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.5_Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.6_Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.7_Avifauna Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.8_Bat Assessment
- Appendix G.9_Traffic Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.10_Heritage Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix G.11_Social Assessment_Groothoek
- Appendix H_DFFE Pre-App Meeting Minutes

Environmental Reports for Public Review

Environmental documents for review and public comment

As part of our Environment & Energy team's service to clients, certain documentation must be made available for public review. These documents are hosted here for the duration of the public review period.

Share

Title of Project: Kromhof Wind Energy Facility located near Vekykerskop in the Free State Province

Document on Public Display: Draft Environmental Scoping Report

Public Review Period: 22 January 2025 - 21 February 2025

Contact Person: Public Participation Office (gld.pp@wsp.com)

- [Draft Scoping Report_Kromhof WEF](#)
- [Appendix A1_CV EAP](#)
- [Appendix A2_EAP Declaration_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix B1_Specialist CVs](#)
- [Appendix B2_Specialist Declarations](#)
- [Appendix C_Stakeholder Engagement Report_Public](#)
- [Appendix D_Maps](#)
- [Appendix E_Kromhof WEF_DFFE Screening Tool Report](#)
- [Appendix F_SSVR_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.1_Geotechnical Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.2_Visual Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.3_Acoustic Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.4_Agricultural Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.5_Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.6_Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.7_Avifauna Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.8_Bat Assessment](#)
- [Appendix G.9_Traffic Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.10_Heritage Assessment_Kromhof](#)
- [Appendix G.11_Social Assessment_Kromhof](#)

Title of Project: Normandien Wind Energy Facility located near Vekykerskop in the Free State Province
Document on Public Display: Draft Environmental Scoping Report
Public Review Period: 22 January 2025 – 21 February 2025
Contact Person: Public Participation Office (gld.pp@wsp.com)

- Draft Scoping Report_Normandien WEF
- Appendix A1_CV EAP
- Appendix A2_EAP Declaration_Normandien
- Appendix B1_Specialist CVs
- Appendix B2_Specialist Declarations
- Appendix C_Stakeholder Engagement Report_Public
- Appendix D_Maps
- Appendix E_Normandien WEF_DFFE Screening Tool Report
- Appendix F_SSVR_Normandien
- Appendix G.1_Geotechnical Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.2_Visual Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.3_Acoustic Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.4_Agricultural Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.5_Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.6_Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.7_Avifauna Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.8_Bat Assessment
- Appendix G.9_Traffic Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.10_Heritage Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix G.11_Social Assessment_Normandien
- Appendix H_DFFE Pre-App Meeting Minutes

Appendix C

MEETINGS



Appendix C.1

DFFE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES



Strong, Ashlea

From: Lunga Dlova <LDlova@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:49
To: Govender, Megan; Bathandwa Ncube
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Shabalala, Londiwe; Maharaj, Jashmika; Martha Malefane; Masina Morudu
Subject: Re: 2024-01-0019 | Minutes of Pre-Application Meeting for Approval

Dear Megan,

The pre application meeting minutes are approved and you may proceed with the EIA process (i.e. lodging the application to the DFFE)

Kind Regards

Mr Lunga Dlova

Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisation
473 Steve Biko Road | Arcadia | Pretoria | 0001
Cell: 072 762 6691 / 012 399 8524 | E-mail: LDlova@dffe.gov.za
Call Centre: 086 111 2468 | Website: www.dffe.gov.za



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

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

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 10:06
To: Lunga Dlova <LDlova@dffe.gov.za>; Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Shabalala, Londiwe <Londiwe.Shabalala@wsp.com>; Maharaj, Jashmika <jashmika.maharaj@wsp.com>; Martha Malefane <mmalefane@dffe.gov.za>; Masina Morudu <memorudu@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: FW: 2024-01-0019 | Minutes of Pre-Application Meeting for Approval

Good Day

I am following up on the approval of the minutes from the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster Pre-Application Meeting. Please refer to the email below and minutes attached.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Principal Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300
M +27 083 228 5288

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:02 PM
To: 'bncube@dffe.gov.za' <bncube@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Shabalala, Londiwe <Londiwe.Shabalala@wsp.com>; Jessie Yuill <jessie@mulilo.com>; 'mmalefane@dffe.gov.za' <mmalefane@dffe.gov.za>; Masina Morudu

<memorudu@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: 2024-01-0019 | Minutes of Pre-Application Meeting for Approval

Good Day

Please find attached the minutes of the pre-application meeting that took place on 06 February 2024 for the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster.

Please may you approve the minutes as required by the DFFE Application Form for Environmental Authorisation.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Principal Consultant

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M +27 083 228 5288



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
1685 South Africa

wsp.com

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI



AGENDA

DATE	06 February 2024
VENUE	MS Teams
MEETING TITLE	Verkykerskop WEF Cluster – DFFE Pre-Application Meeting
PROJECT NO	41106427
ATTENDEES	Jessie Yuill (JY) - Mulilo Cameron Matthew (CM) – Mulilo Andrew Pearson (AP) – Mulilo Ashlea Strong (AS) –WSP Megan Govender (MG) – WSP Londiwe Shabalala (LS) – WSP Lunga Dlova (LD) – DFFE Bathandwa Ncube (BN) –DFFE Martha Malefane (MM) – DFFE
APOLOGIES	Masina Morudu

ITEM	ACTION
NOTE: These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the meeting They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.	
1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Meeting was recorded by LD. AS welcomed everyone and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have a pre-application meeting for the proposed Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility Cluster, a Mulilo development. The attendees introduced themselves. Apologies were noted for Masina Morudu.	
2.0 PROJECT PRESENTATION MG presented the project which covered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Introduction;– Overview of the Project;– Permitting Process;– Public Participation Plan;– Timeframes; and	

Building C, Knightsbridge
33 Sloane Street
Bryanston, 2191
South Africa

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F: +086 606 7121

www.wsp.com \\corp.pbwan.net\za\Central_Data\Projects\41100xxx\41106427 - Verkykerskop WEF Cluster EA\41 PA\01-Reports\01-Pre-App Meeting\Minutes\41106427_Verkykerskop WEF Cluster_DFFE Pre-App Meeting Minutes_Final.docx

AGENDA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Clarification Questions and Discussion. <p><i>A copy of the presentation is included in Appendix A.</i></p>	
<p>2.1 Key Points</p> <p>MG highlighted the following key points during the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The overall project is referred to as the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster. — The project is made up of four WEF facilities and four associated grid projects making a total of eight applications. — The WEF capacities range from 240MW to 600MW. — The proposed project is located in the Free State Province. — The proposed project is still in the development stage. Typical infrastructure includes up to 50 wind turbines for the Groothoek and Kromhof WEFs, up to 100 wind turbines for the Normandien WEF and up to 45 turbines for the Markgraaff WEF. The rotor diameter will be up to 200m, the hub height will be up to 140m, per turbine hard standing dimensions will be up to 0.8ha per turbine. There will be excavations for the turbine foundations of up to 4m deep which will be covered with soil once the turbine tower is established. Each of the WEFs will have an onsite substation of up to 2ha in size. — The environmental authorisation (EA) application process for the proposed project will follow 4 separate Basic Assessment (BA) processes for the Grid Connections and 4 Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (S&EIA) Processes for the 4 WEFs. — It was agreed that the competent authority (CA) for the project is the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). — The results from the DFFE Screening Tool were presented. The Screening Tool indicated that the following themes were of Very High Sensitivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Aquatic Biodiversity; — Flicker; — Landscape; — Palaeontology; — Noise; and — Terrestrial Biodiversity. — Preliminary investigations were done by The Biodiversity Company to highlight key areas identified as "no-go" zones concerning the CBA status. — AP indicated that Avian pre-construction monitoring is now nearing the first year of monitoring and indicated that guidelines on bird monitoring have been considered and are in alignment with the EIA process. — The Bat pre-construction monitoring started 7 months ago as part of the project preparation. — A Consolidated Public Participation Process was proposed for all applications to avoid stakeholder fatigue and was agreed upon by the CA. — The applicant will be pursuing a Strategic Integrated Project (SIP) sub-status for the project. 	
<p>3.0 SPECIFIC CLARIFICATION</p> <p>MG enquired if it will be possible to undertake 4 combined applications and reports for the WEF and the Grid and receive 8 EAs due to the proximity of the project.</p> <p>BN indicated that an application in terms of Regulation 11(4) of the EIA regulations, 2014, will need to be submitted to the DFFE for approval before submitting combined application forms.</p> <p>BN advised that a letter must be sent to EIA Applications requesting the combination of Applications in terms of Regulation 11(4) of the EIA regulations. The letter must clearly state the number of applications and EAs required and a response will be provided within 30 days.</p> <p>It was confirmed that should the Regulation 11(4) request be approved specialists will also be permitted to submit 4 reports for each of the projects which will include impacts for the Grid Application and the WEF Application.</p>	<p>WSP to compile a letter to for the combination of Applications in terms of Regulation 11 and submit to EIA Applications.</p> <p><i>Post meeting clarification:</i></p> <p><i>It was decided outside of this meeting that the combination of Applications in terms of Regulation 11(4) of the EIA</i></p>

AGENDA

	<i>Regulations will not be pursued.</i>
4.0 WAY FORWARD WSP will compile the meeting minutes and agenda to send to DFFE for review and comment prior to finalisation.	LS to compile and distribute the meeting minutes.

APPENDIX A: MEETING PRESENTATION

WSP

DFFE Pre-Application Meeting

Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility Cluster located in the Free State Province



06 February 2024

1

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Introductions



Developer	Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
EAP	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Authority	Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment

2

2

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Agenda

1 Introduction Introductions	4 Public Participation Plan
2 Overview of the Project Project Background Typical Infrastructure Key Considerations	5 Timeframes
3 Permitting Process Environmental Authorisation Process Listed Activities DFFE Screening Tool Specialist Studies	6 Discussion Specific Clarification Questions and Comments

3

3

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Summary of the Project

Project Background

- Develop four Wind Energy Facilities (WEF) and associated grid connections: Verkykerskop WEF Cluster
- The development will be divided into up to four WEF and four grid projects, namely:
 - WEF Projects:
 - Groothoek WEF (up to 240MW)
 - Kromhof WEF (up to 240MW)
 - Normandien WEF (up to 600MW)
 - Markgraaff WEF (up to 240MW)
 - Grid Projects:
 - Groothoek up to 132kV Grid Connection
 - Kromhof up to 132kV Grid Connection
 - Normandien up to 132kV Grid Connection
 - Markgraaff up to 132kV Grid Connection

4

4

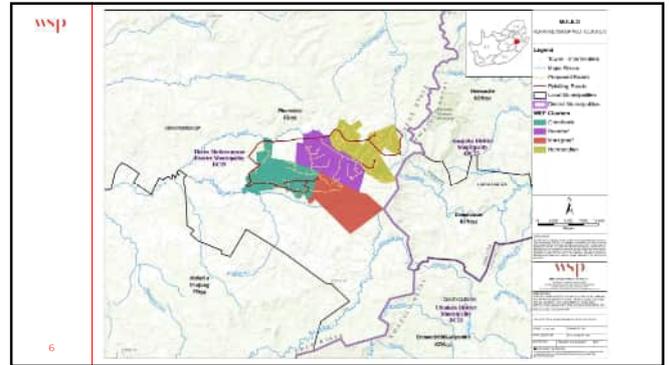
WSP

Overview of the Project

Project Background

	Groothoek	Kromhof	Normamdien	Markgraaff
Project Extent	6 170 ha	5 721 ha	6 067 ha	5 856 ha
Export Capacity	Up to 320MW	Up to 320MW	Up to 600MW	Up to 260MW

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Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

	Groothoek	Kromhof	Normamdien	Markgraaff
Number of Turbines	Up to 55	Up to 55	Up to 100	Up to 45
Rotor Diameter	Up to 200m			
Hub Height	Up to 140m			
Hard Standing Dimensions	Up to 0,8ha per turbine			
Turbine Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of 0,07ha per turbine and crane platform/pad – 0,5ha. Excavation up to 4m deep, constructed of reinforced concrete to support the mounting ring. Once tower established, footprint of foundation is covered with soil. 			
Substation	3 x 33kV/132kV onsite collector substation (IPP Portion), each being up to 2ha.			
Powerlines	33kV cabling to connect the wind turbines to the onsite collector substations, to be laid underground where practical.			
Internal Roads	Up to 8m in width			

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Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

	Groothoek	Kromhof	Normamdien	Markgraaff
Construction camp and laydown area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction compounds including site office inclusive of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete Batching plant of up to 1ha Site office of 4ha Laydown area of 8ha 			
O&M Building	O&M office of up to 1ha			
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200MW/800MWh Li-Ion solid state batteries Export Capacity of up to 800MWh Total storage capacity 200MW Storage capacity of up to 6-8 hours The BESS will be housed in containers covering a total approximate footprint of up to 7ha 			

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Permitting Process

Environmental Authorisation Applications

Separate Basic Assessment (BA) Process:

- Groothoek up to 132kV Grid Connection
- Kromhof up to 132kV Grid Connection
- Normandien up to 132kV Grid Connection
- Markgraaff up to 132kV Grid Connection

Separate Scoping and EIA (S&EIA) process:

- Groothoek WEF (up to 240MW)
- Kromhof WEF (up to 240MW)
- Normandien WEF (up to 600MW)
- Markgraaff WEF (up to 240MW)

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Permitting Process

Competent Authority

Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA

- The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations.

Section 24C(2)(6)(ii) of NEMA

- The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity is undertaken by a statutory body, excluding any municipality, performing an exclusive competence of the national sphere of government.

Section 24C(3)(b) of NEMA

- Agreement for DFFE to process Renewable Energy and Electricity Grid Infrastructure Projects located within the Free State Province (Specific to REDZ and STC however the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs does not have capacity to handle shortened timeframes for EA Applications)

GN 779 of 01 July 2016

- Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 – 2030

DFFE is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority

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Permitting Process

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>Activity 11: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is— (a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; (b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length; (c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</p> <p>Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for: (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>Each facility will have a 132kV powerline grid connection; therefore this activity is considered applicable to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek up to 132kV Grid Connection • Kromhof up to 132kV Grid Connection • Normandien up to 132kV Grid Connection • Markgraaff up to 132kV Grid Connection <p>The footprint of the onsite substations may be more than 1 ha but less than 20 ha. This activity therefore may be applicable to the following projects: Groothoek up to 132kV Grid Connection Kromhof up to 132kV Grid Connection Normandien up to 132kV Grid Connection Markgraaff up to 132kV Grid Connection</p>

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Permitting Process

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>Activity 1: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs: (a) within an urban area; or (b) on existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Activity 15: The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The proposed energy generation technology (i.e. Wind) will generate more than 20MW of electricity output from a renewable resource.</p> <p>This activity is therefore considered applicable to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek WEF (up to 240MW) • Kromhof WEF (up to 240MW) • Normandien WEF (up to 600MW) • Markgraaff WEF (up to 240MW) <p>Based on the information provided with regards to total project area, it is assumed that the facilities will result in the clearance of at least 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>This activity is therefore considered applicable to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groothoek WEF (up to 240MW) • Kromhof WEF (up to 240MW) • Normandien WEF (up to 600MW) • Markgraaff WEF (up to 240MW)

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Permitting Process

DFFE Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities – WEF

THEME	VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY	HIGH SENSITIVITY	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY	LOW SENSITIVITY
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Avian (Wind) Theme		X		
Bats (Wind) Theme		X		
Civil Aviation (Wind) Theme				X
Defence (Wind) Theme				X

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WSP

Permitting Process

DFFE Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities – WEF

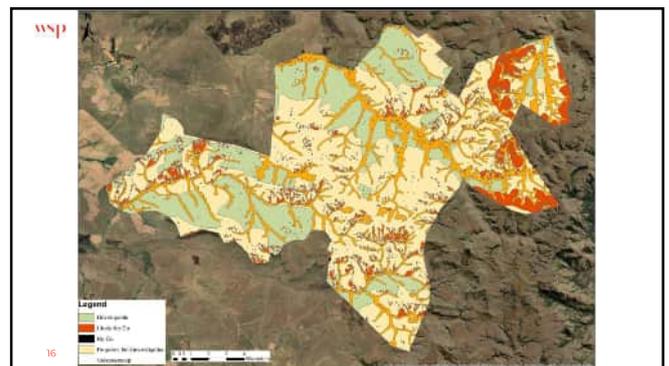
THEME	VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY	HIGH SENSITIVITY	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY	LOW SENSITIVITY
Flicker Theme	X			
Landscape (Wind) Theme	X			
Palaeontology Theme	X			
Noise Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
RFI (Wind) Theme				X
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			
Vulture Species Theme		X		

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- WSP
- Permitting Process
- ### Specialist Assessments Identified by the DFFE Screening Tool
- Agricultural Impact Assessment
 - Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment
 - Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
 - Palaeontology Impact Assessment
 - Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
 - Avian Impact Assessment
 - Civil Aviation Assessment
 - Defence Assessment
 - RFI Assessment
 - Noise Impact Assessment
 - Flicker Assessment
 - Traffic Impact Assessment
 - Geotechnical Assessment
 - Socio-Economic assessment
 - Plant Species Assessment
 - Animal Species Assessment
- 15

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Public Participation Process

Public Participation Plan

- A Consolidated Public Participation Process is proposed for all applications
- Formally announce project via:
 - Adverts (English and a local language in local newspaper)
 - Site notices
 - Development and maintenance of a stakeholder database
- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
 - Owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site
 - Municipality Ward Councillor
 - District Municipality
 - Relevant State Departments
- Draft Reports Review for 30 days:
 - Online on the WSP website
 - Online on a data free website
 - Hard copies placed at local libraries

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Timeframes

Timeframes

- Authority Timeframes (without SIP Status)
 - Authority decision making timeframe is 107 days for S&EIA
 - Authority decision making timeframe is 54 days for BA

18

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Discussion

Specific Clarification

- There are currently 4 S&EIA Applications and 4 BA Applications – would it be possible to undertake four combined Applications in terms of Regulation 11(4) for the WEF and Grid Applications and issue separate environmental authorisations in terms of Regulation 25(1) and (2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended
 - The reports will be clear as to which information is dedicated to which project
 - A summary of the applicable infrastructure and listed activities for each application can be submitted as an Appendix to the report
- Can the specialists submit combined specialist reports for each project (WEF and Grid) (4 reports instead of 8)

19

19

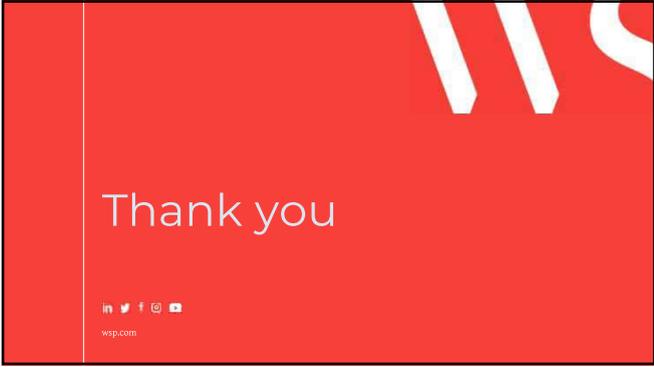
WSP

Question



20

20



21

Appendix D

ORIGINAL COMMENTS



Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 14:29
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

The notification has been shared with the below and they have been added to the stakeholder database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



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Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building C, Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street, Bryanston, 2191, South Africa Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:22
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Re: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day

For any permit related queries, you can forward an email to the permit office;

- Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

-
-

For Professional Hunting queries, you can forward an email to;

- Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

-

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 14:38
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE
Attachments: Verkykerskop Draft EIA Layout (New Turbine Footprint).kmz

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Thank you for the requirement and setback guideline documents.

As requested, please see the project kmz as requested.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
1685

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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:47
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Please send me a KMZ file of the affected properties and proposed development. Please find attached Eskom requirements as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments to be read in conjunction with GN R 4143.

Kind regards

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:22

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
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	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
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Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300	Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the

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Kind regards,



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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

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

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:02
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Cc: EWT EIA Applications
Subject: RE: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Kindly note that you have been added to the project stakeholder database.

We look forward to your participation in the process.

Kind regards,



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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 09:28
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Cc: EWT EIA Applications <eia@ewt.org>
Subject: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

I would like to register as an interested and affected party for the following wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State:

Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

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ss for the Endangered Wildlife Trust is

**DON'T
LET THEM
DISAPPEAR**



In
partnership
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Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment – BBBEE Level 4 Certificate & 95% Civil Society Organisation PBO number: 930 001
777 NPO number: 015-502 NPO IT number: IT 6247

Physical Address: 27 and 28 Austin Road, Glen Austin AH, Midrand, 1685, Gauteng, South Africa

Postal Address: Postnet Suite # 027, Postnet Suite 002, Private Bag X08, Wierda Park 0149, Gauteng, South Africa

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:04
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Kindly note that your details have been updated on the stakeholder database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 10:04
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: FW: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day

Thank you for your email.

Please register BirdLife South Africa as an I&AP.

Importantly please confirm that the relevant reports are on the website link provided, as I cannot see them my side.

Thank you
Sam

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act



BirdLife South Africa's Birds and Renewable Energy Project is sponsored by the Lewis Foundation and Investec Corporate and Institutional Banking

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

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From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Date: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 at 08:22

To:

Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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			034 328 7620	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

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Kind regards,



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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 15:02
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Thank you for your comments. They will be included in the comments and responses report.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

T +27 11 254-4800

WSP

Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
1685 South Africa

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Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 14:22
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Re: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good Day
Please see our comments attached.
Kind regards

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From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Date: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 at 08:22

To:

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VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

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Kind regards,



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PBO Exemption No: 930004518

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

21 February 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, FREE STATE (I.E. GROOTHOEK, KROMHOF AND NORMANDIEN WIND ENERGY FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATION INFRASTRUCTURE)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Scoping Reports for the above proposed wind energy facilities (WEFs). BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy infrastructure. However, **we are concerned that the location of the proposed facilities is not compatible with the desired state of the habitat**, as outlined in provincial, national, and international conservation plans. We are also concerned that the proposed WEFs could have **significant residual negative impacts** (i.e. after mitigation) on a number of threatened birds and migratory species. It is unlikely that biodiversity offsets and compensation will be effective in addressing these impacts.

The desired state of the habitat:

All three proposed WEFs overlap with a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), including irreplaceable CBAs, Ecological Support Areas, National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Areas, wetlands, and core habitats for threatened species. **Most of these areas should, therefore, be maintained or rehabilitated to a natural, or near natural state.**

Furthermore, there are KBAs to the south and to the east of the proposed development cluster (i.e. Eastern Free State Grassland and KZN Escarpment KBA respectively). These KBAs are both triggered by birds, which are likely to move through the landscape, and their locations should be reflected in subsequent reports.

The proposed WEFs are also close to the Sneeuwberg Protected Environment (PE). A request has recently been submitted to declare additional properties as part of this PE, specifically in the area between the existing PE and the proposed WEFs.

Similarly, the WEFs are near the Upper Wilge PE, with the Normandien site located approximately 10 km from this protected area.

A further gap is that the scoping reports fail to mention the Free State Protected Area Expansion Strategy. We suggest that this should be indicated in the final Scoping and EIA Reports.

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Risk of significant residual negative impacts

With regards to impacts on birds, BirdLife South Africa is deeply concerned about the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) sites, as all three locations contain and border critical bird habitats. These areas support breeding and foraging grounds, as well as flight corridors for numerous species of conservation concern. Several threatened species, including Endangered and Critically Endangered species, rely on these habitats for survival.

While we understand the proposed “optimised” layouts are preliminary, we are extremely concerned that **proposed roads and turbines overlap with areas identified as high sensitivity** and recommended for avoidance.

We are particularly concerned by the risks of habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance, and species displacement, especially for species that have specific habitat requirements. Furthermore, there is a significant collision risk for both resident and migratory birds. The proximity of the Normandium site to the Great Escarpment is especially alarming, as this area serves as a migratory corridor where flocks of global significance move through and would face a high risk of turbine collisions, including mass mortalities. Some migratory species, for example Amur Falcon, have already suffered high mortality rates at operational WEFs in South Africa. Altitudinal migrants such as Denham’s Bustard may also be affected.

Given these concerns, we urge the applicant to withdraw these applications and investigate alternative locations that present a lower risk to biodiversity. The following, more detailed comments and recommendations should in no way be seen as a BirdLife South Africa support further consideration of these sites for WEF development.

Habitat condition - mining:

According to the Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Scoping Report(s), the area is described as “*ecologically stressed due to anthropogenic impacts such as agriculture and mining.*” Additionally, Table 8-1 of the Scoping Report(s) states: “*Limit vegetation removal to the infrastructure and mining footprint area only.*” As far as we are aware, there is no mining in the area. This should be clarified or corrected in the final Scoping and EIA Reports.

Habitat condition - crops and wetlands

The Aquatic Biodiversity Scoping Report(s) indicate that the wetlands in the area were previously part of a larger wetland system, have been damaged by agricultural activities. However, this does not mean that these habitats are of low conservation value.

The draft Scoping Report(s) are also inconsistent about the degree to which the habitat has been transformed. For example section 6.2.4.4 for Kromhof WEF states that the “*Project area is situated in a largely untransformed landscape, interspersed by low density cultivated fields, pastures and occasional exotic tree plantations, from which a low level of impact has occurred through habitat transformation*”, while Table 8-1 states that “*(m)ost of the project area is however transformed*”. Similar ambiguity occurs in the draft Scoping Report for Groothoek. It may be more accurate to describe the environment as largely intact grassland, with some parts degraded and/or converted to croplands.

It is also important to bear in mind that despite their transformed state, croplands remain important habitat for birds. Their conservation value should not be discounted. For example, crops may be overwintering grounds for Endangered Botha's Lark and they are important foraging habitat for cranes during the winter. Cranes are likely feed in the croplands and to roost and breed in the remaining wetlands. These birds may move between these two habitats and face a risk of turbine collisions.

Data collection and modelling:

Given the sensitivity of the receiving environment, BirdLife South Africa welcomes that two years of bird data has been collected. It is a pity that these data (i.e. from November 2023 to October 2024) were not presented in the Avifaunal Scoping Report(s) dated January 2025. This would have afforded us an opportunity to engage in more detail.

We are, however, surprised that, **given the outcome of the first year of monitoring, the applicant chose to continue investing in bird studies, despite the obvious red flags to development.** Had we been consulted, BirdLife South Africa's recommendation would have been to investigate more suitable locations for WEF development (site alternatives).

While we generally support more robust data analysis and acknowledge that refined habitat suitability modelling and collision-risk modelling will be undertaken, we are concerned that there is **already sufficient information to indicate that the sites are unsuitable for wind energy development.** Additional studies are only likely to confirm this. At best, further studies may help marginally reduce the potential significance of impacts, but it is unlikely that this reduction will be significant enough to reduce impacts to acceptable levels.

Limitations in data collection

While we note that the data presented thus far is preliminary, the following limitations have been noted:

- a) The Avifaunal Scoping Report(s) (Section 2.2.4) indicate that focal point surveys were conducted at the *same time each survey*. We assume these surveys were timed to maximise the detection probability of the target species, but suggest that should be clarified.
- b) With regards to the Kromhok site, we are concerned that the intact grassland on the plateau north of Vantage Point 5 on the appears to have been poorly surveyed (see Figures 2-2 and 2-4).
- c) The southern part of Kromhof, between GPS coordinates number 33, 34 and 70 in Figure 3-1 of the Scoping Report, was also not included the avifaunal specialist report, although roads are proposed in this area.
- d) The southern section of the proposed Normandie WEF was also not well surveyed. There was only one walked transect there, and no point counts. This is the largest section of CBA1 in the proposed WEF (Figure 3-1), and has lots of potentially suitable habitat for Yellow-breasted Pipit and several other priority species (Figure 3-3 and 3-4).
- e) The northern arm of the proposed Goothoek WEF also not surveyed.

While the terrain and access might be challenging, a lack of data should not be translated into a low assessed sensitivity. We trust that the next phase of the assessment will include more robust delineation and verification of avifaunal habitats in all areas where turbines and associated

infrastructure have been proposed. We strongly urge that a precautionary approach is adopted, taking into account the limitations of available data and likelihood of interannual variation.

Site Ecological Importance

We strongly recommend that approach of assessing Site Ecological Importance, as outlined in SANBI's Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines should be used. This helps ensure a consistent recommendation across different proposed developments.

High to very high avifaunal sensitivity not clearly reflected in the Scoping Reports

We are concerned that the overall high to very high avifaunal sensitivity has not been clearly reflected in the Scoping Reports and associated maps. For example, the consolidated sensitivity maps presented in the Scoping Reports omit to show the buffer for Cape Vultures, although this defined as high sensitivity. It is also not clear why the preliminary sensitivity maps in the avifaunal report (Figures 5-2) were not included in the draft Scoping Report, but kernel density maps were (Figure 6-16). The latter presents an incomplete indication of the avifaunal sensitivity.

Significance

It would be helpful if the methodology and rationale for the preliminary significance rating presented in the Avifaunal Screening Report(s) were provided in more detail. For example, we are of the opinion that, if a site includes a large portion of suitable habitat for high-altitude threatened endemic species like Yellow-breasted Pipit (Vulnerable) and Rudd's Lark (Endangered), and the species have been confirmed breeding at this location, the loss and fragmentation of habitat could be of Very High significance. As the specialist notes: "*Even relatively small habitat losses or alterations in these areas could have a significant impact on these highly range restricted and rare habitat specialists.*" These species are triggering species for the KBA.

Similarly, the record of Botha's Lark at the proposed Normandien WEF is highly noteworthy, given the dire status of this species.

Unreasonable comparisons

The Scoping Reports (e.g. P 159-160 for Groothoek) compare the loss of habitat to that of other developments (e.g. solar farms). This is not very helpful, unless a solar farm is a realistic alternative that will be assessed in the EIA process.

Loss and fragmentation of CBAs

BirdLife South Africa does not support the loss and fragmentation of habitat, and therefore the development of wind energy and associated infrastructure, within CBAs. CBAs represent the most efficient network needed to meet biodiversity targets. Irreplaceable CBAs are the *only* place available to meet these targets. In addition to the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, plus the likely fatalities of birds and bats, WEFs can result in a number of sub-lethal impacts that may negatively affect the functioning of ecosystems and the delivery of ecosystem services (e.g. changes in microclimate and trophic cascades). We do not, therefore, believe that WEFs are compatible with conservation objectives of CBAs, unless those WEFs will result in the restoration of degraded habitats.

Botha's Lark, Rudd's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit:

The proposed wind energy farm development in Verkykerskop presents a serious threat to several highly sensitive and endangered grassland bird species, particularly Botha's Lark (*Spizocorys fringillaris*), Rudd's Lark (*Heteromirafr ruddi*), and Yellow-breasted Pipit (*Anthus chloris*).

Habitat suitability models indicate that the entire Verkykerskop area, including all three proposed WEF, is unsuitable for wind energy development, as it consistently ranks as high-priority habitat for these species. The presence of these threatened birds underscores the ecological significance of this site and the need for its protection.

The Normandien Wind Energy Facility (WEF) is particularly concerning, as data from the past two years confirm the presence of Botha's Lark and Rudd's Lark within the project area, reinforcing the area's importance as a stronghold for this highly localized species. With an estimated global population of only 340 individuals, the loss of habitat in this region would be devastating. The repeated observations of Rudd's Lark, another range-restricted and highly threatened species, further highlight the **critical need to safeguard this site from development**.

The scoping report for the project explicitly acknowledges the threats posed to these species, yet the proposed development continues to move forward despite these risks. This raises serious concerns about the adequacy of mitigation measures and the overall suitability of the site for wind energy infrastructure. Given that **Botha's Lark is extremely sensitive to disturbance** and avoids modified landscapes, even minor habitat alterations could have significant negative consequences for the species.

The construction of roads, turbine infrastructure, and maintenance activities will fragment and degrade this fragile grassland ecosystem, reducing available habitat and likely displacing already dwindling populations. Wind turbines also introduce the risk of direct collisions, further endangering species already facing steep declines. The cumulative impact of infrastructure expansion and habitat alteration in this critical area could accelerate the decline of Botha's Lark, Rudd's Lark, and Yellow-breasted Pipit, pushing them closer to extinction.

These species are habitat specialists and tend to be restricted to small patches of intact, high rainfall, plateau grasslands. While restricted to specific habitats, these species may also have minimum thresholds for habitat size and may not occupy patches reduced by habitat loss or fragmentation. **We therefore do not support the construction or expansion of roads and other infrastructure in habitat for these species.**

The avifaunal specialist regards the "*destruction of nestlings of ground-nesting species during access road construction*" as low significance. We suggest that this needs to be revisited. Nests of some endemic species (e.g. Yellow-breasted Pipit and Denham's Bustard) are exceptionally difficult to find, and impacts will be difficult to mitigate during construction. Signage and induction are not likely to be adequate and stopping construction during the summer months is unlikely to be feasible (species such as Rudd's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit that breed throughout summer). It is unclear if displaced birds will return to the site after construction.

Similarly, the scoping report(s) suggest that mitigation for sensory disturbances could include limiting construction to areas and times outside of breeding seasons for birds. This would include the majority

of spring and summer months, and given the presence of ground nesting, threatened, grassland endemics, some of which were recorded during the surveys, would also include large territories in intact grassland. Is this considered feasible by the applicant?

Impacts on wetlands

The project area has been assessed as having High sensitivity due to its proximity to significant aquatic features, specifically a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) wetland cluster and rivers in good ecological condition within 500 m of the project boundary. These aquatic ecosystems warrant particular conservation attention, as estuaries and wetlands represent South Africa's most threatened and least protected ecosystem types (Skowno *et al.*, 2019^[1]). Their limited spatial extent makes them inherently more vulnerable to ecological collapse compared to larger, more widely distributed ecosystems.

Although the wetlands are located on the outskirts of the proposed WEF sites, their proximity and the area's topography raise significant concerns. The placement of WEF infrastructure and roads above these wetlands may lead to sedimentation and erosion, both during construction and throughout operations. Additionally, spillages and other sources of pollution could negatively impact these largely natural freshwater systems and the species they support, including the potentially White-winged Flufftail (Critically Endangered).

The proposed mitigation measures for habitat loss and alteration of wetlands are insufficient as they fail to consider impacts at the catchment scale. While direct modifications to wetlands are addressed, the measures do not account for indirect effects from broader catchment-level changes that could significantly alter or degrade wetland ecosystems. Changes to hydrology, sedimentation patterns, and water quality within the wider catchment area have the potential to adversely impact wetland persistence and ecological function, even when the wetlands themselves are not directly modified.

Wetlands are highly sensitive to disturbance. If they are affected during construction, the impacts could persist through the operational phase and even into decommissioning, when turbine removal may result in similar disturbances as those experienced during construction.

The wetlands potentially affected by the proposed developments may be stop-over sites for migrants transitioning through the landscape. We therefore recommend that tracking data should be acquired from past studies/literature to identify which migrants are using this area and when. Alternatively, other methods (e.g., radar or tracking studies) should be included in the plan of study for impact assessment to assess the risk to migratory birds.

White-winged Flufftail:

The report identifies extensive sedge-dominated habitat suitable for White-winged Flufftail (WwF), though this habitat faces potential disruption due to inundation from a recently constructed large dam. The full impact of the dam on habitat availability cannot be determined for several years, as seasonal variations in water levels will influence the extent and quality of suitable wetlands.

The reports note documented WwF populations both north and south of the proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF). This spatial distribution suggests the WEF site may intersect a potential migration corridor between these populations. We endorse the recommendation to engage an avian specialist

to conduct comprehensive habitat modeling and acoustic monitoring. To ensure robust data collection, we recommend this assessment be conducted across multiple seasons, encompassing both drought and high-rainfall periods.

Recommendations for spatial avoidance and buffers:

While we understand that the data presented in preliminary, we suggest that “industry best practice” is not a good rationale for the buffers presented in Table 5-1 of the Avifaunal Report(s). We suggest that data should be presented to justify the recommendations, and it should be clear whose expert opinion these recommendations are based on.

It is not clear what the basis was for suggesting that “intensive mitigation” is appropriate in the second tier of proposed buffers. BirdLife South Africa’s approach is to recommend “no go” buffers and “precautionary buffers”, with the understanding that robust data collection can be used to refine site-specific *avoidance* and mitigation recommendations within the latter. We suggest that it was premature for the specialist to suggest mitigation may be appropriate within these areas.

Verreaux’s Eagle:

In the absence of two years of data collection, or the use of the Verreaux’s Eagle Risk Assessment (VERA) model, BirdLife South Africa recommends a buffer of 5.2 km around Verreaux’s Eagle nest (see the *second edition* of BirdLife South Africa’s *Guidelines for Verreaux’s Eagle and Wind Farms (2021)*¹. This precautionary buffer is missing from Table 5-1 of the Avifaunal Scoping Report(s). This should be corrected.

Secretarybird:

Please refer to BirdLife South Africa's Guidance note for minimising the impacts of infrastructure development on Secretarybirds¹. In addition to the avoidance of nests buffer, we recommend a habitat-based approach - i.e. the **avoidance the loss of large, contiguous habitat**. This recommendation is not reflected in the Scoping Reports.

Bearded Vulture:

The Avifaunal Scoping Report(s) also incorrectly states: “... following the COVID 19 pandemic, the nest has not been comprehensively monitored.” BirdLife South Africa monitors this nest annually on behalf of the Bearded Vulture Task Force. Following a period where no birds were present, they have returned in recent years (est. around 2021 or 2022) and have shown definite breeding behaviour even though a specific nest could not be located. Carina Pienaar has also recorded a Bearded Vulture feeding near the Witkoppe mountain, and landowners have reported them recently more and more

¹ Available at <https://www.birdlife.org.za/what-we-do/policy-and-advocacy/what-we-do/birds-renewable-energy/>

^[1] Skowno, A.L., Poole, C.J., Raimondo, D.C., Sink, K.J., Van Deventer, H., Van Niekerk, L., Harris, L.R., Smith-Adao, L.B., Tolley, K.A., Zengeya, T.A., Foden, W.B., Midgley, G.F. & Driver, A. 2019. *National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa’s ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report*. South African National Biodiversity Institute & Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

throughout the AOI all the way from Nelsonskop to Memel, suggesting that it is likely that likelihood of Bearded Vulture will flying in the Verkykerskop Cluster.

Reid et al. (2015) developed a collision risk model for Bearded Vulture which takes into account topography and may assist in developing a site specific indication of areas recommended for avoidance than the circular buffers used in the Scoping Report. This model is available through Prof. Amar at the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute at the University of Cape Town.

Cape Vulture:

A Cape Vulture occupancy model (Cervantes et al.2023) is also available to support avoidance recommendations, and would provide a more nuanced indication of the collision risk compared to the limited buffers used in Table 5-1. The National Environmental Screening Tool includes a simplified version of this model, and indicates that the area is of *high sensitivity*. Fatality monitoring at WEFs elsewhere in South Africa suggests that fatalities of Cape Vulture are very likely within this sensitivity class, including at WEFs with livestock carcass management and observer-led shutdown on demand in place.

Furthermore, while we understand that the reports present just one year of survey data, please note that the number of Cape Vultures breeding at Nelsonskop has increased to an estimated 7 nests (based on expert input received from Sonja Krueger and Brent Coverdale (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife) during a visit in November 2024).

The Avifaunal Scoping Report indicates that the applicant, “*Mulilo will be initiating a carcass management project within the project area in collaboration with the local landowners and their staff*” with the intention of recording any changes in vulture attendance. BirdLife South Africa recognises that Livestock Carcass Management may be a useful mitigation measure at operational wind farms, but the ethics of implementing this strategy at *proposed* facilities warrant serious consideration. South Africa’s Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures lists food availability as secondary threat to Cape and Bearded vultures. No details about this management approach were provided, and it unclear if the intention is to move carcasses to another location or remove them.

Core habitat of threatened raptors (slopes >20%):

We support the avoidance of slopes greater than 20%, and recommend that these areas should be buffered – birds are not likely to be restricted to those slopes. Turbine blades also should not be permitted to extend into these buffers.

Connectivity between habitats:

In addition to buffering roosts and breeding sites, habitats for threatened species (including high altitude grassland and wetlands) should be buffered and connectivity modelling undertaken to reduce the risk of disturbance, displacement and collisions of birds moving to and from these areas. We assume this work will be undertaken by AfriAvian and presented in the next report.

Flight corridors:

We assume the “flight corridors” (Figures 5-1) were delineated based on the flight density models presented in the avifaunal reports, but it is unclear how the thresholds were set to delimit these areas.

We understand that these figures will be updated in the next phase of the assessment, and suggest that further details be provided.

Based on a visual comparison of the flight density model in Figure 4-17, and the “flight corridors” in Figure 5-1, it seems that the western flight corridor may be missing from the latter figure for Kromhof. Please clarify.

Powerline collisions

Quarterly monitoring at Ingula Nature Reserve can be used to help assess the likely significance of powerline collisions, after mitigation. An average of 5 priority threatened species (e.g. Cape Vulture, cranes, Denham’s Bustard) are killed by collision per annum along the Ingula-Majuba 400kV line, which traverses a similar habitat type, land use, and avifaunal species composition.

The undulating landscape and frequent misty/rainy conditions of the Eastern Free State, contribute to high powerline collision rates for birds, even when the lines are marked with conventional flappers or alternating black/white pigtailed. Increased wind speeds during winter, when mist/rain are less likely, makes manoeuvrability for large species like cranes more difficult.

In light of the above, we question the finding in the Scoping Report(s) that the significance of the impacts from roadkill/other mortalities, and from sensory disturbances during construction will be low (Table 8-4).

Mitigation (collision risk):

Even if the proposed layouts are further “optimised” and significant efforts are made to avoid important habitats and flight corridors, BirdLife South Africa remains concerned that effectively mitigating the impacts on bird species to acceptable levels may not be possible or feasible.

Observer-led shut down-on-demand (SDoD) and livestock food management may help reduce impacts on large bodied raptors, these measures have not been effective in *eliminating* the risk of fatalities in South Africa. In light of the high passage rates of species of conservation concern, we are concerned that the residual fatality rate (after mitigation) on large bodied birds may not be sustainable, even under ideal conditions. The effectiveness of shutdown on demand (observer-lead and camera assisted) will, however, be compromised by the frequent misty/cloudy conditions and low visibility experienced in summer. In winter, the challenging weather is likely to further hinder observer-led SDoD.

Importantly, SDoD is unlikely to be effective for small-bodied species (e.g. White-winged Flufftail, Rudd’s and Botha’s Lark, Yellow-breasted Pipit) or night-flying birds. There is also insufficient data about the temporal movement patterns of these species inform a robust “temporal avoidance” or curtailment strategy.

In short, although we acknowledge the list of mitigation measures proposed, which includes a contingency budget “to cater for significant mortality events”, tracking studies, and a Biodiversity Management Plan, but **we are unconvinced that it will be possible or feasible reduce impacts to acceptable levels.**

Offsets

We note that biodiversity offsets for the loss of have been proposed as “mitigation” for the loss of habitat for range-restricted grassland species. However, we are concerned that

- 1) Opportunities to avoid and minimise impacts have not been thoroughly exhausted.
- 2) It has not been demonstrated that it will be possible or feasible to effectively offset (or compensate) the loss of habitat. We are concerned that effective offsetting will be very difficult to achieve for habitat specialists that occur in very small ranges and are already threatened.

While a robust policy framework for offsetting fatalities of threatened species is not available in South Africa, should development proceed (against BirdLife South Africa’s recommendations), we suggest that compensation or offsets for fatalities will be required.

Biodiversity Stewardship

BirdLife South Africa encourages WEFs to contribute to the protection and rehabilitation of biodiversity in and around their sites. However, this can be complicated by the fact that WEFs are typically not the landowners. It is therefore essential that the applicant demonstrates that they have secured the necessary agreements needed for measures proposed in the EIA to be implemented, including Biodiversity Stewardship.

The feasibility of using Biodiversity Stewardship as a mitigation strategy must also be carefully considered. WEFs and Biodiversity Stewardship can only coexist if the development does not compromise the reasons for designating the site as a Protected Environment. Given that such declarations often aim to safeguard pristine grasslands, wetlands, and the diverse populations of threatened bird species—including high-altitude grassland endemics, vultures, and cranes—the establishment of a WEF in these areas may well conflict with the conservation objectives.

Cumulative impact assessment

We support the proposal to extend the area considered in the cumulative impact assessment beyond the minimum 30km radius recommended by DFFE. However, we suggest that, in the context of bird fatalities and loss of habitat of range-restricted endemics, it would be appropriate extend the cumulative impact assessments to a more biologically meaningful scale (e.g. the affected population). We recommend consulting IUCN’s recently released *Guidance on biodiversity cumulative impact assessment for wind and solar developments and associated infrastructure*².

Conclusion

Should the applicant wish continue with the EIA processes despite the substantial concerns, we urge that:

- a) a more robust avoidance strategy is implemented, based on the outcome additional avifaunal studies and taking into consideration our above recommendations;
- b) the applicant confirms that the all the proposed mitigation measures are considered feasible (including temporal curtailment of wind turbines);

² Available at: <https://iucn.org/resources/jointly-published/guidance-biodiversity-cumulative-impact-assessment-wind-and-solar>

- c) that necessary landowner agreements are in place to allow for monitoring and mitigation for the duration of impacts;
- d) a robust biodiversity offset and compensation strategy is developed, and it is confirmed that it will be possible and feasible to reduce the residual impacts on birds to sustainable levels; and
- e) compliance with commitments to monitor, mitigate and offset impacts on birds are audited by an independent expert annually, with consequences for non-compliance.

Please note that, despite the above recommendations, **BirdLife South Africa does not support the proposed developments.**

Yours sincerely,

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:08
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: Register me as I & AP for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Kindly note that you have been added to the project stakeholder database.

We look forward to your participation in the process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 10:10
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Register me as I & AP for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster

Good day,

I hope you are well.

Please Register me as I & AP for the Verkykerkop Wind Energy Facility Cluster.

Please send me the link to the documents as well.

Please send me a confirmation for the registration.

Best Regards

--



Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:16
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Cc:
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Please find the documents at the following link: [Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)

Additionally, the reports can be accessed on the following websites: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents> and <https://wsp-engage.com/>

Kindly note that those in copy have been added to the project database.

Kind regards,



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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 12:15
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Cc: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Greetings

Kindly send us the documents for our comments.

Kind regards,



Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act



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"Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me." - Carol Burnett.

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:25
Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- **Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).**

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR

Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
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Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478 	

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd;	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
OneDrive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports				

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:32
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Cc: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Your comments have been received and will be incorporated into the project comments and responses report.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building C, Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street, Bryanston, 2191, South Africa Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 13:51
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good afternoon WSP Group Africa

Thank you for contacting WESSA for comments on these three EIA applications.

WESSA supports the development of renewable energy power installations, as a cleaner alternative to the burning of fossil fuels. In balancing the positives and negatives of this technology, WESSA is satisfied that

wind power plants are a much cleaner power generating technology than carbon-based energy extraction. But wind energy facilities (WEFs) do have a few negatives that need to be considered and mitigated, namely:

Land-use issues:

WESSA recommends that WEFs are only sited at lower-quality locations such as brownfields, abandoned mining land, or existing transportation and transmission corridors. Greenfield sites should be avoided.

The EIA should consider assessing the impact of this large-scale solar facility on the receiving land's diversity and abundance of native pollinator insects, birds, and bats. The EIA should also develop technologies and methodologies to better monitor and understand interactions between large-scale wind facilities and avifauna species, as well as mitigate any currently known and later identified impacts.

Understanding that vegetation around and under the turbines needs to be managed for fire risk, WESSA recommends very careful management of the site vegetation, so as to prevent erosion, alien invasive plant infestation and loss of local biodiversity.

The impacts of the service roads, pipelines and electricity lines need to be also carefully considered as part of the project. For instance, while the power plant infrastructure may have minimal impacts, the installation of a connecting powerline across a wetland or known (large) bird flightpath may cause severe environmental harm.

Water-use:

WESSA recognises that the power plant infrastructure and facilities may periodically need to be cleaned with water. We are concerned about where this water will be sourced, and what impact that this will have; as well as to the cumulative impact of whatever cleaning chemicals are used on the receiving environment? Can rainwater be collected for use for cleaning instead? Can water and chemical use be limited by alternative, less impactful methods (such as air-hosing?)

Birds Mortality:

Mortality through birds' collision with turbines blades or transmission lines.

The developments of wind energy affect birds through direct mortality and through habitat loss and degradation. High mortality rate of birds has been recorded due to the development of wind farms and thus this poses a threat to wildlife species. The birds can be injured or get killed when they collide with the rotating wind blade due to changes in air pressure caused by the spinning turbines, as well as from habitat disruption. Birds flying in the turbine rotor swept zone are potentially at risk of collision and serious injury or death. Birds can collide with the earth wire of transmission lines which are thin and hard to see and thus leads to birds being killed or injured.

Mortality through electrocution on distribution lines.

Raptors and other large perching birds are the greatest threat from electrocution at the pylons of wind farm-associated powerlines. Electrocution rates at the pylons of low- or medium-voltage lines can be high and disproportionately affect some species that use pylons of low-voltage lines as perches when hunting or for nesting. Some of these birds that are at risk due to wind turbine collision and electrocution are the Southern African martial eagle, black harrier, Ludwig's bustard, blue crane and Verreaux's eagle.

Barrier effects to migratory birds

Multiple wind farms in the same landscape may create barriers for bird species although such impacts have not been extensively studied. As some species do show high collision avoidance rates, it is likely that their flight paths will change, especially if there are large numbers of closely spaced turbines in a landscape. Migratory birds are particularly affected by wind turbines as they often travel in large flocks along set routes. Any obstacles blocking their flight paths will not only cause fatalities but may force them to burn crucial energy reserves diverting their route or abandon much-needed rest stops altogether. For example, migrating raptors appear to adjust their flight trajectories to avoid new wind farms. Such barrier effects may become increasingly apparent as more wind farms are developed and monitoring (including of tagged birds) improves.

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

Winds turbines should also include the new technology enhancement such as Avian radar system that detects birds as far as approximately 6 and half kilometres. If the system detects that there are birds that are in danger of flying into the rotating turbines, then it automatically shut the rotating turbines and restart when the birds have passed.

The scoping studies in an EIA process should ensures that there is an incorporation of existing internationally and national research on birds' activities, such as peak seasons of migration of bird, the distribution of bird's species in an ecosystem, habitat data, the time of the day when birds usual fly by at rotor-swept height. This information may assist to temporary pause rotation of turbines to avoid collisions.

Painting two-thirds of a single blade of each wind turbine blades a different colour to increase visibility to birds and making it easier for birds of prey to detect the rotating blades.

Designing low- or medium-voltage powerlines, or adding insulation to existing poles and wires, to reduce the risk of electrocution of birds or other wildlife from contact. Measures to change the design of transmission lines to reduce bird collisions aim to reduce the vertical spread of lines, increase the visibility of lines, and/or decrease the span length. Specific measures could include:

- Reducing the number of vertical wires levels by adjusting the conductor heights to reduce the number of potential collisions points.
- Stringing wires as low as possible.
- Keeping wire span lengths as short as possible to minimise line height as birds usually respond to seeing lines by increasing height.
- Using wires with a thicker diameter or bundling wires to increase visibility.

Bats Mortality

Mortality of bats through electrocution

Electrocution of large bat species, particularly fruit bats, has been identified as an issue associated with distribution lines. Some of the groups of bats are long-lived species with a low reproductive rate and thus this makes them more vulnerable to extinction due to electrocution. There is limited evidence of risks to bats, although electrocution of large bat species, particularly fruit bats, has been identified as an issue associated with distribution lines.

Mortality of bats through collisions

Moving wind turbines creates zones of low pressure as the air flows over them. Species that comes near to the moving wind turbines may suffer from barotrauma because of injury caused by sudden pressure changes. Barotrauma is a significant cause for bats fatalities at wind turbines. Wildlife biologists have found that bats are most active when wind speeds are low.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The wind turbines should be kept motionless during the times of low speeds to reduce the bat deaths by more than the half without significantly affecting the production of power. Another effective minimisation measure is thus to increase the wind speed at which turbines become operational.

The scoping study should include the following: Collation and review of existing literature (including the latest research undertaken both locally and internationally); maps and aerial photographs; and habitat data to identify habitats which may be used by bats; data on bat distributions, roosts, bat sightings, migration routes, and likely foraging and commuting areas on or close to the proposed wind energy facility site.

Habitat Loss Through Disturbance and Displacement

Wind farm general have a small scale of physical footprint and man land uses such as agriculture are compatible, with only small areas of turbine foundations and infrastructure made unavailable for use. However, the construction of wind energy turbines and their associated facilities requires clearance of vegetation and displacement of lands and thus this has caused habitat loss. Wind farms triggers some species to avoid places where wind farms are developed, resulting in displacement and effective loss of habitat. Changes in species abundance with the presence of wind farms can affect predator-prey dynamics and ecosystem function although, the nature and prevalence of this impact is still poorly understood.

WESSA RECOMMENDS:

Screening tools should be used to determine Key biodiversity areas and critical biodiversity areas and such areas should be avoided or minimised. The screening tools should be used at initial stages of planning and design to guarantee and safeguards that best practices in micro siting should be developed so that it can help to reduce the potential land use impacts of offshore and land-based wind projects.

Landscape Visuality:

Wind farms should not be located near the nature game reserves as this may affect the visuality of the landscape scare the giant herbivores animals and affect the visuality of the nature reserves. The tourism industry located near wind farms might as well be affected as the major tour operators will direct their tourists to game reserves where there are no visual impacts caused by the wind farms. Local communities may also feel a loss of cultural values (e.g., where sacred sites are impacted), including a sense of place and belonging. Wind farms may also impact the aesthetic value of an area, in turn negatively impacting the tourism potential or land value.

WESSA RECOMMENDS: That wind farms should not be located within 25 kilometres of any nature/game reserve, protected/wilderness area, natural heritage site or biosphere core area.

Fire:

Wind turbines can start fire as a result from lightning strike or electrical or mechanical malfunction leading to ignition, which spreads to the surrounding plastics and fibreglass nacelle. Most of the times when turbines catch fires cannot be easily extinguished due to the heights of the wind turbines. They are normally left to burn and, in the process, toxic fumes and sparks are generated and can scatter flaming debris over a wide area, starting secondary fires. A wind turbine fire can spread to the surrounding environment, sparking wildfires, and potentially spreading into nearby communities.

WESSA RECOMMENDS:

The operators must continuously ensure that electronic controllers and safety sub-systems that monitor different aspects of wind turbines such as generator, tower, and environment are functioning well to determine electrical and mechanical faults within wind turbine and to ensure that they are operating in a safe manner within prescribed limits. These systems can temporarily shut down the turbine due to high wind, electrical load imbalance, vibration, and other problems.

The owners, facilitators, or operators of the wind farms must communicate their commitment and assurance on prevention and protection of fire suppression with landowners and other community stakeholders.

Noise and Vibrations

The wind turbines generate sound as they turn in wind. The sound generated by wind turbines is aerodynamic, caused by the movement of turbine blades through the air. There is also mechanical sound generated by the turbine itself. Overall sound levels depend on turbine design and wind speed. The noise and vibrations of the giant turbines may negatively impact on mega-fauna, especially elephants, as previously existing studies have shown that the sound generated from wind turbines interferes with the ability of elephants to communicate. Elephants hear and communicate using low frequency sound; they can hear up to 10 kilometres away. The sound generated from wind blades affects people as well as they cause nuisance and increase stress levels.

WESSA RECOMMENDS:

That wind farms not be located within 10 kms of elephant habitats. That technological advance, such as minimizing blade surface imperfections and using sound-absorbent materials can be used to reduce wind turbine noise.

Introduction of invasive alien species

Movement of equipment, people or components may facilitate the introduction of invasive alien species (IAPs), for example through its transport in soil on machinery or attached to clothing, etc. The creation of new habitats, for instance by land disturbance during construction or by creating open spaces, may also facilitate the spread of invasive alien species already present on the site.

WESSA RECOMMENDS:

That due care is taken to prevent IAPs from invading and spreading from the development footprint, including the service corridors. The EMP for the site should long-term IAP control.

Hazardous construction materials:

The turbine blades, tower and generation unit include hazardous materials. WESSA calls upon by the applicant/WEF developer to comply with national environmental standards and international best practice in the manufacturing, recycling and disposing of these hazardous materials.

Local Community Beneficiation:

Wind power plant construction and operation in some of the country’s most begotten and poverty-stricken areas can go a long way to providing much needed employment and skills to local communities. The development can contribute to a long-term positive through committing to socio-economic upliftment and (enviro-)education programmes, environmental stewardship and conservation initiatives.

We refer you to the attached IUCN comprehensive guide for project developers on mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development.

WESSA trusts that these issues will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the EIA documents and in the decision-making process.

Battery Energy Storage Systems

Many renewable energy generation applications now include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). They form a strategic technology, aimed at storing energy produced by the proposed generation facility, for later release into the transmission grid as required. This then smooths the supply of renewable energy into the energy grid reducing the need for carbon-based energy generation. However, BESS technology does have some negative environmental impacts that need to be mitigated.

The BESS systems require cleared land for the containerized battery units, transformer facility, roads and fencing; which creates impacts of cleared vegetation, loss of biodiversity and hardening of surfaces. These impacts need to be mitigated, with WESSA advocating that the BESS be built only on disturbed land. Most of the BESS systems are composed of sealed battery packs. Batteries suffer from cycle ageing: deterioration caused by charge-discharge cycles; which causes a loss of performance (capacity or voltage decrease) and can cause overheating leading to critical failure (electrolyte leaks, fire, explosion). The BESS site then needs a fire response plan and possibly fire-breaks around them.

The disposal of these batteries poses a severe environmental risk, from toxic chemicals and minerals leaking from cracked battery cases. Hence these batteries will preferably need to be recycled, otherwise properly disposed of. The BESS operational management plan should include dealing with aged/broken batteries. WESSA recommends that there should be a national initiative that manages, promotes and fosters the responsible recycling and/or disposal of these type of batteries. This initiative could be funded by renewable energy producers, their associations, battery manufacturers and battery importers. Funding could be from a surcharge on the import or local manufacture of these types of batteries.

Yours faithfully

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:22

Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

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VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details:

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Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 18:31
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Cc:
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day,

Noted, Thank you

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:44
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good afternoon,

Thank you for confirming. Just including Caryn in the database is sufficient.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,



Kathryn Winstanley - Environmental Project Developer
M: +27 81 317 7512

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 15:40

To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Cc:

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Kindly note that Caryn du Rand has been included in the stakeholder database.

Should yourself and Wasim also be added on the database?

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Sent: Thursday, 23 January 2025 16:50

To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Cc: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good afternoon,

I trust you are well.

As per the email below, please could I request that **Caryn du Rand** with email address eia@g7energies.com be registered as an I&AP for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility Cluster.

Thank you very much.

Kind Regards,

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

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From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 08:22

Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- **Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).**

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478 	

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd;	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
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WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



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Waterfall City
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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKl

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 17:04
To: Aviation Environmental Compliance; ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Cc: Pamela Madondo; Evelyn Shogole
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

The email was received, thank you.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



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From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day,

I hope this email finds you well.

SACAA has no comments for the proposed development of the Verkykerskop wind energy facility cluster. The proposed development is outside the vicinity of aviation infrastructure which show no indication of major/negative impacts to aviation infrastructure and activities within the airport. However, a formal obstacle assessment is required for the proposed development as includes the wind turbines, powerline and associated infrastructure. Kindly lodge an application as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.

Kind regards.

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From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:22 AM

Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Stakeholder,

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Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		

VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620	Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

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<https://www.caa.co.za/paia-and-privacy/>

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 17:32
To: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Subject: WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE RSKOP

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Thank you. The notification has been shared with them.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



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From: Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act
Sent: Monday, 27 January 2025 11:02
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Re: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day

Please forward your application to SANRAL Eastern Region erstatutory@nra.co.za as this falls under their jurisdiction.