PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE (PTY) LTD

PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (UP TO 550MW) NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA

Stakeholder Engagement Report



PHONE

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DATE: DATE

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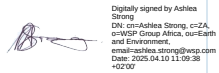
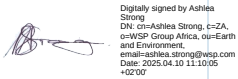
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Signature	-	-	-	
Checked by	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong
Signature	-	-	-	
Authorised by	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proponent is proposing the development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) in Mpumalanga. The facility consists of the following distinct projects referred to as:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (up to 550MW); and
- Up to 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and Distribution substations with associated 132kV overhead lines.

The focus of this Stakeholder Engagement Report (SER) is the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (up to 550MW) project (Ref: 2025-02-0015).

The proposed project will be applied for under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), and the Project Applicant is therefore Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd. The Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF is located approximately 16km north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

The WEF will be located over 93 farm portions and will have a project area of approximately 33 660 hectares (ha). Within this project area the extent of the buildable area will be subject to finalization based on technical and environmental requirements.

In order for the proposed project to proceed, it will require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Competent Authority (CA) (i.e., the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, (DFFE)).

1.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DETAILS OF THE EAP

WSP was appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes for the proposed Project. This SER was compiled as part of the S&EIA process and must be read in conjunction with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) in support of the EA application. **Table 1-1** details the relevant contact details of the EAP.

Table 1-1 - Details of the EAP

EAP's Employer	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
EAP:	Ms. Ashlea Strong
Physical Address:	Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Cres, Midrand, 1685
Telephone:	011 361 1392
Fax:	011 361 1301
Email:	Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com
Qualifications:	▪ 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 EIAr.

1.2.1.1 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.

1.3 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 EIA Process:

- 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.
- The final decision is deemed informed when local knowledge and values are included and when expert knowledge is publicly examined.

1.3.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the public participation process (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.

1.3.2 WHO OR 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 this report, registered I&APs will be referred to as Stakeholders.

1.3.2.1 Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of the Stakeholder

- Registered 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 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;
- Register as a stakeholder;
- 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.

1.4 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 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 indicate the applicable response to the anticipated impacts. Results of the process are shown in **Table 1-2** below.

Table 1-2 - 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to EIA Regulations must be met.
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	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.

Scale of anticipated impacts:	Recommended Response	
	If "yes"	If "No"
	unrealistic expectations are adequately addressed before the project starts.	
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 to EIA Regulations must be met. Minimum requirements for PP in accordance to the Act must be met as well as best practices relating to PP.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TO DATE

2.1 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

A virtual pre-application meeting was held on **24 October 2023** with the DFFE to discuss the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF project. The minutes of the meeting (inclusive of the proposed public participation plan) are included in **Appendix C1.**

Due to the decision to allow the previous application to lapse, a second pre-application meeting was requested on 07 February 2025. The reference number 2025-02-0015 was allocated to the request, however the request for the pre-application meeting was denied on 24 February 2025. The email received is included in **Appendix E.2.**

The original application to the DFFE was submitted on the **15 April 2024**. The DFFE confirmed receipt of this application on **02 May 2024** and allocated the following reference number to the application - **14/12/16/3/3/2/2545** – however this reference number is no longer valid..

However, application form for the re-application process will be submitted on 11 April 2025. The following pre-application reference number 2025-02-0015 has been provided, however a new DFFE reference is still to be issued.

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 I&APs. 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 Table

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	The project activity is located on multiple portions of privately owned land. The landowners have been included on the stakeholder database. A total of 95 land portions are associated with the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF.
(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	Ward Councillor of Ward 10 of Msukaligwa Local Municipality have been included on the stakeholder database.

NEMA Requirement	Discussion
ratepayers that represent the community in the area	
(v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area	The Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality (Mpumalanga Province), 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	MDARDLEA has been, and will continue to be, consulted. The DFFE has been included on the stakeholder database.
(vii) any other party as required by the competent authority.	All tiers of government, namely, national, provincial, local government and parastatals have been included on the stakeholder database. Inclusive of: ▪ Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) ▪ Mpumalanga Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS) ▪ DFFE ▪ Department of Rural Development and Land Reform ▪ DFFE: Biodiversity ▪ DFFE: Protected Areas ▪ Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA) ▪ Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation: Oliphant's Proto-CMA ▪ Mpumalanga Department of Social Development ▪ Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWR) ▪ Mpumalanga Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs ▪ Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority ▪ Department of Defence Force ▪ South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) ▪ Transnet Freight Rail ▪ Msukaligwa Local Municipality ▪ Gert Sibande District Municipality ▪ Eskom ▪ BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) ▪ Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) ▪ South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) ▪ Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) ▪ South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) ▪ Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS) ▪ South African National Defense Force (SANDF) ▪ Square Kilometer Array (SKA)

Appendix A provides a list of stakeholders registered on the Project database. The stakeholder database has been updated throughout the EIA process.

2.3 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

2.3.1 DIRECT NOTIFICATION

Notification of the proposed Project have been issued to potential Stakeholders, via direct correspondence (i.e. SMSs and e-mail) on **12 April 2024**. The notification letter that was

circulated is included in **Appendix B.34** of this report. Proof of e-mail and SMS notification is included in **Appendix B.3** and **Appendix B.5** respectively**.**

Notification of the re-application of the project will be issued to potential and existing Stakeholders, via direct correspondence (i.e., site notices, emails, SMSs, etc.) on **11 April 2025**. Proof of notification will be included in the Final SER.

2.3.2 ADVERTISEMENTS

Notification of the proposed Project was issued to the general public via an advertisement on **11 April 2024.** The purpose of the advertisement was to notify the general public of the proposed application and provide an opportunity to register on the Project database and provide input into the process. A copy of the advertisements is included as **Appendix B.1.** The advertisement publication details are provided in **Table 2-2.** Proof of publication of the 2024 advertisement is included in **Appendix B.1.** The proof of placement of the 2025 advertisement will be included in the Final SER.

Table 2-2 - Dates on which the advert was published.

Newspaper	Publication Date	Language
Highvelder/Hoevelder	11 April 2024.	Afrikaans and isiZulu
The Star	11 April 2024.	English
Highvelder/Hoevelder	11 April 2025.	Afrikaans and isiZulu
The Star	11 April 2025	English

2.3.3 SITE NOTICES

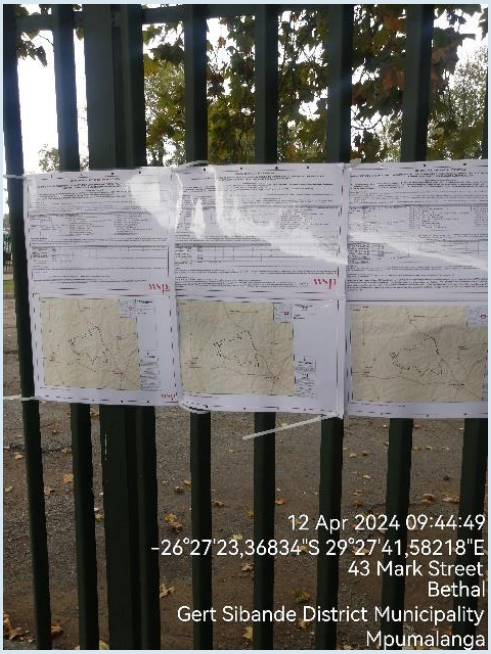
In accordance with GNR 326 Section 41(2)(a-b) site notices were developed (see **Appendix B.2)** and placed at strategic points in close proximity to the proposed site, as well as public places within the Msukaligwa Local and Gert Sibande District Municipalities. The site notices have been placed on site on **12 April 2024**. Proof of display in included in **Table 2-3** below along with the coordinates, date, and times.

A second round of site notices for the re-application will be placed at various locations in and around the Project area on **11 April 2025**. Proof of placement is included in the Final SER.

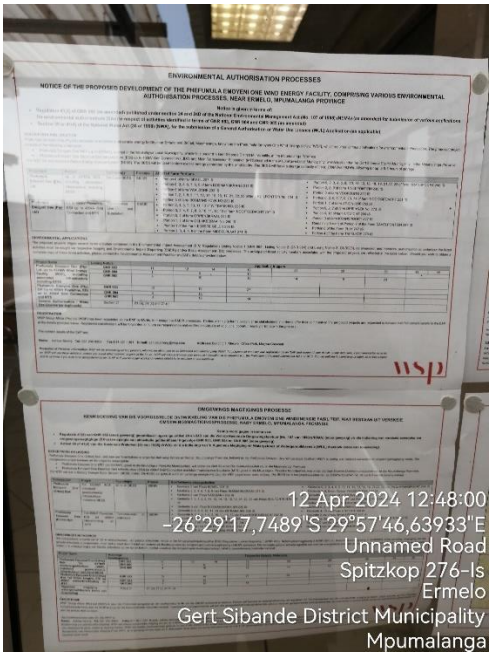
Table 2-3 – Proof of Site notices placed.

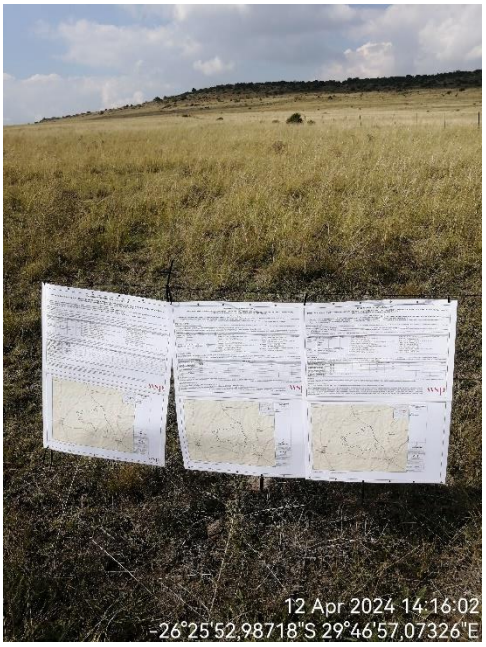
Location	Photograph
26˚25’18.29188” S 29˚40’29.30379”E D480 Road	
26˚28’16.6375” S 29˚40’28.2354” E R38	

Location	Photograph
26˚17’32.42054” S 29˚44’45.32967” E D383 Road	
26˚09’37.12869” S 29˚42’58.30857” E 33B Beukes Stree, Hendrina	

Location	Photograph
26˚27’23.36834” S 29˚27’41.58218”E 43 Mark Street, Bethal	
26˚14’50.0313” S 29˚50’06.53453” E D1266 Road	

Location	Photograph
26˚20’02.41855” S 29˚52’09.63463” E 2 Eufess Street, Hendrina	
26˚22’19.79192” S 29˚53’45.63466” E N11	

Location	Photograph
26˚25’55.87184” S 29˚53’26.39476” E D1217 Road	
26˚29’17.7489” S 29˚57’46.63933” E	

Location	Photograph
26˚31’41.16207” S 29˚59’17.46575” E Kerk Street, Ermelo	
26˚25’52.98718” S 29˚46’57.07326” E D245 Road	

Location	Photograph
26˚20’21.51261” S 29˚36’57.3785” E Intersection of D703 and D480	

2.3.4 AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

The Draft Scoping Report was placed on public review for a period of at least 30 days from **12 April 2024 to 14 May 2024**, at the venues as follows:

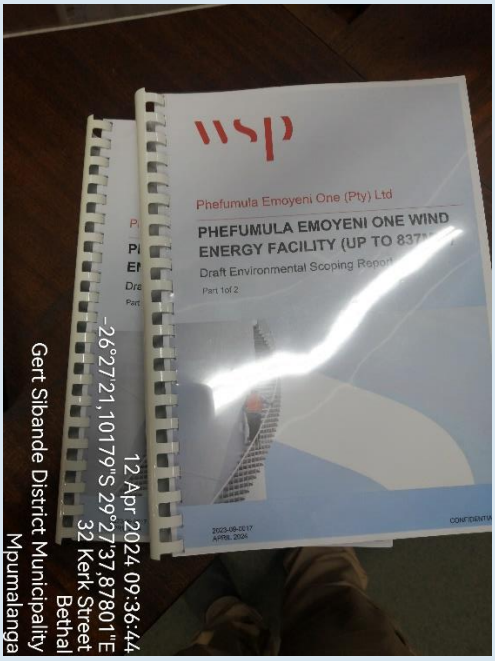
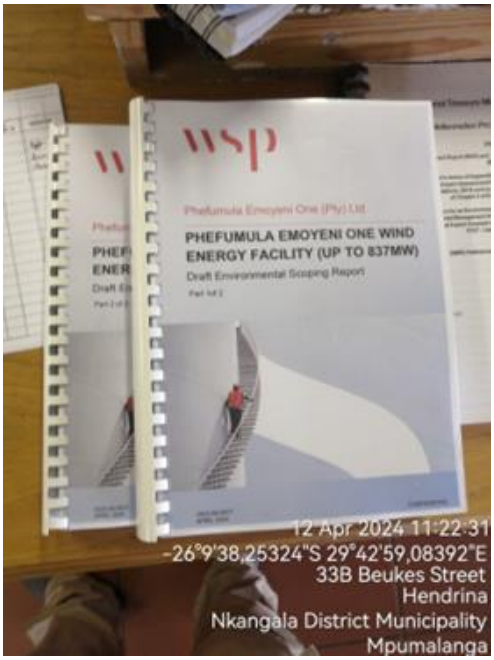
- Ermelo Public Library;
- Thusiville Public Library;
- Hendrina Public Library;
- Bethal Public Library;
- WSP website (https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents); and
- Data free website (https://wsp-engage.com/).

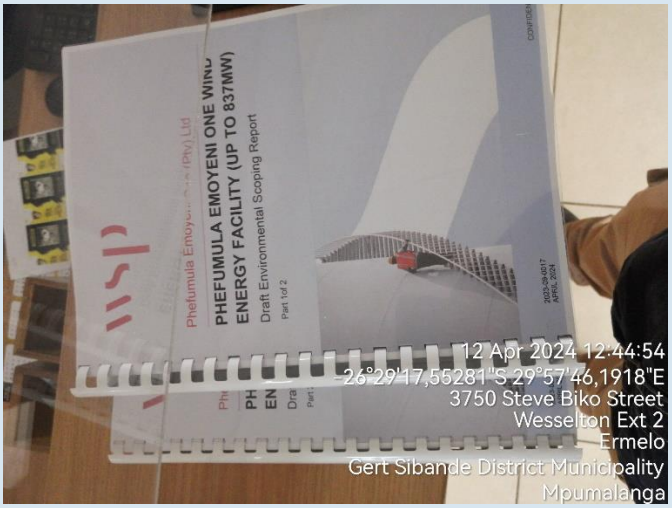
The Draft Reports were made available to Commenting Authorities and I&APS via a One Drive link.

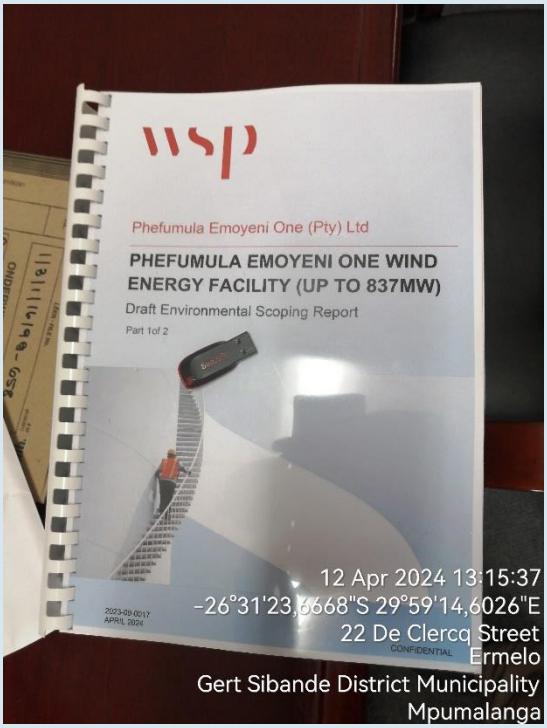
Hard copies of the DSR were also couriered to MTPA’s Mbombela office and MDARDLEA’s Ermelo and Nelspruit offices.

Proof of display and availability of the Draft Scoping Report is included in the **Table 2-4** and **Appendix B.6**.

Table 2-4 – Proof of DSR availability

Location	Photograph
Bethal Public Library	
Hendrina Public Library	

Location	Photograph
Thusiville Public Library	
Ermelo Public Library	

Location	Photograph
Ermelo Public Library	

2.3.5 AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The FSR was submitted to the DFFE on **14 June 2024** for review and decision-making. Registered I&APs were notified of the submission on **14 June 2024** and the FSR was made available for their information on the WSP website (https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents).

The acceptance of the FSR and approval of the Plan of Study for the EIA was received from the DFFE on **17 July 2024**.

2.3.6 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The proposed WEF underwent scoping phase, and a draft EIR was submitted to DFFE on 13 September 2024 for commenting. Upon receipt of comments, it was noted that additional studies were required. As such, the application was left to lapse to allow further investigations to take place. The additional investigations took place between January and March 2025.

The DEIR is therefore being resubmitted and the Draft EIR will be made available for public review for a period of at least 30 days from 11 April 2025 to 16 May 2025, at the venues as follows::

- Ermelo Public Library;
- Thusiville Public Library;
- Hendrina Public Library;
- Bethal Public Library;

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

The Draft EIR will also be made available to Commenting Authorities via a One Drive link. In order to ensure maximum participation of all I&APs, the Draft EIR was shared on the Datafree website. Proof of display will be included in the final EIR.

Hard copies of the Draft EIR were also couriered to MTPA's Mbombela office and MDARDLEA's Ermelo and Nelspruit offices.

2.3.7 SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Final EIR will be submitted to the DFFE for decision making subsequent to the public review period. Registered I&APs will be notified of the submission of the Final EIR and the Final EIR made available for their information on the WSP website (https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents) and the Datafree Website (https://wsp-engage.com/).

2.4 FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Two focus group meeting have been held with key stakeholders, including, MDARDLEA, MTPA, DFFE, Birdlife Africa and EWT.

The focus group meetings were held on 18 October 2024 and 28 March 2025. The minutes of both meetings are included in **Appendix E**.

2.5 STAKEHOLDER REGISTRATION

All stakeholders 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.

2.6 COMMENTS RECEIVED

All concerns, comments, viewpoints, and questions (collectively referred to as 'issues') received during the comment period are documented and responded to adequately in a Comments and Responses table. See **Table 2-5** below. **Appendix D** includes the comments received to date.

Table 2-5 – Comments and response to date

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd			
ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd Du toit Malherbe 15 April 2024 Email	Could you kindly register me as an I&AP for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure? We are also developing other renewable energy projects in the area.	**EAP's response:** Good afternoon, Du Toit Malherbe, The EAP confirms that your details are on the database for the project for future communication.	**Appendix D of this report**
ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd Du toit Malherbe 13 September 2024 Email	Thank you for the Notice, but I was unable to find the Draft EIA Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF on the WSP Web site link provided in your email below. Could you please check the upload and share the availability of the Draft EIA Report? The website only refers to the Grid connection FSR and not the Draft EIA Report for the WEF:	**EAP's response:** **Response 1** Good morning It may just be a case of needing to refresh the website – in the meantime please feel free to utilise the Datafree link – the report is definitely reflecting on that website. I will confirm with you as soon as the report is reflecting on the WSP website. **Response 2** Good Afternoon Please be informed that the DEIR is now reflecting on the WSP website:	**Appendix D of this report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
BirdLife South Africa			
Birdlife South Africa: Wetland Conservation Project Manager/Rockjumper Fellow of White-winged Flufftail Conservation Dr. Kyle J.Lloyd 15 April 2024 Email	Please may I be removed from the WSP mailing list and my colleague's email address added: marlize.muller@birdlife.org.za	**EAP's response:** Dear Kyle Thank you for your email below. We have removed your details from the database and added Marlize's details as requested. Kind regards	**Appendix D of this report**
Sam Ralston Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager 7 May 2024 Email	Dear Thirushan We have attached BirdLife South Africa's comments on the draft Scoping Report for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility. We have also attached our guidance note on Secretarybird. Kind regards Sam	**EAP's response:** Dear Sam, Thank you for your comment and feedback on the project. Responses to your comments will be provided in the final scoping report as part of the comment and response report. We will notify you once the final report is submitted and where it will be available. Kind regards	**Appendix D of this report**
Dr Marlize Muller Steenkampsberg Conservation Officer	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Scoping Report for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility. BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy infrastructure.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All efforts will be made to preserve habitat, critical biodiversity areas and the species that inhabit it. Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern, and prime areas for these species are	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email: marlize.muller@birdlife.org.za Samantha Ralston-Paton Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager 7 May 2024 Official letter	However, we are concerned that the location of the proposed facility(ies) may not be compatible with the desired state of the habitat as indicated in provincial and national conservation plans. The proposed development site falls within an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina IBA) and includes threatened ecosystems, critical biodiversity areas, ecological support areas, and habitat for several threatened species. The Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina IBA hosts globally and regionally threatened species that are not found in similar abundance in other provinces. Several species are at risk of becoming extinct, some of which have be found at the proposed site (e.g., regionally threatened African Marsh Harrier (Endangered), Blue Crane (Near Threatened), Denham's Bustard (Vulnerable) and Cape Vulture (Endangered)). These high-elevation habitats are often used for breeding during the wet season. Given the relatively small remaining portion of untransformed Grasslands and Wetlands in the highveld of Mpumalanga, every step should be taken to safeguard what is left of these habitat types for biodiversity.	being conserved and excluded from the buildable area for the proposed windfarm. Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these. The WEF Project Site and immediate environment is classified as Medium Sensitivity for vultures according to the Vulture Species Theme in the Screening tool. (The Medium sensitivity is due to the Project Site possibly affecting an area with between 5%–10% of the vulture population). During the pre-construction monitoring (885 hours of vantage point observations) only four (4) Cape Vultures were observed, during the April survey. In total, only 16 minutes of Cape Vulture flights were recorded at medium height (i.e. within rotor-swept height). The passage rate for Cape Vultures after 885 hours of monitoring was 0.004 birds per hour which amounts to about 1 Cape Vulture every 17 days. According to the Cervantes Population Utilization Distribution outputs the Phefumula WEF Project Site is rated low sensitivity (Cervantes et al 2023). During the EIA phase, additional analysis that has been conducted, will be presented with respect to identifying suitable wetland and grassland habitat. Habitat suitability modelling has been conducted to delineate wetland and	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely African Grass Owl, Blue Crane, African Marsh Harrier, and Grey Crowned Crane. Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit informed a habitat suitability model to identify high quality grassland patches specifically preferred by these threatened species. At the proposed project site, suitable habitat was largely driven by Yellow-breasted Pipit, while no suitable habitat for either Rudd's Lark or Botha's lark were flagged by the fine scale habitat suitability model. In addition to the above species-specific habitat suitability model, the high-quality grassland areas (CBAs etc.) identified and avoided by the biodiversity and vegetation specialists, provides additional protection for other grassland specialists such as Denham's Bustard and Secretarybird.	
	Data collection for impact assessment: We support the Avifaunal Site Sensitivity Verification, which increased the sensitivity of the avifauna assessment from low to high sensitivity and the vulture species theme from medium to high sensitivity as obtained from the DFFE Screening Tool. Given this sensitivity within the Project Area of Influence, we note that just four seasons of avifaunal surveys will be conducted. We are	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Data collection has been completed at this time. Although the data collection surveys were centred to collect data during four seasons, the monitoring time was spread over 6 visits to cover a larger proportion of the year. This enabled us to capture as much seasonal variability as possible. The date ranges during which surveys took place are as follows: 05 - 16	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	concerned that this may not be adequate to robustly assess impacts and determine appropriate and feasible mitigation measures. Additional, surveys, targeted at addressing key risks and uncertainties may be required.	November 2022, 17 – 20 January 2023, 14 – 20 February 2023, 11 April – 02 May 2023, 13 June – 4 August 2023 and 4 – 21 October 2023. This deliberate extended spread of survey effort was to capture seasonal variability on-site to best encompass spatio-temporal distribution of SCC which we acknowledge requires extensive effort. The data collected from these surveys, as well as the data collected during the initial screening between 31 Oct - 3 November 2022, has been utilised during to delineate habitats and high usage avifaunal areas to best inform avoidance and mitigation areas.	
	We are concerned that the wetlands at the site would offer stop-over sites for migrants transitioning through the landscape. Given the likely sensitivity avifauna using the area, we suggest 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 in order to assess the risk to migratory birds. Please also refer to BirdLife South Africa's guidelines for Cape Vulture and Black Harrier and wind energy.	It is acknowledged that the wetlands in the area can play a pivotal role for migratory species. To address this concern, detailed wetland habitat modelling for a suite of species of conservation concern has been conducted. The wetland modelling delineated wetland habitat for avifauna – due to the extensive areas covered by wetlands and their connected nature, we are of the opinion that likely movement corridors used by birds during migration has been adequately addressed. See comment #2 above regarding Cape Vultures and similarly, three Black Harrier flights (of short duration <5min) were recorded on site during June thus also confirming a low risk for the species.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Are we correct that no night surveys were conducted? How will collision risk to nocturnal threatened species such as Grass Owl (Vulnerable) be assessed and mitigated?	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Despite not having specifically surveyed for a cryptic, nocturnal species, African Grass Owl habitat has been modelled as part of the wetland sensitive areas to avoid. The modelled output is based on an extensive dataset of known African Grass Owl nest localities and associated surrounding habitat characteristics. The habitat delineated and avoided as part of the modelling is thus considered an adequate substitute for nocturnal surveys, specifically for this species.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**
	We caution that while the updated list of priority species for wind farms compiled for the Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map (Ralston-Paton et al., 2017; Retief et al., 2012) is a useful starting point, it has limitations in the context of this region. The priority list published by BirdLife South Africa does not include most wetland species, and the sensitivity was weighted based on the overlap with wind energy facilities at the time. This did not include Mpumalanga. We therefore recommend that a site-specific list of priority species should be developed.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Following on the wetland delineation exercise, please note that all wetland SCC (beyond that of the outdated list of priority species published) that occur or can occur on site will be included, and this will provide the necessary provisions for the wetland guild. Again, this will be presented in the EIA phase of the project.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**
	Impact assessment and mitigation Concerning the identification of potential impacts, there are a few additional points that need to be considered. With the clearing of natural vegetation, there could be an increase in the occurrence of	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This will be further investigated by the Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity Studies in the EIA Phase.	**Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	pioneer exotic species, especially invasives (Aquatic Systems, page 143 of 190).		
	There could be a loss of ecological processes related to biodiversity loss such as pollination or biological control and loss of ecological drivers such as fire, since grasslands and wetlands need to burn (Terrestrial Biodiversity, page 148 of 190).	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This will be further investigated by the Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity Studies in the EIA Phase.	**Section 7.5 of the FSR**
	During the construction phase of the turbines, there could also be a direct loss of avifauna, e.g., being hit by trucks. A possible mitigation measure would be implementing speed restrictions (Avifauna, page 150 of 190).	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** This comment is acknowledged. Speed limits of 40km/h will be implemented in the construction roads in and around the facility footprint, as outlined in section 6.1.10 of the DSR	**Section 6.1.10 of the FSR**
	Where will the water be sourced that will be used to spray the roads to control dust (Visual and Landscape, page 153 of 190)?	**Applicant:** Water for dust control wil either be sourced from boreholes within the project area or sourced from the local municipality should the be sufficient capacity for this supply.	**Section 4.6 of the FSR**
	Ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, provisioning of clean water and tourism (especially if Botha's Lark (Endangered) is present in the broader area) have not been considered (Socio-Economic, page 156 of 190).	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This will be further investigated by the Aquatic, Terrestrial Biodiversity, Avifauna and Social Studies in the EIA Phase.	**Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	And lastly the removal of vegetation will negatively affect the amount of carbon sequestered in the plants and soil (Climate Change, page 157 of 190).	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This will be further investigated by the Terrestrial Biodiversity Studies in the EIA Phase.	**Section 7.5 of the FSR**
	We recognise that a more detailed strategy for identifying no-go zones and areas needing mitigation during the operational phase will be implemented in the next stage of EIA process. However, we want to stress that the proposed nest buffers are unlikely to adequately address biodiversity impacts. Nest buffers should be supplemented with a habitat-based approach. BirdLife South Africa opposes large-scale wind energy development in large, intact grassland habitats, especially if these areas are designated as Critical Biodiversity Areas. These areas are crucial for supporting species like the Secretarybird (Endangered). For more details, please refer to the attached guidance note on development in Secretarybird habitat.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The circular buffers proposed during the scoping phase of the project have been replaced with more clearly defined buffers, based on habitats used and flight risk, derived from actual flight data collected on-site and known species characteristics. Habitat suitability and flight risk models for the following species have been developed to inform turbine exclusion zones and mitigation zones: •Martial Eagle •Southern Bald Ibis •Secretarybird •Black-winged Pratincole In addition to the above buffers, circular infrastructure exclusion buffers to mitigate disturbance, will be maintained around identified nest sites.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**
	We note that shutdown on demand has been proposed as mitigation in some areas, and also if "any mortality of collision prone species of	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Minimisation measures are challenging since bird species have different sensory faculties,	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	conservation concern (e.g. Verreaux's Eagle) is recorded shutdown on demand should be considered" (emphasis added). While we welcome shutdown on demand as a mitigation measure, we suggest that given the high avifaunal sensitivity of the site, and that the risk to some species (e.g. Cape Vultures) may not be limited to specific areas, a more proactive approach to shutdown on demand may be more appropriate. In our experience it can take many years before specialists' recommendations to for shutdown on demand are implemented (if at all). We also suggest that monitoring of fatalities should be implemented for the lifespan of the project and overseen by a bird specialist.	flight manoeuvrability, and behavioural aspects to consider. Currently, there is not a single solution that can be applied to all sites and species. The recording of fatalities, as part of the operational monitoring and adaptive management programme will be included as a requirement in the EMPr. Measures proposed in line with the mitigation hierarchy include: Avoidance of all known high-risk areas based on habitat and known flight-risk. Mitigation zones have been identified where risk-mitigation measures will be required e.g. shutdown on demand (SDoD). Consideration to be given for shutdown on demand (SDoD) on the entire facility, not only medium-risk zones. Further, automated SDoD will be advocated that will encompass no restrictions (i.e. cover all daylight hours).	**Section 7.5 of the FSR**
	In conclusion, BirdLife South Africa is concerned much of the proposed development site may be unsuitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure. We suggest that the site sensitivity calls for more robust data collection and impact assessment. If development is deemed appropriate, precautionary (i.e. proactive), clear and enforceable operational phase mitigation measures are likely to	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** It is our view that the data collected as part of the preconstruction monitoring process (per comments in point 3) has been sufficiently robust in terms of the timelines (elaborated on in point 3); this data has been further subjected to more in-depth interrogation and analysis which includes extensive habitat suitability and flight-risk modelling to delineate high-risk areas.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	be required to ensure impacts are within acceptable levels.	These high-risk areas will minimise the risk to grassland and wetland species, as well as Secretarybird and Martial Eagles. All high-risk areas will be avoided. All medium to low-risk areas will be subject to SDoD - see point 9 above. Further, clear, and enforceable operational phase mitigation measures will be implemented through an adaptive management programme. Rapid implementation of mitigation measures will have to be a requirement and will be stipulated in the EMPr (timeframes to be discussed with the client – BLSA would want to see those stipulated in the EMPr). Further, the requisite specific and measurable impact management outcomes and actions will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).	
	Please do not hesitate to contact us to clarify our comments. Please use our emails below for further consultations related to this project. Yours sincerely,	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response and feedback. These details will be used going forward.	**Appendix D** of this report
Email: marlize.muller@birdlife.org.za Samantha Ralston-Paton	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Would it be possible to share a shapefile of the WEF extent, please.	**EAP's response:** Please find attached a kmz of the WEF extent as requested.	**Appendix D of this report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager BirdLife South Africa 08 October 2024			
Email: energy@birdlife.org.za Samantha Ralston-Paton Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager 19 September 2024	Unfortunately, neither my colleagues or I will be able to attend. Take care.	**EAP's response:** In order to facilitate a transparent and interactive discussion regarding the proposed Biodiversity Offset Strategy and Draft EIA Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545), WSP wish to invite you to a focus group meeting and site visit. We would like to propose one of the following dates 10 October 2024 or 11 October 2024 – we kindly request you to respond to this email indicating if either of these dates is not suitable. We propose to meet in Ermelo at a central location (still to be confirmed) for a presentation and discussion around the Offset Strategy and Draft EIA Report, where after we will drive in convoy for a visit to key areas around the site. If we could kindly request your feedback regarding the date by latest 20 September such that we can finalise the required arrangements and send out the meeting request accordingly. Kind regards	**Appendix D of this report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email: marlize.muller@birdlife.org.za Samantha Ralston-Paton Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager BirdLife South Africa 14 October 2024 Official Letter	Re: Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (and associated infrastructure). BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy infrastructure. However, we are concerned that the location of the proposed facility may not be compatible with the desired state of the habitat as indicated in provincial and national conservation plans. The proposed development includes threatened ecosystems, critical biodiversity areas, ecological support areas, wetlands and grasslands. It borders a Key Biodiversity Area and overlaps with Protected Area Expansion Strategy Area. In other words, the site contains and is adjacent to important habitat, including for a number of species of conservation concern, and should be maintained or rehabilitated to a natural, or near natural state.	**EAP's response:** The availability of land is a key feasibility criterion in the site selection process. The project site is of a suitable land size for the proposed development. The land available for the development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF extends approximately 36 600ha, providing a substantial amount of land for the development of a WEF with a capacity of up to 550MW. The proponent has secured sufficient land for the development of the proposed WEF with landowners within the respective cadastral portions comprising the development footprint, indicating their support and willingness for the project to proceed to development via entering into agreement with the developer. After intensive studies throughout much of the province, and through analysing the aforementioned factors, it was determined that this site has the most ideal conditions for the development of the Project. It is acknowledged that the area includes threatened ecosystems, critical biodiversity areas (CBAs), ecological support areas (ESAs), wetlands and grasslands and borders on a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and overlaps with the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Area (NPAES). The further specialist studies to be undertaken during the course of the ongoing EIA process will consider the proposed project's impacts on	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		all and any areas that fall to be dealt with by virtue of their status as CBAs, ESAs, KBAs and/or in overlap with the NPAES. **Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches, CBAs, ESAs and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to approximately 7.99ha. Furthermore, fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that irreplaceable CBA spans 1.877ha and incorporates the areas proposed for the placement of turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20, 8. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is the first imperative. Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to further reduce the footprint in these areas.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Wind turbines and associated infrastructure can cause the direct loss of birds due to turbine collisions, habitat loss and fragmentation, as well result in less visible ecological impacts such as trophic cascades, displacement and disturbance. BirdLife South Africa does not, therefore, support the development of wind energy facilities in large, intact wetland and grassland habitat, especially areas designated as Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The comment and concerns are noted.As per the mitigation measures provided by the biodiversity specialist, it is recommended that as far as possible, permanent Project infrastructure footprints should be located in areas of modified habitat (Cultivated Fields & Old Lands) to avoid/minimise impacts on natural habitats and specifically CBAs. Temporary Project infrastructure footprints (e.g., laydown areas) should only be located in areas of modified habitat; In areas of natural habitat, micro-site Project infrastructure to localised disturbed sites.	
	Furthermore, new information has come to light that bears relevance this impact assessment process. The habitat suitability model for the critically endangered White-winged Flufftail is currently being revised. This update incorporates acoustic data collected over the past four years across the Eastern Escarpment of South Africa. According to the updated model, suitable wetland habitat is predicted for the White-winged Flufftail within the proposed Wind Energy Facility site (Figure 1). We therefore recommend: 1. Conducting passive monitoring at these suitable wetlands during the breeding season for the species (at least the December to January period). Monitoring can include camera trap surveys with	**EAP's response:** The request for the additional passive acoustic monitoring has been noted. Due to the lack of time to conduct this additional work before the 01 November 2024, a decision has been made to allow the application to lapse such that the additional work an be undertaken. A re-application in terms of Regulation 21(2) of the NEMA EIA Regulations will be made once this additional work has been completed. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** In accordance to the SANBI requirement of sensitive species the identity of the species	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	tunnels (Colyn et al. 20171) and/or acoustic surveys (Colyn et al. 20202). If acoustic surveys are used, BirdLife South Africa is prepared to discuss processing the data to confirm White-winged Flufftail presence only. 2. The avifaunal and wetland specialists' revisit their impact assessments and update their recommendations for avoidance, mitigation and offsetting potential impacts, taking into consideration this new information.	must be redacted in all public correspondence and referred to as the numbered species. Additional passive acoustic monitoring will be conducted over the summer peak season and the results thereof incorporated into an updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision-making.	
	We are extremely concerned that there are numerous ambiguities in the EIA, Avifaunal Report, as well as inconsistencies between the EIA Report, Avifaunal Report, Comments and Response Report, and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). For example: 1. The "revised layout" (88 turbines) in the EIR includes turbines in areas recommended for avoidance and proactive mitigation in the Avifaunal Report.	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority (DFFE). All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the updated Draft EIR.	
	2. The numbering of figures in the Avifaunal Specialist Report needs to be corrected (e.g. the text incorrectly refers to Figure 15, but this should be Figure 16).	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the updated Draft EIR.	
	3. The Impact Management Outcome regarding impacts on avifauna in the EMPr is vague and unenforceable, and different to the more specific Mitigation/Management Objectives and Outcomes proposed in the Avifaunal specialist report.	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority. All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the updated Draft EIR.	
	4. Critical mitigation measures recommended by the avifaunal specialist e.g. that "All wind turbines (WTGs) to be subjected to either Observer-led Shutdown on Demand (OSDoD) or Auto SDoD (ASDoD) during daylight hours and radar flight detection technology for flocks of target species at night", are not reflected in the EIA or EMPr. We do not support the recommendation in the EIR report that if "estimated annual collision rates indicate unacceptable mortality levels of priority species exceeding mortality thresholds as determined by the avifaunal specialist in consultation with other experts (e.g., BLSA), additional measures must be implemented, such as shut down on demand or	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority. All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the updated Draft EIR.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	other proven measures (if available at the time)". This is not a risk averse of precautionary approach.		
	5. The avifaunal specialist recommended "a procedure for the immediate removal of carcasses within the development area must be implemented to prevent vultures from being attracted to the area where they could be at risk of collision with the turbines". This is not reflected in the EIA or EMPr.	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority. All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the updated Draft EIR.	
	6. In our comments on the draft Scoping Report, we recommended that bird carcass surveys be conducted for the lifespan of the facility. The avifaunal specialist concurred, yet the EMPr indicates that monitoring "should take place in Year 1 and 2 of the operational phase, and then repeated in Year 5 and every five years after that". Carcass surveys are essential to check the effectiveness of the shutdown on demand programme and should be conducted as long as a shutdown on demand programme is in place.	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority. All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the next draft of the EIR.	
	All the above example begs the question, what other specialist recommendations have been overridden or ignored?	**Responses by the Avifaunal Specialist and the EAP:**	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making by the competent authority. All specialists' recommendations and requirements will be reflected consistently throughout the various sections of the next draft of the EIR.	
	We are concerned that the assessment of cumulative impacts was inadequate and likely to underestimate the real risk to biodiversity. There is no biological reason to limit the assessment to 30km. We suggest that for threatened species, population-scale assessments would be more appropriate.	**EAP's response:** It can be noted that the 30km radius for cumulative assessment is the typical radius requested by the DFFE. The EAP has made a point of increasing this to 55km. It is proposed that the cumulative assessment will be updated in the updated Draft EIR. More accurate data has been sourced from the MTPA which includes a greater number of projects. The EAP has requested information for up to 100km radius of the site. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The assessment of cumulative impacts was done at a radius of 55km and not the typical 30km radius and it was acknowledged in the Avifaunal Specialist Study that the cumulative impacts of the proposed Project are considered to be moderate to high post-mitigation.	**Appendix G.4 of the EIR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		National initiatives in this regard are currently underway and will provide the required guidance for individual projects to align to such population estimates and evaluate more accurately per project and cumulative impacts.	
	We note that a biodiversity offset strategy has been proposed "a result of the very high sensitivities confirmed in terms of avifauna, the presence of primary grasslands and PES A/B wetlands on site, the potential residual impacts as well as recommendations received from the DFFE". We are concerned that: 1) Opportunities to avoid and minimise impacts have not been thoroughly exhausted.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches, CBAs, ESAs and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first. Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas. Birdlife's concerns regarding the feasibility to offset for fatalities and the lack of a robust policy framework for offsetting fatalities of threatened species is noted.	
	2) It has not been demonstrated that it will be feasible to offset (or compensate) for fatalities.		
	3) A robust policy framework for offsetting fatalities of threatened species is not available for South Africa yet.		
	In light of the above, BirdLife South Africa does not support the application in its current format. Yours sincerely,	**EAP's response:** This statement is noted.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		In light of this statement and the request for the additional passive acoustic monitoring has been noted. Due to the lack of time to conduct this additional work before the 01 November 2024, a decision has been made to allow the present application to lapse so that the additional work can be undertaken in a risk-averse and precautionary manner and in order to comply with the procedural and substantive requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The application (the scoping component of which was approved on 17 July 2024) is complete and a further round of EIA reporting will be required with particular reference to the new and material information that will follow from further specialist reporting. A re-application in terms of Regulation 21(2) will be made once this additional work has been completed.	
Samantha Ralston-Paton Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager 14 October 2024 Email	Dear Ashlea Please see our comments attached. Kind regards Sam **Response to EAP Response 2:** Hi Ashlea I've copied my colleagues who will be able to provide feedback on the availability of on the	**EAP's response** **Response 1:** Dear Sam Thank you – we can confirm receipt. We are busy capturing your comments in the Comment and response report and responding accordingly. Kind regards	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	shapefile and details of the habitat suitability mapping. This leads me to an important point: We omitted to mention in our comments that {name redacted}is considered a sensitive species, and as such is not named in the Screening Tool (a species number is provided). It may be wise to redact the species name and location of the suitable habitat in any documents made available to the public. Kind regards Sam	**Response 2**: Good morning Sam Thank you again for your comments – we do confirm receipt. We would like to request the kml file for the sensitive species 23 and the data associated used to compile Figure 1 in your comments? So that we can utilise the data for our responses. Kind regards	
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) **Commission of Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR)**			
DALRRD Ntokozo Nkambule 12 April 2024 Email	Vusi Khoza will be dealing with your enquiry he can be contacted 013 752 4054 or e-mail address attached.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response and feedback. We will add the details provided to the database for future communication.	**Appendix D** of this report
DALRRD Ntokozo Nkambule 16 April 2024 Email	The receipt of your email has been acknowledged. A response will be given as soon as possible regarding the above land claim status. NB: Please note that Mr Ntokozo Nkambule will be assisting you with a response to your enquiry.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response and acknowledgment. This is noted.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
DALRRD Ntokozo Nkambule 23 April 2024 Email	18 Bell Street Belltower Building NELSPRUIT 1200 013 752 4054 / 076130 6676	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response, this is noted.	**Appendix D** of this report
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 17 April 2024 Letter	LAND RESTITUTION IN TERMS OF THE RESTITUTION OF LAND RIGHTS ACT NO. 22 OF 1994 I refer to your enquiry, 1 6 April 2024 Please note that claim for the restitution of land rights has been lodged against the following property: Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of the farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS. According to our Database, there is a registered Land Claim which was lodged against the mentioned property (File number:10151). Claim status is research. For more info. Contact Sejabaledi Masia 0137566000	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report
	I refer to your enquiry, 17 April 2024 Please note that claim for the restitution of land rights has been lodged against the following	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	property: Portion 4, 15 of the farm UITZICHT 266 IS. According to our Database, there is a registered Land Claim which was lodged against the mentioned property (File number: 1959). Claim status is the Rule3 report. For more info. Contact Bonkosi Mkhatshwa 0137566000 I refer to your enquiry, 17 April 2024 Please note that claim for the restitution of land rights has been lodged against the following property: Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS. According to our Database, there is a registered Land Claim which was lodged against the mentioned property (File number: 9725). Claim status is research. For more info. Contact Syabulela Mjali 0137566000		
	Portion Of the farm VOORZORG 250 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since 1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
	REFERENCE NUMBER: R6/142/281/96364 R6/1 42/281/721 55	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE CLAIMED LAND • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 1 0, 1 1 , 1 3 of the farm WITBANK 236 IS We refer to the land claim enquiry on the 17 April 2024 on land claimslodged with the Department. ' Please note that there is a land claim lodged against the farm based on the Restitution the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, (Act no 15 of 2014). The Commission is empowered to investigate all land claims and where applicable issues a Government Gazette to interested and affected parties if such land claims has been approved as valid claims. The above claim was lodged in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 15 of 2014) ("the Amendment Act") which, amongst others, reopened the lodgement of claims for a period of five years. The validity of the Amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found the Amendment Act to be invalid because of the failure of Parliament to facilitate public involvement as required by the Constitution. The Amendment Act ceased to be law on 28 July 2016 and the Commission is no longer allowed to accept lodgement of new claims from that date. ' The Constitutional Court ordered that the claims that were lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	are validly lodged, but it interdicted the Commission from processing those claims until the Commission has finalised the claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for the re-opening of lodgement of land claims. Parliament was given until 27 July 2018 to pass such a law. The Commission will therefore not be processing these new claims until it finishes claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for re-opening of lodgement of claims. \ We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Please quote the claim reference number in all correspondence with the Commission.		
	REFERENCE NUMBER: R6/142/28 1/1 14791 R6/142/281/1 932 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE CLAIMED LAND • Portion 2, 8, 9 of the farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS We refer to the land claim enquiry on the 17 April 2024 on land claims lodged with the Department. Please note that there is a land claim lodged against the farm based on the Restitution the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, (Act no 15 of 2014) The Commission is empowered to investigate all land claims and where applicable issues a	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Government Gazette to interested and affected parties if such land claims has been approved as valid claims. The above claim was lodged in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No- 1-5 of 2014) (“the Amendment Act”) which, amongst others, reopened the lodgement of claims for a period of five years. The validity of the Amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found the Amendment Act to be invalid because of the failure of Parliament to facilitate public involvement as required by the Constitution. The Amendment Act ceased to be law on 28 July 2016 and the Commission is no longer allowed to accept lodgement of new claims from that date. The Constitutional Court ordered that the claims that were lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 are validly lodged, but it interdicted the Commission from processing those claims until the Commission has finalised the claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for the re-opening of lodgement of land claims. Parliament was given until 27 July 2018 to pass such a law. The Commission will therefore not be processing these new claims until it finishes claims lodged by 31 December 1 998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for re-opening of lodgement of claims.		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Please quote the claim reference number in all correspondence with the Commission.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 23 April 2024 Letter	REFERENCE NUMBER: R6/1 42/281/91578 R6/1 42/281/91 566 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE CLAIMED LAND • Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of the farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS We refer to the land claim enquiry on the 17 April 2024 on land claims lodged with the Department. Please note that there is a land claim lodged against the farm based on the Restitution the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, (Act no 15 of 2014). The Commission is empowered to investigate all land claims and where applicable issues a Government Gazette to interested and affected parties if such land claims has been approved as valid claims. The above claim was lodged in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 15 of 2014) ("the Amendment Act") which, amongst others, reopened the lodgement of claims for a period of five years. The validity of the Amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found the Amendment Act to be invalid because of	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	the failure of Parliament to facilitate public involvement as required by the Constitution. The Amendment Act ceased to be law on 28 July 2016 and the Commission is no longer allowed to accept lodgement of new claims from that date. The Constitutional Court ordered that the claims that were lodged between i July 2014 and 27 July 2016 are validly lodged, but it interdicted the Commission from processing those claims until the Commission has finalised the claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for the re-opening of lodgement of land claims. Parliament was given until 27 July 2018 to pass such a law. The Commission will therefore not be processing these new claims until it finishes claims lodged by 31 December 1 998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for re-opening of lodgement of claims. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Please quote the claim reference number in all correspondence with the Commission.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 17 April 2024	Portion 0 of the farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Letter	1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
	Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15,16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN 234 IS.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 17 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	REFERENCE NUMBER: R6/142/281/56707 R6/142/281/96722 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE CLAIMED LAND • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS We refer to the land claim enquiry on the 17 April 2024 on land claims lodged with the Department. Please note that there is a land claim lodged against the farm based on the Restitution the. Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, (Act no 15 of 2014). ' The Commission is empowered to investigate all land claims and where applicable issues a Government Gazette to interested and affected parties if such land claims has been approved as valid claims. The above claim was lodged in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 15 of 2014) ("the Amendment Act") which, amongst others, reopened the lodgement of claims for a period of five years. The validity of the Amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found the Amendment Act to be invalid because of the failure of Parliament to facilitate public involvement as required by the Constitution. The Amendment Act ceased to be law on 28 July 2016	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	and the Commission is no longer allowed to accept lodgement of new claims from that date. The Constitutional Court ordered that the claims that were lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 are validly lodged, but it interdicted the Commission from processing those claims until the Commission has finalised the claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for the re-opening of lodgement of land claims. Parliament was given until 27 July 2018 to pass such a law. ' The Commission will therefore not be processing these new claims until it finishes claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for re-opening of lodgement of claims. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Please quote the claim reference number in all correspondence with the Commission.		
	Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
	Property: Portion 1, 2 of the farm SPION KOP 252 IS According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
	REFERENCE NUMBER: R6/142/28 1/1 14791 R6/142/281/1 932 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE CLAIMED LAND ' - • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	We refer to the land claim enquiry on the 17 April 2024 on land claims lodged with the Department. Please note that there is a land claim lodged against the farm based on the Restitution the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, (Act no 15 of 2014). , The Commission is empowered to investigate all land claims and where applicable issues a Government Gazette to interested and affected parties if such land claims has been approved as valid claims. The above claim was lodged in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act,2014 (Act No 15 of 2014) ("the Amendment Act") which, amongst others, reopened the lodgement of claims for a period of five years. The: validity of the Amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found the Amendment Act to be invalid because of the failure of Parliament to facilitate public involvement as required by the Constitution. The Amendment Act ceased to be law on 28 July 2016 and the Commission is no longer allowed to accept lodgement of new claims from that date. The Constitutional Court ordered that the claims that were lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 are validly lodged, but it interdicted the Commission rom processing those claims until the Commission has finalised the claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for the re-opening of lodgement of land claims.		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Parliament was given until 27 July 2018 to pass such a law. The Commission will therefore not be processing these new claims until it finishes claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for re-opening of lodgement of claims. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Please quote the claim reference number in all correspondence with the Commission.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 23 April 2024 Letter	Property: Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
	Property: THE FARM GELUKSDRAAI 240 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 17 April 2024 Letter	I refer to your enquiry, 17 April 2024 Please note that claim for the restitution of land rights has been lodged against the following property: Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247. According to our Database, there is a registered Land Claim which was lodged against the mentioned property (File number: 9181). Claim status is research. For more info. Contact Richard Ntuli 0137566000	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 23 April 2024 Letter	Property: Portion 4 of the farm Eerste Geluk 258 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation,	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 17 April 2024 Letter	REFERENCE NUMBER: R6/142/276/48912 > PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE CLAIMED LAND • Portion 0, 2, 7 of the farm DRIEHOEK 273 IS We refer to the land claim enquiry on the 17 April 2024 on land claims lodged with the Department. Please note that there is a land claim lodged against the farm based on the Restitution the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, (Act no 15 of 2014). The Commission is empowered to investigate all land claims and where applicable issues a Government Gazette to interested and affected parties if such land claims has been approved as valid claims. The above claim was lodged in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 15 of 2014) ("the Amendment Act") which, amongst others, reopened the lodgement of claims for a period of five years. . A The validity of the Amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found the Amendment Act to be invalid because of the failure of Parliament to facilitate public involvement as required by the Constitution. The Amendment Act ceased to be law on 28 July 2016	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	and the Commission is no longer allowed to accept lodgement of new claims from that date. The Constitutional Court ordered that the claims that were lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 are validly lodged, but it interdicted the. Commission from processing those claims until the Commission has finalised the claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for the re-opening of lodgement of land claims. Parliament was given until 27 July 2018 to pass such a law. The Commission will therefore not be processing these new claims until it finishes claims lodged by 31 December 1998 or until Parliament passes a new law providing for re- opening of lodgement of claims. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Please quote the claim reference number in all correspondence with the Commission.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 23 April 2024 Letter	Property: PORTION 1 OF FARM DOORNKOP 420 JT. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property. 1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	2. We advise that there is no claim lodged against the property. 3. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 4.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
	Property: Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since 1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 3.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
CRLR – Chief Director: Office of CRLR Mr E.S Nkosi 17 April 2024 Letter	Property: Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK235 IS. According to our Database, there is currently no registered Land claim which was lodged against the mentioned property.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	1.We refer .to your letter received on the 16 April 2024 regarding an enquiry to a Restitution claim against the above property. 2. TAKE NOTICE that land claims are lodged with the office of the Commission in accordance with the historical and or present property descriptions of the dispossessed properties and therefore may not match the current property description as described in your correspondence in respect of the above-mentioned properties. However, if the historical description of any of the above property has changed since 1913, or you are aware of any other local or official name by which it was then described or currently known, kindly supply us with such information to enable us to search further. 3.TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT while the Regional Land Claims Commission: Mpumalanga has taken reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the above-mentioned information, the Commission cannot be held accountable if, through the process of further on- going investigation, additional information may be found that contradicts paragraph 2 above.		
South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)			
SACAA: Inspector Obstacles Lizell Stroh 25 April 2024 Email	The SACAA has transferred the assessments for Solar and Wind energy applications to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your email. We can confirm that we are aware of the change and have included the new details on the I&AP database. In	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(ATNS) for a formal obstacle assessment to be conducted. Their responsibility would pertain to the assessments, maintenance, and all other related matters in respect to Solar and Wind Farm assessments. The contact details for ATNS are: Obstacle Evaluator ATNS Head Office Tel: +2711 6071000 (Ask for Obstacle Evaluators) Email: Obstacles@atns.co.za	addition, we can confirm that the client is also aware of the new requirements.	
SACAA: Aviation Environmental Compliance Department Nrateng Mashiloane 13 September 2024 Email	Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles . A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your email. We can confirm that we are aware of the change and have included the new details on the I&AP database. In addition, we can confirm that the client is also aware of the new requirements.	**Appendix D** of this report
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)			
DFFE Tebego Kgapola 12 April 2024	Dear Sir/Madam DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledges receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response and feedback.	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email	line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Tebego Kgaphola (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers. 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	The EAP confirms that the contact details provided have been added to the database for future communication on the project. Lastly, @Tebego Kgaphola and @Portia Makitla please see attached KMZ of the project footprint as requested.	
DFFE: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Ephron Maradwa 02 May 2024 Email	Dear Ashlea 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) (UP TO 837MW)), LOCATED IN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WHICH FALLS UNDER THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. The Department confirms having received the Application form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 15 April 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP takes 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 must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority. The EAP confirms that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority were provided an opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report from 12 April 2024 to 14 May 2024. This report outlines	**Appendix D** of this report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. 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. 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 must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority. 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. You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may	the responses to all comments received during the review period.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.		
Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach Designation: Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects Dated: 16 May 2024 Received: 22 May 2024 Official letter	Dear Ms Strong COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UP TO 837MW PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) NEAR ERMELO WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) dated April 2024 and received by the Department on 15 April 2024, refer. This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final Scoping Report:	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment.	**N/A**
	(a) Specific Comments (i) The layout plan submitted in the final SR must reflect all turbine positions (turbines to be numbered), substations, BESS, roads, operation and maintenance building, construction camp laydown area, and all associated infrastructure. The co-ordinates must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site.	**EAP's response:** The layout map in the FSR has been revised to include the WTG numbers, as well as the associated infrastructure for the project. However, it must be noted that the WTG and associated infrastructure locations are subject to change based on specialist feedback in the EIA phase.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	The co-ordinates for the turbines, substations and the battery energy storage systems must be included in the report.		
	(ii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the final SR. We require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.	**EAP's response:** Section 3.3 of the FSR includes development and the associated infrastructure footprints.	**Section 3.3 of the FSR**
	(iii) Please ensure that the application form, the SR and all the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the specialist studies and all subsequent reports submitted to the Department have similar project descriptions; including the electricity output and their TOR must be in line with the proposed layout plan.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the application form and all specialist studies terms of reference have similar project descriptions.	**Appendix G of FSR**
	(iv) The screening tool indicates that seventeen (17) specialist assessments need to be undertaken or conducted. Only thirteen (13) specialist reports are planned to be done. Kindly take note that it is the responsibility of the EAP to familiarise yourself with the contents and requirements of the protocols and ensure compliance thereof.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that there are in fact 18 specialist assessments that will be undertaken. All 18 were included in Section 7.5, however some were included under the auspices of larger studies. The FSR has been updated to list each assessment separately, Section 7.5 of the FSR indicates the 18 specialties studies which have been commissioned for the EIA stage.	**Section 7.5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		These include: ▪ Environmental Acoustic (Noise) Impact Assessment; ▪ Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment; ▪ Terrestrial biodiversity Impact Assessment; ▪ Animal impact assessment; ▪ Plant impact assessment ; ▪ Aquatic Impact Assessment; ▪ Bat Impact Assessment; ▪ Avifauna Impact Assessment; ▪ Heritage Impact Assessment; ▪ Palaeontological Assessment; ▪ Visual Impact Assessment (inclusive of the Landscape and Flicker Assessments); ▪ Qualitative Risk Assessment (specific to the BESS); ▪ Desktop Traffic Assessment; ▪ Desktop Geotechnical Assessment; ▪ Social Impact Assessment; ▪ RFI compliance statement; ▪ Civil aviation compliance statement; and ▪ Biodiversity Offset Strategy. Compliance statements will also be drawn up and submitted to the relevant authorities for the Civil aviation theme and the RFI theme, as indicated in section.	
	(v) Please ensure that a site sensitivity verification report that complies with Part A of the protocols is submitted with the final SR and addresses the following:	**EAP's response:** The site sensitivity verification report (SSVR) complies with Part A of the protocols.	**Appendix H of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	a) A verification using desktop analysis and details of the site inspection; b) Site sensitivity for each theme/study listed, as well as compliance statements for assessments not needed to be conducted based on your site sensitivity verification. c) The outcomes of the verification which clearly confirms or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool; and, d) Contains motivation and evidence of the either verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity.	The SSVR includes all these points in the flowing sections of the SSVR: ▪ Section 4.4 of the SSVR ▪ Section 6 of the SSVR	
	(vi) 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.	**EAP's response:** All specialists, where applicable, are registered with SACNASP, and the certificates are attached in Appendix C of the FSR.	**Appendix C of the FSR**
	(vii) With regards to the specialist studies to be undertaken, kindly note that the protocols only require studies to be undertaken where the verification confirms that the sensitivity is either high or very high. Should the sensitivity be confirmed to be low or medium, then a compliance statement is required.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. Specialists were appointed and studies commissioned for all relevant themes identified, as outlined in Section 7.5 of the FSR.	**Section 7.5 of the FSR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(viii) In addition to the above, the comments raised by the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in their letter dated 14 May 2024 must be adhered to and addressed.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all comments raised by MDARDLEA have been adhered to and addressed in the FSR.	**Final Scoping Report** **Appendix D** of the report
	(b) Listed Activities (i) According to the NPAES (2018), large portions of habitat in the study area have been mapped as Priority Focus Areas for protected area expansion. Similarly, the delineations presented in the Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion indicate that large portions of the study area are designated as Priority 2 and Priority 3 areas for protected area expansion. Please ensure that all relevant GN R. 985 listed activities are applied for.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. All the relevant triggered activities have been applied for and listed in Section 4.1 of the FSR.	**Table 4-1 included in Section 4.1 of the FSR**
	(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.	**EAP's response:** All listed activities triggered have been linked to the development activity in the Table 3.3 in Section 3 of the FSR.	**Section 3.3 of the FSR**
	(iii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the listed activities in the FSR are the same as the application form.	**Table 4-1 included in Section 4.1 of the FSR**
	(iv) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be	**EAP's response:**	-

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	downloaded from the following link https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms.	This comment is acknowledged. The latest application form has been used.	
	(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps (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 start, middle and end point of all linear activities.	**EAP's response:** Table 3-2 included in Section 3-1 of the DSR includes all coordinates points of the proposed development site. Furthermore, maps including the coordinates of all the associated infrastructure for the proposed project have been included in Appendix J. However, it must be noted that the WTG and associated infrastructure locations are subject to change based on specialist feedback in the EIA phase.	**Section 3.1 – Table 3-2 of the FSR** **Appendix J of the FSR**
	(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).	**EAP's response:** A map indicating WTG numbers has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR. These numbers will be used going forward for the specialist reports in the EIA phase.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR** **Section 5.5 of the FSR**
	(iii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: 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;	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR. However, it must be noted that the WTG and associated infrastructure locations are subject	**Section 3.5 of the FSR** **Section 5-5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown areas etc. (existing and proposed); c) Battery Energy Storage System; d) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; e) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and f) Buildings, including accommodation.	to change based on specialist feedback in the EIA phase.	
	(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following: a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; b) Buffer areas; and c) All "no-go" areas.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the sensitivity in relation to the WTGs and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 5.5 of the FSR.	**Section 5.5 of the FSR**
	(v) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the cumulative renewable energy projects within 55km has been added to Section 6.2 of the FSR.	**Section 6.2 of the FSR**
	(vi) Google maps will not be accepted.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this and can confirm that no google maps will be used.	**N/A**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(d) Alternatives (i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).	**EAP's response:** Section 3.5 of the DSR and FSR included a section on explanations of the alternatives for the site and developments.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR**
	(ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.	**EAP's response:** Section 3.5 of the DSR and FSR include a section on explanations of the alternatives for the site and developments.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR**
	(e) Public Participation Process (i) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the public participation process followed included all the relevant authorities. A comprehensive database with all I&APs is available in Appendix A of this SER. Written comments received from these departments are included in the CRR.	**Appendix A of this SER** **Section 2.5 of this SER**
	(ii) Comments from this Department's Protected Area Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate must be obtained. Find below the	**EAP's response:**	**Appendix A of this SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	contact details for personnel at this Department's Protected Areas Directorate: a) Name: Mr Thivhulawi Nethononda Telephone no.: (012) 399 9553 Email: TNethononda@dffe.gov.za; and b) Name: Ms Mashudu Mudau Telephone no.: (012) 399 9945 Email: MMudau@dffe.gov.za.	The Draft scoping report was submitted to the DFFE Protected Areas Department; however, no comment has been received to date.	
	(iii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final SR. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, the Gert Sibande District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation	**EAP's response:** The Draft scoping report was submitted to all the relevant authorities for comment. All comments received to date have been captured on this CRR in Table 2-5 of this report.	**Section 2.5 (Table 2-5) of SER**
	(iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction.	**EAP's response:** All comments and issues raised by I&APs and organs of state have been addressed in in Table 2-5 of this report. Where necessary the	**Section 2.5 (Table 2-5) of SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		relevant updates have been made to the Final Scoping Report	
	(v) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	**EAP's response:** The Draft scoping report was submitted to all the I&APs for comment. All comments received to date have been captured on this CRR. Proof of the correspondence is included in Appendix B	**Appendix B** of this report
	(vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the PPP was conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	**Section 2 of this SER**
	(vii) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state, including comments from this Department must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR). 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. 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 I&AP's comments.	**EAP's response:** All comments and issues raised from the DSR public review, have been captured verbatim in this CRR (Table 2-5). All the original comments are included in Appendix D of this report.	**Section 2.5 (Table 2-5) of this report** **Appendix D of the Report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(viii) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual 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.	**EAP's response:** The pre-application meeting minutes are attached as Appendix E of the FSR.	**Appendix E of the FSR**
	(ix) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.	**EAP's response:** The Draft scoping report was submitted to all the I&APs for comment. All comments received to date have been captured on this CRR. Proof of the correspondence is included in Appendix B	**Appendix B of the SER**
	(f) Specialist Assessments (i) All Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be signed by the relevant specialists and attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).	**EAP's response:** All specialists appointed for the project have completed the DFFE specialist declaration, these are attached as Appendix C of the FSR.	**Appendix C of the FSR**
	(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following: 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.	**EAP's response:** All the specialists' studies undertaken include 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.	**Appendix G of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	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.	**EAP's response:** Section 2.7 of the FSR includes all the assumptions and limitations of the specialists' studies undertaken.	**Section 2.7 of the FSR**
	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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The No-go areas identified by specialists have been avoided and no infrastructure has been placed there.	**Section 5.5 of the FSR**
	d) 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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The specialist's definitions of no-go do not differ.	**N/A**
	e) 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.	**EAP's response:** The specialists' studies undertaken are final for the scoping phase.	**Appendix G of the FSR**
	f) Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.	**EAP's response:** Birdlife South Africa and SABAA have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the bird and bat specialist studies conducted thus far as included in the Draft Scoping Report.	**Appendix G.4 & G.5 of the FSR** **Table 2-5 of the SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		Comments from BirdLife were received on 7 May 2024 and have been included and responded to in this SER. It can be confirmed that the bird and bat studies have been undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidelines, namely: ▪ Best practice guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in southern Africa" Unpublished guidelines by BirdLife South Africa & Endangered Wildlife Trust (Jenkins et al, 2015, 2021) and ▪ Species Environmental Assessment Guideline (SANBI, 2020 ▪ The South African Best Practice Guidelines for Pre-construction Monitoring of Bats at Wind Energy Facilities - ed 5 (SABPG, MacEwan et al., 2020) The EAP confirms that Birdlife and SABAA will be provided with further opportunities to comments on the studies during the EIA phase.	
	g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.	**EAP's response:** Specialist mitigation measures will be further developed and described in the Draft EIA report.	**Section 7 of the FSR**
	(iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable	**EAP's response:**	**N/A**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	This comment is acknowledged. There are currently no contradicting recommendations prescribed by specialists.	
	(iv) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. Specialist mitigation measures will be further developed and described in the Draft EIA report.	**Section 7 of the FSR**
	(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.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. All specialist studies have been conducted according to the Protocols.	**Appendix G of the FSR** **Appendix J of the FSR**
	(vi) The specialist reports must comply with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, specifically, the specialist reports must include documentation to show expertise of the specialist to	**EAP's response:** All specialist reports include expertise of the specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae.	**Appendix G of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae.		
	(vii) 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.	**EAP's response:** All specialist declarations have been included in Appendix C of the FSR and include the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	**Appendix C of the FSR**
	(viii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.	**EAP's response:** The SSVR is included in Appendix H of the FSR.	**Appendix H of the FSR**
	(ix) 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.	**EAP's response:** All specialists, were applicable, are registered with SACNASP, and the certificates are attached in Appendix C of the FSR.	**Appendix C of the FSR**
	(g) Cumulative Assessment (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:	**EAP's response:** A 55km radius was used to identify cumulative impacts of surrounding projects. A map of the similar projects within 55km has been included in Section 6-2.	**Section 6.2 of the FSR**
	a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the	**EAP's response:**	**Section 6.2 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.	At this stage, all identified cumulative impacts have been outlined in Section 6.2 of the FSR, Table 6.3. These impacts will be further explored in the draft EIA report.	
	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.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP confirms that the specialists appointed to undertake the studies will provide reports inclusive of this for the EIA phase.	**Section 6.2 of the FSR**
	c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.	**EAP's response:** At this stage, all identified cumulative impacts have been outlined in Section 6.2 of the FSR, Table 6.3. These have been used inform the need and desirability of the project in Section 3.6 of the FSR.	**Section 6.2 of the FSR** **Section 3.6 of the FSR**
	d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.	**EAP's response:** This information will be included in the EIA Report to be compiled in the EIA Phase, along with the related impact and cumulative assessments, and concluding remarks.	**Section 6.2 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(h) General You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "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"	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the FSR will be submitted to the DFFE within 44 days of the receipt of the application, in line with the regulated timeframes.	**N/A**
	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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the FSR will be submitted to the DFFE in line with 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.	**N/A**
	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).	**EAP's response:** The EAP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.	**N/A**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	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. Yours sincerely	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The applicant is fully aware that that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.	**N/A**
Dr Sabelo Malaza Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment 17 July 2024 Official Letter	Dear Ms Strong ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UP TO 837MW PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) NEAR ERMELO WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Final Scoping Report (FSR) received by the Department on 30 May 2024, refer. The Department has noted that the entire development study area is located within the Amersfoort Bethal-Carolina Important Bird Area (SA018). You are advised in terms of Regulation 8(b) of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended, that the location of the wind energy development within a high avifaunal sensitivity area may prejudice the success of this application.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. **As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's).** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) are 'sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', which means they are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats – whether these be in terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine or marine ecosystem. The Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, published in 2016, sets out internationally agreed scientific criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet the specific standardised criteria and quantitative thresholds focused on one or more of five trigger aspects: 1. Threatened biodiversity 2. Geographically restricted biodiversity	-

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		3. Ecological integrity 4. Biological processes 5. Irreplaceability through quantitative analysis The Project Site only marginally overlaps with a KBA, namely the Chrissie Pans KBA (KBA ID 47)	
	This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAr: (a) Specific comments (i) The Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina IBA hosts globally and regionally threatened species that are not found in similar abundance in other provinces. Several species are at risk of becoming extinct, some of which have be found at the proposed site (e.g., regionally threatened African Marsh Harrier (Endangered), Blue Crane (Near Threatened), Denham's Bustard (Vulnerable) and Cape Vulture (Endangered)). The threat of the proposed development to the IBA and the current status of globally threatened bird species such as the Botha's lark is of a concern. The Department urges the EAP and the applicant to evaluate whether the proposed development is suitable for this area considering the high avifaunal sensitivity.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The WEF Project Site and immediate environment is classified as Medium Sensitivity for vultures according to the Vulture Species Theme in the Screening tool. (The Medium sensitivity is due the Project Site possibly affecting an area with between 5%–10% of the vulture population). During the pre-construction monitoring (885 hours of vantage point observations) only four (4) Cape Vultures were observed, during the April survey. In total, only 16 minutes of Cape Vulture flights were recorded at medium height (i.e. within rotor-swept height). The passage rate for Cape Vultures after 885 hours of monitoring was 0.004 birds per hour which amounts to about 1 Cape Vulture every 17 days. According to the Cervantes Population Utilization Distribution outputs the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Project Site is rated low sensitivity (Cervantes et al 2023).	**Avifaunal EIA Report, Appendix G.4 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		During the EIA phase, additional analysis that has been conducted, has been presented with respect to identifying suitable wetland and grassland habitat. Habitat suitability modelling has been conducted to delineate wetland and grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely African Grass Owl, Blue Crane, African Marsh Harrier, and Grey Crowned Crane. Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit informed a habitat suitability model to identify high quality grassland patches specifically preferred by these threatened species. At the proposed project site, suitable habitat was largely driven by Yellow-breasted Pipit, while no suitable habitat for either Rudd's Lark or Botha's lark were flagged by the fine scale habitat suitability model. In addition to the above species-specific habitat suitability model, the high-quality grassland areas (CBAs etc.) identified and avoided by the biodiversity and vegetation specialists, provides additional protection for other grassland specialists such as Denham's Bustard and Secretarybird. **As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's).**	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) are 'sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', which means they are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats – whether these be in terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine or marine ecosystem. The Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, published in 2016, sets out internationally agreed scientific criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet the specific standardised criteria and quantitative thresholds focused on one or more of five trigger aspects: 1. Threatened biodiversity 2. Geographically restricted biodiversity 3. Ecological integrity 4. Biological processes 5. Irreplaceability through quantitative analysis The Project Site only marginally overlaps with a KBA, namely the Chrissie Pans KBA (KBA ID 47)	
	(ii) It is evident that large tracts of natural habitat in the study area, particularly in the south, are delineated as CBA Irreplaceable (CBA 1). These areas are required to meet biodiversity targets for biodiversity pattern (species and ecosystems) and ecological processes. Particularly, part of the	**<u>Avifaunal Specialist's response</u>:** This is correct, please see monitoring efforts and suggested buffers based on modelling for habitat suitability and flight risk for species of	**Avifaunal EIA Report, Appendix G.4 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	development area is affected by intact grassland patches that are considered “source” areas for avifaunal species. These areas should remain in a natural state that is maintained in good ecological condition and therefore must be excluded from the development footprint.	conservation concern in the subsequent responses. All efforts have been made to preserve habitat, critical biodiversity areas, and the species that inhabit it. Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern, and prime areas for these species are being conserved and excluded from the buildable area for the proposed windfarm. Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.	
	(iii) Further investigation into a possible offset agreement with the provincial competent authority required to reduce the ecological impacts of the development must be submitted with the draft EIAr. The agreement must also be submitted to this Department’s Biodiversity Section for comments.	A biodiversity offset strategy has been compiled and included in Appendix K of the Draft EIR. Comments on the draft Biodiversity Offset Strategy will form part of ongoing discussions with the provincial authority and the potential for an offset agreement.	**Appendix K of the DEIR**
	(iv) The development area is located within areas with a high prominence of wetlands (including natural pans) and with very high aquatic/freshwater biodiversity significance that may be important for flamingos and other water-dependent birds.	**Avifaunal Specialist’s response:** Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.	**Avifaunal EIA Report, Appendix G.4 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		During the EIA phase, additional analysis that has been conducted, is presented with respect to identifying suitable wetland and grassland habitat. Habitat suitability modelling has been conducted to delineate wetland and grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely African Grass Owl, Blue Crane, African Marsh Harrier, and Grey Crowned Crane.	
	(v) It is further noted that there may be competing mining rights within the development area. The EIA must exclude these areas from the development footprint.	**EAP's response:** The EAP and developer is aware that there may be competing mining right areas that exist within the development area. In addition, the developer is aware that a Section 53 consent will be required. It can be confirmed that turbines previously located within the Gugulethu Colliery Mining Right Area have been removed from the final layout.	**Section 11.3 of the DEIR**
	(vi) Overall, this Department urges the EAP and the applicant to evaluate whether the proposed development is suitable for this area considering the significant threat to Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird Areas and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. The anticipated impacts on biodiversity, particularly the	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All efforts have been made to preserve habitat, critical biodiversity areas, and the species that inhabit it. Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern, and prime areas for these species are being conserved and excluded from the	**Avifaunal EIA Report, Appendix G.4 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	avifauna, is too great to support this project. A more thorough ecological assessment and exploration of alternative locations are crucial before proceeding with this project.	buildable area for the proposed windfarm. Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.	
	(a) Listed Activities: (i) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.	**EAP's response:** An assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for is included in Section 9 of the DEIR. In addition, an assessment of the cumulative impacts for each listed activity applied for is included in Section 10 of the DEIR.	**Section 9 and 10 of the DEIR**
	(ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.	**EAP's response:** An updated Application form has been submitted together with the DEIR. The EAP confirms that the listed activities represented in Section 6.1 of the DEIR and the application form is the same and is correct.	**Section 6.1 of the DEIR and in the application form**
	(iii) The EIAr must assess the correct sub-listed activity for each listed activity applied for.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the correct sub-listed activity for each listed activity applied for has been assessed in the Section 6.1 of the DEIR and in the application form.	**Section 6.1 of the DEIR and in the application form**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(c) Public Participation: (i) Please ensure the language used to inform potential I&APs in the newspaper advertisement is not only communicated in the language English but should also utilise other dominant languages spoken in the study area. The EAP must ensure that the newspaper medium adequately caters for all potential I&APs in the study area. This should also apply to any site notification boards as well.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the newspaper advertisement was advertised in three local languages (English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) that are dominant in the study area.	**Appendix B.1 of this SER**
	(ii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency, the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, the Gert Sibande District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, and the Directorate Protected Areas.	**EAP's response:** The Final scoping report (FSR) was submitted to all the relevant authorities for comment. All comments received to date have been captured in Table 2-5 of this SER and are included in Appendix D of this SER	**Table 2-5 of this SER** **Appendix D of the SER**
	(iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in	**EAP's response:** All comments received to date have been captured and adequately addressed in Table 2-5 of this CRR. The original proof of	**Appendix D of this SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in Appendix D of this SER.	
	(iv) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. 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 I&AP's comments.	**EAP's response:** All comments and issues raised from the FSR public review, have been captured verbatim in Table 2.5 of this CRR (SER). All the original comments are included in Appendix D of this report.	**Appendix D of this SER**
	(v) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	**EAP's response:** All comments and issues raised from the FSR public review, have been captured verbatim in Table 2.5 of this CRR (SER) and responded to individually. Comments from I&APs have not been split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission have been responded to individually.	**Table 2.5 of this SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the PPP was conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	**Section 2 of this SER**
	(vii) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual 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 EIAr.	**EAP's response:** The pre-application meeting minutes are attached as Appendix E of the DEIR.	**Appendix E of the DEIR**
	(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps: (i) The EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site and all proposed infrastructure (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.	**EAP's response:** All coordinate points of the proposed development site is included in Section 4.1, Table 4.2 of the DEIR. Furthermore, maps including the coordinates of all the associated infrastructure for the proposed project have been included in Appendix M of the DEIR.	**Section 4.2, Table 4.2 of the DEIR** **Appendix M of the DEIR**
	(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 and the specialist studies.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating WTG numbers has been added to Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the DEIR. These numbers have been used in the specialist reports in the EIA phase. The final layout is included in Section 11.3 and co-ordinates of the turbines included in the final layout are included in Appendix M.	**Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the DEIR** **Section 11.3 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
			Appendix M of the DEIR
	(iii) The EIAr must provide a copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following: a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed wind energy facility; b) Position of the wind turbines; c) Powerlines; d) Internal roads; e) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.; f) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters; g) Battery Energy Storage System; h) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facilities and its associated infrastructure; i) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the DEIR. The final layout is included in Section 11.3 and co-ordinates of the turbines and associated infrastructure are included in the final layout are included in Appendix M.	**Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the DEIR** **Section 11.3 of the DEIR** **Appendix M of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	j) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and k) Buildings, including accommodation.		
	(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following: a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, IBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nest and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; b) Buffer areas; and c) All "no-go" areas.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the sensitivity in relation to the WTGs and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 5.2.2 of the DEIR. The final layout is included in Section 11.3 including a sensitivity map as requested.	**Section 5.2.2 of the DEIR** **Section 11.3 of the DEIR**
	(v) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the cumulative renewable energy projects within 55km has been added to Section 10 of the DEIR.	**Section 10 of the DEIR**
	(vi) Google maps will not be accepted.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this and can confirm that no google maps will be used.	-
	(e) Specialist assessments: (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:	**EAP's response:** All the specialists' studies undertaken include study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, turbine positions and all other associated	**Appendix G of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.	infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.	
	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.	**EAP's response:** Section 3.6 of the DEIR includes all the assumptions and limitations of the specialists' studies undertaken. Each individual specialist study also includes an outline of the relevant assumptions and limitations.	**Section 3.6 of the DEIR** **Appendix G of the DEIR**
	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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The No-go areas identified by specialists have been avoided and no infrastructure has been placed there.	**Section 8.10 of the DEIR**
	d) 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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The specialist's definitions of no-go do not differ.	-
	e) 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.	**EAP's response:** The specialists' studies undertaken are final for the Draft EIA phase.	**Appendix G of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	f) Bird and bat specialist studies must have comments from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.	**EAP's response:** Birdlife South Africa and SABAA have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the bird and bat specialist studies conducted thus far as included in the Draft Scoping Report. Comments from BirdLife were received on 7 May 2024 and have been included and responded to in this SER. It can be confirmed that the bird and bat studies have been undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidelines, namely: ▪ Best practice guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in southern Africa" Unpublished guidelines by BirdLife South Africa & Endangered Wildlife Trust (Jenkins et al, 2015, 2021) and ▪ Species Environmental Assessment Guideline (SANBI, 2020 ▪ The South African Best Practice Guidelines for Pre-construction Monitoring of Bats at Wind Energy Facilities - ed 5 (SABPG, MacEwan et al., 2020) The EAP confirms that Birdlife and SABAA will be provided with further opportunities to comments on the studies during the EIA phase.	**Appendix G.4 & G.5 of the DEIR** **Table 2-5 of the SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.	**EAP's response:** Specialist mitigation measures is included in Section 9 of the DEIR and Section 7 of the EMPr.	**Section 9 of the DEIR Section 7 of the EMPr**
	(ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. There are currently no contradicting recommendations prescribed by specialists.	-
	(iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in 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.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. All specialist studies have been conducted according to the Protocols.	**Section 8 of the DEIR** **Appendix G of the DEIR** **Appendix J of the DEIR**
	(iv) Please also ensure that the EIAr includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.	**EAP's response:** The SSVR is included in Appendix J of the DEIR.	**Appendix J of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(v) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered in the field of expertise of the specialist study being undertaken e.g. An aquatic assessment must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP, with expertise in the field of aquatics sciences. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.	**EAP's response:** All specialists, were applicable, are registered with SACNASP, and the certificates are attached in Appendix C of the DEIR.	**Appendix C of the DEIR**
	(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.	**EAP's response:** All specialist declarations have been included in Appendix C of the DEIR and include the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	**Appendix C of the DEIR**
	(vii) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAr: ▪ Agriculture Impact Assessment; ▪ Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment; ▪ Avifauna Impact Assessment ; ▪ Bats Impact Assessment; ▪ Heritage Impact Assessment; ▪ Noise Impact Assessment; ▪ Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment; ▪ Visual Impact Assessment; ▪ Socio-Economic Impact Assessment; ▪ Traffic Impact Assessment; ▪ Geotechnical Assessment;	**EAP's response:** The specialist assessments listed have been undertaken and are included in Appendix G.1-G.12 of the DEIR.	**Appendix G.1-G.12 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(viii) Please ensure that each specialist study has the correct and same project description and layout to assess.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that each specialist study is correct and has the same project description and layout for the assessment.	**Appendix G.1-G.12 of the DEIR**
	(ix) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary should be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study.	**EAP's response:** A list of specialists and the proposed studies is included in Section 1.3.5 of the DEIR. The recommended table is included in Section 8, Table 8.1 of the DEIR; and a table of the site alternatives is included in Section 11.3, Table 11.2 of the DEIR.	**Section 1.3.5 of the DEIR** **Section 8, Table 8.1 of the DEIR** **Section 11.3, Table 11.2 of the DEIR**
	(f) Cumulative Assessment: (i) A cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be conducted to indicate the following:	-	-
	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.	**EAP's response:** All the identified cumulative impacts have been outlined in Section 10 of the DEIR.	**Section 10 of the DEIR**
	b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**Section 10 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	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.	The EAP confirms that the specialists appointed to undertake the studies will provide reports inclusive of this for the EIA phase.	
	c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.	**EAP's response:** All the identified cumulative impacts have been outlined in Section 10 of the DEIR. These have been used inform the need and desirability of the project in Section 4.5 of the DEIR.	**Section 10 of the DEIR** **Section 4.5 of the DEIR**
	d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.	**EAP's response:** A cumulative impact environmental statement has been included in Section 10 and 11 of the DEIR.	**Section 10 and 11 of the DEIR**
	(g) General:	-	-
	(i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.	**EAP's response:** The technical details for the proposed project including the project description and dimensions are included under the heading "General Site Information" in the DEIR.	**General Site Information in the DEIR**
	(ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project i.e., all farm portions where the access road, wind	**EAP's response:**	**Appendix 3 of the Application Form**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	turbines and associated infrastructure are to be located.	The EAP confirms that the landowner consent for all farm portions is included in Appendix 3 of the Application Form.	
	(iii) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr, including the Generic EMPr for substations.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that an EMPr is provided in Appendix L of the DEIR.	**Appendix L of the DEIR**
	The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.	**EAP's response:** The EAP and the Applicant acknowledge this comment and reminder will here comply with Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.	-
	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. Yours sincerely Dr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The applicant is fully aware that that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.	-

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Dr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Offical letter 10 October 2024	COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UP TO 550MW PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) NEAR ERMELO WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) received by the Department on 26 May 2023 and 31 October 2023, respectively, refer. This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAr:	**EAP's response:** WSP acknowledges this comment, through Ms. Strong, in her capacity as the appointed EAP.	
	(a) Specific comments		
	(i) It is noted that the Avifaunal Specialist Assessment finding of the cumulative impact of the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF is anticipated to be moderate to high after mitigation. The Department urges the EAP and the applicant to evaluate whether the proposed development is suitable for this area considering the high avifaunal sensitivity.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concern regarding numerous proposed facilities and their potential cumulative impacts are noted. The assessment of cumulative impacts was done at a radius of 55km and not just 30km and it was acknowledged in the Avifaunal Specialist Study that the cumulative impacts of the proposed Project are considered to be moderate to high post-mitigation. Therefore, the strict implementation of all mitigation measures	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		advocated must be complied with by the project proponent. National initiatives in this regard are currently underway and will provide the required guidance for individual projects to align to such population estimates and evaluate per project and cumulative impacts more accurately	
	(ii) Comments from all other developers surrounding the development must be obtained and included in the final EIAr.	**EAP's response:** The DEIR was made available for comments to all interested and affected parties, including all known surrounding developers. All comments and issues raised from the DEIR public review, have been captured verbatim in this CRR (Table 2-5). All the original comments are included in Appendix D to this report. The EAP has requested more accurate information regarding surrounding developments from the MTPA. This information will allow additional developers to be identified. This new information will be included in the updated EIA Report. A re-application in terms of Regulation 21(2) will be made once this additional work has been completed and all additional developers will be provided an opportunity to comment.	**Appendix D of this report.**
	(iii) The recommendations provided by the specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative.	**EAP's response:** The layout, including the associated infrastructure was revised during the Scoping	Section 11.3 of the EIR report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		Phase, from the initial 132 turbines to 88 turbines. The turbine layout was revised in order to avoid sensitive features and buffer areas based on specialist inputs. The inputs included recommendation that are captured in section 11.3 of the EIR report. The layout was further optimised, reducing the turbines to 84. Further efforts to refine the layout will be included in the updated EIA Report.	
	(iv) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.	
	(v) You are further reminded that the final EIAr to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAr in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the final EIR to be submitted to the Department will comply to Appendix 3 of the EIA regulation. The legislated requirements as per the NEMA GNR 982 and the corresponding sections are cross referenced in Table 1-5 of the EIR.	**Table 1-5 of the EIR**
	(vi) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope) to be included in the decision (or as it should appear in the decision), should a positive Environmental Authorisation be granted. This must include a list of	**EAP's response:** The preliminary page titled General Site Information and Section 4.3 of the EIR list key components of the proposed wind energy facility including project infrastructure. Both	**Section 4.3 of the EIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	all development components and associated infrastructure.	these sections provide lists of all development components and associated infrastructure.	
	(vii) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the final EIAr, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the final EIAr and its associated layout plans.	**EAP's response:** A detailed site location that is inclusive of the affected farm portion and their 21 DSG Code, Co-ordinate Points of the Cadastral Land Parcels has been documented in section 4.1 of the EIAr. Furthermore, maps including the coordinates of all the associated infrastructure for the proposed project have been included in Section 4 and Appendix M of the EIAr.	**Section 4.1 of the FEIR.**
	(viii) A list of what the proposed project entails as well as the associated infrastructure must be included in the EIAr.	**EAP's response:** The preliminary page titled General Site Information and Section 4.3 of the EIR lists key components of the proposed wind energy facility including project infrastructure.	**Section 4.3**
	(ix) The final EIAr must comply with all the conditions of the acceptance of the SR signed on 17 July 2024 and must address all comments contained in the Department's letter dated 16 May 2024, the final SR, the draft EIAr and this letter.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all comments raised by DFFE in the letter dated 16 May 2024 have been adhered to and addressed in the DEIR. Furthermore, all comments in the letter dated 10 October 2024 will be addressed in the updated draft EIR.	**Draft EIR** **Final EIR** **Table 2-5 of this report.**
	(x) The final EIAr must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity	**EAP's response:**	**Appendix J of the FEIR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken which was included in the screening tool report.	Site Sensitivity Verification has been conducted and complies with Part A of the Protocols. The site sensitivity verification report (SSVR) has been refined based on the baseline results by specialists and is attached as Appendix J of the current draft of the EIAr. Furthermore, a summary of the SSVR is included in Section 8 of the EIAr.	
	(b) Listed Activities		
	(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.	**EAP's response:** All listed activities triggered have been applied for and are listed in the Table 6-1 in Section 6.1 of the EIAr. Furthermore, Table 4-3 in Section 4.3 of the EIAr links the listed activities to the project activities / infrastructure listed in the project description.	**Table 4-3 in Section 4.3 of the EIAr.** **Table 6-1 in Section 6.1 of the EIAr**
	(ii) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the final EIAr.	**EAP's response:** All listed activities triggered have been applied for and are listed in the Table 6-1 in Section 6.1 of the EIAr..	**Table 6-1 in Section 6.1 of the FEIR.**
	(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all listed activities applied for are numbered as per the relevant listing notices.	**Table 4-3 in Section 4.3 of the FEIR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all listed activities in the application form are not different from those mentioned in the EIAr. The EAP also confirms that the correct application form has been utilised.	**Application form.** **Table 4-3 in Section 4.3 of the FEIR.**
	(iii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the public participation process followed included all the relevant authorities. A comprehensive database reflecting the details of all registered I&APs is available in Appendix A of this SER. Written comments received from these departments are included in the CRR. The locality map provided in Figure 4-1 of the EIAr provides a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas. A further map will be included in Section 6 of the updated Draft EIA Report to prove relevance of each activity applied for in terms of Listing Notice 3.	**Appendix A of this SER** **Section 2.5 of this SER**
	(iv) The final EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.	**EAP's response:** Impact Assessment of the listed activities applied for has been undertaken and is captured in Section 9 of the EIR.	**Section 9 of the EIR.**
	(c) Public Participation Process		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(i) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the PPP was conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	**Section 2 of this SER**
	(ii) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.	**EAP's response:** DFFE's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate has provided comments which have been captured in Table 2-5 of this report. Original comments are included in Appendix A of this report.	**Appendix A of this SER** **Section 2.5 of this SER** **Table 2-5 of this report**
	(iii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency, the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, the Gert Sibande District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT),BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, and the Directorate Protected Areas.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all listed stakeholders were provided the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIA Report. Comments raised have been included in the Appendix D of this report. The comments have been captured and addressed in this CRR. All stakeholders will be afforded an additional chance to comment on the updated EIA report once all additional requested specialist work is complete and the updated report is circulated to all registered I&APs.	**Appendix D of this report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state, as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAr and are incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all comments raised by key stakeholder have been included in the Appendix D of this report. The comments have been captured and addressed in this CRR.	**Section 2.5 of this SER** **Table 2-5 of this report**
	(v) 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 EIAr.	**EAP's response:** Copies of original comments are included in Appendix D of this report.	**Appendix D of this report.**
	(vi) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAr for comment.	**EAP's response:** Copies of all correspondence with the various stakeholders are included in Appendix D of this report.	**Appendix D of this report.**
	(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.	**EAP's response:** The CRR (this report) is available as Appendix F to the FEIR in the manner in which the latter documentation is currently framed. The EAP confirms that this CRR is in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of the comments letter.	**Appendix F of the FEIR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(viii) 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 I&AP's comments.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that all comments and issues raised have been captured *verbatim* in this CRR (Table 2-5). All the original comments are included in Appendix D of this report.	**Section 2 of this SER** **Section 2.5 (Table 2-5) of this report** **Appendix D of the Report**
	(ix) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual 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 EIAr.	**EAP's response:** The pre-application meeting minutes and Focus group meeting minutes are attached as Appendix E of the EIR.	**Appendix E of the EIR.**
	(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps		
	(i) The EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site and all proposed infrastructure (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.	**EAP's response:** All coordinate points of the proposed development site is included in Section 4.1, Table 4.2 of the DEIR. Furthermore, maps including the coordinates of all the associated infrastructure for the proposed project have been included in Appendix M of the DEIR.	**Section 4.2, Table 4.2 of the DEIR** **Appendix M of the DEIR**
	(ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all specialist studies and maps to be included in the reports.	**EAP's response:**	**Section 4.3 and Section**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		A map indicating WTG numbers has been added to Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the FEIR. These numbers have been used in the specialist reports in the EIA phase. The final layout is included in Section 11.3 and co-ordinates of the turbines included in the final layout are included in Appendix M.	**5.2.2 of the FEIR** **Section 11.3 of the FEIR** **Appendix M of the FEIR**
	iii) The EIAr must provide a copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following: a. A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed wind energy facility; b. Position of the wind turbines; c. Powerlines; d. Internal roads; e. All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.; f. Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters; g. Battery Energy Storage System; h. The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facilities and its associated infrastructure;	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the FEIR. A map showing all sensitivity information, overlain by the optimised layout is included Figure 11-2 in Section 11.3 of the EIAr. The final layout is included in Section 11.3 (Figure 11-1) and co-ordinates of the turbines and associated infrastructure are included in the final layout are included in Appendix M.	**Section 4.3 and Section 5.2.2 of the FEIR** **Section 11.3 of the FEIR** **Appendix M of the FEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	i. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; j. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and k. Buildings, including accommodation.		
	(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following: a. The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, IBAs, Key Biodiversity Areas, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; b. Buffer areas; and c. All "no-go" areas.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the sensitivity in relation to the WTGs and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 5.2.2 of the FEIR. A map showing all sensitivity information, overlain by the optimised layout is included Figure 11-2 in Section 11.3 of the EIAr.	**Section 5.2.2 of the FEIR** **Section 11.3 of the FEIR**
	(v) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the cumulative renewable energy projects within 55km has been added to Section 10 of the FEIR. A map showing all sensitivity information, overlain by the optimised layout is included Figure 11-2 in Section 11.3 of the EIAr.	**Section 10 of the FEIR**
	e) Cumulative Assessment		
	(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	**EAP's response:**	**Section 10 of the FEIR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	to indicate the following: 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.	All the identified cumulative impacts of similar projects within 55km of the proposed WEF that is the subject of this impact assessment have been outlined and assed in Section 10 of the FEIR. The cumulative impact assessment is outlined in Section 10 of the EIAr. The EAP has sourced more accurate information regarding surrounding developments from the MTPA. This information will be used to update the cumulative impact assessment in the updated Draft EIA Report.	
	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.		
	c. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.		
	d. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.		
	(f) Specialist Assessments		
	(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following: a. A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that	**EAP's response:** All the specialists' studies undertaken include 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.	**Appendix G of the FEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.		
	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.	**EAP's response:** Section 3.6 of the DEIR includes all the assumptions and limitations of the specialists' studies undertaken. Each individual specialist study also includes an outline of the relevant assumptions and limitations.	**Section 3.6 of the FEIR** **Appendix G of the FEIR**
	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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The No-go areas identified by specialists have been avoided, and no infrastructure will be placed there.	**Section 8.10 of the FEIR**
	d. 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.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The specialist's definitions of the no-go area do not differ.	**N/A**
	e. 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.	**EAP's response:** Various specialist studies were conducted in January 2024 and revised in January 2025 upon further assessments. The finalised versions of the studies have been included in Appendix G of the DEIR.	**Appendix G of the FEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	f. Bird and bat specialist studies must have comments from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.	**EAP's response:** Birdlife South Africa and SABAA have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the bird and bat specialist studies conducted thus far as included in the DEIR. Comments from BirdLife were received on 14 October 2024 and have been included and responded to in this SER. It can be confirmed that the bird and bat studies have been undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidelines, namely: ▪ Best practice guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in southern Africa" Unpublished guidelines by BirdLife South Africa & Endangered Wildlife Trust (Jenkins et al, 2015, 2021) and ▪ Species Environmental Assessment Guideline (SANBI, 2020 ▪ The South African Best Practice Guidelines for Pre-construction Monitoring of Bats at Wind Energy Facilities - ed 5 (SABPG, MacEwan et al., 2020).	**Appendix G.4 & G.5 of the FEIR** **Table 2-5 of the SER**
	g. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.	**EAP's response:** Specialist mitigation measures is included in Section 9 of the DEIR and Section 7 of the EMPr.	**Section 9 of the FEIR Section 7 of the EMPr**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. There are currently no contradicting recommendations prescribed by specialists.	**N/A**
	(iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in 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.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. All specialist studies have been conducted according to the relevant Protocols.	**Section 8 of the FEIR** **Appendix G of the FEIR** **Appendix J of the FEIR**
	(iv) Please also ensure that the final EIAr includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.	**EAP's response:** The Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements are available in Appendix J of the FEIR. A summary of the SSVR is also included in Section 8 of the EIAr.	**Appendix J of the FEIR.**
	(v) 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.	**EAP's response:** All specialists, where applicable, are registered with SACNASP, and the relevant certificates are attached in Appendix C of the EIAr.	**Appendix C of the FEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	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.	**EAP's response:** All specialist declarations have been included in Appendix C of the FEIR and include the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	**Appendix C of the FEIR**
	g) Specialist Declaration of Interest (i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAr. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).	**EAP's response:** All specialist declarations have been included in Appendix C of the FEIR. The EAP confirms that the correct forms have been utilised by all specialists.	**Appendix C of the FEIR**
	(h) Undertaking of an Oath		
	(i) Please note that the final EIAr must have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP. (ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAr must include: "an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to: (i) the correctness of the information provided in the reports; (ii) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;	**EAP's response:** The EAP's declaration of interest and undertaking is included in Appendix B of the FEIR.	**Appendix B of the FEIR.**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(iii) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and (iv) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties".		
	(i) Details and Expertise of the EAP (i) You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the EIAr, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	**EAP's response:** The details of the EAP are included in Section 1.3.4 of the EIAr. Furthermore, the EAP's CV is included in Appendix A of the FEIR.	**Appendix A of the EIR**
	(j) Environmental Management Programme		
	(i) Please ensure that all the sections of the generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) are adequately completed, is signed and dated on submission of the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.	**EAP's response:** All Sections of the generic EMPr are adequately completed as required and a signed copy will be included in the Final EIAr. The generic EMPr is included as Appendix E of the EMPr.	**Appendix E of the EMPr**
	(ii) The EMPr must also include the following: a) All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr and the specialist studies conducted.	**EAP's response:** All recommendations and mitigation measures are recorded in Section 7 of the EMPr. The highlighted ambiguities identified by Birdlife and MDARDLEA are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making on the substantive merits of the application for environmental authorisation.	**Section 7 of the EMPr**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	b) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.	**EAP's response:** An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process is available in Section 3 (Figure 3-1) of the EMPr.	**Section 3 (Figure 3-1) of the EMPr.**
	(iii) In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that the EMPr complies with appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The legislated Requirements as detailed in Appendix 4 of GNR 326 have been outlined in Table 1-3 of the EMPr.	**Table 1-3 of the EMPr.**
	(k) Environmental Impact Statement		
	(i) An environmental impact statement must form part of the final EIAr and contain the following – a) a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;	**EAP's response:** The Environment Statement with key findings is available in Section 11 of the FEIR.	**Section 11 of the FEIR.**
	b) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and	**EAP's response:** A consolidated sensitivity map is available in Section 8 of the EIAr as Figure 8-4 and is included as Figure 11-2 of Section 11.3 of the EIAr.	**Section 8 of the FEIR (Figure 8-4).**
	c) a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives.	**EAP's response:** Impact summary is available in Section 11-1 of the FEIR.	**Section 11-1 of the FEIR.**
	(l) General		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(l) General The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions (Annexure 2).	**EAP's response:** The preliminary page titled General Site Information and Section 4.3 of the EIR list key components of the proposed wind energy facility including project infrastructure. Both these sections provide lists of all development components and associated infrastructure	
	Please also ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	**EAP's response:** Section 11.6 of the EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This section includes the following statement: "*Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended requires "where the proposed activity does not include operational aspects, the period for which the environmental authorisation is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post construction monitoring requirements finalised" must be included in the EIA Report.* *The EA is required to be valid for a period of 10 years from the date of issuance of the EA. This is considered a reasonable period to allow the Applicant time to conduct relevant internal processes which can only begin after issuance of the EA."*	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority - (a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have 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."	**EAP's response:** In light of requests for the additional monitoring and studies and the lack of time available to conduct this additional work before 1 November 2024, a decision has been made by the project proponent to allow the application to lapse such that the additional work can be undertaken. The pending application for environmental authorisation will be re-commenced once this additional work has been completed and the updated report is circulated to all registered I&APs.	
	Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAr or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the	**EAP's response:** In light of requests for the additional monitoring and studies and the lack of time available to conduct this additional work before 1 November 2024, a decision has been made to allow the application to lapse such that the additional work can be undertaken. A re-application in terms of Regulation 21(2) will be made once this additional work has been completed. Therefore, all new information added to the updated Draft EIA report will be released for a further 30-day comment period prior to the submission of the Final EIA Report.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".		
	Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. As explained in this response, due to the limited time available to conduct additional specialist work (for example, passive acoustic monitoring) the project proponent has elected to allow the present application to lapse in order that the additional specialist and related work be undertaken and circulated to all registered I&APs for their comment in the context of the delivery of the FEIR and specialist reporting to DFFE as competent authority. In light of requests for the additional monitoring and studies and the lack of time available to conduct this additional work before 1 November 2024, a decision has been made to allow the application to lapse such that the additional work can be undertaken. A re-application in terms of Regulation 21(2) will be made once this additional work has been completed.	
	You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No.	**EAP's response:**	

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	107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.	This comment is noted. The EAP (and the project proponent) are well-aware of the relevant stipulations in NEMA.	
DFFE Biodiversity Conservation			
Mr Seoka Lekota Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment 09 May 2024 Official letter	Dear Ashlea COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF), MPUMALANGA PROVINCE The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports. The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Report and the Plan of Study for EIA, however, the EIA report must 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. 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	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment. The EAP confirms that the EIA 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. The EAP can also confirm that the EIA will 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. All public participation documents will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.	**Appendix D** of this report.

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	and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa. Kindly note that the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation does not support any development within high sensitive areas. 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. Yours faithfully		
Tebego Kgaphola Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation 9 May 2024 Email	Good day Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your participation and comments. We can confirm receipt of your letter. Kind regards	**Appendix D** of this report.
Lindiwe Dlamini Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation 27 September 2024 Email	Dear Sir/Madam 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 Tebego Kgaphola (Copied	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has been included in the I&APs database and has received all communication with regards to the WEF application. Comments from the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation have	

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	on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers. 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	been included in this SER together with the responses.	
Seoka Lekota 14 October 2024 Email Official Letter	COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports. The Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF is located approximately 16km north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The WEF will be located over 95 farm portions and will have a project area of approximately 33660 hectares (ha). Within this project area the extent of the buildable area will be subject to finalization based on technical and environmental requirements. The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF is not located within	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP confirms that this information is accurate.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	one of the promulgated Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ).		
	It was noted during review that, the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme is rated 'Very High' sensitivity due to the presence of the Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) 1; Critical Biodiversity Area 2; Ecological Support Areas (ESA): Landscape corridor; Ecological Support Areas (ESA): Local corridor; Freshwater Ecosystem priority Area (FEPA) Sub-catchment; National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES); IBA; Endangered – Eastern Highveld Grassland; and Vulnerable – Soweto Highveld Grassland. However, some portions of the study area have been modified by active and historic crop farming (i.e., Cultivated fields and Old Lands) and severely encroach by AIS (i.e., Alien Tree Plantations). The FEPA also extends along the eastern boundary of the study area.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP confirms that this information is accurate.	
	Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) defines CBAs (irreplaceable and optimal) as areas that are required to meet biodiversity targets (for biodiversity pattern and ecological process features). The management approach is that they should remain in a natural state. CBAs are areas of high biodiversity value which are usually at risk of being lost and usually identified as important in meeting biodiversity targets, except for Critically Endangered Ecosystems or Critical Linkages. The	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present within the project area has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates parts of the areas initially proposed to be occupied by turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG 3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20,8. Efforts to exclude infrastructure from these	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	proposed project will impact local habitat connectivity through habitat loss and fragmentation, and this may affect various ecological processes.	areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first. Avoidance of all CBAs, is the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much-reduced version of the original, however the project proponent will still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas.	
	Avifauna SCCs were recorded in the study area and the Project Site is located within the Amersfoort- Bethal-Carolina IBA (SA018) and 18km west of the Chrissie Pans IBA (SA019). Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is another important conservation area that was noted in the surrounding landscape. You are required to include the Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment Landowners Association on the list of I&AP and obtain comments from the association.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP confirms that this information is accurate. The EAP confirms that the Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment Landowners Association will be added to the I&AP database and provided an opportunity to review and comment on the updated draft EIA Report. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
	Vultures plays a crucial role in maintaining a healthy environment. The WEF Project Site and immediate environment is classified as Medium Sensitivity for vultures according to the Vulture Species Theme. The EIA report must also align with the National Vulture Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), 2024.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** A further detailed vulture analysis using tracking data will be conducted to assess vulture presence at a regional level. The vulture BMP will also be taken into account.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	No flora species listed as threatened or Near Threatened on the national Red List were recorded in the study area during the field survey. However, *Kniphofia ensifolia subsp. ensifolia*, which is listed as Near Threatened on the Mpumalanga Red List was recorded in the study area.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP confirms that this information is accurate	
	The WEF and all associated infrastructures are not compatible landuse, in accordance with the MBSP, that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs. The proposed project is in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, several of which are known to be vulnerable to wind turbine collisions.	**Avifaunal specialist's response:** All efforts will be made to preserve habitat, critical biodiversity areas, and the species that inhabit it. Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern, and prime areas for these species are being conserved and excluded from the buildable area for the proposed windfarm. Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.	
	The Directorate has also noted the submission of the Biodiversity Offset Report. After reviewing the report, amongst others the following must be noted. • In determining whether a biodiversity offset is required, a detailed assessment of the mitigation hierarchy must be undertaken, and where residual impacts have been identified, it must be determined and suitably shown, if the impacts can be mitigated through a	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs is the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original; however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	biodiversity offset. Avoidance, minimization, and restoration/rehabilitation measures must be adequately shown in the strategy. It must be stressed that not all residual impacts can be mitigated through a biodiversity offset and if a residual impact is deemed to be significantly high, the project should not proceed.	A further revised and optimised layout will be included in the updated draft EIA report.	
	• It is imperative that all residual impacts of the proposed development are included in the biodiversity offset determination, which must follow the like-for-like principle or if the project is deemed to have strategic significance, follow the ecological compensation measure route, ensuring equity and reasonable decision-making.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** This comment has been noted and will be indicated in the final biodiversity offset report.	
	• The offset must be designed for the life span of the project impact and/or into perpetuity.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** This comment has been noted and will be indicated in the final biodiversity offset report.	
	• The biodiversity offset must have a conservation outcome leading to a net positive impact where possible and must be measurable and achievable.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** This comment has been noted and will be indicated in the final biodiversity offset report.	
	In conclusion, it is noted that the number of the proposed wind turbines has been reduced from 135 to 88 to avoid sensitive areas. However, due to the presence of large areas with watercourses, the	**EAP's response:** The selection of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF site is the outcome of a feasibility	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	impacts on both fauna and avifauna are inevitable. The proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure considering the sensitivity and the key biodiversity features present on site. It is the Directorate's view that the first step of the mitigation hierarchy (Avoidance) was not adequately assessed, only one site alternative was assessed in the DEIR. You are advised to thoroughly assess different site alternatives to avoid and minimise impacts on species of biodiversity importance.	assessment by the proponent, which inter alia served to identify site options that would be optimal for energy production and grid interconnection. The Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF site was selected because it is strategically located due to factors such as its wind resource, proximity to the Eskom Grid, land availability and landowner support, the strategic placement of the facility close to the Camden Power Station which is targeted for decommissioning and the ability of the facility to form part of the Just Energy transition (JET) Program, accessibility to access roads and labour pool and suitable topography. The availability of land is a key feasibility criterion in the site selection process. The project site is of a suitable land size for the proposed development. The land available for the development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF extends approximately 36 600ha, providing a substantial amount of land for the development of an up to 550MW WEF. The proponent has secured sufficient land for the development of the proposed WEF with landowners within the respective cadastral portions comprising the development footprint, indicating their support and willingness for the project to proceed to development via entering into agreement with the developer. After intensive studies around the province, through analysing the aforementioned factors, it was	

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		determined that this site has the most ideal conditions for the development of the Project. It is acknowledged that the area includes threatened ecosystems, critical biodiversity areas (CBAs), ecological support areas (ESAs), wetlands and grasslands and borders on a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and overlaps with the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Area (NPAES). The receiving environment will be the subject of further specialist reporting as referred to by the EAP and the specialists whose comments are recorded in this CRR.	
	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.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
	The Directorate reserves the right to revise initial comments presented here if additional information becomes available. Yours faithfully	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
DFFE: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness			

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
DFFE: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness 16 October 2024 Mashudu Mudau Email	RE: AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WEF (REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545) The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment report for the proposed development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF, located approximately 16km north-west of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
	After conducting the review of the submitted documents, we have noted that the proposed developments will not take place within any protected area in terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), Act No. 57 of 2003 nor within the 5km (nature reserve) and 10km (national park) identified in terms of NEMPAA. The closest protected area is the Rietvlei Private Nature Reserve is 12.6km away from the proposed development (see attached). However, the proposed development is within the National Protected Area Expansion Strategic areas	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All efforts have been and will continue to be made to reduce the infrastructure coinciding with NPAES areas. Primary consideration has been to give effect to the mitigation hierarchy, avoidance has meant that disturbed areas have been favoured for infrastructure placement.	
	The proposed development is located within the Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina IBA (SA018) and 18km west of the Chrissie Pans IBA, twelve (12) Species of Conservation Concern have been recorded	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The location of the project in the previously designated IBA is noted. Note that Key	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	during the on-site field surveys namely: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered), Black Harrier (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Black Stork (Regionally Vulnerable), Black-winged Pratincole (Globally and Regionally Near-Threatened), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Near Threatened), Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered), Denham's Bustard (Globally Near-Threatened and Regionally Vulnerable), Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable), Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Pallid Harrier (Globally and Regionally Near Threatened), Secretary bird (Globally Endangered and Regionally Vulnerable) and Southern Bald Ibis (Globally and Regionally Vulnerable).	Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) should currently be considered. The potential sensitivity of the area is duly recognised and acknowledged. Considering preferred habitats as identified through field surveys and habitat modelling for several species of conservation concern the original proposed buildable area has been reduced significantly. All wetland and high suitability grasslands have been avoided – adequate protection for multiple taxa should thus be achieved. In addition an offset strategy is also being developed	
	Although a Biodiversity Offset strategy has been conducted, the IBA was confirmed to be of high sensitivity for Avifauna, it this directorate's opinion that the loss of flora and fauna to be impacted by the proposed development will be of very high. The Biodiversity Offset must be for like-like.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas	
	As per the DEIR "the investigation of an alternative site is not currently proposed within this Scoping Report, there is no site alternative for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF". Considering the sensitivity of the proposed area, and the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible and objectively reasonable efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	development in CBA areas must be avoided. It is therefore recommended that the proposed location of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure must avoid areas designated CBA Irreplaceable, CBA Optimal, FEPA and an IBA. The continued integrity and protection of these CBAs is required to meet biodiversity targets for biodiversity pattern (species and ecosystems) and ecological processes. The presence of CBA Irreplaceable and CBA Optimal land in the study area is therefore a concern with respects to terrestrial biodiversity management.	Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha. Furthermore, fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20, 8. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is the foremost or principal aim. Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas.	
	It is this Directorates view that this proposed project will have a very high impact to avifauna as the sole purpose of the IBA is to serve as their main habitat and for their protection.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The location of the project is in the previously designated IBA is noted. Note that Key Biodiversity Areas should currently be considered.	
	Large parts of the overall project site are essentially undeveloped, it is noted that the number of the	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	proposed wind turbines has been reduced from 135 to 88 to avoid sensitive areas. However, due to the presence of large areas with watercourses, both fauna and avifauna will highly likely seek to continue to use these resources, therefore collision and mortality of these sensitive species will be inevitable.	The optimised layout presented in Section 11 of the EIAr further reduced the number of turbines to 84. The mitigation hierarchy has been followed and all high sensitivity areas have been avoided. Mitigation measures will also be implemented to reduce the impact. During the operational phase, an adaptive management strategy will be followed in order to rapidly respond to fatalities that occur and that where needed additional mitigation measures are considered and implemented.	
	Mpumalanga has small remaining portion of untransformed Grasslands and Wetlands in the highveld, development in these remaining patches must be avoided at all costs, therefore, these areas must be treated as No-Go areas.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in turbine numbers to date. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76). Further efforts to refine the layout will be included in the updated EIA Report.	
Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA)			

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
IUCMA :Environmental Officer (Water Use Authorization) Thandi Dzhangi 12 April 2024 Email	Kindly note the project is outside our catchment	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your feedback, this is noted.	**Appendix D** of this report.
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA)			
MDARDLEA - Director: Environmental Impact Management Robyn Luyt 12 April 2024 Email	Thank you for this. For some reason the same email is popping up multiple time in my inbox. I trust you have submitted a hard copy to Sindi and that MTPA have received the document in their required format.	**EAP's response:** It's possible that your email address was on more than one of the database lists, hence the reason for multiple mails. Yes, we can confirm that a hard copy and a soft copy (on flash drive) will be submitted to MDARDLEAs offices today by CoB. Another hard copy and soft copy has also been couriered to MTPA Mbombela offices.	**Appendix D** of this report.
MDARDLEA – Environmental Officer Sindisiwe Mbuyane	As we, DARDLEA together with MTPA are the commenting authorities must be involved in all aspects of the project process, please do the following: a). Submit a hard copy to our office for my attention b). Submit an electronic copy to Ms Robyn Luyt at DARDLEA head office (via WeTransfer), and c). Liaise with Ms De Waal of MTPA to confirm method of submitting to them.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response. a) We can confirm that x1 hard copy and soft copy (on flash drive) will be delivered today to your office. b) We can confirm that OneDrive Links were sent to Robyn Luyt with the Draft scoping report and all appendices and has confirmed she can access the reports.	**Appendix D** of this report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		c) We can confirm that x1 hard copy and soft copy (on flash drive) was also submitted to MTPA Mbombela via courier.	
Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management 13 May 2024 Email	Good afternoon Thirushan, We are finalising our comments and will get them to you tomorrow before close of business. Kind Regards Robyn	**EAP's response:** Good afternoon Robyn, Thank you, duly noted. Kind regards	**Appendix D** of this report.
Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management 14 May 2024	The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 12 April 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**
	The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable, CBA Optimal, ESAs, Priority Focus Area, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems. Furthermore, the entire site falls within the Amersfoot- Bethal-Carolina Important Bird Area (IBA) and 18km west of the Chrissie Pans IBA.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** This is correct, please see monitoring efforts and suggested buffers based on modelling for habitat suitability and flight risk for species of conservation concern in the subsequent responses.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**
	DARDLEA is concerned that the proposed location of the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) is therefore not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All efforts will be made to preserve habitat, critical biodiversity areas, and the species that inhabit it. Habitat suitability modelling has been	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.	done for several species of conservation concern, and prime areas for these species are being conserved and excluded from the buildable area for the proposed windfarm. Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.	
	Furthermore, significant areas of intact grasslands are located within the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This information has been shared with relevant specialists for consideration during the EIA phase. **Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The EAP would appreciate if the spatial data for intact grassland patches could be shared, to inform design of final layouts and facilitate the avoidance of significant impacts on these areas.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR**
	The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, a number of which are known to be vulnerable to wind turbine collisions. These include Botha's Lark, Blue Crane, Southern Bald Ibis colonies, Black Harrier, Blue Korhaan, Black-winged Pranticole, Secretary Bird (and nest),	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Habitat suitability modelling has subsequently been conducted to delineate wetland and grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. Neither Botha's Lark nor Rudd's Lark has been observed on site during the bird monitoring	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Martial Eagle (and nest), Denham's Bustard, Grass Owl, White-bellied Bustard and Lanner Falcon.	surveys. However, the national species distribution models indicate that the broader area could contain suitable habitat. Therefore, fine scale habitat suitability modelling was conducted for Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit to identify high quality grassland patches specifically preferred by these threatened species. At the proposed project site, suitable habitat was largely driven by Yellow-breasted Pipit, while no suitable habitat for either Rudd's Lark or Botha's lark was flagged by the fine scale habitat suitability model. The outputs of these models will be included in the EIA report. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely African Grass Owl, Blue Crane, African Marsh Harrier, and Grey Crowned Crane.	
	Jackal buzzard was also confirmed on site. It must be noted that this species is known to be particularly vulnerable to turbine collision, and it is understood that because of this, its threat status is likely to be moved from least concern to near threatened. Furthermore, night-flying greater and lesser flamingos were confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** We recognise that the near-endemic Jackal Buzzard is prone to turbine collisions at certain wind energy facility sites. An adaptive risk management plan for the site will stipulate that if collision mortalities occur in numbers that exceed thresholds determined through Collision Risk Modelling, mitigation measures will be elevated, and Jackal Buzzard considered as a trigger species for SDoD.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		The scoping report covered three of the bird monitoring surveys. Subsequently, in survey 4, the flamingo observations increased dramatically, posing an increased risk for these two species. As the commenting authority mentions, there are currently no mitigation measures for night flying birds, but algal blooms over several years will be investigated to determine which pans may be suitable for flamingos and buffers around these will be increased accordingly. In addition, flamingos will be included as a SDoD trigger species should they fly during the day. Flamingo presence and mitigation will be revisited in more detail in the EIA phase. We reiterate that the work presented was that of the scoping study. Subsequent to the scoping report, more studies have been done, including the habitat suitability models, the results thereof will be presented in the EIA phase of the project.	
	We disagree with the assignment of impact significance as “medium” on Page 163 in respect of loss and fragmentation of fauna habitats during both construction and operation phases. Intact grasslands, as indicated above, are essential to ensure that species are able to thrive. Loss of intact grasslands directly impacts species’ ability to breed and disperse. There is no clear justification or reasoning provided as to how significance score of “medium" was established (were the 2022 Species	**Avifaunal Specialist’s response:** The EAP provided the bird specialists with impact rating methodologies to include in the scoping study. These methodologies are aligned with the Species Environmental Assessments Guidelines for interpreting sites of Ecological importance SEI. The Impact Assessment Methodology is included in the Avifaunal Specialist Report	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Assessment Guidelines followed?). The significance rating should therefore be “High”.	Scoping (Appendix D of Appendix G-4 of the FSR). In our opinion, these methods can be insufficient as the formulas often result in an impact being rated lower than what it should be. During the EIA phase, the ratings will be interrogated and revised again. **Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist’s response:** This comment is acknowledged. The effects of habitat fragmentation on fauna are anticipated to be mostly associated with the development of the proposed road network. The Project proponent has already aligned as much of the proposed access road network with the existing district roads and farm road/tracks network to avoid and minimise the impacts of habitat fragmentation on fauna. Be that as it may, the impact significance of habitat fragmentation will be fully assessed for pre-mitigation and post-mitigation scenarios in the relevant EIA Specialist Reports, which will be compiled in line with the relevant specialist protocols.	
	Similarly, we disagree with the assignment of impact significance as “medium” on Page 165 in respect of all avifaunal impacts. The significance of the impact on Avifauna in terms of Habitat transformation,	**Avifaunal Specialist’s response:** The EAP provided the bird specialists with impact rating methodologies to include in the scoping study. These methodologies are aligned with the Species Environmental	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	collision risk and electrocution of priority species is "High".	Assessments Guidelines for interpreting sites of Ecological importance SEI. The Impact Assessment Methodology is included in the Avifaunal Specialist Report Scoping (Appendix D). In our opinion, these methods can be insufficient as the formulas often result in an impact being rated lower than what it should be. During the EIA phase, the ratings will be interrogated and revised again.	
	The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following: 8.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity: ■ The impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own). ■ The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** This comment is acknowledged. These aspects will be covered in the relevant EIA Specialist Reports, as mentioned above.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	Avifauna: ■ A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms must be developed, which must include all wetland species.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** During the EIA phase, additional analysis that has been conducted, will be presented with respect to identifying suitable wetland and grassland habitat. Habitat suitability modelling has been conducted to delineate wetland and	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC).	
	The avifaunal sensitivity map needs to incorporate more than just the 4 nesting birds and the heronry.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Subsequent to the Scoping report, additional surveys, habitat suitability modelling and flight risk modelling and analysis has been conducted, these additional models and analyses will be presented as an individual map for each relevant species during the EIA phase.	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	The avifaunal sensitivity map must include all species of conservation concern.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Additional modelling has been conducted subsequent to the Scoping report, additional species of concern will be included on the sensitivity maps in the EIA phase of the project.	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	BirdLife's species distribution models must be used and included in the avifaunal sensitivity map.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** BLSA species distribution models are national models – they are used to identify risks on site, we have, however, developed fine-scale habitat models & flight-risk models for particular species when needed. During the EIA phase, the additional analysis that has been conducted, will be presented with maps comparing the proposed site to the national/ regional context in terms of species distribution	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

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	Due to the sensitivity of the avifauna using the area, more than four seasons of avifaunal surveys is required to assess impacts and determine mitigation that is appropriate.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Data collection has been completed at this time. Although the data collection surveys were centred to collect data during four seasons, the monitoring time was spread over 6 visits to cover a larger proportion of the year. This enabled us to capture as much seasonal variability as possible. The date ranges during which surveys took place are as follows: 05 - 16 November 2022, 17 – 20 January 2023, 14 – 20 February 2023, 11 April – 02 May 2023, 13 June – 4 August 2023 and 4 – 21 October 2023. This deliberate extended spread of survey effort was to capture seasonal variability on-site to best encompass spatio-temporal distribution of SCC which we acknowledge requires extensive effort. The data collected from these surveys, as well as the data collected during the initial screening between 31 October - 3 November 2022, has been utilised during to delineate habitats and high usage avifaunal areas to best inform avoidance and mitigation areas.	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data must be acquired to augment the 2D models used.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Tracking of numerous bird species is not within the scope of the EIA process nor that of the project. Additional modelling has been conducted subsequent to the Scoping report, and additional species of concern will be included on	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

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		the sensitivity maps in the EIA phase of the project.	
	Surveys and tracking must be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Tracking of numerous bird species is not within the scope of the EIA process and of the project. Additional modelling has been conducted subsequent to the Scoping report, and additional species of concern will be included on the sensitivity maps in the EIA phase of the project.	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	The avifaunal assessment must account for the required turbine hub height and blade lengths in all surveys.		
	Nest buffers must be determined using a site-specific, habitat-based approach, and must account for technology design (ie. turbine hub height, blade length).	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The circular buffers proposed during the scoping phase of the project have been replaced with more clearly defined buffers, based on habitats used and flight risk, derived from actual flight data collected on-site and known species characteristics. Habitat suitability and flight risk models for the following species have been developed to inform turbine exclusion zones and mitigation zones: •Martial Eagle •Southern Bald Ibis •Secretarybird •Black-winged Pratincole In addition to the above buffers, circular infrastructure exclusion buffers to mitigate	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

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		disturbance, will be maintained around identified nest sites. Collision Risk Modelling will be conducted for all site-specific priority species to quantify the risk posed by the proposed facility in terms of anticipated mortalities. The implementation of mitigation measures will be required as part of the EMPr. The EMPr will also require that the effectiveness of the mitigation measures be measured and require that additional mitigation measures be implemented if mortality thresholds are exceeded.	
	Buffers must be determined and assigned to all waterbodies on and adjacent to the site, including all pans, wetlands and dams.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The avifaunal report took note of the aquatic specialist's buffer zones on-site. In addition, specific avifaunal wetland habitat modelling has been conducted to identify and delineate wetland and associated surrounding moist grassland habitat on the site. These results will be incorporated into the EIA phase of the study.	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	As per the requirements in the avifauna section in the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline, existing guidance must be consulted where available and applicable to a certain development. All relevant BirdLife guidelines, guidance notes and position statements must therefore be consulted.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** In our opinion, the assessment of determining impact significance is aligned to that as provided for in the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines for interpreting sites of ecological importance SEI in the context of the proposed development activities. Birdlife South Africa Guidelines have been consulted where relevant.	**Appendix G-4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

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	We are not in agreement with the avifauna specialist's conclusion that the significance of the impact on avifauna is "medium". The specialist must clearly demonstrate these findings.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The EAP provided the bird specialists with impact rating methodologies to include in the scoping study. These methodologies are aligned with the Species Environmental Assessments Guidelines for interpreting sites of Ecological importance SEI. In our opinion, these methods can be insufficient as the formulas often result in an impact being rated lower than what it should be. During the EIA phase, the ratings will be interrogated and revised again.	**Section 7.6 of the FSR** **Appendix G-4 of the FSR**
	On Pages 56 and 57 of the scoping report, you refer to the development of a biodiversity offset strategy to be included in the draft EIA due to "the very high sensitivities confirmed in terms of avifauna, the presence of primary grasslands and PES A/B wetlands on site, and the potential residual impacts and the recommendations received from DFFE". However according to the Biodiversity Offset Guideline, "The desired outcome of biodiversity offsets is to ensure that – the cumulative impact of an authorised activity, or activities, and land and resource use change does not: result in the loss of irreplaceable biodiversity or jeopardise the ability to meet biodiversity targets; lead to any ecosystem with a threat status of Vulnerable or Least Concern becoming Endangered; or any Endangered ecosystem becoming Critically Endangered; or	**EAP's response:** The final layout for the WEF is still being developed. The most up to date layout has been included in Section 5-5 together with the relevant sensitivity overlays. The EAP confirms that the applicant has endeavoured to avoid all high sensitivity areas such as CBA irreplaceable and CBA optimal as far as possible. The Biodiversity Offset Strategy will encompass only those areas that cannot be avoided once the layout has been finalised. The final layout will be included in the Draft EIA Report. The Biodiversity Offset Strategy will be developed together with input from all relevant specialists.	**Section 5-5 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

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	cause an irreversible decline in the conservation status of species and the presence of special habitats; or cause a significant loss in ecosystem services". A biodiversity offset cannot therefore cater for the loss of irreversible CBAs or intact grasslands, nor can it compensate for the loss of endangered bird or bat species.	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The Biodiversity Offset Guideline sets offset ratios for threatened ecosystems as well as areas that are mapped as CBA1 and CBA2. Once the project layout has been refined to avoid and minimise impacts to the maximum degree possible, a Biodiversity Offset Report will be prepared to address any significant residual impacts on biodiversity, in accordance with the Biodiversity Offset Guideline. Mitigation measures to avoid and minimise impacts on bird and bat species will form a key part of the specific bird and bat impact assessment studies. **Applicant's response:** The initial layout was developed based on available desktop sensitivities. However, throughout the EIA process, the layout has been refined based on feedback from the EAP and the specialists. Wetlands, CBA: Irreplaceable and CBA: Optimal areas are being avoided as far as possible. Where there are existing roads through these areas, they will be used rather than creating new roads. The width of the roads will also be reduced as much as practicably possible in these areas. Based on current feedback from the EAP and specialists, it is highly likely that an offset will be	

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		required. Once the extent and nature (i.e., habitat types) of the impacted areas has been quantified, Seriti Green will request a workshop with key conservation and government stakeholders (such as MDARDLEA, BLSA, EWT, MTPA, DFFE) to discuss the way forward in terms of identifying suitable offset areas and the requirements for ongoing management/ rehabilitation.	
	The draft layout plan (Figure 5.37) has proposed the location of 135 wind turbines, some of which are in sensitive areas. No associated infrastructure (ie. Substations, BESS and roads) is included in the projected layout. It is understood that substations and BESS will comprise 45ha, and roads will comprise 60km. All infrastructure must be included in the layout, and all associated impacts must be analysed.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR. However, it must be noted that the WTG and associated infrastructure locations are subject to change based on specialist feedback in the EIA phase.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR** **Section 5-5 of the FSR**
	Due to the high sensitivity of the agricultural theme, the Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) must be identified as an interested and affected party.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. DALRRD has already been identified as I&AP during the scoping phase and has been given the opportunity to comment on the DSR and will be notified during the remainder of the project.	**Section 2.5 of this SER**
	We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and that it may not be in line with the National Environmental Management Principle that requires that sustainable development	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. It must be noted that detailed specialist studies were still ongoing during the development of the	**Section 7 of the FSR**

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	consider the application of a risk-averse and cautious approach that takes into account the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of decisions and actions; or the principle that specifically requires that a development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable, as the disturbance of 'ecosystems' and loss of biological diversity cannot be avoided, minimized or remedied. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.	scoping report. The details studies and full impact assessment will be included in the EIA Report which will be made available for public review. Furthermore, the applicant can confirm that the development of this project is being undertaken with consideration of a risk-averse and cautious approach as it pertains to social, environmental and economic sustainability.	
Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management 31 May 2024 Email	Dear Thirushan, Thank you for this notification of the final scoping report. I have noted in the Stakeholder Engagement Report that the response to both DARDLEA and MTPAs concerns about placement of infrastructure within intact grassland patches is recorded as follows: "WSP would appreciate if the spatial data for intact grassland patches could be shared, to inform design of final layouts and facilitate the avoidance of significant impacts on these areas". This is the first sight I have of this request. Please ensure that responses to DARDLEAs comments or requests for	Dear Robyn, Thank you for your response. This is noted. We will send though the letters in response to the initial comments made by MTPA and MDARDLEA. Kind regards	**Appendix D of the SER**

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	information are submitted to us directly. Intact grassland patches are included as a layer in the MBSP. I have also copied Mervyn and Frans of MTPA in this response for further assistance. Kind Regards Robyn		
Charity Mthimumye MDARDLEA 3 June 2024 Email	Good Afternoon Thirushan Kindly note that the said projects belongs to Gert Sibande District, the Manager is laos copied in. Kind Regards Charity	Good afternoon Charity, Thank you for your response. This is noted, The EAP confirms that the Final scoping report has been sent to Sindisiwe as she is included in the project database for communication. Kind regards	**Appendix D of the SER**
Robyn Luyt MDARDLEA 16 September 2024 Email	Good day Ashlea, I confirm receipt of the electronic files. Please confirm that the hard copies have been dispatched to Sindi and MTPA. Please also share the KML files with us as soon as possible as requested in our meeting recently. We need them to review the EIAR comprehensively, as indicated at our meeting. Please also confirm the following, as it seems to be a standard response to our request for intact grassland patches to be considered "WSP would appreciate if the spatial data for intact grassland	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your email. Thank you for the confirmation of receipt of the electronic documentation. I can confirm that a hard copy was couriered to MTPA and delivered today (i.e. 16 September 2024) and a hard copy was hand delivered to the Ermelo MDARDLEA office (i.e. Sindi) on 13 September 2024. I note that the applicant has sent the requested kmz files – please confirm receipt.	

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	patches could be shared, to inform design of final layouts and facilitate the avoidance of significant impacts on these areas". Have your specialists engaged with MTPA on this matter?	I can also confirm that the information regarding the for intact grassland patches was received from the MTPA and has been taken into consideration by the specialists. Kind regards **Project proponent's response:** Good afternoon Robyn, Please find attached the kml files for the Phefumula Emoyeni Grid as well as the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF layout. I will engage with MPTA in terms of the request for spatial data for the intact grasslands patches. Kindly let me know if you require any additional information. Warm regards,	
Robyn Luyt MDARDLEA 12 October 2024 Email Official Letter	DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (UP TO 837MW) ON THE FARMS GROBLESHOEK 191 IS, ISRAEL 207 IS, BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS, VAALBANK 233 IS, KUILFONTEIN 234 IS, BOSMANSHOEK 235 IS, WITBANK 236 IS, NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS, ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS, GELIKSDRAAI 240 IS, KRANSPOORT 248 IS, TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS, NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS, SPION KOP 252 IS, DRIEHOEK 273 IS, SPITSKOP 276 IS, UITZIGT	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

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	450 IS AND KRANSPOORT 827 IS, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY The Department confirms having received the draft environmental impact assessment report from you for the abovementioned project on 13 September 2024. After reviewing the report, this Department has the following comments:		
	1. Despite the steps taken to avoid some (not all) of the sensitive habitats on site, the residual negative impacts of the proposed wind farm on biodiversity are not at an unacceptable level. The requirements made in our comments on the draft scoping report have not been addressed. For this reason, and those in the points provided below, this Department does not support the development in its current layout.	**EAP's response:** This statement is noted. Although and with respect somewhat clumsily framed the Department's comment must reasonably be interpreted to mean that the residual negative impacts of the proposed wind farm appear acceptable. The use of the double negative "*… are not at an unacceptable level*" is not particularly well-framed. The above said, and with particular reference to the Department's comments and more particularly, the request for additional monitoring and studies, a decision has been made by the project proponent to respond to the substance of the Department's requirements. That means doing the studies that the Department seeks. The concomitant fact is that the current EIA phase of the proposed project will in all reasonable likelihood lapse before the further specialist work can be completed and circulated for further comment.	

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		The EIA process will then effectively pick up at the point where the specialists' studies are ripe for circulation to registered I&APs for their comments. The additional time will allow for also allow for further efforts to refine the layout that will be included in the updated EIA Report. **Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts have been made by the design team to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches, CBAs, ESAs and climate change corridors (CCCs), as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in turbine numbers. Efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy being the first and principal imperative. Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however the project proponent still strives to reduce the footprint in these areas.	
	2. It is not clear whether the "Optimised Layout", which was only provided and discussed from page 286 of the report, was the layout that was included in your impact analysis.	**EAP's response:** The optimised Layout is the outcome of specialist's recommendations to move	
	3. For purposes of clarity, all comments here forth are based on the "Optimised Layout" in Figure 11.1	**EAP's response:**	

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	(i.e. 84 turbines). However the specifications in relation to hub height (200m), rotor diameter (200m) and tip height (300m) are noted to remain unchanged.	This comment is acknowledged. The layout was indeed reduced to include only 84 turbines. The following statement is made in Section 11.3 of the EIAr: "*The final layout illustrated in Figure 11-1. assumes a rotor diameter of 182m. It is noted that it is realistic to assume that this rotor diameter is more accurate in terms of the type of turbine that will ultimately be used. Utilising the 182m rotor diameter therefore does not require Turbine 11, T12, T13, T27, T44, T47, T48, T49, T53, T56, T63, T68, T81, T82, and T88 to be relocated as the rotor sweep areas will not encroach on the High sensitivity buffers.* *It must be noted that the EIA is requesting approval for a rotor diameter of up to 200m. it is understood that should a turbine with a 200m rotor diameter be identified as suitable at the time of the development of the WEF, the above-mentioned turbines will be required to be micro-sited and moved as requested by the specialist."* All studies have been undertaken on the assumption that the turbines to be erected and operated might have a rotor diameter of up to 200m.[As matters stand and to the best of the EAP's knowledge as well as that of the specialists, no fatal flaw to the proposed project has been identified from any likely source.	

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	4. The limitations identified for many of the specialist studies due to restricted time frames provided for field work is particularly concerning, given the extreme sensitivity of the receiving environment. DARDLEA can therefore not support this application in the absence of sufficiently robust data and information that is required to inform the decision-making process.	**EAP's response:** Many of the limitations and assumptions noted in Section 3.5 are typical of EIA studies. It is however notable that even with the limitation and assumptions that the studies presented are deemed appropriately accurate for decision-making purposes. Note is taken of a number of requests for additional studies such as watercourse crossing and passive acoustic monitoring. The decision to undertake these studies has the consequence that the present application will lapse. That fact notwithstanding (and given how the revival of lapsed applications is regulated by South African law and more particularly NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations), the imperative for the project proponent is to provide sufficient time for these additional studies to be undertaken will reduce the number of assumptions and limitations noted and provide even more accurate information for decision-making.	
	Such limitations include, *inter alia*: 4.1. The aquatic assessment did not assess all proposed road crossings in the field.	**Aquatic Specialist's response:** EIA fieldwork for the freshwater assessment was undertaken in the first week of March 2024 and again in February 2025, timed to be within the growing season, and once the layout of turbines and access roads had been received (in late February). After the conducting of the fieldwork a revised turbine and road layout was	

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		provided to the specialists in July and the road layout had changed, entailing that there were certain direct road crossings and portions of roads in relatively close proximity to wetlands that were not assessed in the initial field work. Certain properties within the study area were also unable to be accessed as landowners did not respond to or could not be reached with requests to be grant access.	
	4.2. The aquatic specialist was not provided with the position of certain infrastructure including underground cabling, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) infrastructure, construction laydown and construction camp locations and Operational and Control Buildings. As such the impact of these infrastructural components on the freshwater ecosystem was not assessed and was not included in the aquatic impact rating matrix.	**Aquatic Specialist's response:** These components would need to be provided to the specialists in order to update the risk assessment and EAP impact assessment in terms of the potential impacts of these infrastructure components. **EAP's response:** The specialist has been provided with this additional information. The decision to allow the application to lapse to provide sufficient time for the specialist to revisit their studies and include them in their impact rating matrix.	
	4.3. Due to the "high number of wetlands associated with the study area" (which will be crossed by new roads), individual wetland units were not assessed in terms of the required determination of Present Ecological State (PES), Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS), ecoservices and Resource Management Objective) RMO / Recommended Ecological Category (REC).	**Aquatic Specialist's response:** The scope of work of the freshwater study and the subsequent approach did not include the assessment of the PES and EIS of all individual wetland units over a very large study area that encompasses sizeable areas of three quaternary catchments and accordingly hundreds of wetland HGM units, based on an	

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		assumption that only a small portion of the overall number of wetlands would be directly affected by the proposed infrastructure, once the layout had been finalised. Due to the similarity of certain wetlands across the study area according to their physical characteristics including substrate, hydrology and vegetative composition , wetlands were grouped into their respective HGM type and according to the quaternary catchment in which they fell. This approach was deemed to be adequate for the purposes the EIA authorisation process based on a layout that was not final and did not contain all infrastructure components and given the need for a study at this scale. The data presented is deemed adequate for decision-making for the EIA. It is however acknowledged that once a detailed and final layout is available, the PES and EIS of all affected wetland units may need to be determined at a more refined scale to appropriately inform the Water Use Licence Application along with other ancillary information such as drivers and receptors analyses as well as goods and service provision assessments, landscaping rehab and plant species plans.	
	4.4. The delineation of wetlands was undertaken with limited ground truthing, and the various databases used were not able to provide actual site	**Aquatic Specialist's response:** As detailed in the responses above, it is impractical to delineated all wetlands in the field over a study area of this extent. Accordingly, the	

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	characteristics at the scale required to adequately inform decision-making processes.	in-field verification and assessment of wetlands was undertaken in the EIAR phase of the project once a road and turbine layout was provided to specialists for assessment. This layout was subsequently altered, however and thus certain 'new' crossings and wetlands located close to roads were not assessed and delineated in the field. As detailed above, access constraints also prevented to the in-field verification of certain wetland units. It is however notable that the desk-based delineations proved to be accurate in areas that were field verified and although some more cryptic seep wetlands with limited digital signatures may have been inaccurately delineated, to a large degree the delineations are deemed appropriately accurate for decision-making purposes.	
	4.5. The terrestrial animal species assessment provides qualitative baseline descriptions only, due to the restricted field time provided to fully sample and characterise the abundance and distribution of fauna species in the study area.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Section 3.2 of the Fauna specialist report details results from infield sampling of Mammals, Herpetofauna and Invertebrates conducted over the mid-summer from 22-26th January 2024. During this period, there is increased activity levels amongst many fauna species and therefore it is an optimal time to survey fauna communities. The sampling methodologies used during the field survey were based, in part, on those recommended in SANBI (2020),	**Section 3.2 of the Fauna specialist report**

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	4.6. Due to a change in the layout, not all areas were surveyed in the Heritage Assessment.	**EAP's response:** The heritage specialist includes the following statement in her report regarding their site investigation: "*The overall archaeological visibility across the proposed project area was fairly high in areas consisting of open veld. The grasses within the proposed project area have been grazed to a degree that visibility was fairly high. Visibility across the agricultural landscape was however fairly low due to high levels of surface disturbances such as ploughed fields. The Project layout changed after the survey was conducted and some areas have not been surveyed as a result. The heritage character of the Project area is however well understood"* Furthermore, a track log of the heritage specialist's survey extent is included in her report as Figure 3.1. This figure shows that the site was surveyed sufficiently to provide a suitable level of accuracy for decision-making. However, the additional time will now allow the specialist to survey any areas they believe were not surveyed sufficiently to provide more accurate information based on the final layout.	
	5. Your table 6.1 of Listed Activities does not provide details or applicable thresholds, and states that "values associated with the Final Layout will be confirmed during the EIA Phase".	**EAP's response:** It is acknowledged that further efforts are being made to refine the layout. The applicable	

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		thresholds will be included once the layout is finalised.	
	6. It was made very clear in our comments on the draft Scoping Report that significant areas of intact grasslands are located within the site footprint, and that DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. Our comments explained in detail that the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are source areas, and are crucial for supporting species, including threatened avifauna. The Biodiversity Assessment does refer to intact grassland patches, but the "Optimised layout" has not considered intact grassland patches at all. Ten (10) turbines are proposed in intact grassland patches, which is not supported. These include turbines 10, 20, 26, 32, 34, 38, 51, 55, 70 and 76.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers to date. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76).	
	7. Similarly, the layout comprises 14 turbines in areas designated as CBA Optimal, which is not supported. These include turbines 2, 3, 8, 12, 20, 26, 33, 46, 55, 58, 64, 66, 70 and 76.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG 3, 12, 33, 76, 70, 66, 64, 58, 55, 50, 46, 36, 26, 20, 8. Furthermore, efforts to exclude infrastructure	

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		from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first.	
	8. The construction camps and laydown areas are located in CBA Irreplaceable areas, which is not supported. It is also not clear whether the mitigation proposed in your Table 9.2 has been applied to the laydown areas. The mitigation requires that "laydown area(s) be located outside the freshwater ecosystems and outside of a 100m buffer of any wetland". This has not been demonstrated to have been effected.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Avoidance of all CBA, Intact Grassland patches, wetlands and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas.	
	9. The layout does not include any of the permanent infrastructure required, including inter alia, the O&M office, Batching Plant, BESS, watercourse crossings; it is therefore not possible to review and consider the impact analysis, which is not acceptable.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All biodiversity reports utilised to latest information that was available at the time of writing.	
	10. The impact identified as 'direct loss and disturbance of natural habitat' in your table 9.31 has been assigned a significance rating of High prior to, and Moderate after, mitigation. However the mitigation proposed is to relocate project infrastructure outside of areas designated as CBA and ESA. And yet, 19 turbines are still located in areas designated as CBA and Intact Grassland Patches. The mitigation proposed has not been undertaken, so the significance rating of this impact must remain High even after mitigation.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Fine scale mapping indicates that currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76). Efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first.	

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	11. You have also included the following statement as a measure to mitigate the 'direct loss of disturbance of natural habitat' (also table 9.31): "Following finalisation of the exact Project infrastructure layout and quantification of habitat losses, it is likely that a biodiversity offset programme in line with the NEMBA National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023) may be required to offset the losses of CBA's and mapped remaining areas of threatened vegetation types. This should be developed under consultation with the Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency (MPTA)". This is an administrative action and cannot be considered as a mitigation measure that can reduce the significance rating of an identified impact. Furthermore, it is unfortunate that no consultation has taken place on this matter (potential Biodiversity Offsets) prior to making the draft EIA report available for review, which only affords DARDLEA and MTPA a period of 30 days to provide input. Further concerns with respect to the proposed Biodiversity Offset Strategy in your Appendix K will be outlined later in these comments.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measures, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much-reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas.	
	12. You have indicated in your table 9.32 that the impact identified as 'Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity' is High prior to, and Moderate after mitigation, however you have not qualified this through the provision of any mitigation measures.	**EAP's response:** The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision-making.	

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		Table 9-32 will be updated with the required mitigation measures.	
	13. DARDLEA does not support the permanent loss of CBA wetland habitat known to support threatened species of conservation concern (SCC). According to your Table 9.8, the significance of this impact remains High after mitigation. The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands, and the development of watercourse crossings, has not been sufficiently analysed, nor is there adequate consideration and assessment of alternatives.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measures, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much-reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas. **Aquatic Specialist's response:** The freshwater report has assessed the impact of proposed new road crossings – it states that destruction of a certain area of wetland habitat in the footprint of the crossing structure is a key impact (Table 14, pg 77). The impact and risk assessments were unable to consider the complete potential loss of wetland habitat in the footprint of wetland habitat as certain infrastructure (especially in relation to underground cabling) was not provided for assessment. Road alternatives were not provided however the freshwater report does recommend that existing roads be upgraded as opposed to new roads being developed, and several recommended changes / realignments to proposed roads are made on page 88 of the freshwater report. Consideration may need to be given to residual impacts and the need for offset.	

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		A further assessment of the study area was undertaken in February 2025 and further mitigation measures to ensure less to no permanent loss of CBA wetland habitat takes place.	
	14. According to the Aquatic assessment, it was recommended to relocate Turbine 42, which fell (falls) within a delineated wetland to an area located "outside of the delineated extent of, and associated 15m non-development buffer". It is not clear what criteria were used to allocate only 15m as a buffer to seeps on the site. It is also therefore not clear if there are other turbines that are located just 15m from the delineated edge of wetlands.	**Aquatic Specialist's response:** As detailed in Section 4.3 of the report, the 15m buffer was generated through the DWS approved buffer tool (Macfarlane and Bredin, 2017). In terms of the layout provided for assessment in the EIAR phase specialist reports, Turbine 42 was the only turbine located within the 15m buffer. Table 14 (page 76) details that Turbines and Hardstands 5 (approx. 90m), 21 (approximately 45m), 49 (approximately 75m) and 59 (approximately 65m) are located within 100m of the delineated freshwater boundaries, with all other turbines (except Turbine 42) occurring outside of a 100m radius of the proposed turbine locations.	
	15. Inadequate wetland and watercourse buffers directly impact bats, as they provide essential pathways for bat navigation and commuting.	**EAP's response:** Provision for adequate wetland and watercourse buffers have been included in the sensitivity mapping and provided by both the aquatic and bat specialists accordingly. A 15m non-developmental buffer and a 100m buffer of all wetland boundaries were provided by the aquatic specialists. The 100m buffer is in line with the MBSP Handbook.	

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		The following water-related buffers were provided by the bat specialist: ▪ High bat sensitive areas include: • Rivers, dams, wetlands, and pans, and a 200 m buffer around these. ▪ Medium-High bat sensitive areas include: • Herbaceous wetlands in fallow lands and old fields, and a 200 m buffer around these. • Commercial irrigated crops, and a 200 m buffer around these. ▪ Medium bat sensitive areas include: • Commercial rain-fed crops. • Flooded mine pits, and a 200 m buffer around these.	
	16. According to your paragraph 7.2.6.1 “Of the 40 priority [avifaunal] species, 34 (85%) have been recorded during the on-site field surveys thus far (three of four surveys completed). Eighteen (18) priority species recorded in the Broader Area are also Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). Twelve (12) SCC have been recorded during the on-site field surveys thus far…”. It appears that you are not providing the full data as part of the draft EIA, which is not acceptable.	**Avifaunal Specialist’s response:** The distinction here must be made between wind priority species and species of conservation concern (SCC). Of the 40 wind priority species, 37species have been recorded during the on-site field surveys (four sets of surveys completed). Eighteen (18) wind priority species were recorded in the Broader Area that were also Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). It	**Section 5.4 and Appendix E of the Avifauna Specialist Report**

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		should be noted that twelve (12) SCC have been recorded during the on-site field surveys. The monitoring surveys completed were conducted in the following time periods: ▪ Survey 1: 05–16 November 2022, 17–20 January 2023, and 14–20 February 2023 ▪ Survey 2: 11 April – 02 May 2023 ▪ Survey 3: 13 June – 4 August 2023 ▪ Survey 4: 04–21 October 2023	
	17. DARDLEA does not support the placement of turbines in High sensitivity buffers for bats. It is concerning to note that 45 turbines (or 43, based on the "Optimised Layout" in Figure 11.1) are located in High or Medium-High sensitive areas. The bat specialist study identified that the following turbines are located in high sensitivity buffers: 11, 12, 13, 27, 44, 47, 48, 49, 53, 56, 63, 68, 81, 82 and 88. However you have stated that even though a 200m rotor diameter is being applied for, it is "realistic to assume" that the rotor diameter will be 182m, and therefore the turbines identified above will not need to be moved. DARDLEA objects to this argument. There must be certainty upfront – during the EIA process - with respect to what is being applied for and how the impacts are accordingly analysed. All turbines located in High sensitivity buffers for bats, as specified in the bat specialist study, are not supported, and must be removed.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The following statement is made in Section 11.3 of the EIAr: "*The final layout illustrated in Figure 11-1 of the DEIR. assumes a rotor diameter of 182m. It is noted that it is realistic to assume that this rotor diameter is more accurate in terms of the type of turbine that will ultimately be used. Utilising the 182m rotor diameter therefore does not require Turbine 11, T12, T13, T27, T44, T47, T48, T49, T53, T56, T63, T68, T81, T82, and T88 to be relocated as the rotor sweep areas will not encroach on the High sensitivity buffers.* *It must be noted that the EIA is requesting approval for a rotor diameter of up to 200m. it is understood that should a turbine with a 200m rotor diameter be identified as suitable at the time of the development of the WEF, the above-*	

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		mentioned turbines will be required to be micro-sited and moved as requested by the specialist." The application for authorisation correctly requests authorisation for a hub height and rotor diameter of up to 200m, to allow flexibility for the developer should this size turbine be available or required in the future. All studies have been undertaken assuming this scenario. Further efforts to optimise the layout will endeavour to further reduce the number of turbines that may encroach on high sensitivity bat areas should the larger turbine be considered.	
	18. It is further noted that according to your Appendix N, Turbines 5, 20, 37, 44, 50, 75 are also still located in a High bat sensitivity zones, which is not supported.	**EAP's response:** The turbines in question were relocated outside the high bat sensitivity areas. It must be noted that the snapshot included reflects the position of the turbine prior to being relocated. It is proposed that Appendix N will be updated in the next substantive draft of the EIA Report (with supplemented specialist studies that take account of concerns raised by registered I&APs) to also reflect a snapshot of the new location to provide further clarity.	
	19. In your Table 9.20, you analyse the impact identified as Bat fatalities from collisions with turbines, and possible population declines. The impact was assigned a High significance rating	**EAP's response:** The turbines in question were relocated outside the high bat sensitivity areas. The reduced significance also takes into account a number of	

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	before, and Moderate after, mitigation. Given that turbines have not been removed from High sensitivity for bats, the significance of the impact remains High and cannot be reduced to Moderate.	additional mitigation measures that will be required.	
	20. It is illuminating and concerning to note that the Impact Significance Rating Matrix used implies that a score of 31-60 is regarded as a "Moderate" Impact, and that a score of 61-80 is regarded as a "High" Impact. In your impact analyses in Tables 9.13 and 9.14 (Displacement of priority species from breeding/feeding/roosting areas and Population reduction of priority species due to collisions), the significance rating after mitigation for both impacts is 60, which is at the very top end of "Moderate".	**EAP's response:** The assessment of impacts and mitigation evaluates the likely extent and significance of the potential impacts on identified receptors and resources against defined assessment criteria, to develop and describe measures that will be taken to avoid, minimise or compensate for any adverse environmental impacts; to enhance positive impacts; and to report the significance of residual impacts that occur following mitigation. The key objectives of the risk assessment methodology are to identify any additional potential environmental issues and associated impacts likely to arise from the proposed Project, and to propose a significance ranking. Issues / aspects will be reviewed and ranked against a series of significance criteria to identify and record interactions between activities and aspects, and resources and receptors to provide a detailed discussion of	

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		impacts. The assessment considers direct[1], indirect[2], secondary[3] as well as cumulative[4] impacts. This standard risk assessment methodology is used for the ranking of the identified environmental impacts pre-and post-mitigation (i.e. residual impact). This risk assessment methodology has been utilised by the EAP for many years.	
	21. The impact identified as 'Population reduction of priority species' in your table 9.14 (Bird mortality and injury resulting from collisions with the wind turbines) has been assigned a significance rating of High prior to, and Moderate after, mitigation. However, the mitigation proposed by the avifaunal specialist has not been included in your assessment. It is therefore not clear how you can justify the reduction of the significance rating from High to Moderate, when you have excluded the avifaunal specialist's requirement to have all wind turbines (WTGs) be subjected to either Observer-led Shutdown on Demand (OSDoD) or Auto SDoD	**EAP's response:** The highlighted ambiguity is noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision-making. Table 9-32 will be updated with the one mitigation measure that was not included.	

[1] Impacts that arise directly from activities that form an integral part of the Project.
[2] Impacts that arise indirectly from activities not explicitly forming part of the Project.
[3] Secondary or induced impacts caused by a change in the Project environment.
[4] Impacts are those impacts arising from the combination of multiple impacts from existing projects, the Project and/or future projects.

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	(ASDoD) during daylight hours and radar flight detection technology for flocks of target species at night.		
	22. In your table 9.14, a mitigation measure proposed for the same impact referred to above is the following: "If estimated annual collision rates indicate unacceptable mortality levels of priority species exceeding mortality thresholds as determined by the avifaunal specialist in consultation with other experts (e.g., BLSA), additional measures must be implemented, such as shut down on demand (SDoD) or other proven measures (if available at the time)". What though is the acceptable mortality rate per priority species? Appropriate thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within this EIA process. Furthermore, SDoD has already been advanced by the Avifaunal specialist (but not incorporated into the EIA) as compulsory across all wind turbines. So what are the additional measures, other than blade painting, buffer determination and SDoD, available for implementation. Is it the removal of turbines? Are there any additional measures that can be implemented? If there are, then why have they not been identified and analysed as part of this EIA process? If not, then this is not a reliable mitigation measure and cannot justifiably reduce the impact from High to Moderate.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Defining mortality thresholds is to some degree outside the scope of this project-specific EIA. National initiatives in this regard are currently underway and will provide the required guidance for individual projects to align to these thresholds. Although it is recognised that there is a limited number of mitigation measures available to industry at present. The option does, however, exist for multiple measures to be combined and for selective curtailment at certain times of day or under certain environmental conditions to also be implemented as part of an adaptive management strategy.	
	23. In the absence of advancing mortality thresholds, the precautionary principle must be applied. Our own preliminary predictions of possible	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:**	

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	cumulative impacts with respect to bird collisions (per key species of conservation concern) for all the approved and proposed WEFs within a 55km radius, indicate fatalities of approximately 229 Cape Vultures (Endangered), 41 White Backed Vultures (Critically Endangered), 62 Martial Eagles (Endangered), 62 Black Harriers (Endangered), 41 Secretarybirds (Vulnerable) and 771 Jackal Buzzards (Near Threatened). The proposed Phefumula One WEF, with 84 turbines, may alone account for 27 Cape Vultures (Endangered), 5 White Backed Vultures (Critically Endangered), 7 Martial Eagles (Endangered), 7 Black Harriers (Endangered), 5 Secretarybirds (Vulnerable) and 93 Jackal Buzzards (Near Threatened). This is a precautionary prediction, using the latest (2023) bird collision monitoring data at existing operational wind farms in South Africa, based on the average number of bird collisions per turbine per year over a 30 year WEF lifespan, prior to any mitigation measures being implemented.	The predictions presented are noted. It must however be noted that these values are in all likelihood overestimates, as only a few of the operational WEFs from which the data has been derived have mitigation measures in place in line with what has been proposed here.	
	24. On page 60 of the Avifaunal Assessment, the response to our concerns about the night flying flamingos prevalent on site was the following: "The scoping report covered three of the bird monitoring surveys. Subsequently, in survey 4, the flamingo observations increased dramatically, posing an increased risk for these two species. As the commenting authority mentions, there are currently no mitigation measures for night flying birds, but algal blooms over several years will be investigated to determine which pans may be suitable for	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The operational facility will have a strict programme to monitor and mitigate impacts on avifauna as part of the biodiversity management plan. The programme will include an adaptive management programme. Radar-based shut down on demand systems are able to detect targets up to 6km away and will thus easily be able to detect flocking night flying species such as flamingos. Such systems are currently being	

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	flamingos and buffers around these will be increased accordingly. In addition, flamingos will be included as a SDoD trigger species should they fly during the day. Flamingo presence and mitigation will be revisited in more detail in the EIA phase". It is known, and we have evidence to support, that flamingos do indeed fly at night. The EIA Report does not address this concern. How will the flamingos, that use the multitude of wetlands and pans on site, be protected from colliding with turbines during night-time commutes?	investigated for implementation by the proponent.	
	25. Noting that a number of other night-flying priority species have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis is required to be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** A separate impact analysis will be conducted for night flying species as part of the updated EIA report.	
	26. The Avifaunal Specialist identified High Sensitivity: All Infrastructure Exclusion Zones using the following criteria: Martial Eagle nest: 2.5km; Secretarybird nests: 500m; Southern Bald Ibis colonies: 1km; Avifaunal wetland use/delineation: modelled core buffer zones using habitat preference of key focal species: African Marsh Harrier, African Grass Owl, Striped Flufftail, Grey Crowned Crane. We are not in agreement with the size of the buffers for these exclusion zones. While we acknowledge that modelling was further undertaken to identify the High Sensitivity: Turbine Exclusion Zone, our position is that the "All infrastructure exclusion zone" as well as "Turbine Exclusion Zones" must use the	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Wetland habitat suitability modelling was used to inform and determine All Infrastructure Exclusion Zones as well as Turbine Exclusion Zones. In many instances the habitat associated modelled buffers are much wider than the standard 50m buffer which only applies where the wetland model did not identify suitable habitat (e.g. where agricultural field exist near wetlands). Flight risk modelling identified areas of potential high use around nest structures based on habitat and underlying topography. The flight	

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	latest information on appropriate roost and nest buffers from literature, specialists, BirdLife, EWT and MTPA. The following turbines are located within areas that do not accommodate these buffers to adequately protect avifauna priority species from turbine collisions: Turbines 25, 26, 35, 38, 45, 58, 60, 61, 67 and 84. Martial Eagle nests require 5km, Sectretarybird nests 1km around breeding sites and 2- 3km around active nests, Southern Bald Ibis colonies 2.5km. Furthermore, the Flamingo modelling should be accommodated in the "All Infrastructure Exclusion Zone".	data collected on site was used to inform and validate these high-risk areas. The high-risk areas as a rule cover similar surface areas per best practice guidance but is also aligned to site-specific habitats and topography. In order to illustrate the areas covered by individual species modelled buffers, separate maps to this effect will be included in the updated EIA report.	
	27. Intact grassland patches, which are crucial for avifauna SCC foraging and breeding, must be included in the "All Infrastructure Exclusion Zone".	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All intact grassland patches will be avoided. **Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers to date. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76).	
	28. How were corridors for movement of avifauna through the site / bird flight corridors considered? How were wind farms (approved and in progress) in the District considered in this regard?	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** In addition to in-situ survey effort, four modelling workflows were implemented to delineate high-risk areas that should be avoided. Modelling	

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		undertaken to date included habitat suitability modelling for habitat specialist species, flight risk modelling for species that are collision-prone, connectivity modelling, and collision risk modelling. The modelling workflows were augmented by flight data collected on-site. This flight data and corridors delineated as part of the wetland habitat modelling will provide protection to birds moving through the area.	
	29. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that a number of turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility. DARDLEA cannot support the placement of the following turbines if they cannot be demonstrated to be outside of flights paths of SCC: Turbines 5, 13, 19, 22, 47, 50, 53, 54, 59, 62, 73 and 74.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As part of the updated EIA report a detailed analysis of vantage point coverage of the respective turbine positions will be done.	
	30. In your Table 9.24 you analyse the impact: Direct loss and disturbance of natural habitat. You assign a significance rating of High prior to, and Moderate after, mitigation. However the mitigation proposed is: "As far as possible other proposed permanent Project infrastructure (e.g., O&M Office and Batching Plant) should be located in areas of modified habitat (i.e., Cultivated Fields, Old Lands)". There is no reference to roads. In the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (Appendix K), you have stated that over 30ha of Irreplaceable CBAs and over 48ha of CBA Optimal will be developed (it is not clear how this has been calculated), and no reference is made	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The road network was not available at the time of writing, an improvised version of the roads was used to determine the impacts associated with the proposed road networks for off-sets. The first draft of the offset report will be updated with the latest project areas as soon as this data are available.	

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	to how many hectares of intact grassland patches will be developed. The mitigation proposed has not been implemented, and the significance rating therefore cannot be reduced to “Moderate”.		
	31. Similarly, your Table 9.25 analyses the impact: Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity, and the same significance ratings have been applied. Again, mitigation proposed is “As far as possible other proposed permanent Project infrastructure (e.g., O&M Office and Batching Plant) should be located in areas of modified habitat (i.e., Cultivated Fields, Old Lands)”, and “Proposed access roads should be aligned, as far as possible, with existing farm roads and tracks and micro-sited to already disturbed sites”. Since the mitigation proposed has not been implemented, the significance rating cannot be reduced to “Moderate”.	**Biodiversity Specialist’s response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76).	
	32. The same principle applies to your Tables 9.31 and 9.32, where you analyse the impacts: Direct loss and disturbance of natural habitat and Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity, respectively. Mitigation proposed (for 9.31, as none has been proposed for 9.32) is: “Proposed Project infrastructure footprints should be further repositioned to avoid areas designated CBA and ESA; As far as possible other proposed permanent Project infrastructure (e.g., O&M Office and Batching Plant) should be located in areas of modified habitat (i.e., Cultivated Fields, Old Lands)”. The significance ratings for these impacts cannot be	**Biodiversity Specialist’s response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76).	

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	reduced to “Moderate” given that the mitigation proposed has not been implemented.		
	33. Your Table 9.40 analyses the Impact: Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity. You assign a significance rating of High prior to, and Moderate after, mitigation. However you have not considered that, specifically with respect to habitat connectivity, the impact of placing turbines and infrastructure in corridors that are critical for connectivity. Turbines 1, 4, 9, 10, 14, 47, 57 and 73 are barriers to the corridor that would be required for priority focus areas in respect of the Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy (MPAES) to be connected to the Chrissismeer Protected Environment to the east. The significance rating of this impact therefore remains “High”.	**Biodiversity Specialist’s response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76).	
	34. Furthermore, almost half of the proposed site (48.26%) falls within areas earmarked in terms of the National Protected Area Expansion (NPAES) and MPAES; this proposed development is therefore in conflict with, and will detract from these national and provincial strategies.	**EAP’s response:** This comment is acknowledged. All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches, CBAs, ESAs and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha. Furthermore, fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA	

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		Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20, 8. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first. Avoidance of all CBAs, Intact Grassland patches and CCCs are the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas. The layout has endeavoured to avoid the CBAs and intact grasslands as far as possible, however, the NPAES and MPAES also includes the ESAs which have been utilised for infrastructure as allowed for in the MBSP Handbook.	
	35. Cumulative Impact Assessment: 35.1. Although the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) requires that all similar projects within a 30km radius be considered as part of the cumulative assessment, we believe that this radius is insufficient to adequately address the cumulative impacts of similar developments in a region comprising sensitive and important high-elevation habitats that are known to be used by avifauna for breeding, particularly considering the magnitude of wind farm infrastructure, as well as the	**EAP's response:** It can be noted that the 30km radius for cumulative assessment is the typical radius requested by the DFFE. The EAP has made a point of increasing this to 55km. It is proposed that the cumulative assessment will be updated in the updated Draft EIR. More accurate data has been sourced from the MTPA which includes a greater number of projects.	

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	vast distances that bird (and bat) species can travel. While the 55km radius assessed as part of this project is preferable (to the 30km radius), we believe that the cumulative impact assessment needs to incorporate a much wider area.	The EAP has requested information for up to 100km radius of the site.	
	35.2. The Cumulative Impact Assessment (Section 10) identifies 20 renewable energy (and associated grid infrastructure) projects within a 55km radius of the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (Figure 10-1). Section 7.7 (Cumulative Impacts) of Appendix G4 (Avifauna Report) states that "The projects were identified using the DFFE's Renewable Energy EIA Application Database for South Africa (2023, Q2)" and identifies the same 20 renewable energy (and associated grid infrastructure) projects within a 55km radius. The DFFE Renewable Energy EIA Database however does not represent the most current situation on the ground (including future proposed developments). DARDLEA, through the use of the most current DFFE Renewable Energy Database (2023, Q3) information and our own tracking mechanisms, has developed an internal and more current Mpumalanga Renewable Energy Risk Map. According to our specific renewable energy database mapping, there are actually additional 30 renewable energy facilities within a 55 km radius of this proposed development (9 of which have already been approved), including another 10 WEFs (1 Approved, 6 In Progress and 3 Proposed).	**EAP's response:** It can be noted that the 30km radius for cumulative assessment is the typical radius requested by the DFFE. The EAP has made a point of increasing this to 55km. It is proposed that the cumulative assessment will be updated in the updated Draft EIR. More accurate data has been sourced from the MTPA which includes a greater number of projects. The EAP has requested information for up to 100km radius of the site.	
	35.3. DFFE required that "the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts	**EAP's response:**	

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	must be refined to indicate the following: (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". The EIA Report does not accurately quantify the size of the identified impacts, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. Such a quantitative assessment is only provided in Section 10.3 (Avifauna Impact Assessment) and indicates that "The combined land parcel area affected by authorised or proposed renewable energy developments within the 55km radius of similar habitat around the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF, inclusive of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF, thus equals approximately 858km² (85 800 ha)". In reality this is a gross under-estimation and does not present an accurate picture of the cumulative footprint of all approved and proposed renewable energy projects within a 55 km radius as it does not include all the similar proposed developments referred to above. The overall footprint size of this, and all other similar proposed and approved renewable energy facilities is actually more than double this, i.e. 227 029.45 ha (Approved: 56 857.46 ha, Proposed: 170 171.99 ha), of which the footprint for proposed and approved wind energy facilities alone is 209 111.60 ha (Approved: 46 943.63 ha, Proposed: 162 167.97 ha).	It can be noted that the 30km radius for cumulative assessment is the typical radius requested by the DFFE. The EAP has made a point of increasing this to 55km. It is proposed that the cumulative assessment will be updated in the updated Draft EIR. More accurate data has been sourced from the MTPA which includes a greater number of projects. The EAP has requested information for up to 100km radius of the site.	
	35.4. This is a substantial development footprint and is likely to have highly significant cumulative impacts in terms of the fragmentation of intact grassland	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:**	

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	patches and possible loss of critical biodiversity areas (CBAs). Although Section 10.5 of the EIA Report, confirms that "Collectively, these projects will cause direct habitat loss, disturbance and fragmentation through vegetation clearing that is much greater in extent than that of a single constituent project, and this is a cumulative impact of concern with respects to fauna SCC and the proposed Project" this has not been quantified and the cumulative impacts therefore not assessed. Our internal Mpumalanga Renewable Energy Risk Map indicates that as much as 39% (88 634.40 ha) of the entire cumulative footprint of renewable energy applications within a 55 km radius, is made up of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs). Furthermore, intact grasslands constitute up to 39 635.80 hectares (17,5%) of the cumulative footprint area.	The next draft of the environmental impact report (together with relevant specialist reports) will be updated with the latest available data.	
	5.5. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities has not been provided in this EIA Report and there is no clear assessment of the "resultant impacts from the successive, incremental, and/or combined effects of the project,	**EAP's response:** It can be noted that the 30km radius for cumulative assessment is the typical radius requested by the DFFE. The EAP has made a point of increasing this to 55km. It is proposed that the cumulative assessment will be updated in the updated Draft EIR. More accurate data has been sourced from the MTPA which includes a greater number of projects. The EAP has requested information for up to 100km radius of the site.	

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	or activity when added to other existing, planned, and/or reasonably anticipated future ones". The assessment of the cumulative impacts in the EIA Report is inconclusive.		
	35.6. In your Tables 10.4 and 10.5 where you analyse the Cumulative impact of loss, disturbance and fragmentation of natural habitat, you assign a significance rating of High before mitigation, and Low after mitigation, for both, where mitigation proposed is "Same as operation phase mitigation". The mitigation was to remove turbines and infrastructure from CBAs and ESAs, but this mitigation has not been implemented. And cumulative impacts in respect of terrestrial biodiversity and species (including avifauna) have not been considered in light of the requirement to ensure that **barriers to priority focus areas are avoided and corridors and links to protected environments are maintained**. The assessment is also in conflict with what is recorded in the Avifaunal Assessment. The significance ratings for these impacts therefore remains High.	**EAP's response:** It can be noted that the 30km radius for cumulative assessment is the typical radius requested by the DFFE. The EAP has made a point of increasing this to 55km. It is proposed that the cumulative assessment will be updated in the updated Draft EIR. More accurate data has been sourced from the MTPA which includes a greater number of projects. The EAP has requested information for up to 100km radius of the site. The highlighted ambiguities are noted and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision-making.	
	36. The Biodiversity Offset Strategy (Appendix K): 36.1. DARDLEA does not agree that due consideration of project alternatives to avoid or minimise impacts has been appropriately applied. Based on the comments herein, the mitigation proposed is lacking, specifically in respect of the number of turbines proposed and their location.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exclude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort.	

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		Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76).	
	36.2. Some of the mitigation measures outlined in the Biodiversity Offset Strategy have not even been implemented or are in conflict with the impact analysis in the EIA and in the final "Optimised Layout".	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The final version of the Offset Strategy will take this into consideration.	
	36.3. According to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy, "A 100m buffer was applied to all watercourses (wetlands and riparian systems) and all turbines, laydown and construction camps, and structures (wind power factory and yard, on-site IPP substation and BESS) have been sited outside of this buffer area". This in in conflict with the mitigation provided in Table 9.3 of the EIAR, which states that "It is strongly recommended that Turbine 42 be relocated to the north or east so that no part of its footprint is located within the delineated wetland boundary or associated 15m buffer".	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The final version of the Offset Strategy will be amended to reflect the correct buffer.	
	36.4. As per our comments on the draft Scoping Report, a biodiversity offset cannot cater for the loss of **Irreplaceable CBAs** or **intact grasslands**. The loss of Irreplaceable CBAs and intact grassland patches is considered **a fatal flaw**.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans. 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG ,3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20,8. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance	

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		step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first.	
	36.5. A biodiversity offset strategy **cannot** cater or compensate for the **loss of species, and certainly not for the loss of endangered bird or bat species.**	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The offset strategy will be amended to reflect this.	
	36.6. We question bullet 5 under Avifauna on page 27, where you state "The combination of turbine hub height and rotor diameter must be optimised to maximise the lower blade tip height above ground. Raising the lower turbine blade tip height from a typical 30m above ground to 50m above ground will reduce collision risk for most species, as most flight is low over the ground". Provide the literature to support this statement. There is no source that we are aware of to support this misleading statement.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Page 27 of the Avifauna Specialist refers to Vantage Point Observation. Furthermore, this comment does not have reference to the Phefumula project and does not originate from the avifaunal studies conducted on site.	
	37. Given the conservation value of the area and the species it supports, together with the risks and uncertainty associated with the application of the mitigation hierarchy and the effectiveness and implementation of mitigation measures proposed, as well as the likely cumulative impacts of the project in this area, this Department cannot support the activity.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. In light of this statement and the request for the additional passive acoustic monitoring has been noted. Due to the lack of time to conduct this additional work before the 01 November 2024, a decision has been made to allow the application to lapse such that the additional work can be undertaken.	
	38. Furthermore, the conservation value of the area and the species it supports is not **conducive to a wind farm at the scale proposed.**	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

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	39. To be clear, DARDLEA would not support an authorisation with a condition that 84 turbines are approved subject to being "microsited out of sensitive zones". There is sufficient evidence that confirms that any further attempts at "micrositing" is not possible.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
	40. This Department therefore recommends the refusal of the application in terms of Regulation 24(1)(b) on the following grounds: 40.1. The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility is not in line with the National Environmental Management Principle that requires that sustainable development must consider the application of a risk-averse and cautious approach that takes into account the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of decisions and actions.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. South Africa is faced with significant increases in electricity demand, and a shortage in electricity supply. South Africa is the seventh-largest coal producer in the world, with approximately 77% of the country's electricity generated from coal. This large dependence on coal and its use has also resulted in a variety of negative impacts on the environment, including the contribution to climate change. South Africa is also the highest emitter of greenhouse gases in Africa; this is attributable to the country's energy-intensive economy that largely relies on coal-based electricity generation. Renewable energy development is regarded as an important contribution to meeting international and national targets of reducing reliance on fossil fuels, such as coal, which contribute towards greenhouse gas emissions and resultant climate change. The need and desirability of the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni	
	40.2. Based on the above points, the project is not in line with the National Environmental Management Principle that specifically requires that a development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable, as the disturbance of 'ecosystems' and loss of biological diversity cannot be avoided, minimized or remedied.		

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		One WEF has been considered from an international, national, and regional perspective. The need and desirability of the project is outlined in Section 4.5 of the EIAr.	
	40.3. The proposed Wind Energy Facility is not in line with the National Environmental Management Principle that requires that sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems, such as coastal shores, estuaries, wetlands and similar systems require specific attention in management and planning procedures, especially where they are subject to significant human resource usage and development pressure.	**EAP's response:** The selection of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF site is the outcome of a feasibility assessment by the proponent, which inter alia served to identify site options that would be optimal for energy production and grid interconnection. The Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF site was selected because it is strategically located due to factors such as its wind resource, proximity to the Eskom Grid, land availability and landowner support, the strategic placement of the facility close to the Camden Power Station which is targeted for decommissioning, and the ability of the facility to form part of the Just Energy transition (JET) Program, accessibility to access roads and labour pool and suitable topography. The availability of land is a key feasibility criterion in the site selection process. The project site is of a suitable land size for the proposed development. The land available for the development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF extends approximately 36 600ha, providing a substantial amount of land for the development of an up to 550MW WEF. The proponent has secured sufficient land for the	

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		development of the proposed WEF with landowners within the respective cadastral portions comprising the development footprint, indicating their support and willingness for the project to proceed to development via entering into agreement with the developer. After intensive studies around the province, through analysing the aforementioned factors, it was determined that this site has the most ideal conditions for the development of the Project. It is acknowledged that the area includes threatened ecosystems, critical biodiversity areas (CBAs), ecological support areas (ESAs), wetlands and grasslands and borders on a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and overlaps with the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Area (NPAES). The current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however further efforts to refine and reduce the final footprint in sensitive areas are being implemented for inclusion in the updated draft EIA report.	
	41. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review your response to these comments and engage with you accordingly prior to the submission the final EIA Report to DFFE.	**EAP's response:** A focus meeting with MDARDLEA, MTPA and DFFE will be held for further engagements. Minutes of the meeting are available in Appendix E of the FEIR.	**Appendix E of the FEIR**
	Please be advised that DARDLEAs position currently is that blade painting is a non-negotiable,	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:**	**Table 11 of the**

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	compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province.	This was recommended in the Avifaunal Specialist Report: "All wind turbines must have one blade painted according to a South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) approved pattern to reduce the risk of raptor collisions".	**Avifauna Specialist Report**
	Please contact this office for any further enquiries. Sincerely,	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
Robyn Luyt 17 October 2024 Email:	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF - Biodiversity Offset and EIA Report Focus Group Meeting **Query 1:** Dear Ashlea, Good Morning Ashlea, Please can you advise who has confirmed attendance. Also please confirm how long it will take from Ermelo town to site. Regards Robyn **Query 2:** Thanks Ashlea, If possible, please can we aim to be done by 14h30. It will be 3hrs back to Nst (White River for Gavin), and we may potentially need to go via Lydenburg.	**EAP's response:** **Meeting Invitation:** Phefumula Emoyeni WEF - Biodiversity Offset and EIA Report Focus Group Meeting Good morning All Thank you to those who have already responded to the meeting request for the above-mentioned Focus Group Meeting. If I could ask everyone who will be attending to please respond to the meeting request so that we have an idea of numbers – if you could send your response by the end of the week we would be most grateful. We can confirm that the MDARDLEA office in Ermelo has kindly agreed that we can have the initial meeting in one of their boardrooms. In order to accommodate those travelling to Ermelo – we will start the meeting itself at 09:30.	

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	Kind Regards Robyn **Query 3:** Good Morning Ashlea, Based on our experience yesterday of a site visit in the Ermelo area, please can we re-look at the plan for Friday. We left Nelspruit (and Lydenburg in Mervyn's case) at 6am, and only got home at 8pm last night. This excluded a boardroom meeting; we went straight to site. The sites are obviously vast and require a lot of time to traverse. Even though we had aimed to leave at 15h00, there were still delays due to onsite discussions, bird sitings, weather and logistics due to the number of vehicles. A 3pm finish time is too late. In order to ensure we aren't in the same position again on Friday, I would prefer to be off the site by 13h00 (or out of the meeting and back on the road) to Nelspruit and Lydenburg, especially since the traffic back to Nelspruit and Lydenburg on a Friday afternoon is particularly bad. Also given the content of our comments on the draft EIA, I would want to confirm whether a meeting vs a site visit is most appropriate. Kind Regards Robyn	The address is as follows: 13 De Jager Street, Ermelo From a health and safety point of view – please remember to bring water and sun protection for the site visit – and please drive safely. Kind regards Ashlea **EAP's Response 1:** So far we have confirmed representatives from MDARLEA (yourself, Sindi, Clifford an Gavin), MTPA (Mervyn), EWT (Garth), WSP (myself, Tshepho, Rudolph), Seriti (Debbie and Malien) and AfriAvian (Albert) We will start the day with a discussion at the MDARDLEA Offices in Ermelo at 09:30 – 11:30. We will then break for some lunch prior to driving to site. It take approximately 30min to get to site. We anticipate that the site visit will be complete by latest 15:00 – giving everyone enough time to travel back safely in daylight. Kind regards **EAP's Response 2:** Good morning all	

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	Re For those that weren't included in the discussions that led to this request, please confirm that the name and the objective of the meeting has changed. Following our email correspondence, you confirmed that the site visit portion of the engagement would be cancelled (due to time available and travel distance), and that we would have a meeting only which would focus on the comments that were made on the draft EIA. Kind Regards Robyn	To date I have received feedback that this date may well be suitable. It is understood that the date is outside of the report review period – but unfortunately it seems that there are no available dates inside the review period. Therefore, we are taking the liberty to arrange this meeting / site visit on the 18th of October 2024. We will meeting in Ermelo for a discussion before driving out to site. The exact time and place for the meeting will be communicated closer to the time. We look forward to your participation in this meeting and site visit. Kind regards **EAP's Response 3:** Good evening All Thank you for your input below. Off the back of your travel concerns below – we have decided to cancel the site visit portion of the day. Instead, we will meet at the MDARDLEA Office in Ermelo as originally planned for a meeting starting at 09:30. Based on the comments below and those raised by Gavin, we have shifted the focus of the meeting slightly – to rather focus on the comments that we have received to date and our initial responses such that we can engage	

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		accordingly and as requested. We trust that this will be an open and transparent discussion / workshop of the issues. We will aim to end the meeting by 12:30 with a light lunch before everyone travels back home. We look forward to engaging with you on Friday. Kind regards **EAP's Response 4:** Good morning Robyn Yes, I can confirm that your statement below is correct. The site visit portion of the workshop has been cancelled and the meeting will now be a virtual meeting to focus on the Draft EIA comments received. Kind regards	
Menar (Canyon Coal Mashala Hendrina Coal Pty Ltd)			
Menar-Head of Environmental Licencing Sarah Wanless 25 April 2024 Email	I have received the relevant documentation. Please can you provide me with the shapefiles for the total farms as well as the locations of the proposed turbines.	**Project proponent's response:** I've attached the project boundary. We are still finalising the turbine positions based on the outcomes of the scoping phase.	**Appendix D** of this report.
Menar-Head of Environmental Licencing	Dear Sir/Madam,	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**

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Sarah Wanless 14 May 2024 Official letter	Mashala Hendrina Coal (Pty) (“MHC”) Ltd has been identified as an Interested and Affected Party for the Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposed wind facility due to the fact that the aforementioned project overlaps with MHC’s Gugulethu Colliery, mining right reference number MP 30/5/1/2/2/365 MR.		
	MHC would like it placed on record that Gugulethu Colliery’s mining right was granted in 2014, and the colliery is currently operational. At present, opencast mining, and associating processing activities, are taking place on site, with future expansion into underground operations in the next five (5) years. Some of the activities are on properties owned by the Group and some are on properties where MHC has the lawful use of the surface rights. As a result of the nature of the opencast activities, co-existence is therefore not possible.	**Applicant’s response:** The comment is noted. The Applicant proposes that a meeting is held with MHC to better understand the implications where mining activities overlap with proposed turbine locations. It is suggested that suitable solutions can be reached.	
	The following is in response to the documentation received on 12 April 2024 respectively: 1. Comments on the Draft Scoping Report 1.1 The draft Scoping Report did not provide the Department of Forest, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) reference number, only internal reference numbers were provided.	**EAP’s response:** The Application Form and Draft Scoping Report were submitted to the DFFE on 15 April 2024. The submission was acknowledged in a letter from the DFFE on 02 May 2024 and allocated the following reference number - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545. The reference number has now been added to Final scoping report as well as this report. The DFFE reference number will now be included on all future correspondence.	**Final Scoping Report**

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	2.1 Listed activities that are triggered are required to have their own heading, as per the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (d) (i), this is not within the report. The listed activities have been included in the policy and legislative context section; the listed activities need to be in their own section.	**EAP's response:** The listed activities triggered been included in the Scoping Report, under Section 4.1 in Table 4-1 of the FSR - National Environmental Legal Framework	**Section 4.1 in Table 4-1 of the FSR**
	3.1 Alternatives not assessed appropriately as per the NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (g) (v). The alternatives have not been assessed in terms of nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of such identified impacts, including the degree to which these impacts can be reversed, may cause irreplaceable loss of resources and can be avoided, managed or mitigated.	**EAP's response:** Section 3.5 of the FSR outlines the various alternatives that pertain to the project. It is noted that there are no site alternatives for the project, Section 3.5 includes the motivation for the site selection. The No-go option will be assessed as the alternative to which potential impacts will be assessed against. No-go- alternative has been added to the FSR.	**Section 3-5 of the FSR**
	4.1 Positive and negative impacts alternatives will have will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects were not provided in the report, only the overall summary of all impacts were provided in the draft Scoping Report. This is required as per NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (g) (vii).	**EAP's response:** The positive and negative impacts of the proposed development have been outlined in Section 6 of the Scoping Report. Positive and negative impacts focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects have been provided in the report (Section 6).	**Section 6 of the FSR**

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		The detailed assessment of all impacts identified during the detailed studies will be included in the EIA phase of the project.	
	5.1 The draft Scoping Report did not include a no-go option as an alternative, Section 24(4)(b)(i) of NEMA (as amended), provides that an investigation must be undertaken of the potential consequences or impacts of the alternatives to the activity on the environment and assessment of the significance of those potential consequences or impacts, including the option of not implementing the activity.	**EAP's response:** The no-go option has been added to the FSR.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR**
	6.1 The undertaking under oath section within the draft Scoping Report, as per NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (i) (i-iii), is missing key points: • the correctness of the information provided in the report; • the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and interested and affected parties; and; • any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested or affected parties.	**EAP's response:** The undertaking by the EAP is required as per NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (j) (i-iii), An undertaking of oath by the EAP was included in the Draft Scoping Report. An additional declaration under oath has been added to the FSR in Appendix B to cover these points as noted.	**Appendix B of the FSR**
	7.1 NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (k) and (l) from the draft Scoping Report is not included, even if this section is not applicable it should be included.	**EAP's response:** Section 2 (1) (k) requires an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to the	**Appendix B of the FSR**

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		level of agreement between the EAP and interested and affected parties on the plan of study for undertaking the environmental impact assessment, this is included in Appendix B. Section 2 (1) (l) pertains to any specific information required by the competent authority. To date, no specific information has been required by the competent authority. Therefore this section is still deemed not applicable and is marked as such in Table 1-5 in Section 1.5 of the FSR.	**Table 1-5 in Section 1.5 of the FSR**
	8.1 NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (l) states that "any other matter required in terms of section 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act"- Section 24(4)(b)(i) of NEMA (as amended), provides that an investigation must be undertaken of the potential consequences or impacts of the alternatives to the activity on the environment and assessment of the significance of those potential consequences or impacts, including the option of not implementing the activity. As mentioned previously, the alternatives were not assessed and the no-go alternative was not assessed.	**EAP's response:** Section 3-5 outlines the alternatives that are relevant to this project. The no-go alternative will be utilised as the alternative to which potential impacts will be assessed against. No-go- alternative has been added to the FSR. A detailed assessment of the alternatives will be included in the Draft EIA Report.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR**
	9.1 NEMA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended) Section 2 (1) (h) (ix) states "identify suitable measures to avoid, reverse, mitigate or manage identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored". This was not made clear within the draft Scoping Report. Minimal monitoring was included in	**EAP's response:** Section 6 of the Scoping report highlights potential mitigation and management measures for each aspect. These will be further investigated during the EIA phase of the project.	**section 6 of the FSR**

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	Section 6.1 (Potential Impacts) of the draft Scoping Report. It is an Environmental Assessment Practitioner's duty, during the Scoping Phase, to assess which impacts would require managing and monitoring, even on a high level. The monitoring mentioned in the Section 6.1 is insufficient.		
	Based on the aforementioned comments, the Scoping Report needs to be revised to include the necessary sections. MHC reserve the right to comment further on the application should any new information become available to us that we consider to be of importance. Yours Sincerely	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)			
MTPA - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer Celia de Waal 26 April 2024 Email	Kindly receive our acknowledgement of receipt document. The project is registered with our registration number LUA 24/3584.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for the confirmation of receipt of the Draft Scoping report. The registration is duly noted.	**Appendix D** of this report.
MTPA – Terrestrial Technician Thabile Mnisi 17 April 2024 Email	The MTPA request a hard copy of the Scoping Report to be delivered on the below address: Attention to: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer) MTPA Main Office Building (Lydenburg) (Old Lydenburg Fisheries)	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response. Please note that we have already couriered a hard copy of the Draft scoping report as well as an electronic copy on a flash drive to the MTPA	**Appendix D** of this report.

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	End or Morgan Street Lydenburg 1120 Contacts: 013 065 0065 or 082 841 7163.	offices at Hall's Gateway on the N 4 National Highway, Mbombela, 1200.	
MTPA Frans Krige 06 May 2024 Email	I have the received the DESR for Phefumula Emoyeni one wind energy facility after the 25th of April and is not sure when your deadline for our submission is. Please take note that I will be on leave till the 16th of May.	**EAP's response:** Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We can confirm (see attached) that the documentation was delivered to your offices at hall's Gateway on 12 April 2024. The comment period ends next week on 14 May 2024. We take note that you will be on leave until 16 May – we need to submit the Final Scoping Report to the DFFE by 31 May at the latest to meet legislative timeframes. We can recommend that you submit your comments as soon as possible once you are back from leave such that we can include them in our Final Report submission.	**Appendix D** of this report.
MR. M.H. VILAKAZI CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MTPA 17 May 2024	Dear Ms., Strong SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) (135 WIND TURBINES) AND ASSOCIATED MAIN WEF COMPONENTS ON 95	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**

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Ref: LUA 24/3861 Unit: LUA/SS Inquiries: F.N.Krige & M.C.Lotter	PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 33 660 HECTAREAS NORTH OF ERMELO BY PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE (PTY) LTD , MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER TO BE PROVIDED. With reference to your correspondence reference project no: 41105236 of April 2024, herewith the MTPA comments.		
	The application has been assessed by using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated 2022) land use guidelines, the DFFE web-based sensitivity screening tool, Environmental legislation NEMA and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, the South African Heritage Resources Act and knowledge to assess Development Applications.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**
	The sensitivity of the area, in which the prospecting activity is proposed and is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure the protection of biodiversity, environmental	**EAP's response:** The final layout for the WEF is still being developed. The most up to date layout has been included in Section 5-5 together with the relevant sensitivity overlays. The EAP confirms that the applicant has endeavoured to avoid all high sensitivity areas such as CBA irreplaceable and CBA optimal as far as possible. The Biodiversity Offset Strategy will encompass only those areas that cannot be avoided one the	**Section 5-5 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

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	sustainability and sustainable living and are to remain unaltered.	layout has been finalised. The final layout will be included in the Draft EIA Report. The Biodiversity Offset Strategy will be developed together with input from all relevant specialists. **Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The MBSP freshwater and terrestrial assessments are key datasets that are used at the project design level to enable the siting of turbines and roads outside these areas, to the degree possible **Applicant's response:** The initial layout was developed based on available desktop sensitivities. However, throughout the EIA process, the layout has been refined based on feedback from the EAP and the specialists. Wetlands, CBA: Irreplaceable and CBA: Optimal areas are being avoided as far as possible. Where there are existing roads through these areas, they will be used rather than creating new roads. The width of the roads will also be reduced as much as practicably possible in these areas. Based on current feedback from the EAP and specialists, it is highly likely that an offset will be required. Once the extent and nature (i.e., habitat types) of the impacted areas has been quantified, Seriti Green will request a workshop with key conservation and government	

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		stakeholders (such as MDARDLEA, BLSA, EWT, MTPA, DFFE) to discuss the way forward in terms of identifying suitable offset areas and the requirements for ongoing management/ rehabilitation.	
	With reference to the assessment of your Draft Scoping Report the MTPA is concerned about the following issues raised with regards to the terms of reference for specialist studies to be done. 1.An alternative less sensitive development site to be found.	**EAP's response:** Section 3.5 of the FSR outlines the various alternatives that pertain to the project. It is noted that there are no site alternatives for the project, Section 3.5 includes the motivation for the site selection. The No-go option will be assessed as the alternative to which potential impacts will be assessed against. No-go- alternative has been added to the FSR. **Applicant's response:** The site was selected based on wind data gathered over several years which indicated the suitability of the site for the development of a wind farm. The area was pre-screened for suitability from an environmental and social perspective and an initial layout developed which was provided to the EAP and specialists for assessment. This layout has subsequently been refined based on specialist input and will continue to be refined throughout the EIA process. While alternative turbine locations within the site are therefore being considered and implemented, in terms of the WEF as a	**Section 3-5 of the FSR**

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		whole, the project area is considered optimal for a wind farm development. Please note that the site shows a strong wind resource and therefore it is suitable for a wind farm. There are minimal other sites in the province that could be considered an alternative due to a scarcity of wind resource. This is also important in the context of the number of sites that are being proposed in the province: the number of wind farm sites will be limited by the areas with a good wind resource. This is finite and so the number of wind projects is also finite. Simply put, there are limited sites that allow for a wind farm to be built as there are limited sites with good win.	
	2.The ground truthing and on site studying of areas regarded as degraded or sensitive and suitable for potential wind turbines must be done considering that the cultivated lands might be feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern. The Site sensitivity verification report must include the feeding areas for SCC.	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Areas of modified (e.g., cultivated fields) and natural habitat (e.g., grassland) were investigated during the January 2024 field survey. It was determined that areas of natural habitat are indeed important for many species of conservation concern. With respects to fauna (excl. birds and bats), areas of modified habitat were not considered important habitat, as these areas are typically either dominated by alien invasive tree species (for example stands of alien *Acacia mearnsii/A. dealbata* trees) or completely modified (e.g., maize fields) and	

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		subject to regular high levels of disturbance from farming activities, such as mowing, plough, seeding, harvesting. The site sensitivity verification will be refined if necessary, further to baseline data gathering results.	
	3.The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.	**EAP's response:** It must be noted that in the applicant has been continually refining the layout such that turbines are all been located outside of CBA: Irreplaceable areas and to avoid the high sensitivity zones identified by the various specialists. Furthermore, additional avifauna studies have been commissioned to better inform the layout. **Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** With respects to terrestrial CBA, these areas were flagged during scoping as sensitive, and the proposed Project proponent has updated the layout of wind turbines to avoid both CBA Irreplaceable and CBA Optimal. The layout of the preliminary road network was also been designed to align, as far as possible, with existing district and farm roads/access tracks thereby minimising new footprints and potential impacts on CBA. So within the context of the mitigation hierarchy, there has already been a high-level application of avoidance.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	4.The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area and the current status of globally threatened bird species such as the Botha's lark is of a concern. The status of a list of the threatened bird species must be established.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The list of threatened species for this project has been assessed. Habitat suitability modelling has subsequently been conducted to delineate wetland and grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. We determined the presence of threatened bird species during 6 visits to the site. Botha's Lark and Rudd's Lark were not observed on site. Nevertheless, Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit informed a habitat suitability model to identify high quality grassland patches specifically preferred by these threatened species. At the proposed project site, suitable habitat was largely driven by Yellow-breasted Pipit, while no suitable habitat for either Rudd's Lark or Botha's lark was flagged by the fine scale habitat suitability model.	**Appendix D of the FSR**
	5.The impact and extent of the connecting road network and associated grid connection and substations on the sensitive zones must be indicated. Wherever wetland and river crossings are needed, the EIA regulations must be followed.	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The impact of the access road network and other linear infrastructure is considered under the Habitat Loss and Disturbance, and Habitat Fragmentation (affecting habitat connectivity) impacts. The associated impacts will be fully assessed for pre-mitigation and post-mitigation scenarios in the relevant EIA Specialist Reports (i.e., the Terrestrial Biodiversity, Animal Species and Plant Species Specialist Assessment	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR** **Section 3 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		Reports), which will be compiled in line with the relevant specialist protocols. These reports will also include mitigation/management measures. **EAP's response:** A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR. The EAP confirms that the impact and extent of the connecting road network and associated grid connection and substations on the sensitive zones will be included in the EIA Phase. However, it must be noted that the WTG and associated infrastructure locations are subject to change based on specialist feedback in the EIA phase.	
	6.The risk and threat of untimely fires caused by the infrastructure on the grasslands and SCC must be included in the risk studies.	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The risk of unplanned and accidental fires will be fully assessed as part of the specialist impact assessments for terrestrial biodiversity, animal species and plant species. It is noted that wildfire is considered an important ecological driver of change in the study area. How the proposed Project will affect local wildfire patterns will be discussed in the relevant EIA reports, as will mitigation/management measures to limit the intentional/accidental starting of wildfires at infrastructure sites and by construction workers.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	7.Included in the MTPA's comments are the following discussion that illustrates the need and desirability of this proposal:	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**
	Proliferation of renewable energy applications •Given the energy needs of the country, significant emphasis is being placed on the need to transition away from coal towards renewable energy. However, the urgency and desire to approve nearly all renewable energy applications needs to be put into perspective considering the incredible investment and proliferation of new renewable energy projects within Mpumalanga.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**
	•The MTPA and DARDLEA are maintaining a database of renewable energy projects, which include those in the pre-application phase. We can confirm that 61 renewable energy projects have now been submitted within Mpumalanga. Just over 50% of these have been approved to date. 18 of these are for Wind Energy Farms, which together make up for 233 000 ha (which is about 3% of the province's surface area), and this amount is growing as the province is being inundated with renewable energy applications.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. **Applicant's response:** It should be noted that while a WEF is developed over a large area, due to environmental and social constraints as well as wind (e.g., wake effect), the actual WEF only takes up a small percentage of the proposed project area. In the case of Phefumula Emoyeni One, based on the initial layout of 135 turbines, the developed area (turbines, roads, BESS, substations, etc.) covers an area of 240.4ha, i.e., 0.71% of the total 33 604.8ha project AOI. Also, the number of wind project sites is limited by the number of sites with a good wind resource	**N/A**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	•The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully. The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**N/A**
	Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) •The project footprint overlaps with a significant amount of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA). 38% of the footprint area is identified as a CBA, of which 21% is in a CBA Irreplaceable area. Wind farms are not appropriate land uses within CBA areas.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This information has been sent to the relevant specialists for their consideration during the EIA phase. The EAP confirms that the development of the Final layout will endeavour to avoid all areas of high sensitivity such that the layout utilises the least sensitivity areas possible. **It must be noted that in the applicant has been continually refining the layout such that turbines are all been located outside of CBA: Irreplaceable areas and to avoid the high sensitivity zones identified by the various specialists. Furthermore, additional avifauna studies have been commissioned to better inform the layout**. A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure overlain by the sensitivity map has been added to Section 5.5 of the FSR	**Section 5-5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	•The whole of the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni wind farm falls within an Important Bird Area (IBA), which underscores the need to consider its implications on metapopulation dynamics and the need to avoid wind farms in “source” areas.	**Avifaunal Specialist’s response:** All efforts will be made to preserve habitat, critical biodiversity areas, and the species that inhabit it. Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern, and prime areas for these species are being conserved and excluded from the buildable area for the proposed windfarm. Wetlands were buffered to protect species associated with this habitat type, and flight risk models were developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines, and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**
	•20% of the proposed wind farm is comprised of intact grassland patches. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga.	**EAP’s response:** This comment is acknowledged. This information has been sent to the relevant specialists for their consideration during the EIA phase	**N/A**
	•Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity importance. These intact grasslands are “source” areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches.	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist’s response:** The EAP would appreciate if the spatial data for intact grassland patches could be shared, to inform design of final layouts and facilitate the avoidance of significant impacts on these areas.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	•The identification of actual avifaunal source areas may be difficult, but as these intact grassland patches occur within an Important Bird Area (IBA) where there are several nesting and roosting avifaunal species of conservation concern, it highlights their significance and our confidence in confirming these as "source" areas. The presence of these intact grassland patches, CBAs, and the IBAs, is probably the biggest concern that the MTPA may have about the proposed wind farm.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The high-quality grassland areas (CBAs etc.) identified and avoided by the biodiversity and vegetation specialists, provides additional protection for other grassland specialists.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**
	•Wind farms should not be placed in IBAs or intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** IBAs often already contain many transformed habitats and development in these areas should not be precluded so long as high sensitivity areas are adequately avoided.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**
	•Already several wind farms have been approved in slightly less sensitive areas and in relatively close proximity, which would result in further impacts on bird species.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As per the Assessment Guidelines, the minimum requirements are that current impacts, anticipated project-related impacts and additional potential impacts from other proposed developments within the region must be considered in combination and described in a cumulative impact assessment. The scoping report	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Final scoping report**
	•Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		This information has been sent to the relevant specialists for their consideration during the EIA phase	
	•It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. A precautionary approach has been undertaken, at scoping level. The project layout is being developed in consideration of all sensitivities identified on site, and has been extensively refined multiple times. Furthermore, this will likely be further refined during the EIA stage. A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR.	**Section 3.5 of the FSR** **Section 5-5 of the FSR**
	Avifaunal concerns •The presence of 34 priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This information has been sent to the relevant specialists for their consideration during the EIA phase.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**
	•Of these, 12 were Species of Conservation Concern, of which four were nesting.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. This information has been sent to the relevant specialists for their consideration during the EIA phase.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	•A Martial Eagle nest (Endangered) occurs within footprint area. These are South Africa's largest eagles and travel over vast areas. They are also suspectable to collision with turbines and wind farms are of serious concern. •Three Bald Ibis colonies (Vulnerable) occur within footprint area. •A Secretary bird nest (Endangered) was found and assigned a 500 m buffer. Considering that the blade tip height alone may be up to 300 m high, this does not be sufficient as a recommended buffer.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The circular buffers proposed during the scoping phase of the project has been replaced with more clearly defined buffers, based on habitats used and flight risk, derived from actual flight data collected on-site and known species characteristics. These irregular shaped buffers are based on habitat and flight behaviour of specific threatened species recorded onsite. Habitat suitability and flight risk models for the following species has been developed to inform turbine exclusion zones and mitigation zones: •Martial Eagle •Southern Bald Ibis •Secretarybird •Black-winged Pratincole In addition to the above buffers, circular infrastructure exclusion buffers to mitigate disturbance, will be maintained around identified nest sites. The 500m buffer around the Secretarybird nest was an infrastructure exclusion buffer, the commenting authority overlooked the 1.5km turbine exclusion buffer and the 2.5km mitigation buffer. Nevertheless, subsequently habitat and flight risk modelling has been done for the Secretarybird, and the circular turbine exclusion buffer and mitigation buffer were	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		replaced with more appropriate exclusion zones according to the flight behaviour of the birds. These buffers and maps will be included in the EIA report.	
	•Birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths, the current proposed buffers seem inadequate.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The flight-risk models that have subsequently been developed address flight-risk envelopes in a more informed manner based on topography, underlying habitat and actual fight data recorded on site.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**
	•This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The collision risk models developed in the EIA phase will inform the estimated number of fatalities of all SCC on an annual basis.	**Section 7 of the FSR**
	•The MTPA have mapped all the dams in detail across Mpumalanga. There are 344 artificial water bodies within the footprint area that may be important for flamingos and other water-dependent birds.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The avifaunal report took note of the aquatic specialist's buffer zones on-site. It is not realistic to expect a 2km buffer around all 344 artificial waterbodies. All waterbodies are included in the wetland habitat modelling and fall under turbine exclusion zones. During the EIA phase additional analysis will be conducted to identify which waterbodies are suitable for flamingos and those buffers will be revised.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•Buffers of 2km have been recommended for natural pans (not sure if they were mapped – they do not appear on the avifaunal sensitivities map), however, should many of the 344 dams that occur within the footprint area also not be buffered? Many of these would provide similar habitat to that of pans.		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	•The avifaunal sensitivity map only considers four of the identified Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) and the heronry. Other field observations and the Birdlife SA species distribution models were not considered, potentially overlooking crucial habitat for vulnerable species like the Grass Owl.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Habitat suitability modelling has been conducted to delineate wetland and grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely African Grass Owl, Blue Crane, African Marsh Harrier, and Grey Crowned Crane. These results will be incorporated into the EIA phase of the study.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•The MTPA does have the Birdlife SA species distribution models and can confirm that: Grass Owl (Vulnerable) have a strong probability of occurring on site although there is no indication as to whether any focused surveys were conducted to search for Grass Owls.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** African Grass Owl habitat has been modelled as part of the wetland sensitive areas to avoid. The modelled output is based on an extensive dataset of known African Grass Owl nest localities and associated surrounding habitat characteristics. The habitat delineated and avoided as part of the modelling is thus considered an adequate substitute for nocturnal surveys, specifically for this species.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	Black Harrier (and confirmed during avifaunal field work)	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Three (3) Black Harrier flights (of short duration <5min) were recorded on site during June (non-breeding season), confirming a low risk for the species.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Botha's Lark may be present but not much is mentioned in report as to survey effort or whether any surveys for this species were specifically targeted during its breading season. Blue Crane (confirmed) Grey Crowned Crane (not yet confirmed) Rudd's Lark (although low probability) Southern Bald Ibis (confirmed) Secretary Bird (confirmed) Verreaux Eagle (although low probability) Wattled Crane White-bellied Bustard (confirmed) White-winged Flufftail (low probability) Yellow-breasted Pipit (low probability)	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Habitat suitability modelling has been conducted to delineate wetland and grassland habitat based on key wetland and grassland species. The wetland layer is based on suitable aquatic and adjacent habitat as informed by the following Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely African Grass Owl, Blue Crane, and Grey Crowned Crane. Wattled Crane and other sensitive wetland species with a Critically Endangered status are similarly addressed in this wetland layer. Similarly, grassland species such as Botha's Lark, Rudd's Lark, and Yellow-breasted Pipit has been included in the habitat suitability modelling and will be presented in EIA report. White-bellied and Denham's Bustard habitats are included in the high-quality grassland habitats, as delineated by the biodiversity specialists. Habitat suitability and flight risk models for the following species has been developed to inform turbine exclusion zones and mitigation zones for Secretarybird and Southern Bald Ibis. There is little to no suitable habitat on site for Verreaux's Eagle and they have not been recorded on surveys to date.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	Site Sensitivity Verification		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	•The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that: The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High/High in grassland and wetland habitat; and Low/Medium in secondary grasslands. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as High Sensitivity Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity in areas of grassland and wetland habitat Bat Assessment as High Sensitivity Avifaunal Assessment as High Sensitivity	**Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The application of the Site Ecological Importance methodology is contingent upon, in part, the completion of the field programme, which had not been conducted at the time the scoping report was compiled. A field programme, including both flora and fauna surveys, was conducted in January 2024. Field data collected during the field programme, will be used to compile descriptions of habitat units identified in the study area, and these, along with an assessment of each unit's Site Ecological Importance (as per the 2022 SANBI guidelines), will be presented in the relevant EIA Specialist Reports.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•It is not obvious whether the Site Ecological Importance methodology was applied according to the 2022 Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines. For example, if one searches through the Terrestrial Biodiversity report, then "Site Ecological Importance" is only mentioned once under abbreviations and nowhere else.		
	•Similarly, for the avifaunal assessment, it is not clear how the specialist could go from "very high", "high", and "medium" sensitivity to an overall impact score of "moderate" pre-mitigation and "low" post mitigation. The report concludes that the proposed wind farm will have a medium impact on avifauna. I	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The EAP provided the bird specialists with impact rating methodologies to include in the scoping study. These methodologies are aligned with the Species Environmental Assessments Guidelines for interpreting sites of Ecological importance SEI. The Impact	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	struggle to understand the reasoning given the high sensitivity.	Assessment Methodology is included in the Avifaunal Specialist Report Scoping (Appendix D). In our opinion, these methods can be insufficient as the formulas often result in an impact being rated lower than what it should be. During the EIA phase, the ratings will be interrogated and revised again.	
	Limited biodiversity assessment •The current draft scoping report is largely informed by desktop assessments. Understandably some data are currently being collected, such as with bat detectors and the additional avifaunal surveys, however the terrestrial biodiversity assessment was almost fully based on desktop assessment even though there was mention of field work conducted in December 2023 and January 2024.	**EAP's response:** As stated above, the terrestrial biodiversity scoping report was compiled prior to the field programme. All information and data from the field programme and analysis/discussion thereof, will be presented in the relevant EIA Specialist Reports (Terrestrial Biodiversity, Animal Species and Plant Species Specialist Assessment Reports). These will be compiled in line with the relevant specialist protocols.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•The status and knowledge of the biodiversity on the site is at times inadequate to inform the site verification or sensitivity analyses and limits our ability to accurately assess the project's ecological impact.		
	Additional concerns •Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact. The 60 km of road network will have an estimated impact of 108 ha.	**EAP's response:** A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR. However, it must be noted that the WTG and associated infrastructure locations are subject	**Section 3.5 of the FSR** **Section 5-5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		to change based on specialist feedback in the EIA phase. All associated infrastructure will be investigated and assessed in the EIA Phase.	
	Recommendations •Conduct comprehensive field surveys across the entire footprint area to assess terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.	**EAP's response:** The terrestrial biodiversity scoping report was compiled prior to the field programme. All information and data from the field programme and analysis/discussion thereof, will be presented in the relevant EIA Specialist Reports (Terrestrial Biodiversity, Animal Species and Plant Species Specialist Assessment Reports). These will be compiled in line with the relevant specialist protocols.	**Appendix G.3 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•Revise the avifaunal sensitivity map to incorporate all identified SCCs and utilize Birdlife species distribution models. Field observations and the species distribution models could have been incorporated into the avifaunal sensitivity map. It is of concern that only a few of the sensitive and threatened bird species recorded were included in the avifaunal sensitivities map.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** During the EIA phase, the additional habitat analysis that has been conducted, will be incorporated be presented along with revised risk maps for particular species that will be presented in the EIA report.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•The current consolidated site sensitivity map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure 5-35) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With more appropriate buffers, more field work, and all the associated infrastructure (such as roads), we cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the footprint area.	**EAP's response:** A precautionary approach has been undertaken at scoping level. The project layout is being developed in consideration of all sensitivities identified on site, and has been extensively	**Section 3.5 of the FSR** **Section 5-5 of the FSR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		refined multiple times. Furthermore, this will likely be further refined during the EIA stage. A map indicating the WTG and all associated infrastructure has been added to Section 3.5 and Section 5.5 of the FSR. **Applicant's response:** Although there are numerous environmental constraints, there is sufficient area available for the development of a viable wind farm which still allows for the protection of environmentally sensitive habitats. We agree that the sensitivity map indicates little area left for development of the wind farm, we have taken this into account and have refined the turbine layout significantly. Ultimately it is up to the wind farm developer to determine if the project is viable or not.	
	•Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The flight-risk models that have subsequently been developed address flight-risk envelopes in a more informed manner.	**Appendix G.4 of the FSR** **Section 7 of the FSR**
	•Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.	**Applicant's response:** The site was selected based on wind data gathered over several years which indicated the suitability of the site for the development of a wind farm. The area was pre-screened for suitability from an environmental and social	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		perspective and an initial layout developed which was provided to the EAP and specialists for assessment. This layout has subsequently been refined based on specialist input and will continue to be refined throughout the EIA process. While alternative turbine locations within the site are therefore being considered and implemented, in terms of the WEF as a whole, the project area is considered optimal for a wind farm development.	
	Conclusion The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Energy Facility poses a significant threat to a Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. If we need to rely on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, then it is in our opinion that this project is fatally flawed. The anticipated impacts on biodiversity, particularly the avifauna, is too great to support this project. A more thorough ecological assessment and exploration of alternative locations are crucial before proceeding with this project. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries. Kind Regards	**EAP's response:** It is premature to label this site as fatally flawed. The EIA phase will use additional field surveys and on-site data to inform conclusions. Significant work has been done by specialists (avifauna and biodiversity) to inform the EIA layout and it can be shown that the EIA turbine layout is significantly reduced in scale and capacity. Less than 1 percent of the site is required for the WEF infrastructure and all infrastructure is located in low sensitivity areas, CBAs have been avoided where possible.	
Celia de Waal 13 September 2024	Dear Ms. Strong	**EAP's response:** Good afternoon	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email	Kindly send us, the MTPA, a hard copy or flashdrive (usb memorystick), of the Draft EIA report, for our scientists to comment on, to the following physical address: To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer) MTPA Offices: Lydenburg End of Morgan street Lydenburg 1120 My contact details are: 013 065 0062 or 082 841 7163 Kind regards Celia de Waal	A hard copy of the Draft report has been couriered to the MTPA already – it should arrive early next week Kind regards	
Mervyn Lotter 13 September 2024 Email	Dear Ashlea Please can you provide us with the KML file of the turbines and associated infrastructure? Thank you	**EAP's response:** Good Afternoon Attached please find the kmz of the optimised turbine layout as requested. Kind regards	
Celia de Waal 16 September 2024 Email	Dear Ms. Strong The MTPA acknowledge the receipt of your hardcopies for a Final Environmental Scoping report and a Draft EIA report. It is 4 x hard documents and 2 x memory sticks.	No response required	**Appendix D** of this report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Our reference numbers is LUA 24/38961(3) and LUA 24/3861(4) The commenting scientist is Mr. Frans Krige, who is copied in this e-mail. Kind regards Celia		
Nomcebo Kunene Ref: LUA 24/3861 A (2) Unit: LUA/SS 11 October 2024 Email Official Letter	SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) (84 WIND TURBINES) AND ASSOCIATED MAIN WEF COMPONENTS ON 95 PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 33 660 HECTARES (UP TO 837MW) ON THE FARMS GROBLESHOEK 191 IS, ISRAEL 207 IS, BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS, VAALBANK 233 IS, KUILFONTEIN 234 IS, BOSMANSHOEK 235 IS, WITBANK 236 IS, NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS, ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS, GELIKSDRAAI 240 IS, KRANSPOORT 248 IS, TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS, NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS, SPION KOP 252 IS, DRIEHOEK 273 IS, SPITSKOP 276 IS, UITZIGT 450 IS AND KRANSPOORT 827 IS, ERMELO,MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY; DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545 With reference to your correspondence reference project no: 41105236 of September 2024, herewith the MTPA comments.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. The EAP acknowledges receipt of your comments on the Final Scoping Report for the Grid Connection, However, it must be noted that the Grid Connection forms part of a separate application and that the Draft EIA Report for this project has not yet been released for public review. [This application pertains to the Phefumula Emoyeni WEF application.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	The biodiversity sensitivities of the project footprint area were highlighted during the Scoping phase. The MTPA also recently provided comments on the wind energy grid connection and associated facilities and road network. The MTPA objected to the Grid connection on the grounds of the sensitivity of the receiving environment and that the Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) were not avoided during the Draft EIA phase. The risk assessment and specialist reports confirm the high risk and impact of the proposed Grid connection on wetlands and large birds like raptors. The MTPA is of the opinion that the risk of negative impacts from the grid connection project is very high and the mitigation and avoidance of the CBA areas were not adhered to. The Impact Reversibility (Mortalities) and Duration of Mortalities in such an Important Bird Area might be so high that no mitigation proposals can guarantee the protection and persistence of many of these species. There is no substantial evidence that the mortality thresholds for certain SCC with mitigation proposals will not be exceeded.		
	Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility There are several concerning impacts emanating from the proposed development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (PEO WEF), such as the potential impacts on bats and disturbance of bat roosts, river crossings, impacts on Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Suppoort Areas (ESAs). We acknowledge that	**EAP's response:** Your concerns are acknowledged. **Biodiversity Specialist's response** Fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	many of these impacts can be offset, however, it is the unintended impact on the threatened avifauna which renders this project fatally flawed. There is still too much uncertainty with the long-term impacts of the wind farm uncertain. The risks posed to the avifauna cannot be adequately mitigated as there is still too much uncertainty around the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures. The current layout also includes many turbines that are in sensitive areas, which should have been removed.	3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20,8. Efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy being the principal and primary imperative in achieving a sustainable development. Avoidance of all CBAs, is the primary mitigation measure, after detailed consultation the current infrastructure layout is a much reduced version of the original, however we still strive to reduce the footprint in these areas. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The mitigation hierarchy has been followed and all high sensitivity areas have been avoided. Mitigation measures have will also be implemented to reduce the impact. During the operational phase an adaptive management strategy will be followed in order to rapidly respond to fatalities that occur and that where needed additional mitigation measures are considered and implemented	
	The rationale for our decision is expanded on below. **Regional impacts** The project site is classified as having high sensitivity for avifauna, particularly for Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). This indicates that the area is crucial for their survival and any disturbance could have significant negative impacts on their populations at a national or global scale.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	The PEO WEF is located along the western edge of north-south highveld escarpment that was identified as a priority area for avifauna in 2001 in a document called "Determining the conservation value of land in Mpumalanga". This regional importance was again identified as a priority in the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP). The identified Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) occurring on site are required to meet national and provincial biodiversity targets, and the Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) support the functioning of CBAs and support the environment in responding to the impacts on climate change. A comprehensive climate change analysis underpinned this work which included the development of layers such as the intact grassland patches, climate change refugia, and fine-and course-scaled corridor network for the province, linking up with climate change corridors from adjacent provinces.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All avifaunal high sensitivity areas have been avoided. There is substantial overlap between these high sensitivity areas and the MBSP climate change corridors.	
	If one now looks at the proposed location of the PEO WEF at a regional scale, it is apparent that the proposed wind farm will have a regional impact on the importance of: • Rich diversity of bird species of conservation concern recorded within PEO WEF footprint area • MBSP and Climate Change Corridors • Important Bird Areas (IBAs) • National Protected Area Expansion Priority Areas (NPAES)	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. WTG 85 and 86 are located within a recommended turbine exclusion (including rotor-swept area) buffer, these turbines need to micro-sited out of the exclusion zones To optimise the layout plan, several wind turbines were relocated such that they fall outside of the NPAES area	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	• Cumulative Impacts	In terms of the information provided, there is approximately 8 984MW of renewable energy either approved or in process within 100km radius of the Phefumula Emoyeni One Project Site, of which 4 187MW are wind projects requiring a total of 403 turbines.	
	The proposed wind farm will impact on the avifauna in terms of collision with turbines and powerlines, electrocution from powerlines, and habitat displacement where birds will now avoid areas where they used to forage and breed. Construction and operation of the wind farm will lead to the displacement of threatened. or SCC due to noise, habitat transformation, and the presence of turbines. This displacement could affect breeding, foraging, and roosting behaviours, leading to population declines.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. Based on existing literature, Page 33 of the avifauna specialist have indicated the following: "*The scale of permanent habitat loss resulting from the construction of a wind farm and associated infrastructure depends on the size of the project but, in general, it is likely to be small per turbine base. Typically, actual habitat loss amounts to 2–5% of the total development site [Fox et al. (2006) as cited by Drewitt & Langston (2006)], with a further 3-14% of airspace altered by turbines (Marques et al., 2020) (see Section 6.5). The effects of habitat loss could be more widespread where developments interfere with hydrological patterns or flows on wetland or peatland sites (unpublished data). Some changes could also be beneficial. For example, habitat transformation following the development of the Altamont Pass Wind Farm in California led to increased mammal prey availability for some species of raptor, such as higher abundance of Pocket Gophers Thomomys bottae burrows around turbine*	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		bases), although this may also have increased collision risk [Thelander et al., (2003) as cited by Drewitt & Langston (2006)"]. The avifauna specialist has further provided mitigation measures to reduce and limit displacement of birds as a result of the operation of the WEF. Which have been included in the DEIR and the EMPr. [	
	The regional concern is that even with tweaking the layout of the turbines, it will still result in a significant regional impact in an area which is an important corridor for climate change adaptation and supporting a rich and diverse community of birds of conservation concern.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
	Rich diversity of bird species of conservation concern recorded within PEO WEF footprint area One of the primary concerns, and the reason we believe this project to be fatally flawed, is that we are not merely considering authorising the approval of a wind farm that may impact on one or two bird species of conservation concern, but rather a wind farm that may impact on up to 16 species of conservation concern, 10 of which are threatened (see Table 1). [ist of 10 Threatened bird species (Endangered and Vulnerable) recorded within the Phefumula	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Species of conservation concern fatalities will be closely monitored in accordance with potential biological removal (PBR) values which will be defined in the biodiversity management plan. In essence as part of the adaptive management strategy an investigation will be conducted following each SCC fatality and additional mitigation measures will be considered and implemented within a 3-month period.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Emoyeni One Wind Energy Farm. Roosting and breeding species highlighted in bold]. The avifaunal report mentions 40 priority species that could be impacted by the wind farm to occur with the project area. The proposed wind farm may increase the extinction risk for these species. Ultimately it is the potential risk to these species that must be considered. Ther proposed mitigation measures will reduce impacts but not eliminate them. Based on the Site Sensitivity Verification survey and the integrated pre-construction monitoring conducted at the Project Site thus far, the classification of High Sensitivity for avifauna was supported by the avifaunal specialist.	Some of the mitigation put in place to ensure that the population of priority bird species is kept at a minimum include the following: • The All-Infrastructure Exclusion Zones should be implemented and maintained • No turbines should be constructed in the turbine exclusion buffer zones • Formal live-bird monitoring and carcass searches should be conducted in the operational phase, as per the Best Practice Guidelines at the time to assess collision rates. • All wind turbines must have one blade painted according to a South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) approved pattern to reduce the risk of raptor collisions. While blade painting as a mitigation strategy is still in its experimental phase in South Africa, international research shows that it has a promising potential to reduce raptor mortality. • It is recommended that all wind turbines (WTGs) are subjected to either Observer-led Shutdown on Demand (OSDoD), Auto SDoD (ASDoD) or similar technology during daylight hours and radar flight detection technology or similar technology for flocks of target species at night. • The use underground cabling as much as is practically possible.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		• Application of insulation reactively in the substation if significant electrocutions of SCC are recorded.	
	We acknowledge that the proposed mitigation measure may be effective for some of these species, however not for all of them, and this is the risk that we are most concerned about. Some species may have differences in behaviour or morphology that will still render them vulnerable to collisions regardless of proposed mitigation measures. And with over 80 turbines, spread out across 33 900 ha, it would be impossible to cover all the turbines with the proposed SDoD. With 84 turbines, there is only mention of implementing SDoD but with no detail around what technology will be implemented (radar, optical, observer led), nor where will these units be based, what proportion of the turbines will be covered, etc. It is only briefly mentioned with insufficient details to assess its possible positive impact and its limitations.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** More details regarding the proposed SDoD system or approaches to be followed will be provided in the updated EIA report.	
	MBSP and Climate Change Corridors The MBSP's climate change corridor network was designed to enable species and ecosystems to adapt to a changing environment (see Figure 1 below). These areas were also incorporated into the MBSP. The corridor network incorporated a single-best (least-cost) corridor connecting up the climate change refugia with that of climate change corridors from adjacent provinces. Additional fine-scale	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All possible efforts to exlcude infrastructure from Intact Grassland Patches and climate change corridors (CCCs), have been made by the design team, as can be seen in the updated layouts and reduction in Turbine numbers. However additional layout changes will be discussed with designers to further this effort. Currently Intact Grassland Patches affected by	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	corridors were also identified using Circuitscape, finding alternative pathways and identifying pinch points in the corridors and thereby building resilience into the corridor network. As can be seen from Figure 1 below, the PEO WEF is located over the single-best corridor that connects up the climate change priorities, thereby compromising the nationally connected climate change corridor.	infrastructure amount to 7.99ha (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76). **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All avifaunal high sensitivity areas have been avoided. There is substantial overlap between these high sensitivity areas and the MBSP climate change corridors.	
	Associated infrastructure, such as roads and powerlines, further fragment the surrounding landscape. Studies reported in the avifaunal assessment state that blue cranes nest further away from roads, and Ludwig's bustard avoid roads within a 500m buffer. Denham's Bustard are expected to behave similarly. The risk from the proposed wind farm on the corridor is that it will result in both collisions, electrocution, and habitat displacement. Displacement of birds is called functional habitat loss. This disturbance can be detrimental to migratory bird populations if wind farms disrupt migration routes.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All avifaunal high sensitivity areas have been avoided. There is substantial overlap between these high sensitivity areas and the MBSP climate change corridors.	
	Figure 2 shows the extent of the Intact Grassland Patches and the single-best climate change corridor. Intact grassland patches make up 20% of the PEO WEF, and together with the climate change corridors, the position of the PEO WEF would significantly interrupt the provincial (if not national)	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	importance of maintaining a connectivity and supporting species and ecosystems to adapt to a changing environment. The proposed mitigation measures do not guarantee a safe and secure natural environment.		
	Important Bird Areas (IBA) The Birdlife NGO is replacing the IBAs with the IUCN Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). These new KBAs represent areas of global importance that meet global thresholds. This does not mean that IBAs have no longer any avifaunal value, it is just that they are replaced by a global system with stricter global thresholds. Regionally the IBAs are still important and the MTPA have engaged several ornithologists to get their opinion as to whether IBAs should be dropped or if they should still be considered to represent areas regionally important for avifauna. The response has been overwhelmingly in favour of still using IBAs at a regional scale. Each IBA was identified as important for several reasons. These qualifying reasons do not no longer apply for geographic areas now that KBAs are introduced. With Birdlife's transition from IBAs to KBAs, nationally 23 IBAs do not overlap at all with KBAs and there is only 68% overlap in geographic area between the two. The MTPA and DARDLEA still value the important role that IBAs may serve in identifying important avifaunal areas.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** All highly sensitive avifaunal areas have been avoided and medium risk areas are earmarked as mitigation zones. Species of conservation concern fatalities will be closely monitored in accordance with potential biological removal (PBR) values which will be defined in the biodiversity management plan. In essence as part of the adaptive management strategy an investigation will be conducted following each SCC fatality and additional mitigation measures will be considered and implemented within a 3-month period.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	The proposed PEO WEF is located within the Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina IBA, and makes up 9.9% of the IBA. See Figure 3. The IBA was identified based on: (https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/amersfoort--bethal--carolina-district-iba-south-africa/text).		
	According to Barnes (1998), this IBA holds a large proportion (>10%) of the global population of Botha's Lark Spizocorys fringillaris, although confirmation is required as to whether this is still the case. This lark generally avoids rocky areas, tall grass in bottomlands, vleis, croplands and planted pastures, but its preferred habitat – short, dense, natural grassland found on plateaus and upper hill slopes – occurs within the IBA. Data regarding the IBA's current species composition is limited, but the grassland areas occasionally hold Denham's Bustard Neotis denhami, White-bellied Korhaan Eupodotis senegalensis, Blue Korhaan E. caerulescens, African Grass Owl Tyto capensis, Buff-streaked Chat Campicoloides bifasciata, Southern Bald Ibis Geronticus calvus, Black-winged Pratincole Glareola nordmanni and Secretarybird Sagittarius serpentarius.		
	The key species within this IBA is the globally threatened Botha's Lark. Other globally threatened species are Blue Crane Anthropoides paradiseus, Southern Bald Ibis, Black Harrier Circus maurus, Blue Korhaan, Black-winged Pratincole, Secretarybird, Martial Eagle Polemaetus bellicosus		

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	and Denham's Bustard. Regionally threatened species are African Grass Owl, White-bellied Korhaan and Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus. Biome- and range-restricted species are Botha's Lark, Kurrichane Thrush Turdus libonyanus and Buff-streaked Chat. Occasionally, all of South Africa's crane species can be found in the grasslands or cropfields within the site. Except for the Botha's Lark, which has not recently been observed in the IBA (to the best of our knowledge), the remainder of the birds of conservation concern listed above have recently been recorded in the IBA, thereby confirming the importance of this IBA for birds of conservation concern. There is a very high diversity of a number of SCC, many of which are threatened.		
	National Protected Area Expansion Priority Areas (NPAES) Just over 48% of the proposed PEO WEF is comprised on NPAES with 27% of the proposed wind turbines located in NPAES focal areas (see Figure 3). These are a priority area for the national protected area expansion strategy and highlights the national importance of this area.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** All efforts have and will be made to reduce the number of infrastructure coinciding with NPAES areas. Primary consideration has been to give effect to the mitigation hierarchy, avoidance has meant that disturbed areas have been favoured for infrastructure placement.	
	Cumulative Impacts Mpumalanga is being inundated with applications for renewable energy projects because of the availability of grid infrastructure. To date there are 303 approved wind turbines in Mpumalanga with another 405 wind turbines currently under	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concern regarded numerous proposed facilities and their potential cumulative impacts are noted.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	consideration for authorisation. Excluding PEO WEF turbines, there are 532 wind turbines within 55 km of the proposed PEO WEF, highlighting an incredible density of wind farms and turbines in this avifaunal rich and sensitive area. The cumulative impact along this part of escarpment and within the IBA is significant.		
	Collision Risks The report states that for long-lived species with low reproductivity and slow maturation rates (e.g. raptors), even low mortality rates can have a significant impact at the population level. The situation is even more critical for species of conservation concern and those with restricted distributions, which sometimes are most at risk. The risk of bird collisions with wind turbines is high, especially for species like the Southern Bald Ibis, Martial Eagle, and Secretarybird. The collision risk modelling predicts fatalities that could exceed sustainable levels for these species, even with mitigation measures like Shutdown on Demand (SDoD).	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As part of a biodiversity management plan for the site that will be developed prior to commercial operation, PBR values for all priority species on-site will be determined. The calculation of PBR values will take into account population sizes of the species and thus determine fatality thresholds for the site. If fatality numbers exceed these thresholds, additional mitigation measures implemented as part of the adaptive management strategy e.g. observer SDoD and auto SDoD (cameras during the day and radar.	
	Local impacts **MBSP** Although 14 of the 84 turbines are still located in CBAs, many of the turbines have been located on the edge of CBA or ESA areas where birds and bats are still susceptible to collisions. The average (median) distance of CBAs and ESAs to the 84 wind	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. Further efforts to refine the layout will be included in the updated EIA Report upon the undertaking of further of specialists assessment in Jan/Feb 2025..	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	turbines is 272m. The close proximity of the turbines to the CBAs/ESAs is of concern when the turbine blades may be up to 200m long (see Figure 4).		
	With the current increase in wind farm applications that are currently being considered, it is often difficult to comprehend the relative risks that some applications pose to the avifauna. The below scatterplot (Figure 5) plots the number of bird species of conservation concern on the x-axis and the hectares of CBA areas within the project area on the y-axis. The symbol size is proportional to the number of hectares of intact grassland patches within each wind farm. The red symbol represents the proposed Dalmanutha WEF that was withdrawn given the sensitivity of the receiving environment. The PEO WEF has the second highest proportion of CBA areas and 5th highest number of birds of conservation concern. It also has a significant number of number of intact grassland patches (20% of project area).	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG ,3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20,8. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The relative risk of the specific site is noted in relation to other applications received by the department.	
	Cape Vulture Cape Vulture are susceptible to collisions and several birds were observed on site. The avifaunal report does not mention any vulture roosts, however the biodiversity offset report mentions two vulture roosts. This is very concerning that that these were not discussed in the avifaunal report nor taken into consideration in the sensitivity map and layout. Furthermore the report determined that 1 Cape Vulture will visit the project area every 17 days. That	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The Section 5.2 of the biodiversity offset report erroneously indicated Vulture roosts. **Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Vulture presence in the area is low and stochastic in nature. No known roosts are present in proximity to the site. The closest known powerline roost site is located some 60km to the northeast of the proposed	**Section 5.2 of the biodiversity offset report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	is over 2014 vulture visit days over the life of the project.	development site. Further insights into the vulture presence and abundance will be provided as part of a detailed vulture addendum report that will form part of the final EIR.	
	Avifaunal sensitivity map and inadequate buffers We are very concerned that the proposed buffers are inadequate to meaningfully reduce collision risks with turbines. The following strict "all infrastructure excluded" buffers for avifauna were proposed (Very High Sensitivity): • Martial Eagle nest: 2.5km buffer • Secretarybird nest: 500m buffer • Southern Bald Ibis colonies: 1km buffer Additional "shaped exclusion zones" based on "modelled flight activity" were then added for Southern Bald Ibis and Secretarybird nests. However, we have significant concerns about the reliability and accuracy of these modelled flight patterns: 1. The relative flatness of the landscape makes correlating flight patterns with specific landscape features difficult, reducing confidence in model accuracy. 2. Secretarybirds do not favour specific habitats like rocky ridges, making their movement patterns less predictable.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Wetland habitat suitability modelling was used to inform and determine All Infrastructure Exclusion Zones as well as Turbine Exclusion Zones. In many instances this habitat associated modelled buffers are much wider than the standard 50m buffer which only applies where the wetland model did not identify suitable habitat (e.g. where agricultural field exist near wetlands). Flight risk modelling identified areas of potential high use around nest structures based on habitat and underlying topography. The flight data collected on site was used to inform and validate these high-risk areas. The high-risk areas as a rule cover similar surface areas per best practise guidance but is also aligned to site-specific habitats and topography. More detail and maps specifically depicting the buffers associated with each species will be included in an updated version of the EIA report.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	3. Southern Bald Ibis daily movements between roosts and foraging areas may vary with resource availability, making year-round predictions challenging. 4. The limited dataset from vantage points is insufficient for accurate modelling. We would have more confidence if tracking devices were fitted to these birds to accurately model flight activity. Given these uncertainties, we believe that larger, standard circular buffers would be more appropriate where risks are high. For example: • A 2km buffer for Secretarybird nests (as used in the Zephyr WEF and supported by the MTPA) • A 5.39km buffer for Martial Eagle nests (generally proposed and supported by EWT and Birdlife)		
	Applying a 2km buffer around Secretarybird nests would exclude turbines 25, 26, 34, 35, 38, 45, 58, 60, 61, and 67. Additionally, at least one turbine is less than 2km from Southern Bald Ibis roosting sites. The avifaunal specialist has mentioned his concern that the Secretarybirds do not utilise the same nest sites for many years and they may move elsewhere. This makes it hard for the specialist to provide large	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Flight risk modelling identified areas of potential high use around nest structures based on habitat and underlying topography. The flight data collected on site was used to inform and validate these high-risk areas. The high-risk areas as a rule cover similar surface areas per best practise guidance but is also aligned to site-specific habitats and topography.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	buffers for a nest sites, which may be temporary, but it does mean that the Endangered Secretarybird may quite easily establish a new nest in very close proximity to a turbine which would be very detrimental. The fact that as many as 6 Secretarybird nests have been identified within the project area, means that this threatened bird really favours this area and it is quite likely to establish new nests in closer proximity to turbines.		
	The scoping report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF included a 750m buffer around the Black Sparrowhawk nest. This was inexplicably dropped to 250m in the Draft EIA report without explanation. Added to this concern, in the avifaunal report there is reference to Black Sparrowhawks usually foraging within 2.29km and 2.49km of their nest. Then the lowering of the buffer does bring into question the objectivity of this process as the earlier 750m buffer now includes turbine 84.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Black Sparrowhawks are a least concern species and they typically nest in stands of alien trees. The initial scoping phase buffer of 750m was reassessed during the EIA and reduced based on the fact that the birds regularly change the location of their nests and that if mortalities do occur they be included as a target species for SDoD as part of the adaptive management strategy. It should also be noted that the foraging distances quoted were not included or referenced in this avifaunal specialist study.	
	Biodiversity Offset Strategy The Biodiversity offsets policy allows for offsets once the mitigation hierarchy has been applied. And there are some areas where the mitigation hierarchy has been applied and the residual impacts can be offset. However there is a significant risk that not all of the negative residual risks can be offset and the proposed offset would do little to reduce the risks	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** Fine scale mapping of the CBA areas present has indicated that CBA Irreplaceable spans 1.877ha and incorporates turbines WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70. CBA Optimal spans 15.89ha and incorporates turbines WTG 3, 12, 33, 76, 70, 66, 64, 58, 55, 50, 46, 36, 26, 20, 8. Once again efforts to exclude infrastructure from	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	posed to the 10 threatened avifauna present on site, nor the interruption of climate change corridors and long-term negative impacts on the regional importance and functionality of CBAs, IBAs, etc..	these areas are ongoing, the avoidance step in the mitigation hierarchy is aimed at achieving first.	
	The biodiversity offset report did not consider the new road network.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** The road network was not available at the time of writing, an improvised version of the roads was used to determine a worst-case scenario for off sets. The first draft of the offset report will be updated with the latest project areas as soon as this data are available.	
	The biodiversity offset report also fails to mention for what term or for how long with the wind farm would support the implementation of the biodiversity offset. We usually require a management commitment from the applicant to support the management of the offset area.	**Biodiversity Specialist's response:** This will be added to the Biodiversity offset report. As mentioned in the Focus Group meeting held on 18 October 2024, it is proposed that the duration of the offset be more than 30 years.	
	Concluding comments The multifaceted impact of the PEO WEF on bird species is deemed to be significant, at both a local and regional scale.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged. Species of conservation concern fatalities will be closely monitored in accordance with potential biological removal (PBR) values which will be defined in the biodiversity management plan. In essence as part of the adaptive management strategy an investigation will be conducted following each SCC fatality and additional mitigation measures will be	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		considered and implemented within a 3-month period. Some of the mitigation put in place to ensure that the population of priority bird species is kept at a minimum include the following: • The All-Infrastructure Exclusion Zones should be implemented and maintained • No turbines should be constructed in the turbine exclusion buffer zones • Formal live-bird monitoring and carcass searches should be conducted in the operational phase, as per the Best Practice Guidelines at the time to assess collision rates. • All wind turbines must have one blade painted according to a South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) approved pattern to reduce the risk of raptor collisions. While blade painting as a mitigation strategy is still in its experimental phase in South Africa, international research shows that it has a promising potential to reduce raptor mortality. • It is recommended that all wind turbines (WTGs) be subjected to either Observer-led Shutdown on Demand (OSDoD), Auto SDoD (ASDoD) or similar technology during daylight hours and radar flight detection technology or similar technology for flocks of target species at night.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		• The use underground cabling as much as is practically possible. • Application of insulation reactively in the substation if significant electrocutions of SCC are recorded.	
	The application mentions that no fatal flaws are expected with the implementation of mitigation measures. However, the effectiveness of these measures is not clearly demonstrated, and there is a lack of detailed plans on how these measures will be enforced and monitored.	**EAP's response:** The comment is acknowledged and will be addressed in the updated Draft EIR, which will be released for public review prior to the submission of the Final EIR for decision–making.	
	Bird mortality from collisions remains a significant concern. The severity of impact was changed from high to medium with the implementation of mitigation measures. However the impact was not changed to low, medium is still of concern indicating the continuing loss of birds due to collisions which is not desirable as many as 10 threatened bird species occur on site. The report acknowledges that the severity of impact will vary by species and site specific factors and that the proposed mitigation measures will not work on all SCC. We know that differences in morphology, such as wing loading, makes the Korhaans more susceptible to collisions. Like Ludwig's Bustard, collision mitigation measures for Denham's Bustard are not expected to work as they tend to fly at night and have high wing loading. Cape Vultures and large raptors are also susceptible to collisions due in part to high wing	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	loading. Blue Crane, Greater flamingo and Lesser Flamingo are known to fly at night, making them vulnerable to collisions with powerlines and turbines.		
	The proposed mitigation measures, such as habitat exclusion zones and SDoD, may not be sufficient to prevent significant impacts on priority species. The effectiveness of these measures is uncertain, and there is a risk that they will not adequately reduce collision and displacement impacts.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	SDoD is only expected to work on some species, and it is acknowledged that the technology is not fail safe and in the avifaunal report an effectiveness rate of 80% had been applied to impact calculations. The proposed number and location of SDoD devices was not discussed and therefore cannot be comprehensively considered without more detail.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	There is a risk of electrocution for birds at the on-site substations and overhead sections of the internal 33kV network. Although mitigation measures like raptor-friendly pole designs are proposed, the risk remains significant. Should this project be approved, against our recommendation, then there are a significant number of wind turbines that must be removed and all 33kV cables must be placed underground.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	The buffer zones around nests and sensitive habitats are not be adequate to protect priority species from disturbance and collision risks. The	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:**	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	uncertainty and model accuracy of the modelled flight patterns is not discussed or mentioned and there is a real concern there is a reliance on technology that is not accurate, or has low confidence, and may put the avifauna at risk. Where there is low uncertainty, larger circular buffers should be implemented.	The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	The cumulative impact of this project, combined with other existing and proposed renewable energy projects in the region, could lead to significant habitat loss and increased collision risks. This cumulative effect could have a severe impact on regional bird populations.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	Given the recent flood of renewable energy applications within the province, and that Mpumalanga has been identified as a priority for renewable energy projects nationally, we need to be strategic about ensuring that renewable energy projects are environmentally friendly and plan for the next 20 years. We anticipate a significant increase in the number of renewable energy projects to come and, considering the risks to avifauna, we need to protect the bird species in areas where they congregate otherwise the conservation status of these will be very negative impacted.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	The long-term impacts of the wind farm on avifauna are uncertain. This uncertainty makes it difficult to predict the full extent of the project's impact on bird populations. The MTPA believe that metapopulation	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:**	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	dynamics should be considered when assessing the potential impacts of wind farms. We do not want to be establishing wind farms in 'source areas', preferring to authorise them in 'sink areas'. This assessment clearly shows that this project area is located in a source area for avifauna (hard to dispute with 6 Secretarybird nests on site, and another 9 threatened bird species occurring within the project area).	The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	The high sensitivity of the site, combined with the potential for collisions, displacement, and cumulative impacts, suggests that the project could still have severe and potentially irreversible impacts on regional bird populations. The mitigation measures proposed may not be sufficient to address these risks, making the project fatally flawed from an avifaunal perspective.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The concerns are noted and addressed in the responses above and more detail will be provided in the final EIR.	
	We believe that the risks posed by this project to the region's unique and threatened avifauna far outweigh its potential benefits. The PEO WEF project, in our assessment, is fatally flawed from an avifaunal perspective. We strongly recommend against its approval in its current form and location. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any inquiries. Kind Regards	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	
Mervyn Lotter 16 October 2024	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF - Biodiversity Offset and EIA Report Focus Group Meeting	**EAP's response:** Dear Mervyn	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email	Hi Ashlea We have travel restrictions and if we are not doing a site visit, then I would prefer to meet virtually. Best wishes Mervyn	The updated meeting request is a virtual meeting, based on a request received from MDARDLEA. Kind regards	
Landowner			
Bart Van de Steen 12 April 2024 Email	I would like to register as a stakeholder (Interested & Affected Party) for the proposed development of the Phefumula Emoyeni One wind energy facility. Please send all future correspondence to my e-mail address: bartvds@xsinet.co.za Bart Van de Steen Portion 4 of the farm Knapdaar 221 IS mobile 083-654 4053 My farm is adjacent to your project area and I have a registered servitude over the farm Witbank 236 IS.	**EAP's response:** I trust that you are well. We have shared your details with our client and they are interested to learn more about the registered servitude that you have over the farm Witbank 236 IS. Do you perhaps know which portion of the Farm Witbank 236 IS? Any information you can share would be greatly appreciated.	**Appendix D** of this report.
Bart Van de Steen 17 April 2024 Email	I received the mail and I am able to access the documentation.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report.
Red Cap			

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Red Cap – Senior Project Manager Kirsten Jones 17 April 2024 Email	Please could you register me as an I&AP for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF project. I could not find the Scoping Report for the associated powerline and MTS on the WSP website. Please advise on the status of that application.	**EAP's response:** The EAP confirms that your details have been added to the database for all future communication regarding the project. Regarding the associated 400kV powerline and MTS, this application has not yet been submitted and will follow in due course.	**Appendix D** of this report.
Red Cap – Senior Project Manager Kirsten Jones 31 May 2024 Email	Hi Thirushan, I received an sms notifying me of the availability of the Final Scoping Report, thank you for that. However, I see the WSP website is still showing the Draft, I wanted to ask if and when the Final will be uploaded, Kind regards Kirsten	Good morning Kirsten, The Final report has already been uploaded to the WSP site along with all appendices. Here is the link below, kindly confirm you can access them? Environmental Reports for Public Review | WSP Kind regards	**Appendix D of the SER**
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)			
SAHRA Natasha Higgitt 12 April 2024 Email	Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: http://sahra.org.za/sahris/. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response. The EAP confirms that we have made an online application and uploaded the relevant report and appendices, as well as proof of payment of application (R2000) to the SAHRIS website.	**Appendix D** of this report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to 2 an existing case" in the application selector wizard https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.	Please see attached proof of payment as well as proof of application on the website as requested.	
SAHRA Natasha Higgitt 3 June 2024 Official Letter	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility, near Breyton, Mpumalanga (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545). A Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of up to 135 wind turbines (300 m tip height), hard stand areas, turbine foundations, on-site substation, BESS, on-site collector substation, O&M building, 3 x construction camp laydown areas, internal and access roads, cabling	The archaeological component of the field-based HIA has been conducted by a qualified archaeologist and does comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports. Furthermore, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. The report dies comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.	**Appendix G-11 of the DEIR**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	between components within an application area of 33 660 ha. Beyond Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Van der Walt, J. 2024. Heritage Scoping Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF. The desktop assessment notes that heritage resources such as Iron Age stone-walled settlements, historical structures and graves are located in the study area. Additionally, the development footprint is located in an area of high and very high palaeontological sensitivity. A Phase 1 HIA and PIA are recommended to be conducted as part of the EIA phase. Interim Comment The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes the submitted heritage report. The archaeological component of the field-based HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists). The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments. Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the pending heritage assessments and the DEIA inclusive of appendices. Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header. Yours faithfully		
SAHRA Natasha Higgitt 3 June 2024 Email	Good day, Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link:	Good day, Thank you for your response. The final scoping report along with the appendices have been uploaded to the SAHRA website under the case ID 22347, Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility.	**Appendix D of this SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	http://sahra.org.za/sahris/. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application	Kind regards	
SAHRA Boitshepho Motsodisa 25 September 2024 Email	Interim Comment The SAHRA requests that the PIA referred to in the HIA and DBAR be submitted for review. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the PIA.	**EAP's response**: The EAP confirms that the PIA was uploaded onto SAHRIS for review and comment.	
	Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Serius Power South Africa			
Serius Power SA – Executive Director David Nunez 24 April 2024 Email	Can you please add me as an I&AP for the above-mentioned project?	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your response. The EAP confirms that your contact details have been added to the database for the project for future communication.	**Appendix D** of this report.
SOLA Group			
Reuben Maroga Project Developer 7 May 2024 Email	Hi Thirushan Thanks for the notification. Can you share the KML that demonstrates the development area of the proposed wind farm and the grid connection solution, i.e., corridors and the point of connection, etc. Your feedback in this regard will be highly appreciated. Best Regards	**EAP's response:** Hi there Reuben, Please see the attached KMZ of the footprint of the proposed project. Please note that the application for proposed Grid connection has not yet commenced hence the corridors/route is not finalised. The EAP confirms that your details will be added to the database for further communication on Grid connection project as well. Kind regards	**Appendix D** of this report.
Reuben Maroga Project Developer 9 May 2024	Hi Thirushan, Thanks for providing this information. I really do appreciate it.	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this response.	**Appendix D** of this report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email	I will look out for the communication on the grid connection application when it comes.		
Vodacom			
Harry Mphahlele 7 May 2024 Email	Hi Thirushan, Please share all KMZ files indicating all areas affected by your plans. Also make sure that the KMZ files has all wind turbine locations in them for proper assessment purposes from our side. Regards Harry	**EAP's response:** Good day Harry, Thank you for your response. Please see attached KMZ of the project footprint. Regarding the wind turbine positions, please note these have not yet been finalised at this scoping stage of the project. The draft and final EIA reports will include the provisional turbine positions. Your details are on the project database for further communication.	**Appendix D** of this report.
Harry Mphahlele 9 May 2024 Email	Hi Please include proposed location of the turbines for thorough assessment. Regards Harry	**EAP's response:** Good day, As mentioned in the previous mail response, the wind turbine positions have not yet been finalised at this scoping stage of the project. The draft and final EIA reports will include the provisional turbine locations. You will receive notification when the draft EIA report is available for public review.	**Appendix D** of this report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Harry Mphahlele 9 May 2024 Email	Hi Nadar I need the turbine locations to conclude my impact assessment. You need to provide the info. Regards Harry	**Phefumula Emoyeni One (Seriti Green) response:** Hi Harry, Thirushan has sent me your request for the turbine locations for our proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One wind energy facility. I work for Seriti Green, the developers of the proposed wind farm. As Thirushan has indicated, the layout that was used in the Draft Scoping Report is very much a draft that is undergoing amendments based on the comments we're receiving as well as specialist feedback. We can share the current layout with you with the caveat that it will definitely change. We would then request that you review it again following the close of the comment period. As the developer, we normally apply for a letter of no objection once we have a layout that is unlikely to change significantly to avoid service providers such as Vodacom from multiple reviews. Please let me know your preference? Would you prefer to wait for the updated layout (we aim to finalise it by 31 May) or would you rather review this one and the final layout? Kind regards,	**Appendix D** of this report.
Harry Mphahlele 14 May 2024	Hi	**EAP's response:** The EAP acknowledges this comment.	**Appendix D** of this report.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Email	I will wait for your final draft, until then I will sit on my hands		
Cennergi Holdings			
Evert de Jongh Analyst 3 June 2024 Email	Dear Thirushan, Cennergi Holdings (Pty) Ltd is a subsidiary of Exxaro Resources Ltd with interests in the area, and would like to register as an I&AP for Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility. Kind regards,,	**EAP's response:** Dear Evert, Thank you for your response. The EAP confirms that your details have been added to the project database for all future communication. Kind regards	**Appendix D** of this report.
Enertrag SA			
Gideon Raath Team Lead: Project Development 14 May 2024	Hi Ashlea, I understand WSP is the EAP for the Seriti Phefumula Emoyeni projects. Please will you register Nkhensani for these as I&AP, and share an indication of the cadastral properties involved for the projects with Jean-Marc? Thanks, Kind Regards,	**EAP's response:** Good day Gideon, Thank you for your response. The EAP confirms that Nkhensani's details have been added to the project database for future communication. @Jean-Marc Cairns, please see attached KMZ of the project footprint. Kind regards	**Appendix D** of this report.
SiVest			

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Siphiwokuhle Buthelezi Assistant Environmental Consultant 17 July 2024	Good day Ashlea I trust this email find you well. We are working on the Ujekamanzi WEF Projects in the same area as the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni WEF project. Can I kindly request for a project boundary KML/KMZ or Shapefile for the Phefumula Emoyeni WEF Project? Your assistance will be greatly appreciated	**Response 1:** Dear Siphiwokuhle Thank you for your email – we are just checking with the client in this regard. We would like to know if we would be able to get the same information for the Ujekamanzi WEF Projects in return? **Response 2:** Dear Siphiwokuhle Attached please find the project area for the Phefumula Emoyeni WEF as requested. It would be greatly appreciated if you could share the project area for the Ujekamanzi WEF Projects in return such that we can include them in our cumulative impact assessment. Kind regards	**Appendix D of the SER**
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited			
John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management Grid Planning: Land and Rights Eskom Transmission Division	Please send me a KMZ file of the affected properties, proposed development and proposed grid connection. I seem not to have any previous information on this project. Do you perhaps have a BID document that you can send me? Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.	Good day John, Thank you for your response. Please see attached KMZ of the footprint of the proposed project, as well as notification letter containing the project overview. Here are the links to the Final Scoping Report and appendices as well for your perusal.	**Appendix D of the SER**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
3 June 2024 Email		OneDrive Report and Appendices WSP Website (https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents) Datafree Website (https://wsp-engage.com/) Please note that the application for proposed Grid connection has not yet commenced hence the corridors/route is not finalised. The EAP confirms that your details have been added to the database for further communication on Grid connection project as well. Kind regards	
Mulilo			
Siphokazi Mbatha 13 September 2024	Good morning, I hope you are well. Could you kindly register me as an I&AP for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2596) project. Thanks in advance, Sphokazi Mbatha	**EAP's response:** Good Morning I can confirm that you have been included on the database. Kind regards	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Vulpro			
Meagan Bromfield 08 October 2024 Email	Good Day Ashlea I trust you are well I am contacting you on behalf of VulPro regarding the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (14/12/16/3/3/1/2545) proposed in Mpumalanga. We have recently been made aware of the potential impacts this facility might have on Vultures and would like to review this application and submit comments. VulPro would like to register on this project as an I&AP, Please can you send the link to the project documents to enable us to review. Looking forward to your speedy response. Kind Regards, Meagan Bromfield	**EAP's response:** Thank you for your email. I can confirm that VulPo has been added to the I&AP database. Please find the following details regarding the report review: The Draft EIA Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF will be made available at the venues below for review and comment from 13 September 2024 to 14 October 2024.	
Meagan Bromfield 10 October 2024 Official comments Email	COMMENT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (DFFE Reference No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2545)	**EAP's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facilities (WEF), located north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.		
	VulPro's tracking data confirms the presence of Cape Vultures, as noted in the Avifaunal Assessments. Between June 2013 and February 2024, six (6) tracked Cape Vultures have been recorded within a 50 km buffer around the proposed development, across six (6) months of the year (refer to APPENDIX A). Additionally, Cape Vultures have been observed roosting on Transmission and Distribution Power Lines east of the WEF in the Chrissiesmeer area (April–May 2021) and south of Camden Substation (June–July 2023). One (1) tracked White-backed Vulture was also recorded in the area in November 2019 and October 2020 (refer to APPENDIX A).	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** The WEF Project Site and immediate environment is classified as Medium Sensitivity for vultures according to the Vulture Species Theme in the Screening tool. (The Medium sensitivity is due the Project Site possibly affecting an area with between 5%–10% of the vulture population). During the pre-construction monitoring (885 hours of vantage point observations) only four (4) Cape Vultures were observed, during the April survey. In total, only 16 minutes of Cape Vulture flights were recorded at medium height (i.e. within rotor-swept height). The passage rate for Cape Vultures after 885 hours of monitoring was 0.004 birds per hour which amounts to about 1 Cape Vulture every 17 days. According to the Cervantes Population Utilization Distribution outputs the Phefumula WEF Project Site is rated low sensitivity (Cervantes et al 2023).	**Appendix E of the Avifauna report**
	Although VulPro has extensive tracking information, our coverage in Mpumalanga is less comprehensive	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:**	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	than in other regions. Cape Vultures, being gregarious and wide-ranging with variable movements, likely traverse the area more frequently than our data shows. Short-term surveys, such as those conducted by SABAP or during brief field assessments, are inadequate to provide adequate coverage of their activity. Additionally, the Cervantes model cited by specialists has limitations in areas farther from core breeding and roosting sites. Given the confirmed presence of Cape Vultures, the long-term validity of Environmental Authorisations (EAs) for WEFs (20–30 years), and the potential for sensitivity levels to shift over time, VulPro strongly disagrees with the assessment that this site can ever be classified as “low sensitivity.” In line with the precautionary principle enshrined in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), a risk-averse approach must be adopted.	The project site and its immediate environment were flagged by the DFFE screening tool as Medium Sensitivity according to the Vulture Species Theme. The surveys conducted followed the Best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa (Jenkins et al. 2015) developed by BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. In this regard, site sensitivity verification visits and four seasonal surveys were conducted that covered the proposed sites extensively, (six surveys in total). Survey 1: 05–16 November 2022, 17–20 January 2023, and 14–20 February 2023 ■ Survey 2: 11 April – 02 May 2023 ■ Survey 3: 13 June – 4 August 2023 ■ Survey 4: 04–21 October 2023 Therefore, there was concerted survey effort expended to capture seasonal variability on-site to best encompass spatio-temporal distribution of SCC. During pre-construction monitoring (885 hours of vantage point observations) only four (4) Cape Vultures were observed during the second (April-May) survey. In total, only 16 minutes of Cape Vulture flights were recorded at medium height (i.e. within rotor-swept height).	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		The passage rate for Cape Vultures after 885 hours of monitoring was 0.004 birds per hour which amounts to about 1 Cape Vulture every 17 days. According to the Cervantes Population Utilization Distribution outputs the Phefumula WEF Project Site is rated low sensitivity (Cervantes et al 2023). A further detailed vulture analysis using tracking data will be conducted to assess vulture presence at a regional level.	
	The WEF is one of several in the region, raising serious concerns about cumulative risks to the regionally endangered Cape Vulture and globally critically endangered White-backed Vulture.VulPro therefore requests that the Avifaunal Assessment adhere to the 2018 Cape Vulture Guidelines, include a comprehensive cumulative risk assessment of all WEF developments within a 100 km radius, and incorporate vulture-specific mitigation measures. These measures should include, but are not limited to, the following:	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As per the Avifaunal Study findings, the cumulative impact of the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF is already assessed to be moderate to high post-mitigation. The 100km radius will not change the significance of the impact, as it is already rate as moderate to high and therefore the strict implementation of all mitigation measures must be complied with.	
	1. Implement a combination of automated shutdown on demand and live observers to remove human and technological errors. Live observers must be trained and medically fit to perform their duties efficiently.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As per the Avifaunal Study's recommendations: "All wind turbines (WTGs) to be subjected to either Observer-led Shutdown on Demand (OSDoD) or Auto SDoD (ASDoD) during daylight hours and radar flight detection technology for flocks of target species at night".	**Section 9 of the Avifauna Specialist Report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	2. Implement and monitor blade marking to reduce bird collisions, ensuring that the effectiveness of this mitigation is reviewed regularly.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As per the Avifaunal Study's recommendations: "All wind turbines must have one blade painted according to a South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) approved pattern to reduce the risk of raptor collisions. While blade painting as a mitigation strategy is still in its experimental phase in South Africa, international research shows that it has a promising potential to reduce raptor mortality. Research conducted in Norway, as explained in Simmons et al. 2021, supports this finding".	**Table 9 of the Avifauna Specialist Report**
	3. Appoint a dedicated team equipped to perform daily carcass searches and promptly remove and bury any animal carcasses. Carcasses must not be disposed of near the WEF boundaries, as this creates unintentional feeding sites, increasing the risk of vulture collisions.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** An on-site carcass management programme will be implemented to limit the potential availability of food for vultures. These requirements will be added to the Avifaunal section of the EMPr	
	4. Cover all water reservoirs and ensure that no water sources are located within the rotor-swept areas or near above-ground electrical infrastructure.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Water reservoirs to be covered. This recommendation will be added to the Avifaunal input to the EMPr.	
	5. Ensure that all power line infrastructure, if not placed underground, is designed to deter perching, equipped with bird flight diverters, and made fully visible to reduce collision risks. All power lines must comply with Eskom's Bird	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** As per the Avifaunal Study's recommendations: "All above-ground internal medium voltage lines must be marked with Eskom approved Bird	**Table 11 of the Avifaunal Specialist Report**

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Collision Prevention and Bird Perch Guidelines. Special attention should be given to new power lines in existing corridors, as VulPro's data from Cookhouse, Eastern Cape, indicates that vultures often collide with smaller, less visible kV lines when avoiding larger lines in the same corridor. Proper marking and positioning of these lines are crucial to addressing this issue. A comprehensive maintenance schedule must also be implemented to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of these mitigation measures, as they are prone to damage from weathering, corrosion, and technical failures, even if the lines are later transferred to Eskom.	Flight Diverters according to the applicable Eskom standard".	
	6. Develop a post-construction avifaunal monitoring plan that ensures that post-construction monitoring reports are submitted to the relevant competent authority and Birdlife South Africa, and if vultures are impacted, VulPro.	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** Formal live-bird monitoring and carcass searches should be conducted in the operational phase, as per the Best Practice Guidelines at the time (Jenkins et al. 2015) to assess collision rates.	
	7. VulPro must be immediately notified if any vulture is negatively impacted by collision or electrocution.	**Avifaunal Specialist Report** VulPro will be notified. This recommendation will be added to the Avifaunal input to the EMPr.	
	Moreover, VulPro would like to highlight recent legislation that underscores the importance of vultures and the risks they face. This includes the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Vultures in South Africa published in terms of section 43 of the	**Avifaunal Specialist's response:** This comment is acknowledged.	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act no. 10 of 2004). on the 18th of March 2024 (Notice No. 4517 Gazette No 50306). A BMP key objective (No.6) is "to substantially reduce vulture mortalities caused by existing energy infrastructure and mitigate any loss to vultures from new energy infrastructure." Developers and Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) have a responsibility to ensure this objective is achieved.		
Meagan Bromfield 15 October 2024 Official comments Email	Good day Ashlea, Just following up on whether you received the following email below, as I have had no confirmation of receipt. Kind regards, Meagan Bromfield	**EAP's response:** HI Meagan Apologies I can confirm that we did receive your comments and are busy capturing them in the Comment and Response report and responding to them accordingly. Kind regards Ashlea	

Appendix A

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CATEGORY	INSTITUTION	POSITION
Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act		Adjacent Landowner	Marmic Trust	Owner
		Adjacent Landowner	W A Trust	Owner
		Adjacent Landowner	Birk Stead Inv Holdings (Pty) Ltd	Owner
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
		Adjacent Landowner	Meyer de Jager Familie Trust	
		Adjacent Landowner	Koffiebank Eiendomme (Pty) Ltd	Owner
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner	Fremax Livestock (Pty) Ltd	
		Adjacent Landowner	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
		Adjacent Landowner	Anvin Beleggins Trust	
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner	ACB Holdings (Pty) Ltd	
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner	Hurwitz is busy buying these farms	
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner		
		Adjacent Landowner	Canyon Prop Inv (Pty) Ltd	
		Adjacent Landowner	Ian Cockcroft Testamentary Trust	
		Adjacent Landowner	Adam Van Niekerk Trust	
		Adjacent Landowner	Msobo Coal (Pty) Ltd	
		Adjacent Landowner	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
		Adjacent Landowner	Scheepers Familie Trust	
		Adjacent Landowner	Coko Trust	
		Adjacent Landowner	Mrabheli Communal Prop Assoc	
		Adjacent Landowner	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	Land Rep
		Adjacent Landowner	Morgenster NO 204 (Pty) Ltd	
		Adjacent Landowner	Thephunokheja Projects (Pty) Ltd	
		Adjacent Landowner	Regen Waters Trust	

Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act	Adjacent Landowner	Reitkuil Trust	
	Adjacent Landowner	Teriwa Eiendomme cc	
	Adjacent Landowner	A J Myburgh Familie Trust	
	Adjacent Landowner		
	Adjacent Landowner	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
	Landowner	ADAMAH BARAMAHBELEGGINGS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	ADAMAH BARAMAHBELEGGINGS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	ADAMAH BARAMAHBELEGGINGS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	ANMAR TRUST	
	Landowner	ANTROM TRUST	
	Landowner	ANTROM TRUST	
	Landowner	CALELA TRUST	
	Landowner	CALELA TRUST	
	Landowner	CHRISTO COETZEEBOERDERY PTY LTD	
	Landowner	COETZEE CHRISTO	
	Landowner	COETZEE CHRISTO	
	Landowner	ERASMUS MICHAELCOENRAD	
	Landowner	FAMHIRST ESTATE PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FAMHIRST ESTATE PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FAMHIRST ESTATE PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FAMHIRST ESTATE PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	
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	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	

Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act	Landowner	FREMAX FARMS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	JANNIE JACOBSZ PTY LTD	
	Landowner	KADISH DARREL	
	Landowner	KADISH DARREL	
	Landowner	KADISH DARREL	
	Landowner	KADISH FREDERICK DAVID	
	Landowner	KADISH FREDERICK DAVID	
	Landowner	KOFFIEBANK EIENDOMMEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	KOFFIEBANK EIENDOMMEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	KOFFIEBANK EIENDOMMEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	KOFFIEBANK EIENDOMMEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	KOFFIEBANK EIENDOMMEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	KOFFIEBANK EIENDOMMEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	L M KADISH & SONS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	L M KADISH & SONS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	L M KADISH & SONS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	L M KADISH & SONS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	L M KADISH & SONS PTY LTD	
	Landowner	MARMIC TRUST	
	Landowner	MOOIVLEI BOERDERY PTYLTD	
	Landowner	MOREGLOED TRUST	
	Landowner	ROOIBLOM LANDGOEDHOEVELD PTY LTD	
	Landowner	ROOIBLOM LANDGOEDHOEVELD PTY LTD	
	Landowner	ROUX ANDRIES HERCULES	
	Landowner	ROUX ANDRIES HERCULES	
	Landowner	ROUX ANDRIES HERCULES	
	Landowner	S C M TRUST	
	Landowner	S C M TRUST	
	Landowner	THABETHE MBANA PETER	
	Landowner	THABETHE MBANA PETER	
	Landowner	THABETHE MBANA PETER	
	Landowner	TURNER PETER DOUGLAS	
	Landowner	TURNER PETER DOUGLAS	
	Landowner	TWEEFONTEIN DEEL DRIEPTY LTD	
	Landowner	TWEEFONTEIN TRUST	
	Landowner	TWEEFONTEIN TRUST	
	Landowner	VATOCARE PTY LTD	

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Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	W A TRUST	
Landowner	WILLIE JACOBSZ TRUST	
Landowner		
Air Traffic	Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS)	Executive Engineering
Air Traffic	Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS)	Obstacle Evaluator
Commenting Authorities	South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Database Coordinator
Commenting Authorities	South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Obstacle Inspector
Business - Renewable Developer	ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd.	Project Manager
Business - Renewable Developer	ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd.	
Business - Consultant	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Consultant
Business - Renewable Developer	AMDA Developments (Pty) Ltd	
Business - Renewable Developer	AMDA Developments (Pty) Ltd	Senior Development Manager
Business	Cell C	Area Manager
Business - Renewable Developer	EDF Renwables	Project Developer
Business - Renewable Developer	EDF Renwables	Project Development Manager
Business - Renewable Developer	Red-cap Innovative Energy	Senior Project Manager
Business - Renewable Developer	Red-cap Innovative Energy	Assistant Project Manager
Business - Renewable Developer	Red-cap Innovative Energy	Project Assistant
Business - Renewable Developer	Sola Group	
Business - Renewable Developer	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Project Developer
Business - Renewable Developer	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	CEO
Business - Renewable Developer	Enertrag SA Pty Ltd	Project deceloper
Business	SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA	executive director
Business	GreenCape	
Business	GreenCape	Senior Analyst: Energy
Business	Estancia Meubels	Owner /operator
Business	MTN	Head of Department
Business - Renewable Developer	Mulilo Renewable Project Developments	Project Manager: Enviro Department
Business - Renewable Developer	Mulilo Renewable Project Developments	Project Engineer
Business	Private Contractor	
Business - Renewable Developer	Sereti Green	Development Director

Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

Business	Vodacom	Regional Manager
Business	Vodacom	
Business - Renewable Developer	WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd	Project Developer
Business - Renewable Developer	WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd	
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
National Authorities	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Executive Mayor
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Municipal Manager
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	District Air Quality Officer/Senior Manager:Municipal Health
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Senior Manager:Planning& Economic Development
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Senior Manager Council Support
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Senior Environmental Officer/ Air Quality
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Air Quality Official
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Gert Sibande: Speaker
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Manager: Municipal Environmental Services
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Environmental Officer
Land owner	Adamah Baramah Beleggings (Pty) Ltd	Private
Land owner	Anmar Trust	
Land owner	Bambaspha Agricultural Primary Co-operative Limited	Private
Land owner	Calela Trust	Private
Land owner	Christo Coetzee Boerdery (Pty) Ltd	Private
Land owner	Fremax Farms (Pty) Ltd	Private
Land owner	Jacobsz Familie Testamentere Trust/Willie Jacobsz Trust	Private
Land owner	Koffiebank Eiendomme (Pty) Ltd	
Land owner	Makoliet Landgoed CC	
Land owner	Makoliet Landgoed CC	
Land owner	Makoliet Landgoed CC	
Land owner	Mooivlei Boerdery (Pty) Ltd	
Land owner	Mooivlei Boerdery (Pty) Ltd	
Land owner	Moregloed Trust	
Land owner	Private	
Land owner	Private	
Land owner	Private	
Land owner	Private	
Land owner	Private	

Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act	Land owner	Rooiblom Landgoed Hoeveld (Pty) Ltd	
	Land owner	S C M Trust	
	Land owner	Tweefontein Trust	
	Lesee	National Government of the Republic of South Africa: James Mgomezulu Family Trust (Madliwa James Mgomezulu)	
	Lesee	National Government of the Republic of South Africa: Mahlaza Mhlaba Agricultural Primary Co-operative Limited & Mahlaza Mhlaba Consulting Engineers	
	Lesee	National Government of the Republic of South Africa: Mana-Umsoco Foods cc	
	Lesee	National Government of the Republic of South Africa: Paul Buckley - Also 237 / 6	
	Lesee	National Government of the Republic of South Africa: Ubambiswano Phambili	
	Lesse	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
	Lesse	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
	Lesse	National Government of the Republic of South Africa	
	Libraries	Gert Sibande District Municipality Library	Manager - Nosipho
	Libraries	Msukaligwa Local Municipality Library (Wesselton, Thusi Ville, Casseim Park Libraries) under Msukaligwa	Manager (Christina Librarian)
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Executive Mayor
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Municipal Manager
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	MMC for Planning and Economic Development
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	MMC for Community Development
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Manager: Local Economic Development (LED)
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	IDP Manager
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Tranversal Coodinator (Office of the Chief Whip) dealing people with
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Speaker
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	MMC for Technical Services
	Local Municipality	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Director: Town Planning Department
	Media	Highvelder Newspaper	Editor
	Media	Tribune Koerant/Newspaper	
	Mining Right Holders	Anker Coal	Community Investment Holdings
	Mining Right Holders	Anker Coal	Environmental Officer
	Mining Right Holders	Bulemin Resources	Projects Managing Geologist ·
	Mining Right Holders	Bulemin Resources	Assistant Manage
	Mining Right Holders	Bulemin Resources	Director.
	Mining Right Holders	Exxaro Coal Mpumalanga	Legal Asset and Property Management
	Mining Right Holders	Hoyohoyo Mining (Pty) Ltd	Consultant
	Mining Right Holders	Kangra Coal	Legal Adviser for Canyon Coal
	Mining Right Holders	Kangra Coal	Environmental Manager for Canyon Coal
	Mining Right Holders	Langcarel (Pty) Ltd (Mooiplaats Colliery) MC Mining	CEO Mooiplaats Colliery
	Mining Right Holders	South 32	
	Mining Right Holders	Cennergi Holdings (Pty) Ltd subsidiary of Exxaro Resources Ltd	Analyst

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National Authorities	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Develo	Directorate: Land Use and Soil Management
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Compliance Monitoring Ass: Air Quality
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Climate Change & Air Quality Management
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Biodiversity Conservation
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Biodiversity Conservation
National Authorities	Department of Minerals and Resources (DMR) (National)	Ass Director: Director General's Office
National Authorities	Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWR) (National)	Chief Director: Office of the DG
National Authorities	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)	Chief Director: Water User Licence Management
National Authorities	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)	Chief Landscape Architech: Instream Water
National Authorities	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)	Director: Water Allocation
National Authorities	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)	Deputy Director: Compulsory Licensing
National Authorities	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Head Office: Resource Protection & Waste	Control Environmental Officer Licencing
National Authorities	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Head Office: Resource Protection & Waste	Environmental Officer: Water Quality
National Authorities	South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)	The Provincial Manager
National Authorities	South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)	Heritage Officer: Archaeology
National Authorities	South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)	Heritage Officer
National Authorities	Department of Defence	Lieutenant
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Biodiversity Co
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Biodiversity Co
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Biodiversity Co
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Biodiversity Co
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Biodiversity Co
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Protected Areas
National Authorities	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Directorate: Protected Areas
NGO	Mpumalanga Wetland Forum	Chairperson
NGO	BirdLife South Africa	Head of Department
NGO	BirdLife South Africa	Birds and Renewable Energ
NGO	BirdLife South Africa	
NGO	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Conservation Programme Manager
NGO	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Highland Grassland Field Officer
NGO	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Chief Executive Officer
NGO	Endangered Wildlife Trust	CEO
NGO	Endangered Wildlife Trust	
NGO	Federation of Sustainable Environment (FSE)	Chief Executive Officer
NGO	Federation of Sustainable Environment (FSE) & Mpumalanga Lakes District Protection Group	Representative
NGO	Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Agency (IUCMA)	Scientist
NGO	Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Agency (IUCMA)	Environmental Office: Water Resources
NGO	Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Areas (CMA)	Chief Executive Officer

Personal details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act	NGO	Mpumalanga Agri SA	
	NGO	Mpumalanga District Farmers Association	
	NGO	Mpumalanga Landbou Unie	Chief Executive Officer
	NGO	Olifants River Forum	Olifants River Forum Coordinator
	NGO	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Chairperson
	NGO	Transvaal Landbou Unie	
	NGO	Waterval Forum	
	NGO	South African Bat Assessment Association	
	NGO	South African Bat Assessment Association	
	NGO	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	
	NGO	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	Chairperson
	NGO	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	
	NGO	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) : Northern Region	
	Parastatals	Camden Power Station	Camden Station. Manager,
	Parastatals	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited	Environmental Manager
	Parastatals	The National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA)	
	Parastatals	Eskom Transmission Grid Planning Land and Rights	Senior Consultant Environmental Management
	Parastatals	Eskom Transmission Land and Rights	Mpumalanga Co-ordinator
	Parastatals	Telkom/Blue Tech part of Telkom	Area Manager
	Parastatals	Transnet Freight Rail	Senior Manager: Risk Management / Coal BU / Transnet Freight Rail
	Parastatals	Transnet Freight Rail	Senior Manager: Risk Management: Mineral Mining and Chrome
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs (DARDLEA)	Director: Environmental Impact Management
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs (DARDLEA)	
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs (DARDLEA)	Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Management
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Management
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)	Head of Department
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)	Information Management Support
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)	Land Reform Division
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)	Research Unit: Soil Sub Division
	Provincial Authorities	Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)	Ass Director: Environmental Section

Appendix B

NOTIFICATIONS

DATE

Appendix B.1

ADVERTISEMENT

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE RE-SUBMISSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION AND AVAILBAILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 326, as amended (07 April 2017) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of applications for Environmental Authorisations (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 327 as Amended (7 April 2017), and Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326, as amended (07 April 2017) for the re-submission of an application for EA

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF) (550MW), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project is located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the WEF. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

An application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, was submitted on 15 April 2024 to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) (Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25). During the course of the public participation process, undertaken for the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, various concerns and objections were raised by various registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with regards to the sensitivity of the biodiversity in the area, particularly the high avifaunal sensitivity. These comments included the request for additional studies. In light of the comments noted above, a decision was made to allow the previous application to lapse such that additional investigations could be undertaken.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is applying for the re-submission of application for EA for the proposed project in terms of Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326. The Approval of the Scoping Report was received on 17 July 2024 and is still valid.

All registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were informed of WSP's intent to re-submit the application for EA for the proposed project in terms of Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326 via email on 29 October 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: The following listed activities are triggered, subject to confirmation from the DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 983 (as amended): Activity 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 984 (as amended): Activity 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 985 (as amended): Activity 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

REGISTRATION: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent EAP by the Proponent, to manage the S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in order to receive more information and/ or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP and disclose their direct and/or indirect business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project should be submitted to the EAP via the details provided below. Registered I&APs will be forwarded all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT EIA REPORT REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft EIA Report has been made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 11 April 2025 to 16 May 2025.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310
WSP Web site	**https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents**	
Datafree Web site	**https://wsp-engage.com/**	

WSP contact details are: Name: WSP Public Participation Office, **Tel:** +27 11 254 4800**, E-mail: 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.*

wsp

AANKONDIGING VAN PROJEK VIR DIE HERINDIENING VAN DIE OMGEWINGSAANSOEK EN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEPVERSLAG VAN DIE OMGEWINGSIMPAK-EVALUERING VIR DIE VESTIGING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE-WINDENERGIEFASILITEIT NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA

Hiermee word kennins gegee kragtens regulasie 41(2) van GNR 326, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) gepubliseer volgens artikel 24 en 24D van die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) vir die indiening van aansoeke om Omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) vir aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 327, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) en regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) vir die herindiening van 'n aansoek vir EA.

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING: Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd is 'n fasiliteit vir hernubare energie naby Ermelo en Bethal in Mpumalanga, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One-windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) (550 MW). Dit verg verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde projek is geleë in die Msukaligwa plaaslike munisipaliteit wat onder die Gert Sibande-distrikmunisipaliteit in Mpumalanga val. Die WEF sal ook 'n battery-energiebergingstelsel (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om energie wat opgewek word deur die WEF, te berg. Die BESS sal 'n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200 MW/800 MWh hê en voorsiening maak vir ongeveer 6 tot 8 uur van berging.

'n Aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) kragtens die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur, Wet 107 van 1998 (NEMA) en verwante regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig, vir evaluering van die invloed op die omgewing (EIA) is op 15 April 2024 by die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DFFE) (verwysing: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25) ingedien. Tydens die verloop van die openbare deelnemingsproses wat onderneem is vir die konsepverslag oor die evaluering van die invloed op die omgewing ((EIA) is verskeie besware en kommer wat verband hou met die sensitiwiteit van die biodiversiteit in die omgewing genoem deur verskillende belanghebbende partye, en partye wat geraak word (I&APs). Die kommentaar het 'n versoek vir addisionele navorsing ingesluit. Op grond van die kommentaar wat hierbo genoem word, is besluit om die vorige aansoek te laat verval om voorsiening te maak vir verdere ondersoeke.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) doen aansoek om die herindiening van die aansoek om EA vir die voorgestelde projek kragtens regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326. Die goedkeuring van die omvangsverslag is ontvang op 17 Julie 2024 en is steeds geldig.

Alle geregistreerde belanghebbende partye en partye wat geraak word (I&APs) is per e-pos op 29 Oktober 2024 ingelig oor WSP se plan om die aansoek vir EA weer in te dien vir die doel van die voorgestelde projek kragtens regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326.

OMGEWINGSAANSOEKE: Die volgende aktiwiteite in die lys word geaktiveer, onderhewig aan bevestiging van DFFE:

- NEMA EIA-regulasies: GNR 983 (soos gewysig): aktiwiteit 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA-regulasies: GNR 984 (soos gewysig): aktiwiteit 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA-regulasies: GNR 985 (soos gewysig): aktiwiteit 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

REGISTRASIE: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die aansoeker aangestel as die onafhanklike omgewings-evalueringspraktisyn (EAP) om die S&EIR-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbende partye en partye wat geraak word om meer inligting te bekom en/of kommentaar te lewer oor die voorgestelde projek, word versoek om volledige skakelbesonderhede (telefoonnommers en adresse) aan die EAP te stuur en bloot te lê wat hulle direkte en/of indirekte besigheids-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belange in die projek is. Enige kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek kan by die EAP ingedien word by die adresse wat hieronder aangedui word. Partye wat registreer as belanghebbendes of partye wat geraak word sal in die toekoms alle projekverwante korrespondensie ontvang en individueel ingelig word van enige addisionele geleenthede om deel te neem aan die proses.

INSAE-TYDPERK VIR DIE KONSEPWYSIGINGSVERSLAG: Die konsepverslag vir die EIA sal vir 30 dae, van **11 April 2025 tot 16 May 2025** deur WSP op versoek en/of by die persele wat hieronder genoem beskikbaar gestel word vir insae en kommentaar.

Gebied	Plek	Straatadres
Ermelo	Ermelo - openbare biblioteek	Wedgewoodlaan, Ermelo 2351
	Thusiville - openbare biblioteek	OR Tambostraat 346, Wesselton-uitbr 2, Ermelo 2351
Hendrina	Hendrina - openbare biblioteek	Kerkstraat 44, Hendrina 1095
Bethal	Bethal - openbare biblioteek	Danie Nortjestraat, Bethal 2310
WSP se webblad	**https://wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents**	
Datafree se webblad	**https://wsp-engage.com/**	

WSP se adresse en telefoonnommer is: Naam: WSP - kantoor vir openbare deelname; **Tel:** +27 11 254 4800
E-pos: 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 mag word sal WSP gebruik maak van 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.*

ISIMEMEZELO NGESICELO ESISHA NGOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO KANYE NOKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO OMAYELANA NOKUQALWA KOMSEBENZI OHLONGOZWAYO WESIKHUNGO SOKUPHEHLA UGESI NGOMOYA IPHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY EDUZE KWASE ERMELO, ESIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA

Lesi yisaziso esinikwa ngokulandela uMthethonqubo 41(2) wesaziso sikahulumeni kafushane iGNR ka 236 njengoba uchibiyelwe (07 KuMbasa 2017) oshicelelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 kanye no 24D woMthetho Wokulawulwa Kwezemvelo (uMthetho 107 ka 1998) (NEMA) wokufaka Isicelo Sokuthola Imvume Yezemvelo (EA) mayelana nomsebenzi obalulwe ngaphansi kweGNR 327 ngokuchibiyelwa (7 KuMbasa 2017) noMthethonqubo 21(2) we GNR 326 njengoba uchibiyelwe (07 KuMbasa 2017) wokufakwa kabusha kwesicelo somthelela kwezemvelo.

INCAZELO NENDAWO YOMSEBENZI: Inkampani i Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukuqala isikhungo sokuphehla ugesi wemvelo endaweni eseduze kwase Ermelo naseBethal eMpumalanga, esaziwa nge Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy (WEF) (550MW). Lesikhungo sidinga izicelo ezahlukene ngezemvelo. Lomsebenzi ohlongozwayo ungaphansi kukaMasipala Wendawo uMsukaligwa ngaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda iGert Sibande kuSifundazwe saseMpumalanga. Lesikhungo Esiphehla Ugesi Ngomoya (WEF) sizofaka nendawo yokugcina ugesi kumamabhetri (BESS). IBESS izosetshenziswa ukugcina ugesi ongasebenzanga okhiqizwa yilesikhungo. IBESS izoba nesilinganiso sikagesi esingamamegawathi angu 200 kuya kumamegawathi angu 800 (200MW-800MWh Lendawo izogcina ugesi isikhathi esingamahora ayisithupha kuya Kwayisishagalombili.

Isicelo Semvume Yezemvelo (EA) ngaphansi koMthetho Wokulawulwa Kwezemvelo, uMthetho 107 ka 1998 (NEMA) kanye neMithethonqubo Yokuthinteka Kwezemvelo (EIA) ka 2014 ngokuchibeyelwa, safakwa ngomhlaka 1 ku Ndasa 2014 kuMnyango Wezamahlathi, Ukudoba Nezemvelo (DFFE) Inkomba: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25. Ngesikhathi kucelwa imibono Emphakathini ethintekayo, okwenziwa ukuhlanganisa Umbiko Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo (EIA), kwavela ukukhathazeka kanye nokuphikisa okwavezwa yimiphakathi ethintekayo (I&AP). Le mibono eyavela emphakathini yabandakanya ukuthi kwenziwe isicelo solunye uphenyo. Ngenxa yokuphawula okubalwe ngenhla kuthathwe isinqumo sokuba isicelo esesenziwa siyekwe siphelelwe Isikhathi ukuze kwenziwe ucwaningo olusha.

Inkampani IWSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd ifaka isicelo kabusha Somthelela Kwezemvelo (EA) mayelana nesikhungo esihlongozwayo ngaphansi koMthethonqubo 21(2) weGNR 326. Imvume Yokuhlola Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo yatholakala ngomhlaka 17 kuNtulikazi 2024. Lemvume isesemthethweni.

Bonke abantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo (I&AP) bazisiwe ngenhloso ye WSP yokufaka isicelo kabusha ngokulandela uMthethonqubo 21(2) weQNR 326 kusetshenziswa I imeyili ngomhlaka 29 kuMfumfu 2024.

IZICELO NGOKWEZEMVELO: Lemisebenzi ebalwe ngezansi iyathinteka, emva kwesiqinisekiso esivela kuMnyango l DFFE.

- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 983 (ochibiyelwe): Umsebenzi 11,12,14,19,24,28,30,48,56
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo :GNR 984 (ochibiyelwe): Umsebenzi 1,9 no 15
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo:GNR 985 (ochibiyelwe):Umsebenzi 4,10,12,14,18 no 23

UKUBHALISWA: Inkampani WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe nguMsekeli njengoMhloli Womthelela Kwezemvelo Ozimele (EAP) ukuphatha umsebenzi wokuhlola umthelela kwezemvelo (S&EIR). Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengabathintekayo ukuze baveze izimvo zabo ngaloMsebenzi Ohlongozwayo bayacelwa ukuba bathumele imininingwane yabo egcwele kuEAP basebenzise imininingwane engezansi. Abathinthekayo ababhalisiwe bayothunyelwa zonke izaziso ngokuzayo, futhi bayokwaziswa ngamunye uma asebenzise ayovela okuba yingxenye yokuhlola ngomthelela kwezemvelo.

UKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO NESIKHATHI: Umbiko Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo uyotholakala ngokucelwa kwaWSP futhi uyatholakala ezindaweni ezibhalwe ngezansi izinsuku ezingu 30 ukuze abantu bawufunde futhi baphawule ngawo ukusuka ngomhlaka **11 kuMbasa 2025 kuya ku 16 kuNhlaba 2025.**

Indawo	Umbiko uthokakala lapha	Ikheli lomgwaqo
Ermelo	Ermelo Layibhrari Yomphakathi	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo
	Thusiville Layibhrari Yomphakathi	346 OR Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351
Hendrina	Hendrina Layibhrari Yomphakathi	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095
Bethal	Bethal Layibhrari Yomphakathi	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310
WSP Web site	**https://wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents**	
Ukuthola umbiko ungenayo idata	**https://wsp-engage.com/**	

Ikhodi yeQR Izinombolo zokuthinta i WSP zithi: Igama: WSP Public Participation; **Ucingo:** 011 254 4800;
i-Imeyili pp@wsp.com.

Ukuvikeleka Kwemininingwane Ngabantu: *IWSP iyophatha imininingwane ngani njengabantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo njengesizathu sokubhaliswa kwenu njengabathintekayo nokuthi siyogcina imininingwane yenu emabhukwini ethu lokhu sikwenza ngemvume yenu. IWSP iyosebenzisa lemininingwane ukunithinta mayelana neminye imisebenzi efanayo ehlongozwayo esikhathini esizayo. IWSP iyoqikelela ukuthi isebenzisa imininingwane yenu ngokulandela uMthetho Wokuvikelwa Kwemininingane Ngabantu, uMthetho 4 ka 2013. Ninelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo enu njengabantu abangabanini bemininingwane futhi ningasazisa uma nithanda ukuthi imininingwane yenu siyicishe kubantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo futhi ningasathandi ukuthi imininingwane yenu sibe nayo emabhukwini ethu.*

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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)**
- **Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project consists of the following subprojects:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (up to 837MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the WEF. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process	Affected Farm Portions
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	Up to 837MW WEF, including associated infrastructure including BESS	Wind and BESS	S&EIR	• Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS • Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)	Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS	Transmission Line and Substation	S&EIR	

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) 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								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd - Up to 837MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), including associated infrastructure including BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
General Authorisation / Water Use Licence (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

REGISTRATION: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent EAP by the Proponent, to manage the 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.

The contact details of the EAP are: • Name: Ashlea Strong **• Tel:** 031 240 8804 **• Fax:** 011 361 1381 **• E-mail: ashlea.strong@wsp.com • Address:** Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent

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.*

wsp

OMGEWINGS MAGTIGINGS PROSESSE

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WINDENERGIE FASILITEIT, WAT BESTAAN UIT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSMAGTIGINGSPROSESSE, NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE

Kennis word gegee in terme van:

- **Regulasie 41(2) van GNR 982 (soos gewysig) gepubliseer ingevolge artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indiening van verskeie aansoeke om omgewings-magtigings (EA's) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite geïdentifiseer ingevolge GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)**
- **Artikel 39 of 41(4) van die Nasionale Waterwet (36 van 1998) (NWA), vir die indiening van 'n Algemene Magtiging vir Watergebruik of Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) Aansoek (soos van toepassing)**

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING: Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk. stel voor om 'n hernubare-energie-fasiliteit naby Ermelo en Bethal, Mpumalanga Provinsie, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One Windenergie Fasiliteit (WEF) te vestig, wat verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsmagtiging vereis. Die voorgestelde projek bestaan uit die volgende subprojekte:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (tot 837MW), geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) tot 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substasie (MTS) geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie.

Die WEF sal ook 'n Battery Energie Stoor Sisteem (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om oortollige energie wat deur die WEF gegenereer word, te berg. Die BESS sal 'n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200MW/800MWh hê. Dit sal 6-8 uur se berging toelaat.

Voorstander	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses	Geaffekteerde plaasgedeeltes	
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk	Tot 837MW WEF, insluitend geassosieerde infrastruktuur insluitend BESS	Wind en BESS	S&OIV	• Gedeelte 0 van Plaas ISRAEL 207 IS • Gedeelte 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 van Plaas BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Gedeelte 6 van Plaas VAALBANK 233 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 van Plaas KUILFONTEIN Nr 234 IS • Gedeelte 3 van Plaas BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 IS • Gedeelte 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 van WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 van Plaas NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2 van Plaas ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2 van Plaas GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Gedeelte 1 van die Plaas EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Gedeelte 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 van die Plaas MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS	• Gedeelte 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 van Plaas KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Gedeelte 2, 8, 9 van Plaas TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Gedeelte 0 van plaas VOORZORG 250 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 van Plaas NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2 van Plaas SPION KOP 252 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 7 van Plaas DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Gedeelte 4, 15 van Plaas UITZICHT 266 IS • Gedeelte 0 van Plaas KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Resterende Gedeelte van Gedeelte 7 van die Plaas DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Gedeelte 0 van die Plaas ELIM 247 IS • Gedeelte 4 van die Plaas TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk	Tot 400kV Powerline, EGI tot 400kV Netverbinding en MTS	Transmissie-lyn en substasie	S&OIV		

OMGEWINGSTOEPASSINGS: Die voorgestelde projekte sal lei tot 'n verskeidenheid van gelyste aktiwiteite, vervat in die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIE) Regulasies Lyskennisgewing 1 (GNR 983), Noteringskennisgewing 2 (GNR 984) en Noteringskennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig, magtiging om die gelyste aktiwiteite te onderneem, moet verkry word deur middel van onderskeie Bestekopname en Omgewingsimpakverslagdoening (S&OIV) prosesse. Die verwagte gelyste aktiwiteitsgetalle wat met die voorgestelde projekte geassosieer word, word in die tabel hieronder weerspieël. Indien u 'n volledige kopie van hierdie aktiwiteite op die lys wil bekom, kontak asseblief die Omgewingsevalueringspraktisyn (WHP), besonderhede hieronder verskaf.

Projek Naam	Noterings kennisgewing	Toepaslike Gelyste Aktiwiteite								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk - Tot 837MW windenergie-fasiliteit (WEF), insluitend geassosieerde infrastruktuur insluitend BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk Tot 400kV kraglyn, EGI tot 400kV netwerkverbinding en MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
Algemene magtigin / watergebruik-lisensie (soos van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

REGISTRASIE: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die Proponent aangestel as die onafhanklike WHP om die S&OIV-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel as belanghebbendes wil registreer om hul kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projekte te lewer, word versoek om hul volledige kontakbesonderhede aan die WHP te stuur by die besonderhede hieronder verskaf. Toekomstige korrespondensie sal aan alle geregistreerde belanghebbendes gestuur word en geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal individueel in kennis gestel word van bykomende geleenthede om aan die proses deel te neem.

Die kontakbesonderhede van die WHP is: • Naam: Ashlea Strong **• Tel:** 031 240 8804 **• Faks:** 011 361 1381
• E-pos: ashlea.strong@wsp.com • Adres: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: *WSP sal sekere persoonlike inligting oor jou as 'n belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party (B&GP) verwerk vir doeleindes om jou registrasie as 'n B&GP moontlik te maak en om jou besonderhede op ons databasis te stoor, indien jy daartoe instem. WSP sal hierdie besonderhede gebruik om jou in die toekoms oor ander relevante projekte te kontak. WSP sal altyd jou persoonlike inligting verwerk in ooreenstemming met die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting 4 van 2013. Jy is geregtig om jou regte as 'n datasubjek uit te oefen en ons te laat weet of jy as 'n B & GP gederegistreer wil word of as jy nie langer wil hê dat u kontakbesonderhede op ons databasis ingesluit moet word.*

wsp

IZINQUBO ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWEZEMVELO

ISAZISO NGENTUTHUKO EHLONGOZWAYO YE-PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITION, EHLANGANISA IZINQUBO EZAHLUKENE ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWENDAWO, ESEDUZE NENDAWO YASE ERMELO, ISIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA

Isaziso sinikezwa ngokwemibandela ye:

- **Umthetho-sisekelo 41(2) we-GNR 982 (njengoba ushintshiwe) oshicilelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 no-24D soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) (njengoba ushintshiwe) ukuze kuthunyelwe izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwezemvelo (EAs) mayelana nemisebenzi ehlonzwe ngokwe-GNR 983, GNR 984 kanye ne-GNR 985 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe)**
- **Isigaba sama-39 noma sama-41(4) soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke (36 ka-1998) (NWA), ukuze kuthunyelwe ukuGunyazwa Okujwayelekile noma Isicelo Selayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (WUL) (njengoba ushintshiwe)**

INCAZELO KANYE NENDAWO: I-Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukusungula indawo yamandla avuselelekayo eduze kwase-Ermelo nase-Bethal, kanyeneMpumalanga, eyaziwa ngokuthi i-Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), edinga izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo iqukethe ama-subprojects alandelayo:

- Phefumula Emoyeni IWEF eyodwa (efinyelela ku-837MW), etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda i-Gert Sibande, esifundazweni saseMpumalanga.
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda sase-Gert Sibande, esiFundazweni saseMpumalanga.

I-WEF izophinde ihlanganise ne-Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). I-BESS izosetshenziselwa ukugcina amandla engeziwe akhiqizwa yi-WEF. I-BESS izoba namandla okugcina afinyelela ku-200MW/800MWh. Evumela kuze kufike kumahora angu-6-8 wokulondoloza

Umsekeli	Iphrojekthi	Ubuch-wepheshe	Inqubo	Izingxenye Zepulazi Ezithintekile	
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	Kufika ku 837MW WEF, zihlanganisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne-BESS	Umoya kanye ne BESS	S&EIR	• Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS	• Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS • Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)	Kufika ku 400kV Powerline, EGI kufike ku 400kV Grid Connection kanye ne MTS	Wokudlulisa kanye Nesiteshi Esingaphansi	S&EIR		

IZICELO ZEMVELO: Amaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo azoqala imisebenzi eminingana esohlwini equkethwe ku-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) kanye ne-Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), njengoba ushintshiwe, ngakho-ke, ukugunyazwa kokwenza lesi saziso. imisebenzi esohlwini kufanele ifunwe ngezinqubo ezifanele ze-Scoping kanye ne-Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR). izinombolo zomsebenzi ezifakwe ohlwini ezilindelekile ezihambisana namaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo zibonakala kuthebula elingezansi. Uma ufisa ukuthola ikhophi ephelele yale misebenzi esohlwini, sicela uthinte Umsebenzi Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP), imininingwane enikezwe ngezansi.

Igama lephrojekthi	Isaziso Sohlu	Izibangeli ezisebenzayo								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd - Kufika ku-837MW WEF, zihlanganisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Kufika ku-400kV Powerline, EGI kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection kanye ne-MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
Ukugunyazwa Okujwayelekile / Ilayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (njengoba kusebenza)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

UKUBHALISA: I-WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe njenge-EAP ezimele nguMsekeli, ukuphatha izinqubo ze-S&EIR. Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengababambe iqhaza ukuze abeke imibono yawo ngamaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo ayacelwa ukuba athumele imininingwane yawo egcwele ku-EAP kule mininingwane enikezwe ngezansi. Ababambiqhaza ababhalisiwe bazothunyelwa zonke izincwadi zesikhathi esizayo futhi baziswe ngabanye ngamathuba engeziwe okubamba iqhaza kulolu hlelo.

Imininingwane yokuxhumana ye-EAP yile: • Igama: Ashlea Strong **• Ucingo:** 031 240 8804 **• Ifeksi:** 011 361 1381
I-imeyili: ashlea.strong@wsp.com • Ikheli: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crecent

Ukuvikelwa Kolwazi Lomuntu Siqu: *I-WSP izocubungula ulwazi oluthile lomuntu siqu olumayelana nawe njengomuntu onentshisekelo noma othintekayo (I&AP) ngezinjongo zokwenza ukubhalisa kwakho njenge-I&AP nokugcina imininingwane yakho kusizindalwazi sethu, uma uvuma ukuba senze kanjalo. I-WSP izosebenzisa le mininingwane ukuze ixhumane nawe mayelana namanye amaphrojekthi abalulekile esikhathini esizayo. I-WSP izohlala icubungula ulwazi lwakho lomuntu siqu ngokuhambisana noMthetho Wokuvikela Ulwazi Lomuntu Siqu 4 ka-2013. Unelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo akho njengesihloko sedatha futhi usazise uma ufisa ukukhishwa ukubhaliswa njenge-I & AP noma uma cha. usefuna imininingwane yakho yokuxhumana ifakwe kusizindalwazi sethu.*

wsp

INDEPENDENT MEDIA

C CLASSIFIEDS

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KWAZULU-NATAL
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fax | 031 308 2555
email | kzn.classifieds@inl.co.za

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phone | 021 488 4888
fax | 021 424 9891?2
email | cape.classifieds@inl.co.za

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fax | 011 836 0904
email | star.classifieds@inl.co.za
pta.classifieds@inl.co.za

071 PETS

WOODROCK ANIMAL RESCUE

Situated in Gauteng, extends support to disadvantaged dogs and cats residing in informal settlements. In the absence of Woodrock Animal Rescue, these animals would face a bleak existence devoid of sustenance, hope, and medical attention. The organization places significant emphasis on education and sterilization, having successfully sterilized over 3500 animals in the year 2023. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the unwavering support from our community and committed donors. The feeding program assumes a critical role in ensuring the well-being of these animals who heavily rely on our initiatives. To sustain our mission, we rely on the generosity of individuals who graciously donate to our cause. Your support in any capacity would be greatly valued.

WOODROCK ANIMAL RESCUE/ FIRST NATIONAL BANK/ ACC NUMBER: 62463902299/ BRANCH CODE: 254005/ CHEQUE ACCOUNT. REF: your name.

Explore our charming animals ready for adoption:

KITTENS! These delightful and healthy fluffy companions are seeking a caring home.
Reach out to Zee at 061 230 0844 for adoption.

PUPPIES: We have a variety of adorable puppies, mostly mixed breeds, waiting for their forever homes. Don't miss out on these beautiful companions!
Contact 082 682 7262 to adopt.
Dusty is a 3 years old mixed breed he is extremely friendly, excels with both dogs and people, but is unfamiliar with cats. He transitioned from a township and spent time in a foster home before joining us.
He carries himself with a calm demeanor and effortlessly adapts to his surroundings.

To adopt, call 082 925 3133.

Poppy is a 3 year old mixed breed and is brimming with personality and character! She adores her walks and exploring the garden. Poppy would thrive with one or two dogs in her new home as she is quite sociable.
Coming from a hoarding situation, she may benefit from some basic training.
To adopt, call 082 925 3133.
Lexi is a 3 years old mixed breed she has spent her whole life locked in a cage. When she came to us, she just craved attention! This girl is so sweet and so deserves the perfect family. She does need training as she is a strong girl who has just been left with no space or stimulation for the first years of her life. But she is so willing to learn and we have no doubt she will be the perfect companion for someone!
To adopt, call 082 925 3133.
Echo is a 3 years old mixed breed she was discovered roaming in the Centurion area before kind Samaritans were able to catch her. She is friendly with other dogs, enjoys running, and would thrive in a lively household.
To adopt, call 082 925 3133.

Woodrock is currently facing a significant shortage of dog food, impacting our capacity to cover veterinary expenses. For additional support, please contact Stella at 060 806 7438. Let us remember that dogs provide unwavering love; let us reciprocate with equal care and attention.

191 ADULT ENTERTAINMENT



191 ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

cameras needed!

With **CLASSIFIEDS** you can buy and sell your goods anytime, anywhere.

To advertise please call

0860 115 115

604 JOBS

SAPCO South African Public Colleges Organisation

PROJECT MANAGER

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent thereof
- Fair knowledge of TVET College Sector
- Capable of working independently
- Advanced Computer Skills
- Excellent report writing and communication skills
- Management Skills
- Good analytical skills and the ability to liaise at all levels within the TVET College sector
- Experience in private sector
- Number of years in management experience (5 years management experience)
- Financial background
- 5 year experience in project management

A Post Graduate Degree will be an added advantage

Assumption of Duty: 1 June 2024

Post Description

The Project Manager will be responsible for overseeing projects for the organisation. This role requires a highly organized individual with strong project management skills, excellent communication abilities, and a deep understanding of the post education sector. The TProject Manager will work closely with different stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of the organisations programmes.

Duties

- Develop funding proposals for relevant programmes
- Develop comprehensive project plans in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Design and implement skills development programmes tailored to the needs of the targeted beneficiaries
- Coordinate project activities, ensuring adherence to timelines and budgetary constraints.
- Monitor project progress and address any issues or obstacles that arise during implementation.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of skills development programs.
- Regularly evaluate program outcomes and impact, making data-driven adjustments as needed.
- Prepare comprehensive reports for stakeholders, highlighting achievements, challenges, and recommendations for improvement.
- Travel extensively to project sites

All inclusive package - R700 000
3 years fixed term based on performance

Enquiries: *Adam Bogoshi – Tel. (012) 663 2145/49*

The South African College Principals Organisation (SACPO) is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.
Applications must be accompanied by a recent updated comprehensive CV as well as certified copies of all qualifications and ID document.
Correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only. Non-SA citizens must attach a certified copy of proof of permanent residence in South Africa. All qualifications will be verified and subjected to reference checking.

Please forward your application to:

EMAIL
The Secretary General
sacpo@mweb.co.za/bogoshi@sacpo.co.za

Closing Date: 25 April 2024

If you have not heard from us within 3 months of the closing date, please accept that your application had been unsuccessful
Please take note that no applications received after the closing date of the said advertisement will be considered

702 BUSINESS LICENCE

Notice in respect of a license application in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act No 120 of 1977)

This notice serves to inform parties that may be interested or affected that **CB AGRI GENERAL TRADERS (PTY) LTD** hereinafter referred to as "the applicant", has submitted an application for a **WHOLESALE** license, application number **H/2024/04/05/0001.**

PORTION OF 45 OF THE FARM NO. ROODEPAN KIMBERLEY

The purpose of the application is for the applicant to be granted a license to undertake petroleum wholesale activities as detailed in the application Arrangements for viewing the application documentation can be made by contacting the Controller of Petroleum Products by:
-Tel: (053) 807 1700; or
-Fax: 086 517 7881; or
-Email: Sebabatso.Mohapi@dmre.gov.za

Any objections to the issuing of a license in respect of this application, which must clearly quote the application number above, must be lodged with the Controller of Petroleum Products within a period of twenty (20) working days from the date of publication of this notice. Such objection must be lodged at the following physical or postal address:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
41 Schmidtsdrift Street, Telkom Building, Kimberley

POSTAL ADDRESS:
The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
Private Bag X 6093, Kimberley, 8301

702 BUSINESS LICENCE

Notice in respect of a license application in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act No 120 of 1977)

This notice serves to inform parties that may be interested or affected that **PRINBU CONSTRUCTION (PTY) LTD** hereinafter referred to as "the applicant", has submitted an application for a **WHOLESALE** license, application number **C/2024/03/22/0001.**

564 MAKOKO STREET SAAIPLAAS VIRGINIA

The purpose of the application is for the applicant to be granted a license to undertake petroleum wholesale activities as detailed in the application. Arrangements for viewing the application documentation can be made by contacting the Controller of Petroleum Products by:
-Tel: (057) 391 1300; or
-Fax: (057) 352 2673; or
-Email: **Kagisho.Mokae@dmre.gov.za**

Any objections to the issuing of a license in respect of this application, which must clearly quote the application number above, must be lodged with the Controller of Petroleum Products within a period of twenty (20) working days from the date of publication of this notice. Such objection must be lodged at the following physical or postal address:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
314 Stateway Street, The Strip Building, Welkom

POSTAL ADDRESS:
The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
Private Bag X 3658, Welkom, 9460

700 LEGALS

711 LOST DEED

FORM JJJ

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act,1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **ST11231/2017**, passed by the **REGISTRAR OF DEEDS at PRETORIA**, in favour of **TERRENCE GOVINDASAMY PILLAY, Identity Number: 600701 5163 081, Married out of community of property**, in respect of
A Unit consisting of -
(a) **Section No. 75** as shown and more fully described on **Sectional Plan No. SS1030/2005** in the scheme known as **ERAND GARDENS** in respect of the land and building or buildings situated at **ERAND GARDENS EXTENSION 30 TOWNSHIP, LOCAL AUTHORITY: CITY OF JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**, of which section the floor area, according to the said sectional plan is 101 (One Hundred and One) square metres in extent; and
(b) An undivided share in the common property in the scheme apportioned to the said section in accordance with the participation quota as endorsed on the said sectional plan, which has been lost or destroyed.
All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at Pretoria, Merino Building, 140 Pretorius Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria, 0002, within two (2) weeks from the date of the publication of this notice.
Applicant:
TERRENCE GOVINDASAMY PILLAY
Identity Number:
600701 5163 081
c/o Fyshe Inc. Attorneys
Address:
538 Nebraska Street
Faerie Glen, Pretoria
Postal Address:
P O Box 218
Faerie Glen, 0043
E-mail Address:
lauren@fyshe.co.za
Contact Number:
012 991 2288
Reference: Pillay

711 LOST DEED

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of a Deed of Transfer T24/2016

Passed by

EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

In favour of

1. Joint Estate Late **FANYANA SOLOMON NHLAPO** Estate Number 19828/2011

2. **NOMALANGA ELIZABETH NHLAPO** Identity Number 511214 0639 087 Widow

In respect of certain:

ERF 1564 GELUKDAL EXTENSION 1 TOWNSHIP REGISTRATION DIVISION I.R., THE PROVINCE OF GAUTENG

which has been lost or destroyed.
All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at Deeds Office Information Section, Pretoria Merino Building, 140 Pretorius Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria, within two weeks from the date of publication.

Dated at Springs on this the 05th day of April 2024.

Applicant: **Mulaudzi Incorporated**
Suite 07 Veranda Centre
56 Fifth Street
Springs, 1559
Tel: 011 812 0254
Email: info@mulaudziinc.co.za

FORM JJJ

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act,1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of **DEED OF TRANSFER NUMBER ST11231/2017**, passed by the **REGISTRAR OF DEEDS at PRETORIA**, in favour of **TERRENCE GOVINDASAMY PILLAY, Identity Number: 600701 5163 081, Married out of community of property**, in respect of
A Unit consisting of -
(a) **Section No. 75** as shown and more fully described on **Sectional Plan No. SS1030/2005** in the scheme known as **ERAND GARDENS** in respect of the land and building or buildings situated at **ERAND GARDENS EXTENSION 30 TOWNSHIP, LOCAL AUTHORITY: CITY OF JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**, of which section the floor area, according to the said sectional plan is 101 (One Hundred and One) square metres in extent; and
(b) An undivided share in the common property in the scheme apportioned to the said section in accordance with the participation quota as endorsed on the said sectional plan, which has been lost or destroyed.
All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at Pretoria, Merino Building, 140 Pretorius Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria, 0002, within two (2) weeks from the date of the publication of this notice.
Applicant:
TERRENCE GOVINDASAMY PILLAY
Identity Number:
600701 5163 081
c/o Fyshe Inc. Attorneys
Address:
538 Nebraska Street
Faerie Glen, Pretoria
Postal Address:
P O Box 218
Faerie Glen, 0043
E-mail Address:
lauren@fyshe.co.za
Contact Number:
012 991 2288
Reference: Pillay

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **ST38817/2018 passed by INSPORTS INDOOR ARENA PROPRIETARY LIMITED , Registration Number 2013/0260014/07 in favour of VILLA VIA ARCADIA NO 3 PROPRIETARY LIMITED, Registration Number 2015/235440/07**
In respect of certain
A Unit consisting of
(a) Section No. 33 as shown and more fully described on Sectional Plan No SS 19/2018 in the scheme known as MIRACLE PARK in respect of the land and building or buildings situated at ROOIHUISKRAAL NOORD EXTENSION 27 TOWNSHIP, LOCAL AUTHORITY: CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, of which section the floor area, according to the said sectional plan is 1480 (One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty) square metres in extent and
(b) An undivided share in the common property in the scheme apportioned to the said section in accordance with the participation quota as endorsed on the said sectional plan.
HELD BY Deed of Transfer Number ST 38817/2018
which has been lost or destroyed.
All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at PRETORIA, situated at National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development Building, 600 Lilian Ngoyi Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria within two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.
DATED at RANDPARK RIDGE on 8 APRIL 2024

VILLA VIA ARCADIA NO 3 PROPRIETART LIMITED
C/O ABRAHAM CHRISJAN MULDER
Christo Mulder Attorneys Inc.
15 Dale Lace Avenue, Randpark Ridge
christo@cmatt.co.za
Tel: 011 794 7909

PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

0860 115 115

711 LOST DEED

FORM JJJ

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **T 71028/2000 in favour of Estate of the Late FARIDA MAHOMED, Estate Number 30604/2022**
In respect of certain ERF 10238 LENASIA EXTENSION 11 TOWNSHIP REGISTRATION DIVISION I.Q. PROVINCE OF GAUTENG MEASURING 580 (FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY) Square Metres HELD BY Deed of Transfer Number T71028/2000
Which Title Deed has been lost or destroyed. All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at JOHANNESBURG within two weeks from the date of the publication of this notice.
Dated at LENASIA on this the 8 April 2024

COOVADIA ATTORNEYS
175 PROTEA AVENUE
LENASIA

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **T159100/2004 passed by SPYROULLA PROPERTIES CC , Registration Number 1987/026011/23 in favour of RANDOLF INVESTMENTS CC, Registration Number CK1997/048065/23**
In respect of certain PORTION 3 OF ERF 696 GEZINA TOWNSHIP, REGISTRATION DIVISION J.R., PROVINCE OF GAUTENG HELD BY Deed of Transfer Number T159100/2004 Measuring 2793 (TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY THREE) Square Metres
which has been lost or destroyed.
All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at PRETORIA, situated at National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development Building, 600 Lilian Ngoyi Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria within two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.
DATED at RANDPARK RIDGE on 8 APRIL 2024

RANDOLF INVESTMENT PROPRIETARY LIMITED
C/O ABRAHAM CHRISJAN MULDER
Christo Mulder Attorneys Inc.
15 Dale Lace Avenue, Randpark Ridge
christo@cmatt.co.za
Tel: 011 794 7909

714 PUBLIC NOTICES

APPLICATION FOR RECTIFICATION

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PORTION 174 OF DOORNKLOOF 391-JR FOR WAREHOUSING AND COMMERCIAL USE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 24(G) of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended (NEMA) of the intent of Black & White Trucks (Pty) Ltd to lodge an application for rectification in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (as amended).
Project Description:
Portion 174 was cleared of vegetation to establish warehouses.
• Commenced: 2017
• Location:
Portion 174 of Doornkloof 391- JR, Gauteng.
• Coordinates:
25°54'19.46"S;
28°15'4.69"E
• Date of Notice:
11 April 2024
• Legislation Contravened: NEMA
• Activity under NEMA: GNR324, Activity 6: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan in (c) Gauteng (ii) Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified in the Gauteng Conservation Plan or bioregional plans.
Queries must be referred to:
KEMS Pty Ltd
Tel: 082 570 7072
E-mail: arno@kems.co.za
Contact Person:
Arno van den Berg
Parties wishing to formally comment on the process can contact KEMS (Pty) Ltd no later than twenty days (20) after the publication of this advertisement, until 2 May 2024.

For all your **Auction** Advertising


Find it in the Classifieds
0860 115 115

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **ST38817/2018 passed by INSPORTS INDOOR ARENA PROPRIETARY LIMITED , Registration Number 2013/0260014/07 in favour of VILLA VIA ARCADIA NO 3 PROPRIETARY LIMITED, Registration Number 2015/235440/07**
In respect of certain
A Unit consisting of
(a) Section No. 33 as shown and more fully described on Sectional Plan No SS 19/2018 in the scheme known as MIRACLE PARK in respect of the land and building or buildings situated at ROOIHUISKRAAL NOORD EXTENSION 27 TOWNSHIP, LOCAL AUTHORITY: CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, of which section the floor area, according to the said sectional plan is 1480 (One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty) square metres in extent and
(b) An undivided share in the common property in the scheme apportioned to the said section in accordance with the participation quota as endorsed on the said sectional plan.
HELD BY Deed of Transfer Number ST 38817/2018
which has been lost or destroyed.
All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at PRETORIA, situated at National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development Building, 600 Lilian Ngoyi Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria within two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.
DATED at RANDPARK RIDGE on 8 APRIL 2024

VILLA VIA ARCADIA NO 3 PROPRIETART LIMITED
C/O ABRAHAM CHRISJAN MULDER
Christo Mulder Attorneys Inc.
15 Dale Lace Avenue, Randpark Ridge
christo@cmatt.co.za
Tel: 011 794 7909

714 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A PAINT MANUFACTURING FACILITY FOR BULLDOG ABRASIVES SOUTHERN AFRICA (PTY) LTD.

GDARD REFERENCE: GAUT 002/23-24/E3924

Applicant: Bulldog Abrasives Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.
Project Description: The development and operation of a paint manufacturing facility and associated infrastructure
Site Location: 852 16th Road, Randjespark, Midrand, South Africa
GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 25° 57' 57.77" S; Longitude: 28° 8' 11.31" E

Legislation: The proposed paint manufacturing operation is a listed activity in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended, and section 21(1)(b) of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004) as amended.

Listed Activity in terms of EIA Regulations

Listing Notice	Activity	Description
2	6	The development of facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity which requires a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of National or Provincial legislation governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution, or effluent.

Listed Activity in terms of NEM: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004)

Category	Description
6	The production, or use in production, of organic chemicals not specified elsewhere including acetylene, acetic, maleic, or phthalic anhydride or their acids, carbon disulphide, pyridine, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein and its derivatives, acrylonitrile, amines, and synthetic rubber.

4 Degrees Consulting has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required Environmental Assessment and Public Participation Processes for the project. The Background Information Document (BID) is available from the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) upon request.

The public is given an opportunity to comment on the project and/or register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project. Written representations on the project must be submitted to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice at the contact details below. All registered I&APs will be kept informed of the application during the environmental assessment process. The Scoping Report will be made available to I&APs as of **Friday, 12 April 2024**.

Link to register as an Interested and Affected Party: https://arcg.is/1Gbmez0.

Public Participation Officer:
Amantle Modjadji
International Business Gateway
113 Elizabeth Road
Midridge Park, Midrand, 1685

Tel: 011 238 6300
Cell: 074 360 5286
Email: amantle@4degrees.co.za AND projects@4degrees.co.za

DATE OF ADVERT: 11 April 2024
CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION: 14 May 2024

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717 TENDERS

NWU® NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA

The North-West University invites all specialist contractors with the relevant skills, experience, and resources to submit tenders for the following project on the Mahikeng Campus:

NWUTR 033 / 2024 MC: PV PLANT, MAHIKENG CAMPUS

Work entails: The installation of 1 000 kW solar PV plant across campus
CIDB GRADING: No grading applicable

Tenderers can access tender documents by visiting:
www.nwu.ac.za/nwu-tenders

Access to the tender documents link closes: 15 APRIL 2024 at 12:00
Closing date and time for tender submissions: 29 APRIL 2024 at 12:00

The University reserves the right to accept any tender, irrespective of price, or no tender at all.

NWUTR033.2024NW

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717 TENDERS

NWU® NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA

The North-West University invites all specialist contractors with the relevant skills, experience, and resources to submit tenders for the following project on the Potchefstroom Campus:

NWUTR 039/2024 PC: CONSTRUCTION, REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADE FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AND STUDENT SYSTEMS, BUILDING E10, POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS

Work entails: Refurbishment of existing offices including replacing of ceilings, refurbishment of floors, replacement of existing doors with new aluminium doors, upgrading of ablution facilities, upgrading of electrical and mechanical installations.
CIDB GRADING: 4GB or Higher

Tenderers can access tender documents by visiting:
www.nwu.ac.za/nwu-tenders

Access to the tender documents link closes: 02 MAY 2024 at 12:00
Microsoft Teams non-Compulsory briefing (meeting details on the tender document) 03 MAY 2024 at 10:00
Closing date and time for tender submissions: 17 MAY 2024 at 12:00

The University reserves the right to accept any tender, irrespective of price, or no tender at all.

NWUTR039.2024NW

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NWU® NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA

The North-West University invites all specialist contractors with the relevant skills, experience, and resources to submit tenders for the following project on the Potchefstroom Campus:

NWUTR 030 / 2024 PC: CONSTRUCTION, REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADE FOR PROTECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BUILDING F16F, POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS

Work entails: alterations and internal upgrade to accommodate new offices, including the following: new floor covering, new floor and wall tiles, plumbing and sanitary work, carpentry and joinery, paintwork, new suspended ceilings. External work entails waterproofing to roof covering, paintwork, minor excavations and masonry work, and a new security fence and carport.
CIDB GRADING: 4 GB or higher

Tenderers can access tender documents by visiting:
www.nwu.ac.za/nwu-tenders

Access to the tender documents link closes: 16 APRIL 2024 at 12:00
Closing date and time for tender submissions: 30 APRIL 2024 at 12:00

The University reserves the right to accept any tender, irrespective of price, or no tender at all.

NWUTR030.2024NW

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717 TENDERS

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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)**
- **Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project consists of the following subprojects:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (up to 837MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the WEF. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process	Affected Farm Portions
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	Up to 837MW WEF, including associated infrastructure including BESS	Wind and BESS	S&EIR	• Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS • Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)	Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS	Transmission Line and Substation	S&EIR	

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS: The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) 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								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd - Up to 837MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), including associated infrastructure including BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
General Authorisation / Water Use Licence (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

REGISTRATION: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent EAP by the Proponent, to manage the 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.

The contact details of the EAP are: • Name: Ashlea Strong **• Tel:** 031 240 8804 **• Fax:** 011 361 1381 **• E-mail: ashlea.strong@wsp.com • Address:** Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent

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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DA calls for rural safety units after another farm murder

Wayne van der Walt

BETHAL - The DA has written to the provincial police commissioner, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Manamela, yet again, urging the establishment of a rural safety unit after another farm murder had been reported here.

Joseph Jan Shabangu, a 49-year-old farmer, appeared in the Bethal Magistrate's Court this week facing a murder charge. He was arrested for allegedly shooting and killing a 35-year-old man who was suspected of poaching on his farm. The victim and a friend were allegedly hunting on the farm when some shots were fired. The friend escaped unharmed. When the Bethal police arrived at the farm, they found the victim's body. The medical personnel certified the man dead on the scene.

The officers found the farmer in possession of the firearm suspected to have been used in the shooting. They also found three empty cartridges on the scene. The police took the firearm for ballistic tests.

"Rural communities in this province, including farmers as well as farm workers, are at a high risk of being attacked on isolated farms, and the SAPS has failed dismally to protect them as it does not have dedicated rural safety units that can be deployed in farming communities," Trudie Grové-Morgan, the DA is spokesperson for co-operative governance and traditional affairs, said.

According to her, the DA has been asking the national and provincial governments to establish dedicated rural safety units after they noticed that isolated plots and farming areas are becoming easy targets for criminals who want to commit house robberies, which eventually lead to farm murders and farm attacks.

The DA also submitted its own proposed rural safety plan in 2019, but to no avail. "The only positive thing the government has done was to hold a Rural Safety Summit in June 2022. This summit was intended to produce strategies that would ensure greater safety for food-producing farming communities. But to date, little to no progress has been made towards the implementation of the strategy or using the summit findings to improve its effectiveness," Grové-Morgan said.

She further stated that the safety situation in South Africa's rural areas is intolerable and cannot be allowed to continue unencumbered. "A lot of promises have been made in the wake of the recent farm murders. It is now time that they are implemented, and that farmers and farm workers are protected and not left at the mercy of criminals."

The DA also called on the private sector, NGOs and farm watches to pledge their support to farming communities by banding together and demanding the immediate and effective implementation of a rural safety plan. "The DA will continue the fight to ensure that all South Africans are afforded equal protection and safety by government and SAPS, as determined in our Constitution," Grové-Morgan concluded.



Trudie Grové-Morgan, the DA's spokesperson on co-operative governance and traditional affairs. **Photo | Supplied**



MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NOTICE

IDP REPRESENTATIVE FORUM MEETING

Notice is hereby given that Msukaligwa Municipal Council is on a consultative programme and inviting interested members of the community to attend the IDP Representative Forum meeting where programmes in respect of the IDP for Msukaligwa Municipality will be considered. **The IDP Representative Forum should be attended by the following stakeholders:**

- Members of the Mayoral Committee
- Councillors (including Councillors who are members of the District Council and relevant portfolio Councilors)
- Traditional Leaders / Traditional Healers
- Ward Committees
- Heads of Departments / Senior Officials
- Representatives of Organized Groups
- Resourced Persons
- Interested members of public

The Meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: **11 April 2024**
Venue: **Virtual**
Time: **10H00**

Mr. M. Kunene
Municipal Manager

47535808NH

IZINQUBO ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWEZEMVELO

ISAZISO NGENTUTHUKO EHLONGOZWAYO YE-PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITION, EHLANGANISA IZINQUBO EZAHLUKENE ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWENDAWO, ESEDUZE NENDAWO YASE ERMELO, ISIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA

Isaziso sinikezwa ngokwemibandela ye:

- **Umthetho-sisekelo 41(2) we-GNR 982 (njengoba ushintshiwe) oshicilelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 no-24D soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) (njengoba ushintshiwe) ukuze kuthunyelwe izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwezemvelo (EAs) mayelana nemisebenzi ehlonzwe ngokwe-GNR 983, GNR 984 kanye ne-GNR 985 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe)**
- **Isigaba sama-39 noma sama-41(4) soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke (36 ka-1998) (NWA), ukuze kuthunyelwe ukuGunyazwa Okujwayelekile noma Isicelo Selayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (WUL) (njengoba ushintshiwe)**

INCAZELO KANYE NENDAWO: I-Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukusungula indawo yamandla avuselelekayo eduze kwase-Ermelo nase-Bethal, kanyeneMpumalanga, eyaziwa ngokuthi i-Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), edinga izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo iqukethe ama-subprojects alandelayo:

- Phefumula Emoyeni IWEF eyodwa (efinyelela ku-837MW), etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda i-Gert Sibande, esifundazweni saseMpumalanga.
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda sase-Gert Sibande, esiFundazweni saseMpumalanga.

I-WEF izophinde ihlanganise ne-Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). I-BESS izosetshenziselwa ukugcina amandla engeziwe akhiqizwa yi-WEF. I-BESS izoba namandla okugcina afinyelela ku-200MW/800MWh. Evumela kuze kufike kumahora angu-6-8 wokulondoloza

Umsekeli	Iphrojekthi	Ubuch-wepheshe	Inqubo	Izingxenye Zepulazi Ezithintekile	
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	Kufika ku 837MW WEF, zihlanganisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne-BESS	Umoya kanye ne BESS	S&EIR	• Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS	• Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS • Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)	Kufika ku 400kV Powerline, EGI kufike ku 400kV Grid Connection kanye ne MTS	Wokudlulisa kanye Nesiteshi Esingaphansi	S&EIR		

IZICELO ZEMVELO: Amaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo azoqala imisebenzi eminingana esohlwini equkethwe ku-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) kanye ne-Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), njengoba ushintshiwe, ngakho-ke, ukugunyazwa kokwenza lesi saziso. imisebenzi esohlwini kufanele ifunwe ngezinqubo ezifanele ze-Scoping kanye ne-Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR). izinombolo zomsebenzi ezifakwe ohlwini ezilindelekile ezihambisana namaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo zibonakala kuthebula elingezansi. Uma ufisa ukuthola ikhophi ephelele yale misebenzi esohlwini, sicela uthinte Umsebenzi Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP), imininingwane enikezwe ngezansi.

Igama lephrojekthi	Isaziso Sohlu	Izibangeli ezisebenzayo								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd - Kufika ku-837MW WEF, zihlanaga-nisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Kufika ku-400kV Powerline, EGI kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection kanye ne-MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
Ukugunyazwa Okujwayelekile / Ilayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (njengoba kusebenza)	Isigaba 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

UKUBHALISA: I-WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe njenge-EAP ezimele nguMsekeli, ukuphatha izinqubo ze-S&EIR. Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengababambe iqhaza ukuze abeke imibono yawo ngamaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo ayacelwa ukuba athumele imininingwane yawo egcwele ku-EAP kule minininingwane enikezwe ngezansi. Ababambiqhaza ababhalisiwe bazothunyelwa zonke izincwadi zesikhathi esizayo futhi baziswe ngabanye ngamathuba engeziwe okubamba iqhaza kulolu hlelo.

Imininingwane yokuxhumana ye-EAP yile: • Igama: Ashlea Strong **• Ucingo:** 031 240 8804 **• Ifeksi:** 011 361 1381
I-imeyili: ashlea.strong@wsp.com • Ikheli: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crecent

Ukuvikelwa Kolwazi Lomuntu Siqu: *I-WSP izocubungula ulwazi oluthile lomuntu siqu olumayelana nawe njengomuntu onentshisekelo noma othintekayo (I&AP) ngezinjongo zokwenza ukubhalisa kwakho njenge-I&AP nokugcina imininingwane yakho kusizindalwazi sethu, uma uvuma ukuba senze kanjalo. I-WSP izosebenzisa le minininingwane ukuze ixhumane nawe mayelana namanye amaphrojekthi abalulekile esikhathini esizayo. I-WSP izohlala icubungula ulwazi lwakho lomuntu siqu ngokuhambisana noMthetho Wokuvikela Ulwazi Lomuntu Siqu 4 ka-2013. Unelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo akho njengesihloko sedatha futhi usazise uma ufisa ukukhishwa ukubhaliswa njenge-I & AP noma uma cha. usefuna imininingwane yakho yokuxhumana ifakwe kusizindalwazi sethu.*

wsp

ADVERTORIAL

VF Plus-leier besoek Ermelo



Dr. Pieter Groenewald van die VF Plus.
Foto | Verskaf/Wikimedia Commons

Die leier van die VF Plus, dr. Pieter Groenewald, sal op 13 April die dorp vir ’n toespreekgeleentheid besoek.
Die plaaslike gemeenskap word uitgenooi om die geleentheid om 10:00 by die Ermelo Inn by te woon.
Groenewald se toespraak sal verskeie kritiese aspekte van die huidige politieke landskap van Suid-Afrika aanspreek. Daarbenewens sal hy die positiewe rol van die VF Plus in hierdie konteks belig, sowel as die noodsaaklikheid en moontlikheid van koalisievorming ná die nasionale verkiesing.
Hierdie geleentheid bied ’n kans vir individue om hul vrae direk aan Groenewald te rig.
Die nasionale verkiesing vind op 29 Mei plaas, wanneer die kiesers hulle stemme sal laat hoor. Deur hierdie geleentheid by te woon, kan inwoners ’n duideliker beeld kry van die VF Plus se standpunte en planne vir die toekoms van die land. Diegene wat die toespreekgeleentheid graag wil bywoon, kan ’n WhatsApp-boodskap aan Shobie Arnoldi, die plaaslike raadslid van die VF Plus, by 082 801 4114 stuur.
“Die gemeenskap word aangemoedig om van hierdie geleentheid gebruik te maak om ’n beter begrip van die politieke landskap te verkry en om hul deelname aan die demokratiese proses te versterk,” het Arnoldi gesê.
Hierdie promosieartikel is betaal deur die betrokke politieke party en verteenwoordig die siening van die kliënt, en nie dié van die publikasie waarin dit verskyn nie.

Fire hydrant badly damaged



The vandalised fire hydrant at the intersection of Generaal Botha and Theron streets. **Photo | Supplied**

René Joubert

ERMELO - After the vandalism of a fire hydrant in town, the municipality warned residents of the devastating implications this can have.

Chantal Boonstra, an administrator on a community WhatsApp group, reported to the municipality on March 28 that a fire hydrant at the intersection of Generaal Botha and Theron streets was damaged.

After several hours had passed, she posted another photo of the fire hydrant, now completely destroyed.

The fire hydrant was later repaired.

Higvelder sent media enquiries to Mandla Zwane, spokesperson of the municipality, regarding this particular hydrant, and awaits his response.



47535806NM

MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
Cnr Kerk and Taute Street, Ermelo, 2350
Postal Address:
P O BOX 48, Ermelo 2350

INTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified and competent people for appointment to the under mentioned position.

Name of Department	TECHNICAL SERVICES
JOB POST NAME	Data Capturer -
DURATION	Permanent
TASK GRADE	10
SALARY	R270 896.93 – R351 623.12
REFERENCE NUMBER	TECH/1/4/24
LOCATION	Civic Centre, Ermelo
CLOSING DATE	15 April 2024
QUALIFICATION	• Grade 12 plus NQF 6 Public Administration/ Project Diploma and Advance Computer Literacy.
EXPERIENCE	• 2 - 5 years relevant experience
KNOWLEDGE	• Provides routine clerical support and follows standard procedures; and • Operates under direct supervision
COMPETENCIES	• Written Communication, Oral Communication, Attention to detail, Ethics and Professionalism, Organisational Awareness and Planning and Organising

Reporting to the Manager: Electricity, the successful candidate will be responsible for the following functions:-
• Provides support to the Project Management Unit in respect of specific administrative tasks associated with the data capturing activities in the Section.
• Checking the accuracy of details recorded on transactional documentation and updating work in progress information/ data on specific applications/ systems of the department.
• Receiving data documentation and applying specific procedures and system tools to import data from various applications and programmes.
• Converting data/ information using application tools and procedures, applying instructions to change and format datasets.
• Assessing relevant fields and capturing data, applying processing rules and procedures.
• Checking and validating entries, referring to information sources to resolve anomalies/ discrepancies and/ or manipulating data characters to achieve consistency.
• Attending to and making available information to support reports and queries.

PLEASE NOTE
• DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS WE ENVISAGE TO RECEIVE, APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.
• SHOULD YOU NOT BE CONTACTED WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE CLOSING DATE, CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION UNSUCCESSFUL.
• THE MUNICIPALITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPOINT OR NOT TO APPOINT ANY PERSON

Application forms and full detailed information about the advertised positions are available on the Msukaligwa Local Municipality website (www.msukaligwa.gov.za) and Facebook page / HR office.
Application form, and a detailed Curriculum Vitae together with certified copies of ID, Driver’s License, qualifications and academic record must be posted / couriered to Msukaligwa Local Municipality, P O Box 48, Ermelo 2350 or hand delivered to the Corporate Services (HR Section), Cnr Kerk and Taute Street, Ermelo, for the attention of Director Corporate Services, for enquiries contact Manager Human Resources Ms. L.P. Mnisi at 017 801 3584 during office hours.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER: MR M KUNENE **CLOSING DATE 15 APRIL 2024**

WEBSITE: WWW.MSUKALIGWA.GOV.ZA | CONTACT CENTRE: 080 001 4903

OMGEWINGS MAGTIGINGS PROSESSE

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WINDENERGIE FASILITEIT, WAT BESTAAN UIT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSMAGTIGINGSPROSESSE, NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE

Kennis word gegee in terme van:

- **Regulasie 41(2) van GNR 982 (soos gewysig) gepubliseer ingevolge artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indiening van verskeie aansoeke om omgewings-magtigings (EA’s) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite geïdentifiseer ingevolge GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)**
- **Artikel 39 of 41(4) van die Nasionale Waterwet (36 van 1998) (NWA), vir die indiening van ’n Algemene Magtiging vir Watergebruik of Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) Aansoek (soos van toepassing)**

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING: Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk. stel voor om ’n hernubare-energie-fasiliteit naby Ermelo en Bethal, Mpumalanga Provinsie, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One Windenergie Fasiliteit (WEF) te vestig, wat verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsmagtiging vereis. Die voorgestelde projek bestaan uit die volgende subprojekte:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (tot 837MW), geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) tot 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substasie (MTS) geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie.

Die WEF sal ook ’n Battery Energie Stoor Sisteem (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om oortollige energie wat deur die WEF gegenereer word, te berg. Die BESS sal ’n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200MW/800MWh hê. Dit sal 6-8 uur se berging toelaat.

Voorstander	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses	Geaffekteerde plaasgedeeltes
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk	Tot 837MW WEF, insluitend geassosieerde infrastruktuur insluitend BESS	Wind en BESS	S&OIV	• Gedeelte 0 van Plaas ISRAEL 207 IS • Gedeelte 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 van Plaas BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Gedeelte 6 van Plaas VAALBANK 233 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 van Plaas KUILFONTEIN Nr 234 IS • Gedeelte 3 van Plaas BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 IS • Gedeelte 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 van WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 van Plaas NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2 van Plaas ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2 van Plaas GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Gedeelte 1 van die Plaas EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Gedeelte 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 van die Plaas MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 van Plaas KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Gedeelte 2, 8, 9 van Plaas TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Gedeelte 0 van plaas VOORZORG 250 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 van Plaas NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2 van Plaas SPION KOP 252 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 7 van Plaas DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Gedeelte 4, 15 van Plaas UITZICHT 266 IS • Gedeelte 0 van Plaas KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Resterende Gedeelte van Gedeelte 7 van die Plaas DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Gedeelte 0 van die Plaas ELIM 247 IS • Gedeelte 4 van die Plaas TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk	Tot 400kV Powerline, EGI tot 400kV Netverbinding en MTS	Transmissie-lyn en substasie	S&OIV	

OMGEWINGSTOEPASSINGS: Die voorgestelde projekte sal lei tot ’n verskeidenheid van gelyste aktiwiteite, vervat in die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIE) Regulasies Lyskennisgewing 1 (GNR 983), Noteringskennisgewing 2 (GNR 984) en Noteringskennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig, magtiging om die gelyste aktiwiteite te onderneem, moet verkry word deur middel van onderskeie Bestekopname en Omgewingsimpakverslagdoening (S&OIV) prosesse. Die verwagte gelyste aktiwiteitsgetalle wat met die voorgestelde projekte geassosieer word, word in die tabel hieronder weerspieël. Indien u ’n volledige kopie van hierdie aktiwiteite op die lys wil bekom, kontak asseblief die Omgewingsevalueringspraktisyn (WHP), besonderhede hieronder verskaf.

Projek Naam	Noterings kennisgewing	Toepaslike Gelyste Aktiwiteite								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk - Tot 837MW windenergie-fasiliteit (WEF), insluitend geassosieerde infrastruktuur insluitend BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk Tot 400kV kraglyn, EGI tot 400kV netwerkverbinding en MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
Algemene magtiging / watergebruik-lisensie (soos van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c) en 21 (i)								

REGISTRASIE: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die Proponent aangestel as die onafhanklike WHP om die S&OIV-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel as belanghebbendes wil registreer om hul kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projekte te lewer, word versoek om hul volledige kontakbesonderhede aan die WHP te stuur by die besonderhede hieronder verskaf. Toekomstige korrespondensie sal aan alle geregistreerde belanghebbendes gestuur word en geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal individueel in kennis gestel word van bykomende geleenthede om aan die proses deel te neem.

Die kontakbesonderhede van die WHP is: • Naam: Ashlea Strong **• Tel:** 031 240 8804 **• Faks:** 011 361 1381
• E-pos: ashlea.strong@wsp.com • Adres: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: *WSP sal sekere persoonlike inligting oor jou as ’n belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party (B&GP) verwerk vir doeleindes om jou registrasie as ’n B&GP moontlik te maak en om jou besonderhede op ons databasis te stoor, indien jy daartoe instem. WSP sal hierdie besonderhede gebruik om jou in die toekoms oor ander relevante projekte te kontak. WSP sal altyd jou persoonlike inligting verwerk in ooreenstemming met die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting 4 van 2013. Jy is geregtig om jou regte as ’n datasubjek uit te oefen en ons te laat weet of jy as ’n B & GP gederegistreer wil word of as jy nie langer wil hê dat u kontakbesonderhede op ons databasis ingesluit moet word.*

Appendix B.2

SITE NOTICE

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE RE-SUBMISSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION AND AVAILBAILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 326, as amended (07 April 2017) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of applications for Environmental Authorisations (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 327 as Amended (7 April 2017), and Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326, as amended (07 April 2017) for the re-submission of an application for EA

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF) (550MW), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project is located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the WEF. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

An application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, was submitted on 15 April 2024 to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) (Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545). During the course of the public participation process, undertaken for the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, various concerns and objections were raised by various registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with regards to the sensitivity of the biodiversity in the area, particularly the high avifaunal sensitivity. These comments included the request for additional studies. In light of the comments noted above, a decision was made to allow the previous application to lapse such that additional investigations could be undertaken.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is applying for the re-submission of application for EA for the proposed project in terms of Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326. The Approval of the Scoping Report was received on 17 July 2024 and is still valid.

All registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were informed of WSP's intent to re-submit the application for EA for the proposed project in terms of Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326 via email on 29 October 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The following listed activities are triggered, subject to confirmation from the DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 983 (as amended): Activity 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 984 (as amended): Activity 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 985 (as amended): Activity 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent EAP by the Proponent, to manage the S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in order to receive more information and/or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP and disclose their direct and/or indirect business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project should be submitted to the EAP via the details provided below. Registered I&APs will be forwarded all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT EIA REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft EIA Report has been made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **11 April 2025 to 16 May 2025.**

Area	Venue	Street Address	QR Code
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo	
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351	
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095	
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310	
WSP Web site	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree Web site	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details are:
Name: WSP Public Participation Office
Tel: +27 11 254 4800
E-mail: 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.*

.

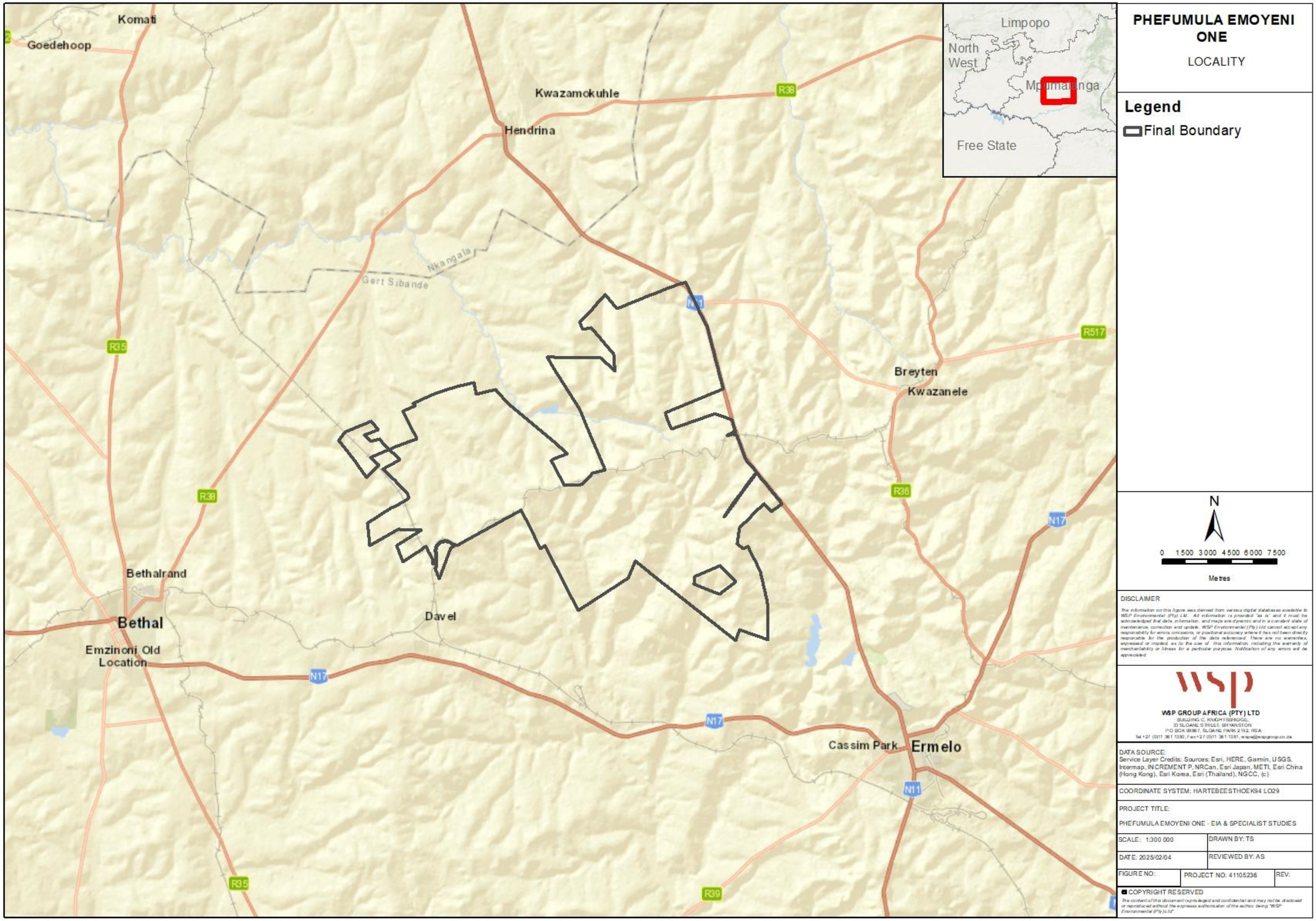


Figure 1: Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

AANKONDIGING VAN PROJEK VIR DIE HERINDIENING VAN DIE OMGEWINGSAANSOEK EN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEPVERSLAG VAN DIE OMGEWINGSIMPAK-EVALUERING VIR DIE VESTIGING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE- WINDENERGIEFASILITEIT NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Hiermee word kennins gegee kragtens regulasie 41(2) van GNR 326, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) gepubliseer volgens artikel 24 en 24D van die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) vir die indiening van aansoeke om Omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) vir aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 327, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) en regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) vir die herindiening van ’n aansoek vir EA

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd is ’n fasiliteit vir hernubare energie naby Ermelo en Bethal in Mpumalanga, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One-windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) (550 MW). Dit verg verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde projek is geleë in die Msukaligwa plaaslike munisipaliteit wat onder die Gert Sibande-distrikmunisipaliteit in Mpumalanga val. Die WEF sal ook ’n battery-energiebergingstelsel (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om energie wat opgewek word deur die WEF, te berg. Die BESS sal ’n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200 MW/800 MWh hê en voorsiening maak vir ongeveer 6 tot 8 uur van berging.

’n Aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) kragtens die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur, Wet 107 van 1998 (NEMA) en verwante regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig, vir evaluering van die invloed op die omgewing (EIA) is op 15 April 2024 by die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DFFE) (verwysing: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25) ingedien. Tydens die verloop van die openbare deelnemingsproses wat onderneem is vir die konsepverslag oor die evaluering van die invloed op die omgewing ((EIA) is verskeie besware en kommer wat verband hou met die sensitiwiteit van die biodiversiteit in die omgewing genoem deur verskillende belanghebbende partye, en partye wat geraak word (I&APs). Die kommentaar het ’n versoek vir addisionele navorsing ingesluit. Op grond van die kommentaar wat hierbo genoem word, is besluit om die vorige aansoek te laat verval om voorsiening te maak vir verdere ondersoeke.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) doen aansoek om die herindiening van die aansoek om EA vir die voorgestelde projek kragtens regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326. Die goedkeuring van die omvangsverslag is ontvang op 17 Julie 2024 en is steeds geldig.

Alle geregistreerde belanghebbende partye en partye wat geraak word (I&APs) is per e-pos op 29 Oktober 2024 ingelig oor WSP se plan om die aansoek vir EA weer in te dien vir die doel van die voorgestelde projek kragtens regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326.

OMGEWINGSAANSOEKE

Die volgende aktiwiteite in die lys word geaktiveer, onderhewig aan bevestiging van DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Regulasies: GNR 983 (soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Regulasies: GNR 984 (soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulasies: GNR 985 (soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

REGISTRASIE

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die aansoeker aangestel as die onafhanklike omgewings- evalueringspraktisyn (EAP) om die S&EIR-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbende partye en partye wat geraak word om meer inligting te bekom en/of kommentaar te lewer oor die voorgestelde projek, word versoek om volledige skakelbesonderhede (telefoonnommers en adresse) aan die EAP te stuur en bloot te lê wat hulle direkte en/of indirekte besigheids-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belange in die projek is. Enige kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek kan by die EAP ingedien word by die adresse wat hieronder aangedui word. Partye wat registreer as belanghebbendes of partye wat geraak word sal in die toekoms alle projekverwante korrespondensie ontvang en individueel ingelig word van enige addisionele geleenthede om deel te neem aan die proses.

INSAE-TYDPERK VIR DIE KONSEPWYSIGINGSVERSLAG

Die konsepverslag vir die EIA sal vir 30 dae, van **11 April 2025 tot 16 May 2025** deur WSP op versoek en/of by die persele wat hieronder genoem beskikbaar gestel word vir insae en kommentaar**.**

Gebied	Plek	Straatadres	QR Code
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo	
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351	
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095	
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310	
WSP se webblad	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree webblad	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details are:
Naam: WSP kantoor vir openbare deelname
Tel: +27 11 254 4800
E-pos: 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 mag word sal WSP gebruik maak van 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..*

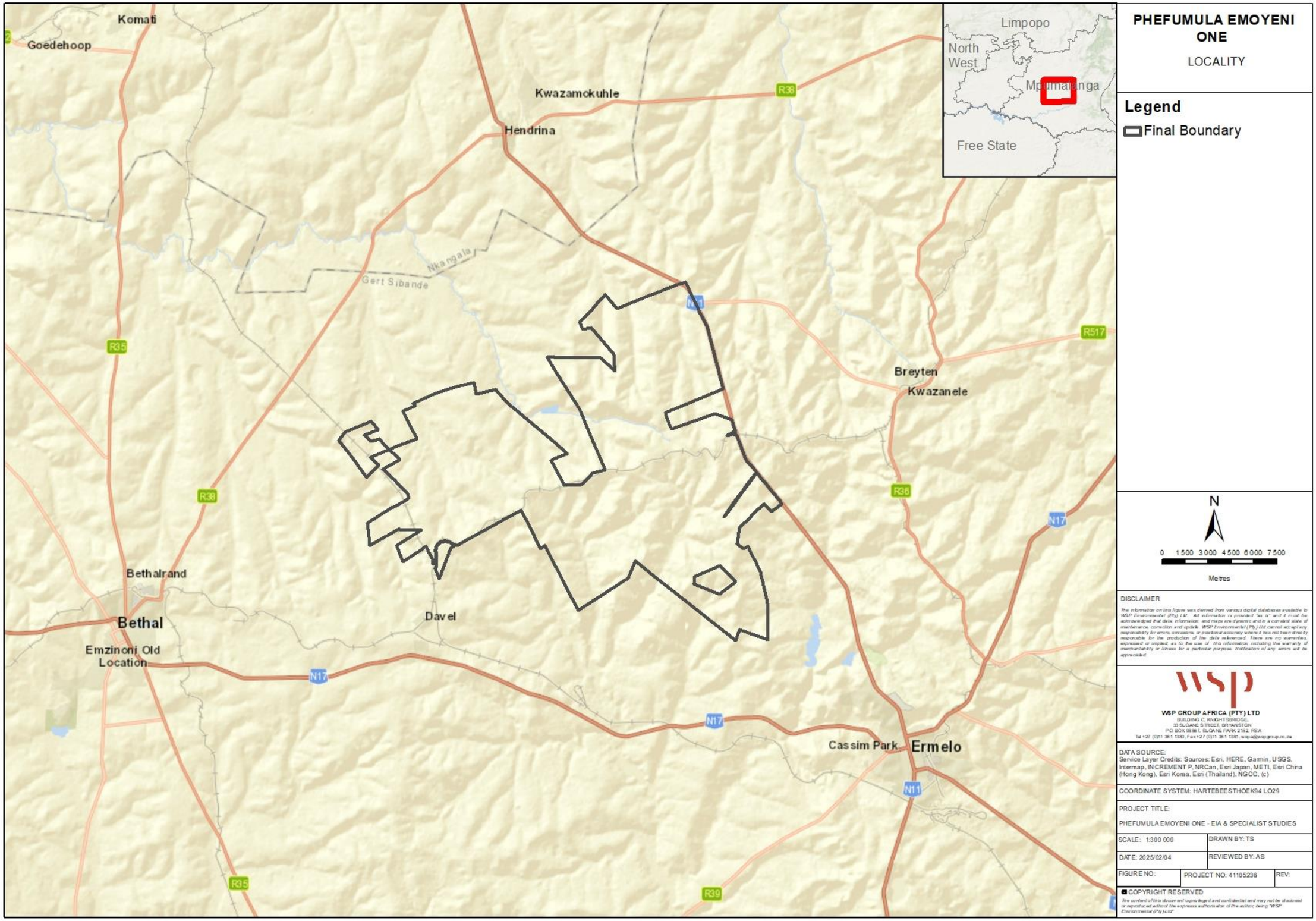


Figure 1: Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

ISIMEMEZELO NGESICELO ESISHA NGOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO KANYE NOKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO OMAYELANA NOKUQALWA KOMSEBENZI OHLONGOZWAYO WESIKHUNGO SOKUPHEHLA UGESI NGOMOYA IPHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY EDUZE KWASE ERMELO, ESIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA

Lesi yisaziso esinikwa ngokulandela uMthethonqubo 41(2) wesaziso sikahulumeni kafushane iGNR ka 236 njengoba uchibiyelwe (07 KuMbasa 2017) oshicelelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 kanye no 24D woMthetho Wokulawulwa Kwezemvelo (uMthetho 107 ka 1998) (NEMA) wokufaka Isicelo Sokuthola Imvume Yezemvelo (EA) mayelana nomsebenzi obalulwe ngaphansi kweGNR 327 ngokuchibiyelwa (7 KuMbasa 2017) noMthethonqubo 21(2) we GNR 326 njengoba uchibiyelwe (07 KuMbasa 2017) wokufakwa kabusha kwesicelo somthelela kwezemvelo.

INCAZELO NENDAWO YOMSEBENZI

Inkampani i Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukuqala isikhungo sokuphehla ugesi wemvelo endaweni eseduze kwase Ermelo naseBethal eMpumalanga, esaziwa nge Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy (WEF) (550MW). Lesikhungo sidinga izicelo ezahlukene ngezemvelo. Lomsebenzi ohlongozwayo ungaphansi kukaMasipala Wendawo uMsukaligwa ngaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda iGert Sibande kuSifundazwe saseMpumalanga. Lesikhungo Esiphehla Ugesi Ngomoya (WEF) sizofaka nendawo yokugcina ugesi kumamabhetri (BESS). IBESS izosetshenziswa ukugcina ugesi ongasebenzanga okhiqizwa yilesikhungo. IBESS izoba nesilinganiso sikagesi esingamamegawathi angu 200 kuya kumamegawathi angu 800 (200MW-800MWh Lendawo izogcina ugesi isikhathi esingamahora ayisithupha kuya kwayisishiyagalombili.

Isicelo Semvume Yezemvelo (EA) ngaphansi koMthetho Wokulawulwa Kwezemvelo, uMthetho 107 ka 1998 (NEMA) kanye neMithethonqubo Yokuthinteka Kwezemvelo (EIA) ka 2014 ngokuchibeyelwa, safakwa ngomhlaka 1 ku Ndasa 2014 kuMnyango Wezamahlathi, Ukudoba Nezemvelo (DFFE) Inkomba: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25. Ngesikhathi kucelwa imibono emphakathini ethintekayo, okwenziwa ukuhlanganisa Umbiko Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo (EIA), kwavela ukukhathazeka kanye nokuphikisa okwavezwa yimiphakathi ethintekayo (I&AP). Le mibono eyavela emphakathini yabandakanya ukuthi kwenziwe isicelo solunye uphenyo. Lokuphawula kwabandakanya isicelo sokuba kwenziwe olunye uphenyo. Ngenxa yokuphawula okubalwe ngenhla kuthathwe isinqumo sokuthi isicelo esesenziwa siyekwe siphelelwe isikhathi ukuze kwenziwe ucwaningo olusha.

Inkampani IWSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd ifaka isicelo kabusha Somthelela Kwezemvelo (EA) mayelana nesikhungo esihlongozwayo ngaphansi koMthethonqubo 21(2) weGNR 326. Imvume Yokuhlola Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo yatholakala ngomhlaka 17 kuNtulikazi 2024. Lemvume isesemthethweni.

Bonke abantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo (I&AP) bazisiwe ngenhloso ye WSP yokufaka isicelo kabusha ngokulandela uMthethonqubo 21(2) weQNR 326 kusetshenziswa I imeyili ngomhlaka 29 kuMfumfu 2024.

IZICELO NGOKWEZEMVELO

Lemisebenzi ebalwe ngezansi iyathinteka, emva kwesiqinisekiso esivela kuMnyango I DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 983 (ochibiyelwe): Activity 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 984 (ochibiyelwe): Activity 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 985 (ochibiyelwe): Activity 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

UKUBHALISWA

Inkampani WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe nguMsekeli njengoMhloli Womthelela Kwezemvelo Ozimele (EAP) ukuphatha umsebenzi wokuhlola umthelela kwezemvelo (S&EIR). Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengabathintekayo ukuze baveze izimvo zabo ngaloMsebenzi Ohlongozwayo bayacelwa ukuba bathumele imininingwane yabo egcwele kuEAP basebenzise imininingwane engezansi. Abathinthekayo ababhalisiwe bayothunyelwa zonke izaziso ngokuzayo, futhi bayokwaziswa ngamunye uma kunamathuba ayovela okuba yingxenye yokuhlola ngomthelela kwezemvelo. .

UKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO NESIKHATHI

Umbiko Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo uyotholakala ngokucelwa kwaWSP futhi uyatholakala ezindaweni ezibhalwe ngezansi izinsuku ezingu 30 ukuze abantu bawufunde futhi baphawule ngawo ukusuka ngomhlaka **11 kuMbasa 2025 kuya ku 16 kuNhlaba 2025.**

Indawo	Umbiko uthokakala lapha	Ikheli lomgwaq	QR Code
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo	
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351	
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095	
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310	
WSP Web site	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree Web site	https://wsp-engage.com/		

Imininingwane yokuxhumana ye-WSP yile:
Igama: WSP Public Participation Office
Ucingo: +27 11 254 4800
i- Imeyili: pp@wsp.com

Ukuvikeleka Kwemininingwane Ngabantu: IWSP iyophatha imininingwane ngani njengabantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo njengesizathu sokubhaliswa kwenu njengabathintekayo nokuthi siyogcina imininingwane yenu emabhukwini ethu lokhu sikwenza ngemvume yenu. IWSP iyosebenzisa lemininingwane ukunithinta mayelana neminye imisebenzi efanayo ehlongozwayo esikhathini esizayo. IWSP iyoqikelela ukuthi isebenzisa imininingwane yenu ngokulandela uMthetho Wokuvikelwa Kwemininingane Ngabantu, uMthetho 4 ka 2013. Ninelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo enu njengabantu abangabanini bemininingwane futhi ningasazisa uma nithanda ukuthi imininingwane yenu siyicishe kubantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo futhi ningasathandi ukuthi imininingwane yenu sibe nayo emabhukwini ethu.

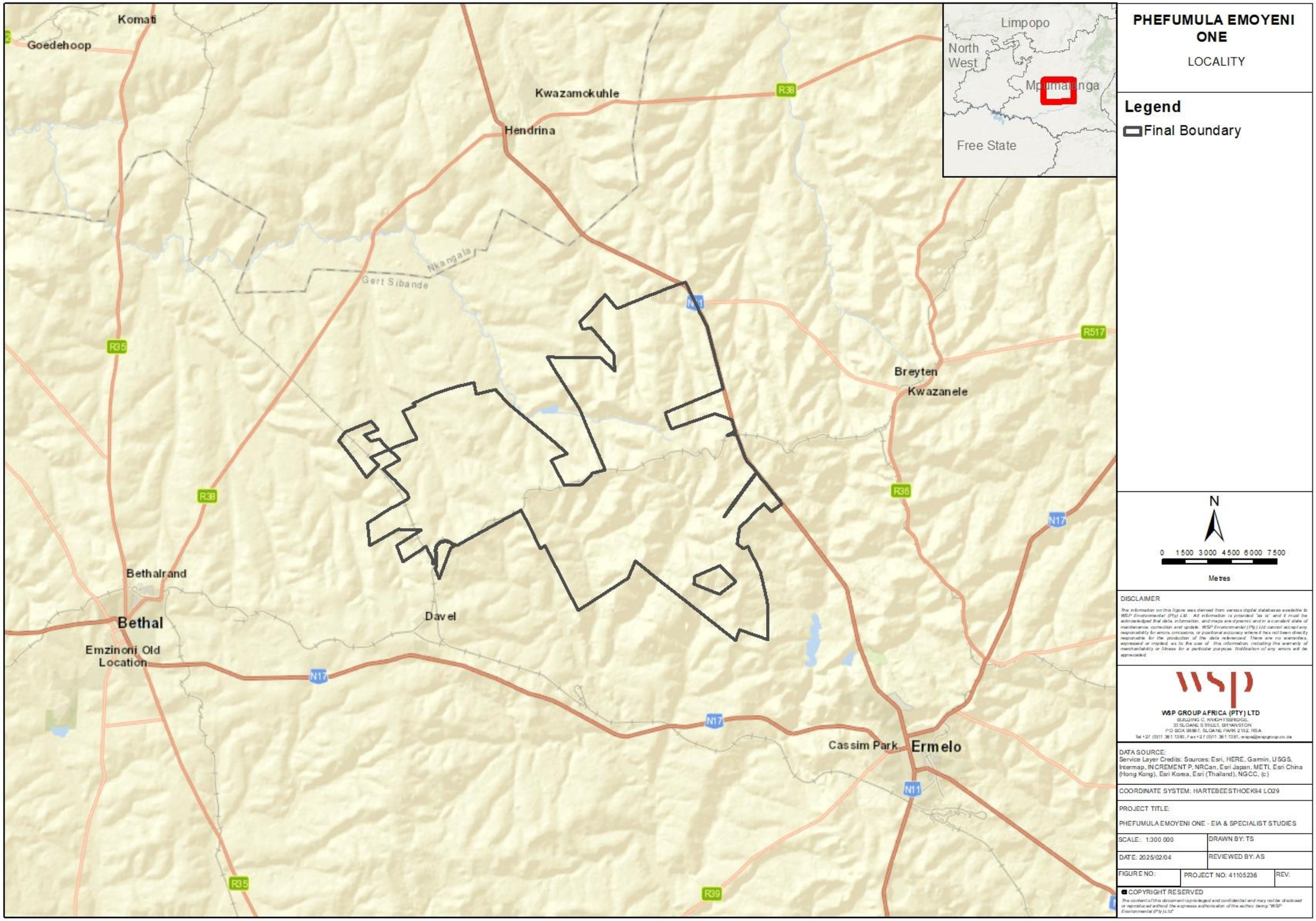


Figure 1: Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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)**
- **Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project consists of the following subprojects:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (up to 837MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection (LILO) and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the wind facility. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process	Affected Farm Portions	
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	Up to 837MW WEF, including associated infrastructure including BESS	Wind and BESS	S&EIR	• Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO.235 IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS	• Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)	Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS	Transmission Line and Substation	S&EIR		

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The proposed projects trigger several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) 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) and/or Basic Assessment (BA) 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								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd- Up to 837MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), including associated infrastructure including BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27					
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
General Authorisation / Water Use Licence (as applicable)	Section 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by Mulilo, to manage the 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.

The contact details of the EAP are:

Name: Ashlea Strong **Tel:** 031 240 8804 **Fax:**011 361 1381 **E-mail:** ashlea.strong@wsp.com **Address:** Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent

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.*

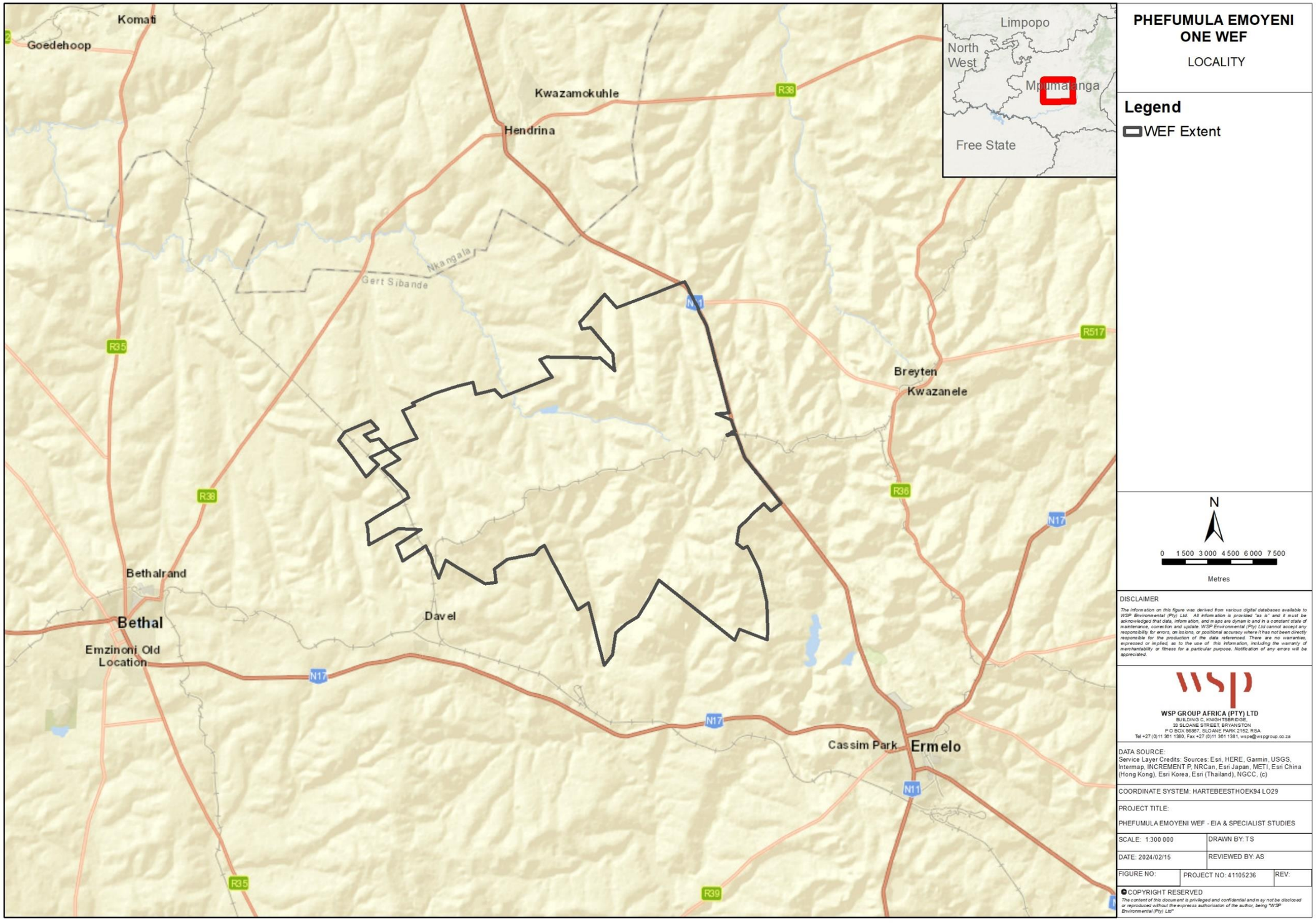


Figure 1: Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

OMGEWINGS MAGTIGINGS PROSESSE

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WINDENERGIE FASILITEIT, WAT BESTAAN UIT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSMAGTIGINGSPROSESSE, NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE

Kennis word gegee in terme van:

- **Regulasie 41(2) van GNR 982 (soos gewysig) gepubliseer ingevolge artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indiening van verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsmagtigings (EA's) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite geïdentifiseer ingevolge GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)**
- **Artikel 39 of 41(4) van die Nasionale Waterwet (36 van 1998) (NWA), vir die indiening van 'n Algemene Magtiging vir Watergebruik of Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) Aansoek (soos van toepassing)**

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk. stel voor om 'n hernubare-energie-fasiliteit naby Ermelo en Bethal, Mpumalanga Provinsie, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One Windenergie Fasiliteit (WEF) te vestig, wat verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsmagtiging vereis. Die voorgestelde projek bestaan uit die volgende subprojekte:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (tot 837MW), geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) tot 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substasie (MTS) geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie.

Die WEF sal ook 'n Battery Energie Stoor Sisteem (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om oortollige energie wat deur die WEF gegenereer word, te berg. Die BESS sal 'n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200MW/800MWh hê. Dit sal 6-8 uur se berging toelaat.

Voorstander	Projek	Tegnologie	Proses	Geaffekteerde plaasgedeeltes
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk	Tot 837MW WEF, insluitend geassosieerde infrastruktuur insluitend BESS	Wind en BESS	S&OIV	• Gedeelte 0 van Plaas ISRAEL 207 IS • Gedeelte 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 van Plaas BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Gedeelte 6 van Plaas VAALBANK 233 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 van Plaas KUILFONTEIN Nr 234 IS • Gedeelte 3 van Plaas BOSMANSHOEK NO.235 IS • Gedeelte 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 van WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 van Plaas NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2 van Plaas ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2 van Plaas GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Gedeelte 1 van die Plaas EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Gedeelte 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 van die Plaas MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 van Plaas KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Gedeelte 2, 8, 9 van Pplaas TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Gedeelte 0 van plaas VOORZORG 250 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 van Plaas NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Gedeelte 1, 2 van Plaas SPION KOP 252 IS • Gedeelte 0, 2, 7 van Plaas DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Gedeelte 4, 15 van Plaas UITZICHT 266 IS • Gedeelte 0 van Plaas KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Resterende Gedeelte van Gedeelte 7 van die Plaas DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Gedeelte 0 van die Plaas ELIM 247 IS • Gedeelte 4 van die Plaas TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk	Tot 400kV Powerline, EGI tot 400kV Netverbinding en MTS	Transmissielyn en substasie	S&OIV	

OMGEWINGSTOEPASSINGS

Die voorgestelde projekte sal lei tot 'n verskeidenheid van gelyste aktiwiteite, vervat in die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIE) Regulasies Lyskennisgewing 1 (GNR 983), Noteringskennisgewing 2 (GNR 984) en Noteringskennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig, magtiging om die gelyste aktiwiteite te onderneem, moet verkry word deur middel van onderskeie Bestekopname en Omgewingsimpakverslagdoening (S&OIV) prosesse. Die verwagte gelyste aktiwiteitsgetalle wat met die voorgestelde projekte geassosieer word, word in die tabel hieronder weerspieël. Indien u 'n volledige kopie van hierdie aktiwiteite op die lys wil bekom, kontak asseblief die Omgewingsevalueringspraktisyn (WHP), besonderhede hieronder verskaf.

Projek Naam	Noterings kennisgewing	Toepaslike Gelyste Aktiwiteite								
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk- Tot 837MW windenergiefasiliteit (WEF), insluitend geassosieerde infrastruktuur insluitend BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk Tot 400kV kraglyn, EGI tot 400kV netwerkverbinding en MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
Algemene magtiging / watergebruiklisensie (soos van toepassing)	Artikel 21	21 (a), 21 (c) en 21 (i)								

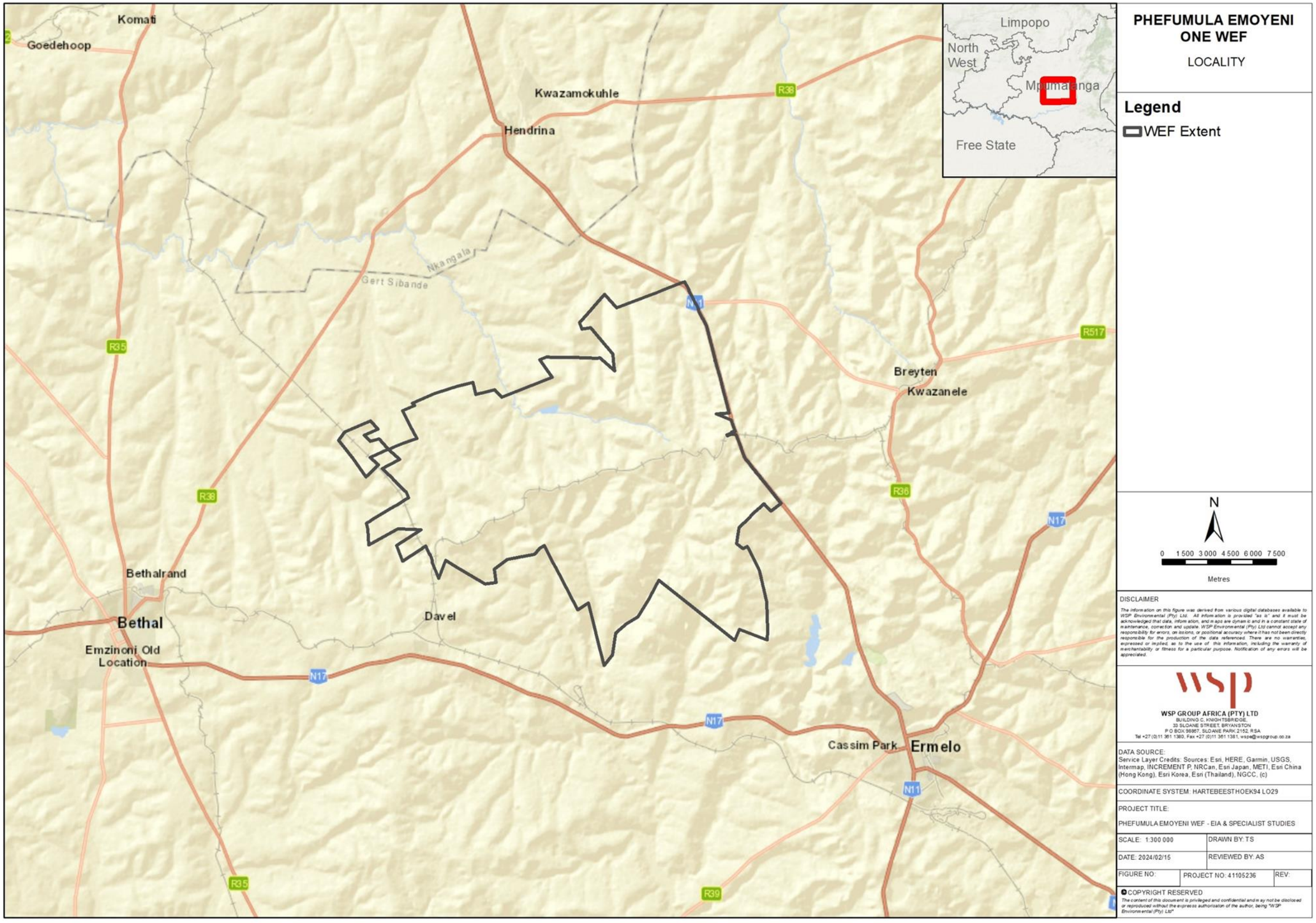
REGISTRASIE

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die Proponent aangestel as die onafhanklike WHP om die S&OIV-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel as belanghebbendes wil registreer om hul kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projekte te lewer, word versoek om hul volledige kontakbesonderhede aan die WHP te stuur by die besonderhede hieronder verskaf. Toekomstige korrespondensie sal aan alle geregistreerde belanghebbendes gestuur word en geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal individueel in kennis gestel word van bykomende geleenthede om aan die proses deel te neem.

Die kontakbesonderhede van die WHP is:

Naam: Ashlea Strong **Tel:** 031 240 8804 **Faks:**011 361 1381 **E-pos:** ashlea.strong@wsp.com **Adres:** Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP sal sekere persoonlike inligting oor jou as 'n belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party (B&GP) verwerk vir doeleindes om jou registrasie as 'n B&GP moontlik te maak en om jou besonderhede op ons databasis te stoor, indien jy daartoe instem. WSP sal hierdie besonderhede gebruik om jou in die toekoms oor ander relevante projekte te kontak. WSP sal altyd jou persoonlike inligting verwerk in ooreenstemming met die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting 4 van 2013. Jy is geregtig om jou regte as 'n datasubjek uit te oefen en ons te laat weet of jy as 'n B & GP gederegistreer wil word of as jy nie langer wil hê dat u kontakbesonderhede op ons databasis ingesluit moet word.



Figuur 1: Voorgestelde Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

IZINQUBO ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWEZEMVELO

ISAZISO NGENTUTHUKO EHLONGOZWAYO YE-PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITION, EHLANGANISA IZINQUBO EZAHLUKENE ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWENDAWO, ESEDUZE NENDAWO YASE ERMELO, ISIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA.

Isaziso sinikezwa ngokwemibandela ye:

- **Umthetho-sisekelo 41(2) we-GNR 982 (njengoba ushintshiwe) oshicilelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 no-24D soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) (njengoba ushintshiwe) ukuze kuthunyelwe izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwezemvelo (EAs) mayelana nemisebenzi ehlonzwe ngokwe-GNR 983, GNR 984 kanye ne-GNR 985 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe)**
- **Isigaba sama-39 noma sama-41(4) soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke (36 ka-1998) (NWA), ukuze kuthunyelwe ukuGunyazwa Okujwayelekile noma Isicelo Selayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (WUL) (njengoba ushintshiwe)**

INCAZELO KANYE NENDAWO

I-Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukusungula indawo yamandla avuselelekayo eduze kwase-Ermelo nase-Bethal, kanyeneMpumalanga, eyaziwa ngokuthi i-Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), edinga izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo iqukethe ama-subprojects alandelayo:

- Phefumula Emoyeni IWEF eyodwa (efinyelela ku-837MW), etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda i-Gert Sibande, esifundazweni saseMpumalanga.
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda sase-Gert Sibande, esiFundazweni saseMpumalanga.

I-WEF izophinde ihlanganise ne-Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). I-BESS izosetshenziselwa ukugcina amandla engeziwe akhiqizwa yi-WEF. I-BESS izoba namandla okugcina afinyelela ku-200MW/800MWh. Evumela kuze kufike kumahora angu-6-8 wokulondoloza

Umsekeli	Iphrojekthi	Ubuchwepheshe	Inqubo	Izingxenye Zepulazi Ezithintekile	
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	Kufika ku-837MW WEF, zihlanganisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne-BESS	Umoya kanye ne-BESS	S&EIR	• Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO.235 IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS • Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS • Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS	• Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS • Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS • Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS • Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS • Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)	Kufika ku-400kV Powerline, EGI kufike ku-400kV Grid Connection kanye ne-MTS	Ulayini Wokudlulisa kanye Nesiteshi Esingaphansi	S&EIR		

IZICELO ZEMVELO

Amaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo azoqala imisebenzi eminingana esohlwini equkethwe ku-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) kanye ne-Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), njengoba ushintshiwe, ngakho-ke, ukugunyazwa kokwenza lesi saziso. imisebenzi esohlwini kufanele ifunwe ngezinqubo ezifanele ze-Scoping kanye ne-Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR). izinombolo zomsebenzi ezifakwe ohlwini ezilindelekile ezihambisana namaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo zibonakala kuthebula elingezansi. Uma ufisa ukuthola ikhophi ephelele yale misebenzi esohlwini, sicela uthinte Umsebenzi Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP), imininingwane enikezwe ngezansi.

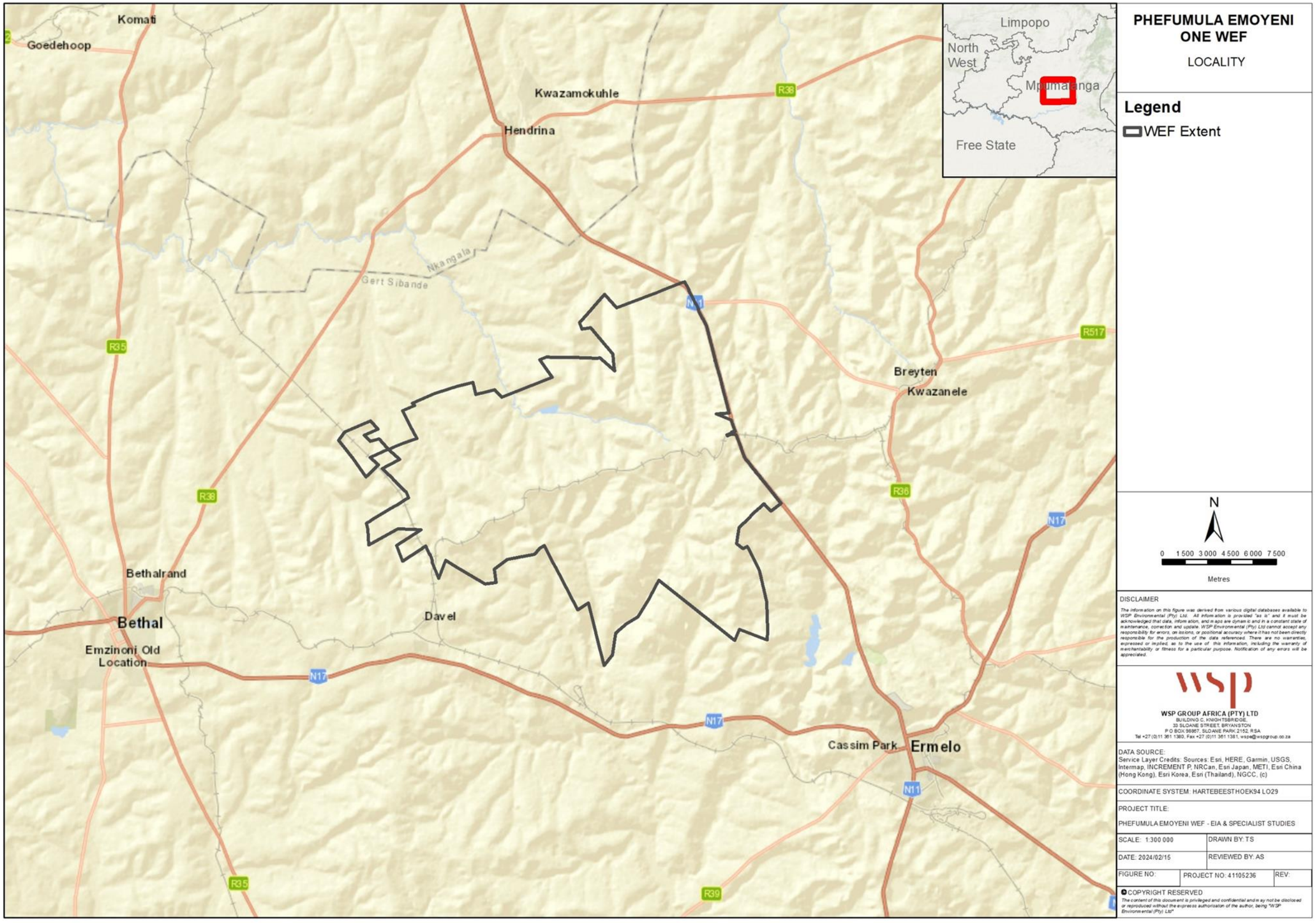
Igama lephrojekthi	Isaziso Sohlu	Izibangeli ezisebenzayo							
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd- Kufika ku-837MW WEF, zihlanganisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne-BESS	**GNR 983**	11	12	14	19	24	28	30	48	56
	GNR 984	1	9		15					
	GNR 985	4	10		12	14	18	23		
Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Kufika ku-400kV Powerline, EGI kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection kanye ne-MTS	**GNR 983**	12	19		27	28				
	GNR 984	9	15							
	GNR 985	4	12		14					
Ukugunyazwa Okujwayelekile / Ilayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (njengoba kusebenza)	Isigaba 21	21 (a), 21 (c) and 21 (i)								

UKUBHALISA

I-WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe njenge-EAP ezimele nguMsekeli, ukuphatha izinqubo ze-S&EIR. Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengababambe iqhaza ukuze abeke imibono yawo ngamaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo ayacelwa ukuba athumele imininingwane yawo egcwele ku-EAP kule mininingwane enikezwe ngezansi. Ababambiqhaza ababhalisiwe bazothunyelwa zonke izincwadi zesikhathi esizayo futhi baziswe ngabanye ngamathuba engeziwe okubamba iqhaza kulolu hlelo.

Imininingwane yokuxhumana ye-EAP yile:
Igama: Ashlea Strong **Ucingo:** 031 240 8804 **Ifeksi:** 011 361 1381 **I-imeyili:** ashlea.strong@wsp.com **Ikheli:** Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crecent

Ukuvikelwa Kolwazi Lomuntu Siqu: *I-WSP izocubungula ulwazi oluthile lomuntu siqu olumayelana nawe njengomuntu onentshisekelo noma othintekayo (I&AP) ngezinjongo zokwenza ukubhalisa kwakho njenge-I&AP nokugcina imininingwane yakho kusizindalwazi sethu, uma uvuma ukuba senze kanjalo. I-WSP izosebenzisa le mininingwane ukuze ixhumane nawe mayelana namanye amaphrojekthi abalulekile esikhathini esizayo. I-WSP izohlala icubungula ulwazi lwakho lomuntu siqu ngokuhambisana noMthetho Wokuvikela Ulwazi Lomuntu Siqu 4 ka-2013. Unelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo akho njengesihloko sedatha futhi usazise uma ufisa ukukhishwa ukubhaliswa njenge-I & AP noma uma cha. usefuna imininingwane yakho yokuxhumana ifakwe kusizindalwazi sethu.*



Umfanekiso 1: Okuhlongozwayo kwePhefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

Appendix B.3

E-MAIL NOTIFICATION

Mamashela, Tshepho

From: Strong, Ashlea
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 15:20
To: Mmamohale Kabasa; EIAadmin; EIA Applications
Cc: Salome Mambane; Mamashela, Tshepho; Burger, Marlien; Brimble, Ben; Coenrad Agenbach; Weldon, Debbie
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545 - Phefumula Emoyeni WEF - Notification of Application Lapse
Attachments: 20241028_Phefumula Emoyeni One_WEF_Notification of Application Lapse_ 14.12.16.3.3.2.2545_Final.pdf

Importance: High

Good Afternoon

I trust that you are well.

In light of the meeting held on 18 October 2024, and relevant comments received to date, attached please find a letter pertaining to the decision to not submit the Final EIA Report by 01 November, but to rather allow the above-mentioned application to lapse such that additional investigations can be undertaken. The application will be resubmitted in terms of Regulation 21(2).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries in this regard.

Kind regards

Ashlea Strong
Principal Associate

T +27 11 361-1392
M +27 82 786-7819

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

wsp.com

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Nadar, Thirushan

From: Nadar, Thirushan
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2024 11:41
To: Nadar, Thirushan
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Weldon, Debbie; Makoya, Mukondeleli; Ferguson, Theresa
Subject: AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Dear Commenting authority,

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) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The Proponent, Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd, proposes to develop the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility. The project is located within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd is required to follow a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process to acquire the necessary authorisation prior to the commencement of the proposed project. WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIA process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD
The Draft scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility will be made available at the venues below for review and comment from **12 April 2024** to **14 May 2024**.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	Report and Appendices
One Drive Instruction	• Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

WSP contact details are:

Name: Thirushan Nadar
Tel: 011 300-6185
Fax: 011 361 1301
E-mail: Thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Address: P.O. Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685

We look forward to your participation is this process.

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant

T +27 11 300-6185

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Nadar, Thirushan

From: Nadar, Thirushan
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2024 11:40
To: Nadar, Thirushan
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Weldon, Debbie; Makoya, Mukondeleli; Ferguson, Theresa
Subject: AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
Attachments: 41105236_Phefumula_WEF_DSR_landowner_Notification Letter_Afrikaans.pdf; 41105236_Phefumula_WEF_DSR_landowner_Notification Letter_English.pdf; 41105236_Phefumula_WEF_DSR_landowner_Notification Letter_zulu.pdf

Dear Landowner,

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) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The Proponent, Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd, proposes to develop the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility. The project is located within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd is required to follow a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process to acquire the necessary authorisation prior to the commencement of the proposed project. WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIA process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD
The Draft scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility will be made available at the venues below for review and comment from **12 April 2024** to **14 May 2024**.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
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One Drive Link	Report and Appendices
One Drive Instruction	• Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address

	– if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

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 are:

Name: Thirushan Nadar
Tel: 011 300-6185
Fax: 011 361 1301
E-mail: Thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Address: P.O. Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685

We look forward to your participation is this process.

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant

T +27 11 300-6185

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1685 South Africa

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Nadar, Thirushan

From: Nadar, Thirushan
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2024 11:41
To: Nadar, Thirushan
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Weldon, Debbie; Makoya, Mukondeleli; Ferguson, Theresa
Subject: AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Dear Stakeholder,

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) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The Proponent, Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd, proposes to develop the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility. The project is located within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd is required to follow a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process to acquire the necessary authorisation prior to the commencement of the proposed project. WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIA process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD
The Draft scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility will be made available at the venues below for review and comment from **12 April 2024** to **14 May 2024**.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library;	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095
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WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
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The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

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WSP contact details are:

Name: Thirushan Nadar
Tel: 011 300-6185
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We look forward to your participation is this process.

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Appendix B.4

NOTIFICATION LETTER

Our Ref: 41105236

10 April 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE RE-SUBMISSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION AND AVAILBAILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 326, as amended (07 April 2017) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of applications for Environmental Authorisations (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 327 as Amended (7 April 2017), and Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326, as amended (07 April 2017) for the re-submission of an application for EA

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF) (550MW), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project is located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the WEF. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

An application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, was submitted on 15 April 2024 to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) (Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545). During the course of the public participation process, undertaken for the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, various concerns and objections were raised by various registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with regards to the sensitivity of the biodiversity in the area, particularly the high avifaunal sensitivity. These comments included the request for additional studies. In light of the comments noted above, a decision was made to allow the previous application to lapse such that additional investigations could be undertaken.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is applying for the re-submission of application for EA for the proposed project in terms of Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326. The Approval of the Scoping Report was received on 17 July 2024 and is still valid.

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Tel: +27 11 361 1300
wsp.com

All registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were informed of WSP's intent to re-submit the application for EA for the proposed project in terms of Regulation 21(2) of GNR 326 via email on 29 October 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The following listed activities are triggered, subject to confirmation from the DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 983 (as amended): Activity 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 984 (as amended): Activity 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 985 (as amended): Activity 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent EAP by the Proponent, to manage the S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in order to receive more information and/ or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP and disclose their direct and/or indirect business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project should be submitted to the EAP via the details provided below. Registered I&APs will be forwarded all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT EIA REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft EIA Report has been made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues and QR code below for review and comment for 30 days from **11 April 2025 to 16 May 2025**:

Area	Venue	Street Address	QR Code
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo	
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351	
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095	
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310	
WSP Web site	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree Web site	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details are:

Name: WSP Public Participation Office

Tel: +27 11 254 4800

E-mail: pp@wsp.com

Yours sincerely

Public Participation Office

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: 41105236

10 April 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

AANKONDIGING VAN PROJEK VIR DIE HERINDIENING VAN DIE OMGEWINGSAANSOEK EN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEPVERSLAG VAN DIE OMGEWINGSIMPAK-EVALUERING VIR DIE VESTIGING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE- WINDENERGIEFASILITEIT NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA

Hiermee word kennins gegee kragtens regulasie 41(2) van GNR 326, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) gepubliseer volgens artikel 24 en 24D van die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) vir die indiening van aansoeke om Omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) vir aktiwiteite wat geïdentifiseer is kragtens GNR 327, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) en regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326, soos gewysig (7 April 2017) vir die herindiening van 'n aansoek vir EA

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd is 'n fasiliteit vir hernubare energie naby Ermelo en Bethal in Mpumalanga, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One-windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) (550 MW). Dit verg verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die voorgestelde projek is geleë in die Msukaligwa plaaslike munisipaliteit wat onder die Gert Sibande-distrikmunisipaliteit in Mpumalanga val. Die WEF sal ook 'n battery-energiebergingstelsel (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om energie wat opgewek word deur die WEF, te berg. Die BESS sal 'n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200 MW/800 MWh hê en voorsiening maak vir ongeveer 6 tot 8 uur van berging.

'n Aansoek om omgewingsgoedkeuring (EA) kragtens die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur, Wet 107 van 1998 (NEMA) en verwante regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig, vir evaluering van die invloed op die omgewing (EIA) is op 15 April 2024 by die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DFFE) (verwysing: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25) ingedien. Tydens die verloop van die openbare deelnemingsproses wat onderneem is vir die konsepverslag oor die evaluering van die invloed op die omgewing ((EIA) is verskeie besware en kommer wat verband hou met die sensitiwiteit van die biodiversiteit in die omgewing genoem deur verskillende belanghebbende partye, en partye wat geraak word (I&APs). Die kommentaar het 'n versoek vir addisionele navorsing ingesluit. Op grond van die kommentaar wat hierbo genoem word, is besluit om die vorige aansoek te laat verval om voorsiening te maak vir verdere ondersoeke.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) doen aansoek om die herindiening van die aansoek om EA vir die voorgestelde projek kragtens regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326. Die goedkeuring van die omvangsverslag is ontvang op 17 Julie 2024 en is steeds geldig.

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Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
South Africa
Tel: +27 11 361 1300
wsp.com

Alle geregistreerde belanghebbende partye en partye wat geraak word (I&APs) is per e-pos op 29 Oktober 2024 ingelig oor WSP se plan om die aansoek vir EA weer in te dien vir die doel van die voorgestelde projek kragtens regulasie 21(2) van GNR 326.

OMGEWINGSAANSOEKE

Die volgende aktiwiteite in die lys word geaktiveer, onderhewig aan bevestiging van DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Regulasies: GNR 983 (soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Regulasies: GNR 984 (soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulasies: GNR 985 (soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

REGISTRASIE

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die aansoeker aangestel as die onafhanklike omgewings- evalueringspraktisyn (EAP) om die S&EIR-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel wil registreer as belanghebbende partye en partye wat geraak word om meer inligting te bekom en/of kommentaar te lewer oor die voorgestelde projek, word versoek om volledige skakelbesonderhede (telefoonnommers en adresse) aan die EAP te stuur en bloot te lê wat hulle direkte en/of indirekte besigheids-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belange in die projek is. Enige kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek kan by die EAP ingedien word by die adresse wat hieronder aangedui word. Partye wat registreer as belanghebbendes of partye wat geraak word sal in die toekoms alle projekverwante korrespondensie ontvang en individueel ingelig word van enige addisionele geleenthede om deel te neem aan die proses.

INSAE-TYDPERK VIR DIE KONSEPWYSIGINGSVERSLAG

Die konsepverslag vir die EIA sal vir 30 dae, van **11 April 2025 tot 16 May 2025** deur WSP op versoek en/of by die persele wat hieronder genoem beskikbaar gestel word vir insae en kommentaar:

Gebied	Plek	Straatadres	QR Code
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo	
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351	
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095	
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310	
WSP se webblad	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree webblad	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details are:

Naam: WSP kantoor vir openbare deelname

Tel: +27 11 254 4800

E-pos: pp@wsp.com

Die uwe

Public Participation Office

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 mag word sal WSP gebruik maak van 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: 41105236

10 April 2025

Mbambiqhaza Othandekayo

ISIMEMEZELO NGESICELO ESISHA NGOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO KANYE NOKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO OMAYELANA NOKUQALWA KOMSEBENZI OHLONGOZWAYO WESIKHUNGO SOKUPHEHLA UGESI NGOMOYA IPHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY EDUZE KWASE ERMELO, ESIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA

Lesi yisaziso esinikwa ngokulandela uMthethonqubo 41(2) wesaziso sikahulumeni kafushane iGNR ka 236 njengoba uchibiyelwe (07 KuMbasa 2017) oshicelelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 kanye no 24D woMthetho Wokulawulwa Kwezemvelo (uMthetho 107 ka 1998) (NEMA) wokufaka Isicelo Sokuthola Imvume Yezemvelo (EA) mayelana nomsebenzi obalulwe ngaphansi kweGNR 327 ngokuchibiyelwa (7 KuMbasa 2017) noMthethonqubo 21(2) we GNR 326 njengoba uchibiyelwe (07 KuMbasa 2017) wokufakwa kabusha kwesicelo somthelela kwezemvelo.

INCAZELO NENDAWO YOMSEBENZI

Inkampani i Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukuqala isikhungo sokuphehla ugesi wemvelo endaweni eseduze kwase Ermelo naseBethal eMpumalanga, esaziwa nge Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy (WEF) (550MW). Lesikhungo sidinga izicelo ezahlukene ngezemvelo. Lomsebenzi ohlongozwayo ungaphansi kukaMasipala Wendawo uMsukaligwa ngaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda iGert Sibande kuSifundazwe saseMpumalanga. Lesikhungo Esiphehla Ugesi Ngomoya (WEF) sizofaka nendawo yokugcina ugesi kumamabhetri (BESS). IBESS izosetshenziswa ukugcina ugesi ongasebenzanga okhiqizwa yilesikhungo. IBESS izoba nesilinganiso sikagesi esingamamegawathi angu 200 kuya kumamegawathi angu 800 (200MW-800MWh Lendawo izogcina ugesi isikhathi esingamahora ayisithupha kuya kwayisishiyagalombili.

Isicelo Semvume Yezemvelo (EA) ngaphansi koMthetho Wokulawulwa Kwezemvelo, uMthetho 107 ka 1998 (NEMA) kanye neMithethonqubo Yokuthinteka Kwezemvelo (EIA) ka 2014 ngokuchibeyelwa, safakwa ngomhlaka 1 ku Ndasa 2014 kuMnyango Wezamahlathi, Ukudoba Nezemvelo (DFFE) Inkomba: 14/12/16/3/3/2/25. Ngesikhathi kucelwa imibono emphakathini ethintekayo, okwenziwa ukuhlanganisa Umbiko Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo (EIA), kwavela ukukhathazeka kanye nokuphikisa okwavezwa yimiphakathi ethintekayo (I&AP). Le mibono eyavela emphakathini yabandakanya ukuthi kwenziwe isicelo solunye uphenyo. Lokuphawula kwabandakanya isicelo sokuba kwenziwe olunye uphenyo. Ngenxa yokuphawula okubalwe ngenhla kuthathwe isinqumo sokuthi isicelo esesenziwa siyekwe siphelelwe isikhathi ukuze kwenziwe ucwaningo olusha.

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd | Registered address: Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
1999/008928/07

Inkampani IWSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd ifaka isicelo kabusha Somthelela Kwezemvelo (EA) mayelana nesikhungo esihlongozwayo ngaphansi koMthethonqubo 21(2) weGNR 326. Imvume Yokuhlola Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo yatholakala ngomhlaka 17 kuNtulikazi 2024. Lemvume isesemthethweni.

Bonke abantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo (I&AP) bazisiwe ngenhloso ye WSP yokufaka isicelo kabusha ngokulandela uMthethonqubo 21(2) weQNR 326 kusetshenziswa I imeyili ngomhlaka 29 kuMfumfu 2024.

IZICELO NGOKWEZEMVELO

Lemisebenzi ebalwe ngezansi iyathinteka, emva kwesiqinisekiso esivela kuMnyango I DFFE:

- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 983 (ochibiyelwe): Activity 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 and 56;
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 984 (ochibiyelwe): Activity 1, 9 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 985 (ochibiyelwe): Activity 4, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 23.

UKUBHALISWA

Inkampani WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe nguMsekeli njengoMhloli Womthelela Kwezemvelo Ozimele (EAP) ukuphatha umsebenzi wokuhlola umthelela kwezemvelo (S&EIR). Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengabathintekayo ukuze baveze izimvo zabo ngaloMsebenzi Ohlongozwayo bayacelwa ukuba bathumele imininingwane yabo egcwele kuEAP basebenzise imininingwane engezansi. Abathinthekayo ababhalisiwe bayothunyelwa zonke izaziso ngokuzayo, futhi bayokwaziswa ngamunye uma kunamathuba ayovela okuba yingxenye yokuhlola ngomthelela kwezemvelo.

UKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WOMTHELELA KWEZEMVELO NESIKHATHI

Umbiko Ngomthelela Kwezemvelo uyotholakala ngokucelwa kwaWSP futhi uyatholakala ezindaweni ezibhalwe ngezansi izinsuku ezingu 30 ukuze abantu bawufunde futhi baphawule ngawo ukusuka ngomhlaka **11 kuMbasa 2025 kuya ku 16 kuNhlaba 2025**:

Indawo	Umbiko uthokakala lapha	Ikheli lomgwaq	QR Code
Ermelo	Ermelo Public Library	Wedgewood Avenue, 2351 Ermelo	
	Thusiville Public Library	346 or Tambo St, Wesselton Ext 2, Ermelo, 2351	
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St, Hendrina, 1095	
Bethal	Bethal Public Library	Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310	
WSP Web site	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree Web site	https://wsp-engage.com/		

Imininingwane yokuxhumana ye-WSP yile:

Igama: WSP Public Participation Office

Ucingo: +27 11 254 4800

i-Imeyili: pp@wsp.com

Ozithobayo

Public Participation Office

Ukuvikeleka Kwemininingwane Ngabantu: IWSP iyophatha imininingwane ngani njengabantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo njengesizathu sokubhaliswa kwenu njengabathintekayo nokuthi siyogcina imininingwane yenu emabhukwini ethu lokhu sikwenza ngemvume yenu. IWSP iyosebenzisa lemininingwane ukunithinta mayelana neminye imisebenzi efanayo ehlongozwayo esikhathini esizayo. IWSP iyoqikelela ukuthi isebenzisa imininingwane yenu ngokulandela uMthetho Wokuvikelwa Kwemininingane Ngabantu, uMthetho 4 ka 2013. Ninelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo enu njengabantu abangabanini bemininingwane futhi ningasazisa uma nithanda ukuthi imininingwane yenu siyicishe kubantu abathintekayo nabanentshisekelo futhi ningasathandi ukuthi imininingwane yenu sibe nayo emabhukwini ethu.

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
Pretoria
Tel: (012) 399 9420
E-mail: mkabasa@dffe.gov.za

14/12/16/3/3/2/2545
41105236
28 October 2024
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Ms Kabasa

PROPOSED UP TO 550MW PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) NEAR ERMELO WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545): Decision to Resubmit Environmental Authorisation in terms of Regulation 21(2)

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF), near Ermelo, in the Mpumalanga Province. WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed as the independent and suitably qualified EAP, to manage and undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process.

During the course of the public participation process, undertaken for the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, various concerns and objections were raised by various registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with regards to the sensitivity of the biodiversity in the area, particularly the high avifaunal sensitivity. This comment included the request for additional studies.

Taking these concerns and requests into consideration, the Applicant has decided not to submit the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), and will allow the application to lapse. This will allow the Applicant time to conduct the additional requested studies, and to further revisit the project's layout to further reduce impacts on the biodiversity and avifauna on site as noted within the assessment.

In terms of Regulation 21(2), the Applicant is afforded the option to submit the Final EIA Report (post further public review) to the DFFE within 2 years of acceptance of the Scoping Report (dated 17 July 2024).

Please refer to **Table 1** below for an outline of how all the provisions of Regulation 21(2)(a)(b)(c) and (d) will be met.

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

Tel.: +27 11 361 1300
wsp.com

Table 1: Motivation for Application of EA in terms of Regulation 21(2)(a)(b)(c) and (d)

REGULATION	MOTIVATION
Submission of scoping report to competent authority:	
(2) Subject to regulation 46, and if the findings of the scoping report is still valid and the environmental context has not changed, the submission of a scoping report as contemplated in subregulation (1) need not be complied with—	The Acceptance of the Scoping Report for the Proposed up to 550MW Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF near Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province was received on 17 July 2024. The Scoping Report is still valid, and the environmental context has not changed.
(a) in cases where a scoping report was accepted as part of a previous application for environmental authorisation and the application has lapsed or was refused because of insufficient information;	The scoping report was accepted as per of the EA application 14/12/16/3/3/2/2545. Taking relevant concerns and requests for additional investigations into consideration, the Applicant has decided not to submit the Final EIA Report to the DFFE and will allow the application to lapse. This will allow the Applicant time to conduct the additional studies requested and to further revisit the project's layout to further reduce impacts on the biodiversity and avifauna on site as noted within the assessment. Ultimately, this will enable for a competent and robust final report to be submitted that fully meets the requirement as raised by interested and effected parties.
(b) on condition that regulation 16 is complied with and that such application is accompanied by proof that registered interested and affected parties, who participated in the public participation process conducted as part of the previous application, have been notified of this intended resubmission of the application prior to submission of such application;	Regulation 16 has been complied with as part of the EA Application 13/12/16/3/3/2/2298. The registered interested and affected parties will be informed of the Applicant's decision to allow the application to lapse and the intention to resubmit the application. The registered interested and affected parties will also be informed via email and SMS when the application is resubmitted and the updated Draft EIA Report is available for public review and comment.
(c) if the application contemplated in paragraph (b) is submitted by the same applicant for the same development, as applied for and lapsed or refused as contemplated in paragraph (a); and	The applicant is Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd and will not change.

REGULATION	MOTIVATION
(d) if an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of specialist reports and an EMPr, which must have 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, is submitted within a period of two years from the date of the acceptance of the scoping report contemplated in paragraph (a).	The updated Draft EIA Report inclusive of specialist reports and an EMPr, will be subjected to an additional public participation process of at least 30 days. All comments received during this review period will be incorporated into the Final EIA Report. This will be within a period of two years from the date of the acceptance of the scoping report.

Please feel free to contact us should you require any additional information.

Kind regards,



Digitally signed by Ashlea Strong
DN: cn=Ashlea Strong, c=ZA, o=WSP Group Africa, ou=Earth and Environment, email=ashlea.strong@wsp.com
Date: 2025.04.10 10:28:32 +02'00'

Ashlea Strong
Principal Associate and Registered EAP

WSP ref.: 41105236

DFFE Ref: 2023-09-0017

12 April 2024

Dear Stakeholder,

Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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) for submission of 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

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation. The proposed project consists of the following subprojects:

• Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (up to 837MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province

• Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection (LILO) and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

The WEF will also include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the wind facility. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

- Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS
- Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS
- Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS
- Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS
- Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO.235 IS
- Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS
- Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS
- Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS
- Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS
- Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS
- Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS
- Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS
- Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS
- Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS
- Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS
- Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS
- Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS
- Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS
- Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS

- Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS
- Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS
- Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process is required for the project. The listed activity numbers associated with the Proposed Projects are reflected below. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), details provided below.

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd- Up to 837MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), including associated infrastructure including BESS.

- *GNR 983- 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 & 56*
- *GNR 984- 1, 9 & 15*
- *GNR 985- 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 & 23*

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS

- *GNR 983 12, 19 & 27*
- *GNR 984 9 & 15*
- *GNR 985 4, 12 & 14*

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent and suitably qualified EAP by Seriti Green (Pty) Ltd, to manage and undertake the S&EIR Process. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties in order to receive more information and/ or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP and disclose their direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project may be submitted to the EAP via the details provided below. Registered interested and affected parties will be forwarded all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **12 April 2024** to **14 May 2024**:

- Ermelo Public Library;
- Thusiville Public Library
- Hendrina Public Library
- Bethal Public Library
- Datafree Website - (https://wsp-engage.com/)
- WSP Website - https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents

Kindly ensure that all comments on the proposed project or requests to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party are submitted to the contact details provided herewith, by **14 May 2024**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the EAP.

Contact details:

Thirushan Nadar
Tel: +27 11 300-6185
E-mail: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Address: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand

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 for purposes of storing your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP uses these details to contact you about other 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.

Digitally signed by Nadar, Thirushan (ZATN04956)
DN: cn=Nadar, Thirushan (ZATN04956), ou=Active, email=Thirushan.Nadar@wsp.com
Date: 2024.04.05 15:36:06 +02'00'

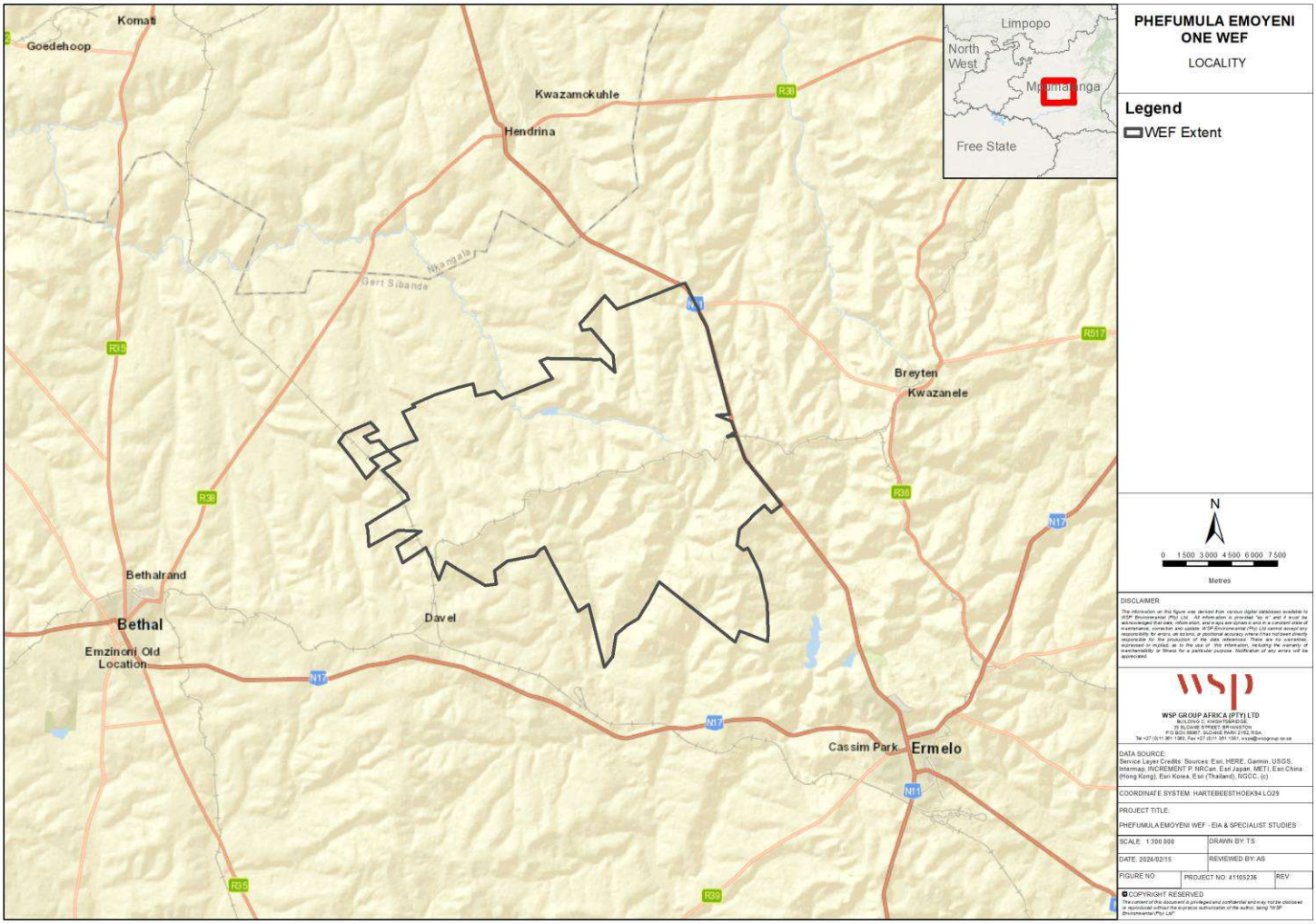


Figure 1: Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure

WSP ref.: 41105236

DFFE Ref: 2023-09-0017

12 April 2024

Liewe grondeienaar

Subject: KENNISGEWING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WINDENERGIE FASILITEIT, WAT BESTAAN UIT VERSKEIE OMGEWINGSMAGTIGINGSPROSESSE, NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE

Kennis word gegee in terme van:

Regulasie 41(2) van GNR 982 (soos gewysig) gepubliseer ingevolge artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) vir die indiening van verskeie aansoeke om omgewingsmagtigings (EA's) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite geïdentifiseer ingevolge GNR 983, GNR 984 en GNR 985 (soos gewysig)

Artikel 39 of 41(4) van die Nasionale Waterwet (36 van 1998) (NWA), vir die indiening van 'n Algemene Magtiging vir Watergebruik of Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) Aansoek (soos van toepassing)

BESKRYWING EN LIGGING

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Edms) Bpk. stel voor om 'n hernubare-energie-fasiliteit naby Ermelo en Bethal, Mpumalanga Provinsie, bekend as die Phefumula Emoyeni One Windenergie Fasiliteit (WEF) te vestig, wat verskeie aansoeke vir omgewingsmagtiging vereis. Die voorgestelde projek bestaan uit die volgende subprojekte:

- Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (tot 837MW), geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie
- Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) tot 400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substasie (MTS) geleë in die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, wat onder die Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit val, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie.

Die WEF sal ook 'n Battery Energie Stoor Sisteem (BESS) insluit. Die BESS sal gebruik word om oortollige energie wat deur die WEF gegenereer word, te berg. Die BESS sal 'n bergingskapasiteit van tot 200MW/800MWh hê. Dit sal 6-8 uur se berging toelaat.

— Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS
— Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS
— Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS
— Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS
— Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO.235 IS
— Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS

— Portion 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS
— Portion 0, 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS
— Portion 1, 2 of farm GELUKSDRAAI No. 240 IS
— Portion 1 of the Farm EERSTE GELUK 258 IS
— Portion 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 of the Farm MIDDELPLAAT 271 IS
— Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS
— Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS
— Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS
— Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS
— Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS
— Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS
— Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS
— Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS
— Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS
— Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS
— Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS

OMGEWINGSTOEPASSINGS

Die voorgestelde projekte sal lei tot ‘n verskeidenheid van gelyste aktiwiteite, vervat in die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIE) Regulasies Lyskennisgewing 1 (GNR 983), Noteringskennisgewing 2 (GNR 984) en Noteringskennisgewing 3 (GNR985), soos gewysig, magtiging om die gelyste aktiwiteite te onderneem, moet verkry word deur middel van onderskeie Bestekopname en Omgewingsimpakverslagdoening (S&OIV) prosesse. Die verwagte gelyste aktiwiteitsgetalle wat met die voorgestelde projekte geassosieer word, word in die tabel hieronder weerspieël. Indien u 'n volledige kopie van hierdie aktiwiteite op die lys wil bekom, kontak asseblief die Omgewingsevalueringspraktisyn (WHP), besonderhede hieronder verskaf.

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd- Up to 837MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), including associated infrastructure including BESS.

- *GNR 983- 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 & 56*
- *GNR 984- 1, 9 & 15*
- *GNR 985- 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 & 23*

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Up to 400kV Powerline, EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS

- *GNR 983 12, 19 & 27*
- *GNR 984 9 & 15*
- *GNR 985 4, 12 & 14*

REGISTRASIE

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur die Proponent aangestel as die onafhanklike WHP om die S&OIV-prosesse te bestuur. Partye wat formeel as belanghebbendes wil registreer om hul kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projekte te lewer, word versoek om hul volledige kontakbesonderhede aan die WHP te stuur by die besonderhede hieronder verskaf. Toekomstige korrespondensie sal aan alle geregistreerde belanghebbendes gestuur word en geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal individueel in kennis gestel word van bykomende geleenthede om aan die proses deel te neem.

KONSEP OMFANGVERSLAG OORSIGTYDPERK

Die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag sal vir 30 dae vanaf **12 April 2024 tot 14 Mei 2024** by die lokale hieronder beskikbaar gestel word vir hersiening en kommentaar:

- Ermelo Publiek biblioteek
- Thusiville Publiek biblioteek
- Hendrina Publiek biblioteek
- Bethal Publiek biblioteek
- Datafree Webwerf - (https://wsp-engage.com/)
- WSP Webwerf - https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents

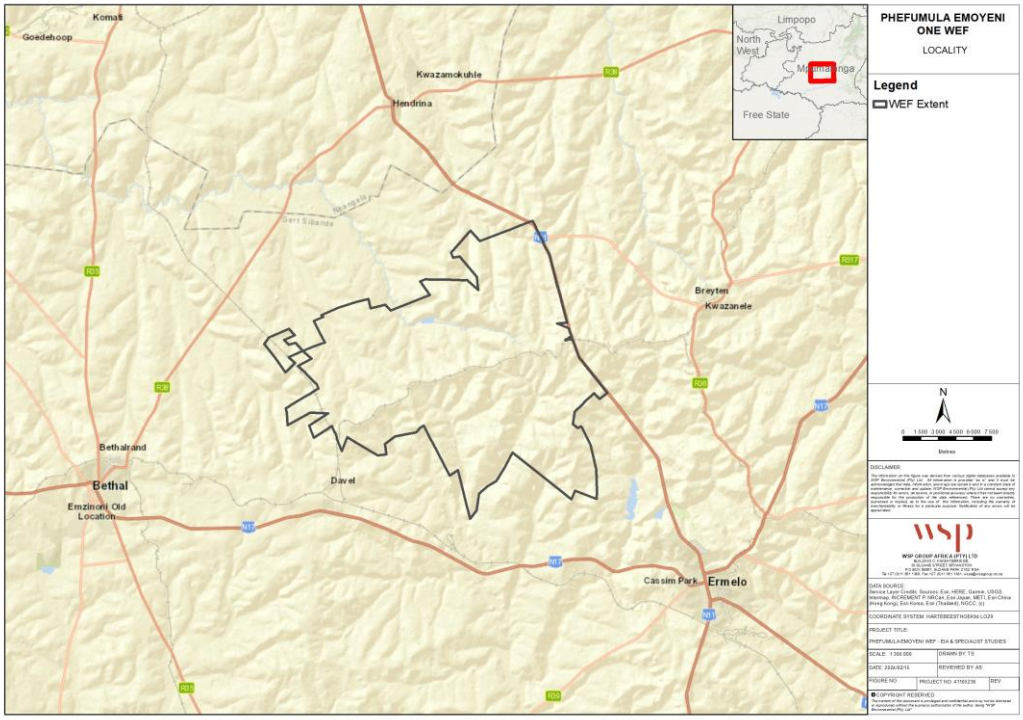
Maak asseblief seker dat alle kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek of versoeke om as 'n Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party geregistreer te word ingedien word by die kontakbesonderhede wat hiermee verskaf word, teen **14 Mei 2024**. Indien u enige navrae/opmerkings het, moet asseblief nie huiwer om WSP te kontak nie. .

Kontakbesonderhede:

Digitally signed by Ashlea Strong
DN: cn=Ashlea Strong, c=ZA, o=WSP Group Africa, ou=Earth and Environment, email=ashlea.strong@wsp.com
Date: 2025.04.10 10:28:10 +02'00'

Thirushan Nadar
Tel: +27 11 300-6185
E-pos: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Adres: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand

Beskerming van persoonlike inligting: WSP sal sekere persoonlike inligting oor jou as 'n belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party (B&GP) verwerk vir doeleindes om jou registrasie as 'n B&GP moontlik te maak en om jou besonderhede op ons databasis te stoor, indien jy daartoe instem. WSP sal hierdie besonderhede gebruik om jou in die toekoms oor ander relevante projekte te kontak. WSP sal altyd jou persoonlike inligting verwerk in ooreenstemming met die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting 4 van 2013. Jy is geregtig om jou regte as 'n datasubjek uit te oefen en ons te laat weet of jy as 'n B & GP gederegistreer wil word of as jy nie langer wil hê dat u kontakbesonderhede op ons databasis ingesluit moet word.



Figuur 1: Voorgestelde Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

WSP ref.: 41105236

DFFE Ref: 2023-09-0017

12 April 2024

umnikazi womhlaba othandekayo

Subject: ISAZISO NGENTUTHUKO EHLONGOZWAYO YE-PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITION, EHLANGANISA IZINQUBO EZAHLUKENE ZOKUGUNYAZWA KWENDAWO, ESEDUZE NENDAWO YASE ERMELO, ISIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA.

Isaziso sinikezwa ngokwemibandela ye:

• Umthetho-sisekelo 41(2) we-GNR 982 (njengoba ushintshiwe) oshicilelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 no-24D soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) (njengoba ushintshiwe) ukuze kuthunyelwe izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwezemvelo (EAs) mayelana nemisebenzi ehlonzwe ngokwe-GNR 983, GNR 984 kanye ne-GNR 985 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe)

• Isigaba sama-39 noma sama-41(4) soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke (36 ka-1998) (NWA), ukuze kuthunyelwe ukuGunyazwa Okujwayelekile noma Isicelo Selayisensi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (WUL) (njengoba ushintshiwe)

INCAZELO KANYE NENDAWO

I-Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd ihlongoza ukusungula indawo yamandla avuselelekayo eduze kwase-Ermelo nase-Bethal, kanyeneMpumalanga, eyaziwa ngokuthi i-Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility (WEF), edinga izicelo ezihlukahlukene zokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo iqukethe ama-subprojects alandelayo:

• Phefumula Emoyeni IWEF eyodwa (efinyelela ku-837MW), etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda i-Gert Sibande, esifundazweni saseMpumalanga.

• Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) etholakala kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMsukaligwa, ongaphansi kukaMasipala Wesifunda sase-Gert Sibande, esiFundazweni saseMpumalanga. I-WEF izophinde ihlanganise ne-Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). I-BESS izosetshenziselwa ukugcina amandla engeziwe akhiqizwa yi-WEF. I-BESS izoba namandla okugcina afinyelela ku-200MW/800MWh. Evumela kuze kufike kumahora angu-6-8 wokulondoloza

- Portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS
- Portion 0, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS
- Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS
- Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234 IS
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- Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 IS
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- Portion 0, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21,22, 23 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS
- Portion 2, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS

- Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS
- Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS
- Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS
- Portion 0, 2, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273 IS
- Portion 4, 15 of farm UITZICHT 266 IS
- Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS
- Remaining Extent of Portion 7 of the Farm DAVELFONTEIN 267 IS
- Portion 0 of the Farm ELIM 247 IS
- Portion 4 of the Farm TAFELKOP 270 IS

IZICELO ZEMVELO

Amaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo azoqala imisebenzi eminingana esohlwini equkethwe ku-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984) kanye ne-Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), njengoba ushintshiwe, ngakho-ke, ukugunyazwa kokwenza lesi saziso. imisebenzi esohlwini kufanele ifunwe ngezinqubo ezifanele ze-Scoping kanye ne-Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR). izinombolo zomsebenzi ezifakwe ohlwini ezilindelekile ezihambisana namaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo zibonakala kuthebula elingezansi.

Uma ufisa ukuthola ikhophi ephelele yale misebenzi esohlwini, sicela uthinte Umsebenzi Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP), imininingwane enikezwe ngezansi..

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd- Kufika ku-837MW WEF, zihlanaganisa ingqalasizinda ehlobene ehlanganisa ne-BESS.

- *GNR 983- 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 28, 30, 48 & 56*
- *GNR 984- 1, 9 & 15*
- *GNR 985- 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 & 23*

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd Kufika ku-400kV Powerline, EGI kufika ku-400kV Grid Connection kanye ne-MTS

- *GNR 983 12, 19 & 27*
- *GNR 984 9 & 15*
- *GNR 985 4, 12 & 14*

UKUBHALISA

I-WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) iqokwe njenge-EAP ezimele nguMsekeli, ukuphatha izinqubo ze-S&EIR. Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengababambe iqhaza ukuze abeke imibono yawo ngamaphrojekthi ahlongozwayo ayacelwa ukuba athumele imininingwane yawo egcwele ku-EAP kule minininingwane enikezwe ngezansi. Ababambiqhaza ababhalisiwe bazothunyelwa zonke izincwadi zesikhathi esizayo futhi baziswe ngabanye ngamathuba engeziwe okubamba iqhaza kulolu hlelo.

ISIKHATHI SOKUBUYEKEZA UMBIKO OSAHLULEKAYO

Umbiko Osalungiswa Wokuhlela uzotholakala kulezi zindawo ezingezansi ukuze ubuyekezwe futhi kuphawulwe ngazo izinsuku ezingama-30 kusukela mhla ziyi-**12 kuMbasa wezi-2024 kuya zingama-14 kuNhlaba wezi-2024:**

- Ermelo Ilabhulali Yomphakathi
- Thusiville Ilabhulali Yomphakathi
- Hendrina Ilabhulali Yomphakathi
- Bethal Ilabhulali Yomphakathi
- Datafree Iwebhusayithi - (https://wsp-engage.com/)
- WSP Iwebhusayithi - https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents

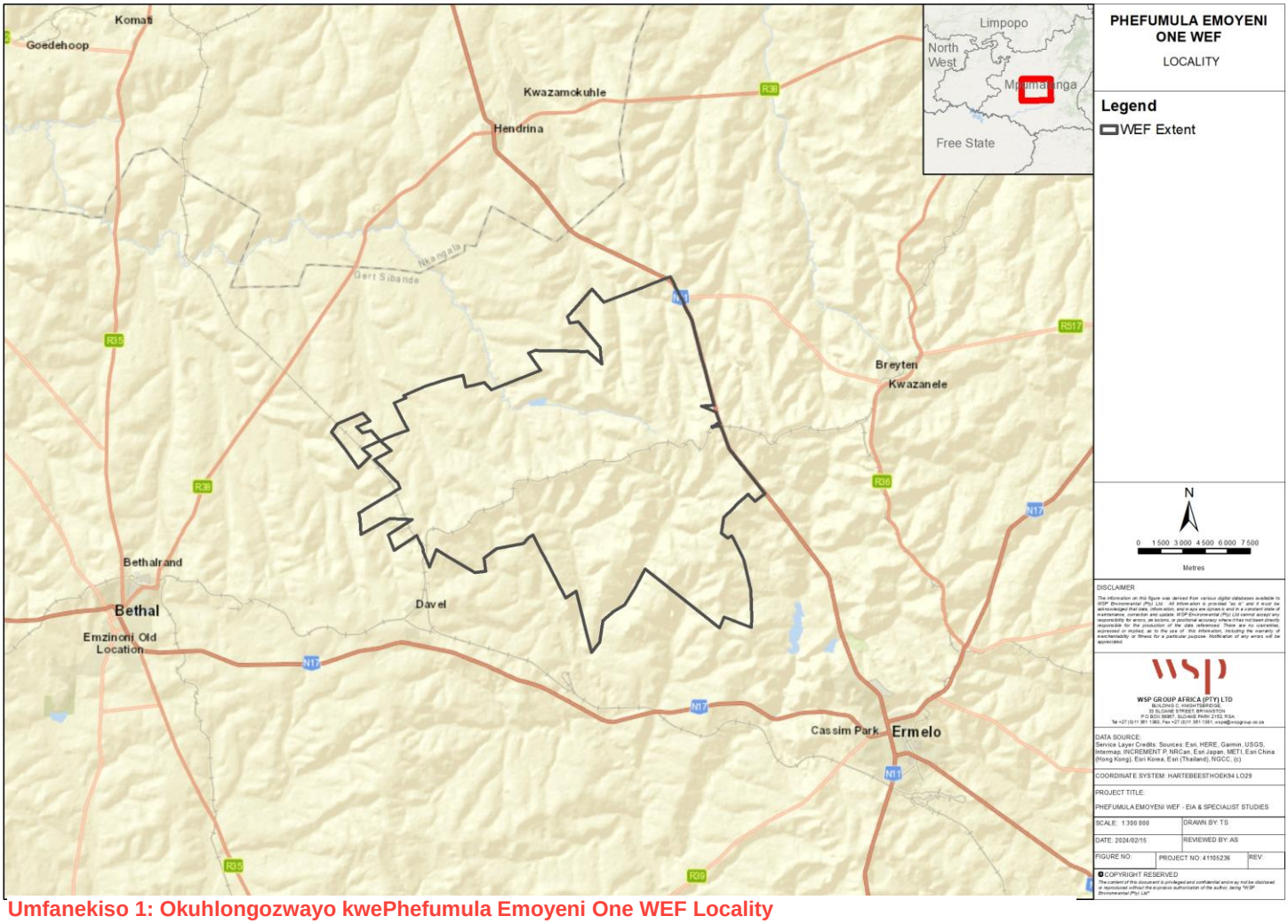
Sicela uqinisekise ukuthi konke ukuphawula ngephrojekthi ehlongozwayo noma izicelo zokubhaliswa njengeQembu Elithakaselayo nelithintekayo zithunyelwa emininingwaneni yokuxhumana ehlinzekwe lapha, zingama-14 kuNhlaba wezi-2024. Uma unemibuzo/ukuphawula, sicela ungangabazi ukuthintana ne-WSP.

Imniningwano Yokuxhumana:

Thirushan Nadar
Ucingo: +27 11 300-6185
I-imeyili: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Ikheli: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand

Digitally signed by Ashlea Strong
DN: cn=Ashlea Strong, c=ZA, o=WSP Group Africa, ou=Earth and Environment, email=ashlea.strong@wsp.com
Date: 2025.04.10 10:28:10 +02'00'

Ukuvikelwa Kolwazi Lomuntu Siqu: I-WSP izocubungula ulwazi oluthile lomuntu siqu olumayelana nawe njengomuntu onentshisekelo noma othintekayo (I&AP) ngezinjongo zokwenza ukubhalisa kwakho njenge-I&AP nokugcina imininingwane yakho kusizindalwazi sethu, uma uvuma ukuba senze kanjalo. I-WSP izosebenzisa le mininingwane ukuze ixhumane nawe mayelana namanye amaphrojekthi abalulekile esikhathini esizayo. I-WSP izohlala icubungula ulwazi lwakho lomuntu siqu ngokuhambisana noMthetho Wokuvikela Ulwazi Lomuntu Siqu 4 ka-2013. Unelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo akho njengesihloko sedatha futhi usazise uma ufisa ukukhishwa ukubhaliswa njenge-I & AP noma uma cha. usefuna imininingwane yakho yokuxhumana ifakwe kusizindalwazi sethu.

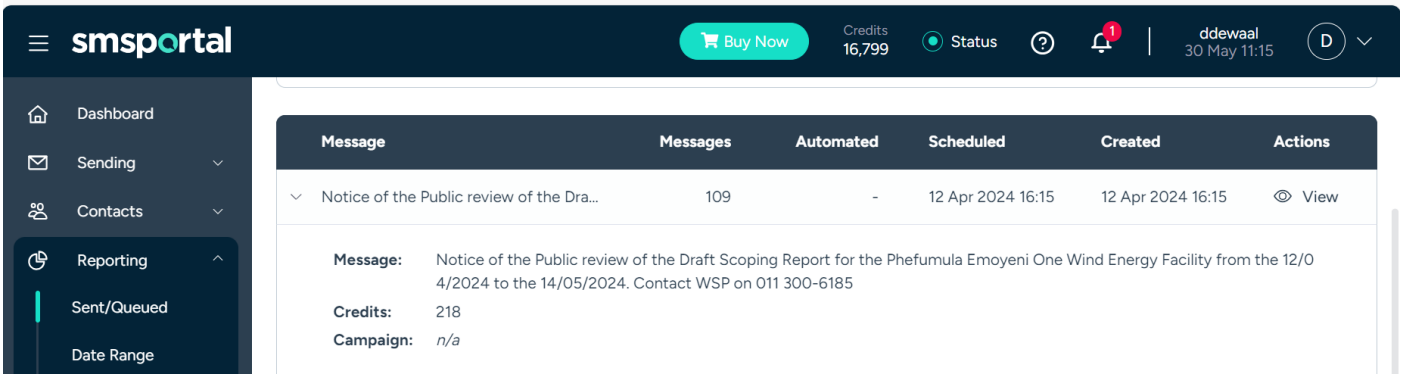


Umfanekiso 1: Okuhlongozwayo kwePhefumula Emoyeni One WEF Locality

Appendix B.5

SMS NOTIFICATION

PROOF OF BULK SMS – 12 APRIL 2024



PROOF OF SMSs - DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

Status	ScheduledDate	SubmittedDate	StatusDate	SentData	Group Description
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:50 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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EXPIRED	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 9:39:37 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:51 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:54 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:48 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:49 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:16:01 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:49 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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UNDELIV	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 5:55:27 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:49 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:21:05 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:54 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
DELIVRD	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:50 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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UNDELIV	4/12/2024 4:16:00 PM	4/12/2024 4:15:47 PM	4/12/2024 6:25:22 PM	Notice of the Public review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility from the 12/04/2024 to the 14/05/2024. Contact WSP on 011 300-6185	Draft Scoping Report
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Appendix B.6

PROOF OF AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS

DFFE ref.: 2023-09-0017
WSP ref.: 41105236

12 April 2024

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Stakeholder,

Subject: SUBMISSION OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 326 (2014, as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (2014, as amended)

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd to undertake the required Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process for the above-mentioned project.

Please find enclosed one hard copies of the Draft Scoping Report for your review and comment:

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for review and comment for 30 days from **12 April 2024 to 14 May 2024**:

Please contact us should you require any additional information or if you wish to discuss the matter in any further detail.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed by Nadar, Thirushan (ZATN04956)
DN: cn=Nadar, Thirushan (ZATN04956), ou=Active, email=Thirushan.Nadar@wsp.com
Date: 2024.04.08 10:08:34 +02'00'

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant
Email: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Tel: +27 11 300-6185

Hard Copy – Draft Scoping Report

Name: C. Coltz.

Date: 12 April 2024

Signature:

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Midrand, 1685
South Africa

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Fax: +27 11 361 1301
wsp.com

DFFE ref.: 2023-09-0017
WSP ref.: 41105236

12 April 2024

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DN: cn=Nadar, Thirushan (ZATN04956), ou=Active, email=Thirushan.Nadar@wsp.com
Date: 2024.04.08 10:08:34 +02'00'

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant
Email: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Tel: +27 11 300-6185

Hard Copy – Draft Scoping Report

Name: [signature]

Date: 12/04/2024

Signature: [signature]

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Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
South Africa

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Fax: +27 11 361 1301
wsp.com

DFFE ref.: 2023-09-0017
WSP ref.: 41105236

12 April 2024

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Stakeholder,

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Date: 2024.04.08 10:08:34 +02'00'

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant
Email: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Tel: +27 11 300-6185

Hard Copy – Draft Scoping Report

Name: SINANDA THWALA

Date: 12/04/2024

Signature: Thwala

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Midrand, 1685
South Africa

Tel.: +27 11 361 1300
Fax: +27 11 361 1301
wsp.com

DFFE ref.: 2023-09-0017
WSP ref.: 41105236

12 April 2024

CONFIDENTIAL

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Date: 2024.04.08 10:08:34 +02'00'

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant
Email: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Tel: +27 11 300-6185

Hard Copy – Draft Scoping Report

Name: Innocent Mhaule

Date: 12/04/2024

Signature:

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12 [illegible]

SIGNATURE:

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

Tel.: +27 11 361 1300
Fax: +27 11 361 1301
wsp.com

DFFE ref.: 2023-09-0017
WSP ref.: 41105236

12 April 2024

44 Church Street

Ermelo, 2350

Dear Sindisiwe Mbuyane,

Subject: SUBMISSION OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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Date: 2024.04.12 13:02:52 +02'00'

Thirushan Nadar
Consultant
Email: thirushan.nadar@wsp.com
Tel: +27 11 300-6185

Hard Copy & Electronic Copy – Draft Scoping Report

Name: BUSI MAGAGULA

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Signature: BMagagula

06 May 2024

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Picked Up	11 April 2024 at 16.41	**Shipper Address**	BUILDING 1, MAXWELL OFFICE PARK, MAGWA CRESCENT WEST GAUTENT MIDRAND SOUTH AFRICA
Number of Pieces	1		
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Contents	business report	**Shipper Reference**	6658518451ZA20240411115818550 PO 20011806 Proj# 41105263.

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Title of Project: Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility in the Mpumalanga Province
Document on Public Display: Draft Scoping Report
Public Disclosure Dates: 12 April 2024 to 14 May 2024
Contact Person: Thirushan Nadar(Thirushan.nadar@wsp.com)

- 41105236_20240412_Phefumula Emoyeni Phase 1 WEF_DSR_Public Review
- Appendix A_CV EAP
- Appendix B_EAP Declaration
- Appendix C_Specialist Declarations
- Appendix D_DFFE Screening report
- Appendix E_Pre app meeting notes
- Appendix F_SER_Public
- Appendix G1_Geotech_
- Appendix G10_Acoustic_
- Appendix G11Heritage
- Appendix G12_SHE Risk
- Appendix G2_Aquatic
- Appendix G3_Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Appendix G4_Avifauna
- Appendix G5_Bats
- Appendix G6_Visual
- Appendix G7_Social_
- Appendix G8Agricuture Soils
- Appendix G9_Traffic
- Appendix H_WEF_Site Sensitivity Verification
- Appendix I_Proof of Adoption of MBSP

Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility

Status message

Heritage Reports *Phefumula Emoyeni heritage report* has been created.

Add Additional Submission to Case | Add Heritage Report to Case

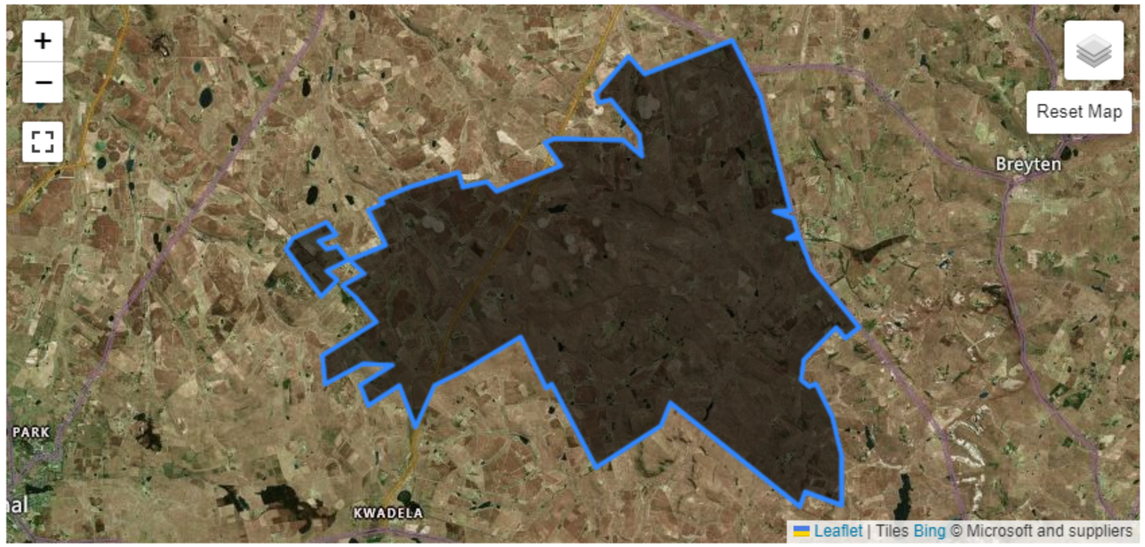
CaseDetails | Official Use

Summary

Case ID: 22347
Case Status: Proof of Payment Outstanding
Heritage Authority(s): SAHRA
MPHRA
Proposal Description
Seriti Green proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation.
The proposed project consists of the subprojects:
Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 837MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which fallsunder the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
Phefumula Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection (LILO) and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The length will be approximately 1km– 2km (depending on final MTS location selected)
The WEF will include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the wind facility. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.
Province(s): Mpumalanga
Author: Ashlea.Strong
Post date: 04/04/2024 - 13:32
Last modified: 05/04/2024 - 08:43

Location

Location



Messages

Proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility

Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 837MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which fallsunder the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
Phefumula Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection (LILO) and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The length will be approximately 1km– 2km (depending on final MTS location selected)
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Province(s): Mpumalanga
Author: Ashlea.Strong
Post date: 04/04/2024 - 13:32
Last modified: 05/04/2024 - 08:43



Application Form Submissions

SAHRA S38 Development Application Form: Submission #733
Additional Submissions

SID	Date Completed	By	Type
26002	11/04/2024	Ashlea.Strong	Proof of Payment

Reports

Add New Heritage Reports

Heritage Reports linked to this Case

Heritage Scoping	04/02/2024	Phefumula Emoyeni heritage report	Jaco van der Walt	download

Appendix C

MEETINGS

Appendix C.1

DFFE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	41105236	**MEETING DATE**	24 October 2023
PROJECT NAME	Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI)	**VENUE**	Online MS Teams meeting
CLIENT	Seriti Green Development SA (Pty) Ltd	**RECORDED BY**	KE
MEETING SUBJECT	Pre-Application meeting for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (2023-09-0017)		
PRESENT	**Seriti Green Development SA (Pty) Ltd (Developer)** Debbie Weldon (Project Manager) (DW), Theresa Ferguson (TF), Mukondeleli Makoya (MM) **WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (EAP)** Ashlea Strong (AS) (Project Manager), Thirushan Nadar (TN) (Consultant), Kelly England (KE) (scribe) **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)** Muhammad Essop (ME), Coenrad Agenbach (CA) **Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA)** Robyn Luyt (RL), Sindisiwe Mbuyane (SM) (Ermelo office), Gavin Cowden (GC) , Wandile Shabangu (WS)		
APOLOGIES	Ben Brimble (Seriti Green); Mmamohale Kabasa (DFFE), Mervin Lotter (MTPA)		
DISTRIBUTION	As above		
CONFIDENTIALITY	**Confidential**		

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
1	**Introduction**	-
	All welcomed and introduced.	
	Overview of the Project was presented by WSP slideshow (See presentation attached in **Appendix A**).	
2	**Key Considerations**	
	• Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) (Irreplaceable and Optimal) & Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) on site • Project within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) • Freshwater Ecosystem Protected Area (FEPA) sub-catchment on site	

Building C
Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street
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ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	• Not within Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) or Strategic Transmission Corridor	
3	**Permitting Processes overview and confirmation**	

	• Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Process:
	  ○ Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW) – (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)
	  ○ Phefumula Emoyeni EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)
	  ○ Water Use Licence and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required.
	• DFFE comments:
	  ○ WSP noted delay with EGI as there is no layout at this stage and during scoping phase the specialists are currently looking at sensitive areas. Sensitivity Map will be agreed such that infrastructure can be placed in the least sensitive areas as possible.
	  ○ DFFE does not support the approach proposed. It is recommended that a preliminary layout is identified before lodging the EIA process. The approach proposed will cause problems in the process and possible extension requests.
	  ○ The Draft Scoping must reflect preliminary layout of where infrastructure will be proposed.
	  ○ Seriti Green noted the above and stated as application is not lodged there would be time to go through specialist reports and come up with a prelim layout.
		WSP & Seriti Green

4	**Listed activities (Notice 1, 2 and 3) explained.**	
	• DFFE requested explanation of Listing Notice 1, Activity 14 rationale (The Facility will require storage and handling of goods). ○ WSP stated will take into consideration vanadium redox flow technology if this is the preferred technology for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), as well as the storage of any dangerous goods for the construction process that may exceed 80m^2 at construction camp. If preferred, vanadium redox flow would have to remain under 500 cubes in terms of handling dangerous goods required for that technology. That part of the dangerous goods would fall away if lithium-ion batteries implemented. • MDARDLEA requested further explanation for Listing Notice 1, Activity 30 in terms of clearance of Eastern Highland Grassland currently confirmed as listed in the National List of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection. The Department stated that they are not aware of process or activity that is listed in terms of NEM:BA published to date. • WSP confirmed that the activity is a restricted activity from NEM:BA. Link and information submitted by Department of Protected Areas of DFFE. WSP will	WSP

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	confirm referencing and ensure that this is clearly explained in the documentation.	
5	**Specialist Assessments as identified by DFFE Screening**	
	• DFFE Screening Tool identified sensitivities and specialists for all themes • Site Sensitivity Verification Studies will be included in Scoping Report. • Socio-Economic study recommended for wind facility; however, WSP will do studies for WEF and EGI. • Additional study in terms of Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Risk Assessment specific to BESS.	-
6	**Specialist studies**	
	• Appointed specialists' studies commissioned. No compliance is required for Department of Defence, they will remain on database and be included in stakeholder comment process.	-
7	**Competent Authority**	

	• DFFE confirmed that MDARDLEA will be the competent authority for the EGI.
	• MDARDLEA requested confirmation of below:
	  ○ if WSP are submitting two separate applications
	  ○ Highlands judgement and what the implications of this are. Aware that appeal process has not concluded; however, recommend that this should be considered in how this is applied for.
	• WSP proposal is to submit two applications for WEF and for EGI, to allow for the transfer of the EGI to Eskom at a later stage.
	• WSP would like to hear ME's thoughts on Highlands judgement and if process is still valid.
	• ME suggested MDARDLEA enter into 24C(3) agreement for the EGI.
	• MDARDLEA would not object to this as long as the department is fully consulted throughout the process including MTPA.
	• DFFE recommends WSP writes a motivation letter to the MDARDLEA requesting them to enter into 24C(3) agreement with the DFFE. This would allow the DFFE to be the competent authority for both components of the application.
	• MDARDLEA would like to add another condition that their head office (Nelspruit) and Gert Sibande office as well as MTPA be consulted along the way for all steps of the project. Application to only be lodged once prelim layout available, as applicant to consider impacts cumulatively of the line and energy facility.
	• DFFE would raise concern over a lack of preliminary layout in Scoping report. If the application did agree to take a step back and figure out locations before lodging applications, this would give DFFE time to resolve competency issues as the administration aspects take time.
		WSP / MDARDLEA / DFFE

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	• WSP agreed and confirmed that all departments and MTPA would be included in all commenting reviews as the commenting authorities. • Seriti Green is in agreement for this way forward. • DFFE does not have an issue with submitting dual application as ultimately both would be running Scoping EIA process based on their understanding. Application can be run concurrently provided that each report assesses cumulative impacts of the other facility. • DFFE understands that a transfer of rights to Eskom may be required at a later stage. • When completing application, the reason for DFFE as competent authority is written at the top of the WSP slide. The reason why DFFE would then be the competent authority for the powerline application is because they entered into 24C(3) agreement and the letter that will eventually be signed off by DFFE will be the motivation that WSP will then attach to application form.	
8	**Public Participation**	
	• High level consolidated approach for both the Public Participation (PP) and S&EIA process with public significant notices distributed. • Public or focused group meetings will be looked at were appropriate.	-
9	**Timeframes**	
	• Application process kick off originally scheduled for end November but timeframes will be shifted out due to request for prelim layout and for 24C(3) agreement to be finalised. • Extended public review over the December period, not counting December closure period. • EIA reports submission in July. • WSP would like DFFE confirmation on comment heard in workshops where the Minister announced that any decision period for a renewable energy facility will be 57 days regardless of whether it's in a REDZ or not. For planning purposes, we would like confirmation if we must use 57 days or default 107 days. • DFFE commented on WSP key milestones. The DFFE noted that the November submission of the Application and Scoping Report would be pushed back due to the need to develop a preliminary layout and to finalise the 24C(3) agreement. The DFFE suggested that the PP process is not undertaken over the December closure and recommended that is only being in January once the regulations allow the EIA process to open again. • DFFE legislative 107 days. Minister did make a commitment that we need to expedite energy related applications as we are in an energy crisis, so that applies both to generation and the grid infrastructure. DFFE will try to expedite from their side, however for planning purposes WSP must allow for what legislation specifies.	
10	**Questions or Queries**	

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	Slide 8: Potential CBAs identified: • Seriti Green required clarity where CBA optimal and if specialist confirms area is transformed, do they then need to look at offsets. What is the opinion in terms of those CBA areas. • MDARDLEA stated they would prefer MTPA to provide input/comments. MDARDLEA sector plan is accurate, and the land use cover is the most recent available. For areas in highveld that are determined to be transformed on site, MDARDLEA recommends that the ecologist has in-depth consultation with MTPA as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the past why certain areas were regarded as offset even though they're irreplaceable when they appear to have been transformed. There is a very good reason why the areas are irreplaceable and that is because of the intact grasslands that cover that area. There are limited intact grasslands left. Please advise specialist to consult very closely with Mervin Lotter. • DFFE in agreement with above. The specialists will have to prove why they find a difference between sector plan/ CBA mapping and what they find during their field work and to engage with MTPA in that regard. Stating the site is transformed without providing the relevant evidence to substantiate may be problematic. ○ WSP to be aware that if offsetting becomes a requirement for the project, the offsets will have to be reviewed and finalised before DFFE can make a decision. • WSP are aware and already looking at this potential requirement. Good to get input form DFFE and MDARDLEA in this issue. • CA (DFFE): The EIAr must provide a copy of the final preferred site layout map for the WEF, BESS, and associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures. • CA (DFFE): The cumulative impacts of all intended activities must be assessed together, which include the facility and its supporting infrastructure (including the grid connection infrastructure e.g. the power line and substations even if separate applications have been lodged for these). • DFFE stated WSP must ensure that there is a site sensitivity verification report in the Scoping Report, which means that from all the teams that are listed on the screening tool presented earlier, those themes are verified and confirmed or disputed, whether or not the risk is high, very high, medium or low and then that will then affect the plan of study for EIA. That will decide what specialist studies will be done in the EIA phase. • Also noted that some project some EAPs deciding to put fully fleshed specialist studies in the report or doing special studies, even though they confirmed that the site is low risk. Please take note of that and don't overcomplicate projects. • DFFE want a final EMPR and a final layout plan to be submitted with the final EIR for both the power line and the wind energy facility. Ensure that when the EIA phase is running its course, it's running its course and going to be assessed and presented in the way that should when we decide to grant authorisation, we then grant authorisation to the final input and layout plan.	

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	• If considering the offsets DFFE want the final in principal agreement to the offset which is, then done in terms of the biodiversity offset guidelines to also be included in the EIR for decision making. • WSP to consider for planning and timelines that DFFE need to have all the information before WSP can apply for environmental authorisation. Once scoping report is accepted, we have 106 days to provide the final EIR which includes a 30-day PPP. All of this needs to be considered into the decision-making process and applying for a Regulation 37 for need to finalise an offset.	
11	Closing	
	• No further comments raised. • All present thanked for input and interactive and productive meeting. • WSP to write email requesting access to the recording of the meeting. • WSP will attach meeting presentation to the minutes.	TN

NEXT MEETING

An invitation will be issued if an additional meeting is required.

APPENDIX A – PRESENTATION

DFFE Pre-Application Meeting

Phefumula Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility



1

Introductions

Developer	Seriti Green Development SA (Pty) Ltd (Seriti Green) Debbie Weldon (Project Manager) Theresa Furguson Mukondeleli Makoya
EAP	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd Ashlea Strong (Project Manager) Thirushan Nadar (Consultant)
Authority	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Muhammad Essop Mmamohale Kabasa Coenrad Agenbach

2



2

Agenda

1. Overview of the Project
   - Background
   - Location
2. Overview & Confirmation of Permitting Processes
   - Listed Activities
   - Specialist Assessments as identified by DFFE Screening Tool
   - Specialist Studies commissioned
   - Specialist Studies not commissioned
   - Competent Authority
3. Public Participation Process
4. Timeframes
5. Discussion
   - Clarification
   - Questions
   - Way Forward

Overview of the Project

Background

Seriti Green proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation.

The proposed project consists of the subprojects:

- Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
- Phefumula Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection (LILO) and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The length will be approximately 1km – 2km (depending on final MTS location selected)

The WEF will include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the wind facility. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

Overview of the Project

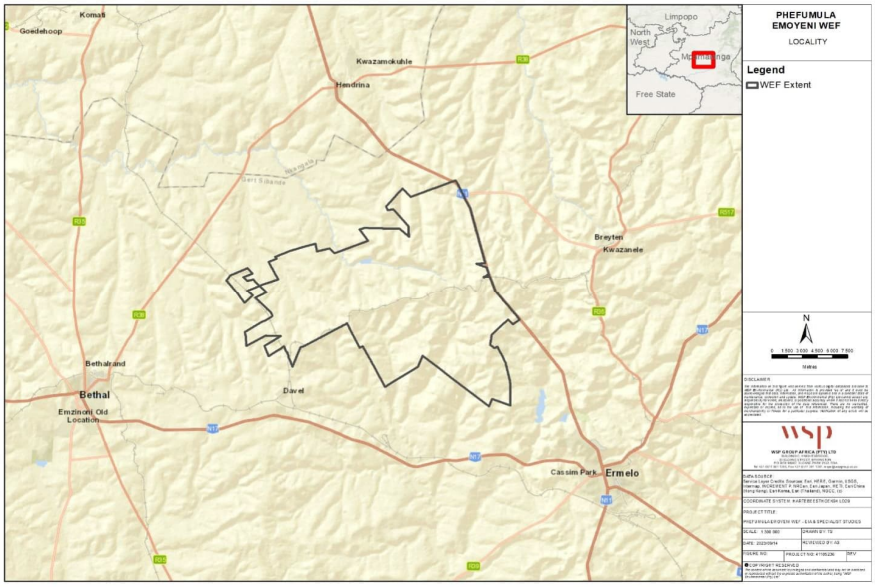
Location

	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW)		Phefumula Emoyeni EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS
Province	Mpumalanga		
District Municipalities	Gert Sibande District Municipality		
Local Municipalities	Msukaligwa Local Municipality		
Farms	• Portion 0 of farm GROBLESHOEK 191 IS • portion 0 of farm ISRAEL 207 IS • Portion 0, 1 , 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 of farm BOSMANSKRANS 217 IS • Portion 6 of farm VAALBANK 233 IS • Portion 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, ,17, 21, 22, 23 of farm KUILFONTEIN No. 234-IS • Portion 3 of farm BOSMANSHOEK NO. 235 – IS • Portion 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13 of WITBANK NO. 236 - IS • Portion 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 237 IS • Portion 2 of farm ORPENSKRAAL 238 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm GELIKSDRAAI No. 240 –IS	• Portion 0, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21,22 of farm KRANSPOORT 248 IS • Portion 3, 8, 9 of farm TWEEFONTEIN 249 IS • Portion 0 of farm VOORZORG 250 IS • Portion 0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 of farm NOOITGEDACHT 251 IS • Portion 1, 2 of farm SPION KOP 252 IS • Portion 1, 3, 7 of farm DRIEHOEK No. 273-IS • Portion 59, 68 of farm SPITSKOP 276 IS • Portion 4, 23 of farm UITZIGT 450 IS • Portion 0 of farm KRANSPOORT 827 IS	To be confirmed once the alignment has been identified

5

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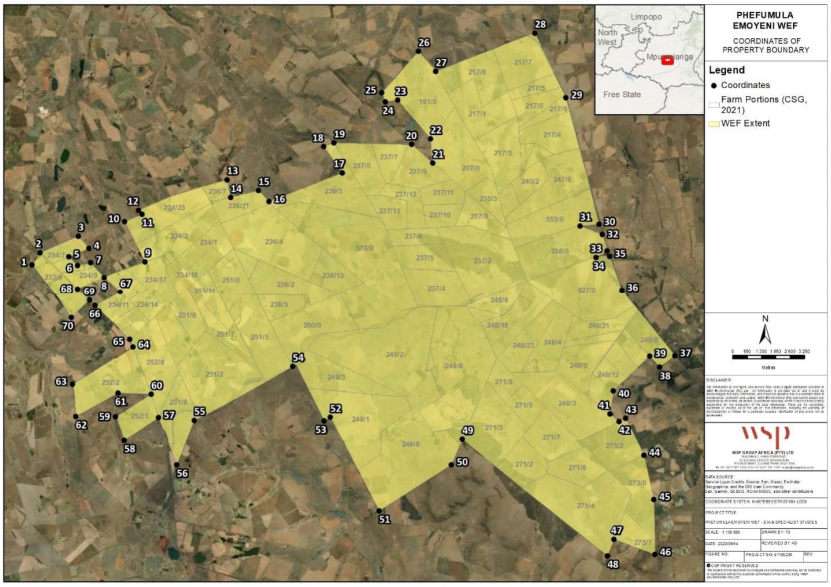
Locality of the proposed WEF



6

6

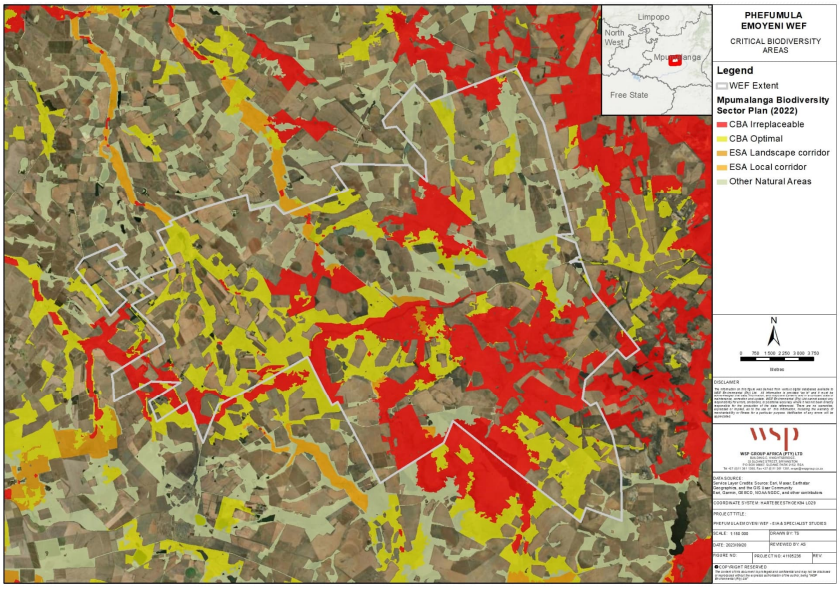
Boundary extent of proposed WEF



7

7

Potential CBAs Identified



8

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NPAES are within the project footprint



9

9

Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

Specifications	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF
Total Project Area	Approximately 36 600 ha
Buildable Area	The layout will be informed by the outcome of the site sensitivity verification assessments (~350 ha)
Wind Turbines	Up to 120
WEF capacity	Up to 550MW
Hub Height	Up to 200m
Rotor Diameter	Up to 200m
Internal Powerline	Up to 132kV
Powerline Length	15km to 25km (depending on final MTS location selected)
On-site Substation footprint including BESS	Up to 5ha
BESS capacity	200MW/800MWh

10

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Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

Specifications	Up to 400kVA Grid Infrastructure
Total Project Area	The Powerline Alignment will be informed by the outcome of the site sensitivity verification assessments and selection of the preferred MTS location (~3 000 ha)
400kV LILO Powerline	400kV Loop In Loop Out (LILO) line linking MTS to existing 400kVA line
400kV LILO Powerline Length	The Powerline length will be informed by the MTS site selection, but will be 1-2km
Internal Powerline(s)	Up to 132kV (from collector substations to MTS)
Internal Powerline length	15km to 25km (depending on final MTS location selected)
Eskom substation footprint	• MTS: 400kV / 132kV, area of 600m x 600m required • 3 x 33kV/132kV onsite collector substation (Eskom and IPP portions), each being 5ha. • Internal OHLs: 31m corridor (15.5m from centre line) • Eskom will require a 2 x 55m = 110m servitude for 400kV line connecting MTS to grid

11

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Overview of the Project

Key Considerations

- The general project area falls within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA). The CBA and ESA include both terrestrial and aquatic themes among other themes.
- The project are also falls within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Areas.
- The ecosystem of the project area is considered endangered and vulnerable, and is located within a Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA) sub-catchment.
- The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones.

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Permitting Processes

Environmental Authorisation Process

The below will be applied for under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), allowing each its own Environmental Authorisation

- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:
  - Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW)- (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)
  - Phefumula Emoyeni EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS – (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)
- Water Use Licence
  - Water use Licences and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities

Listing Notice 1	Listing Notice 2	Listing Notice 3
Activity 11(i)-Overhead Powerlines (up to 132kV)	Activity 1-The proposed energy generation technology (i.e. Wind) will generate more than 20MW of electricity output from a renewable resource	Activity 4(f)(i)(cc)(ee)-Internal access roads required 12-13m wide roads with 12m radius turning circles, gravel surface.
Activity 12(ii)(a)(c)-The Facility will require the development of internal roads and/or access roads and electrical cabling (both above and underground) around the site.	Activity 9- Grid connection will require a powerline with a distribution capacity of 400kV as well as a Main Transmission Substation (MTS).	Activity 10(f)(i)(cc)(ee))(hh)-The Facility will require storage and handling of dangerous goods, including fuel, cement, and chemical storage onsite, that will be greater than 30m3 but not exceeding 80m3 within the specified geological areas.
Activity 14-The Facility will require storage and handling of dangerous goods.	Activity 15-Facilities will result in the clearance of at least 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.	Activity 12(f)(i)(ii)-The clearance of indigenous vegetation will be required for the facility exceeding 300m2
Activity 19-Internal access roads and stormwater control infrastructure, will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m3 from delineated watercourses on site		Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(f)(i)(dd)(ff)-The Facility will require the development of internal roads and/or access roads around the site.
Activity 24(ii)-The Facility will require the development of internal roads and/or access roads around the site wider than 13m		Activity 18(f)(i)(cc) (ee)-Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads by more than 4 metres or the lengthening of existing access and/or internal roads by more than 1km within the Mpumalanga Province.

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities Continued:

Listing Notice 1	Listing Notice 2	Listing Notice 3
Activity 28(ii)-The Facility is considered a commercial and/or industrial development, and is located on several farm portions zoned for agricultural use outside an urban area, used for agricultural purposes, buildable area to be greater than 1ha		Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)(f)(i)(cc)(ee)-The Facility will require the expansion of existing internal roads and/or access roads around the site.
Activity 30-The Facility infrastructure is located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of Eastern Highveld Grassland.		
Activity 48(i)(a)(c)-Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads.		
Activity 56(i)(ii)-Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8 metres.		

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
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.	This activity will be triggered as the project is located outside of an urban area and includes internal grid infrastructure with a capacity of up to 33kV, four onsite IPP substations including a 33/132kV step-up transformer, and an over the fence 132kV cable to connect the onsite IPP substations to the Common Collector Switching Station as part of the infrastructure.

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
Activity 30 Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).	The Facility infrastructure is located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of Eastern Highveld Grassland. This ecosystem is confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threated and in Need of Protection (as indicated in GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011). Due to the fact that this ecosystem is listed as threatened, it is assumed that various threatened or protected species may be found within the development area. The restricted activity of "cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen" has been identified in terms of NEM:BA and is therefore applicable to the vegetation clearance that will be required to construct the development. Considering this, Activity 30 is considered applicable.

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
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.	The proposed WEF will generate up to 550 MW of electricity output from a renewable resource. This activity is therefore considered applicable to the wind facility.
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.	The proposed WEF will result in the clearance of more than 20 ha of indigenous vegetation. The exact buildable area is not yet known.

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Permitting Processes

DEA Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

	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 Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
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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Permitting Processes

DEA Screening Tool Specialist Assessments

Specialist Study	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF	Up to 400kVA grid connection line and MTS substation
Agricultural	X	X
Landscape / Visual	X	X
Archaeological and Cultural heritage	X	X
Palaeontological	X	X
Terrestrial Biodiversity	X	X
Aquatic Biodiversity	X	X
Avian Impact	X	X
Civil Aviation	X	
Defence	X	
RFI	X	
Noise	X	
Flicker	X	
Traffic	X	X
Geotechnical	X	X
Socio-Economic	X	
Plant Species	X	X
Animal Species	X	X

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Permitting Processes

Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils and agricultural survey will be undertaken.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	An Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	A Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken. The Visual impact Assessment will consider impacts related to flicker.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect CBA and NPAES Focus Areas. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects.
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect FEPA areas. An Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken.
Freshwater Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact water resources. A Freshwater Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on birds as a result of the projects, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken.

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Permitting Processes

Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Bat Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on bats as a result of the projects, a Bat Assessment will be undertaken. This study will be specific to the WEFs.
Social Impact Assessment	A detailed social assessment will be prepared. The social statement will be based on a desktop review and telephonic interviews with key stakeholders.
Noise Impact Assessment	Due to potential impacts on sensitive receptors with regards to noise generated from the wind turbines, a Noise Assessment will be undertaken.
Geotechnical Assessment	A preliminary Geotechnical Assessment will be undertaken as part of the S&EIA Process.
Traffic Assessment	A traffic assessment will be undertaken.
Qualitive Risk Assessment	A hazard and risk identification assessment for the BESS facility will be undertaken.
RFI	A compliance statement will be compiled. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) and relevant telecommunications stakeholders will be engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process.
Civil Aviation	A compliance statement will be compiled. The Civil Aviation Authority will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. An Application for the Approval of Obstacles will also be submitted to SACAA once preferred bidder status is obtained.

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Permitting Processes

Specialist Studies Not-Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Defence	The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. A compliance statement is not required as the sensitivity has been identified as Low.

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Permitting Processes

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
- 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 for the WEF
- It is understood that MDARDLEA will be the Competent Authority for the Gridline - Please confirm this interpretation

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Public Participation Process

Public Participation Plan

- A consolidated approach to the Public Participation (PP) Process for both the S&EIA processes respectively
- Site notices:
  - English, Afrikaans and isiZulu
  - Onsite and in the surrounding areas
- 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
- Advertisement (English, Afrikaans and isiZulu in local newspaper)
- Draft Report Review for 30 days
  - WSP on request
  - Online on the WSP website
  - WSP will confirm with local Public Libraries as to whether they are open and able to accept documents for public review
- Public or focus group meetings will be held as required.

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Timeframes

Timeframes

- Authority Timeframes
  - Does not fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
  - Does not fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
  - We require clarity regarding the Authority decision making timeframes as a result of Ms Creecy's statement in May 2023
    - 107 days vs 57 days
    - Is this applicable to only the Renewable Energy Facility or does it include the Grid Infrastructure
- Key Milestones:
  - Submission of Application Forms – 22 November 2023
  - Draft Scoping Report Public Review – 22 November 2023 to 11 January 2024
  - Submission of Final Scoping Reports –24 January 2024
  - Submission of Final EIA Reports - 26 July 2024

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Discussion

- Questions
- Way Forward



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Thank you

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Appendix C.2

FGM - 18 OCTOBER 2024

AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	41105236	**MEETING DATE**	18 October 2024
PROJECT NAME	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF	**VENUE**	Virtual Meetings: MS Teams
CLIENT	Seriti Green (Pty) Ltd / Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	**RECORDED BY**	WSP
MEETING SUBJECT	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF – Biodiversity Offset and EIA Report Focus Group Meeting		

PRESENT	**WSP** Ashlea Strong (AS) Tshepho Mamashela (TM) Rudolph Greffrath (RG) **Seriti Green** Debbie Weldon (DW) Marlien Burger (MB) **Afri Avian** Albert Froneman (AF) **MDARDLEA** Robyn Luyt (RL) Gavin Cowden (GC) Sindisiwe Mbuyane (SM) Clifford Kubheka (CK) Okwethu Fakude (OF) **MTPA** Mervyn Lotter (ML) Khumbelo Malele (KM) **DFFE** Coenrad Agenbach (CA) Mmamohale Kabasa (MK) **EWT** Gareth Tate (GT)
APOLOGIES	Frans Krige and Sam Ralston
DISTRIBUTION	As above.
CONFIDENTIALITY	**Public**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	Response.
The following minutes are considered a summary of the meeting held. *The presentation presented during the meeting is included in **Appendix A**.* *The full transcript of the meeting has been attached in **Appendix B** for further reference.*		
1	**Project background**	
1.1	AS presented the project background: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd (a private special purpose company to be incorporated), to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to meet the requirements under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, located approximately 16km north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa .The original area of influence was changed through the removal of few land portions. The preliminary layout had 135 wind turbines and the associated WEF components and has since been revised, resulting in 88 wind turbines. The 88 wind turbines is what was assessed during the EIA phase. During the course of the EIA phase, the revised layout was optimised and finalised based on specialist inputs and reduced again to 84 Turbines. It is important to note that although the Optimised Layout has been presented as the Final Layout for approval. The Applicant can still further optimise the layout. Any changes, post Authorisation would be subject to a Part 2 Amendment Application	N/A
2	**Summary of comments**	
2.1	**AS presented a summary of comments received during the EIA Phase** ▪ No Site Alternatives ▪ Turbines located in intact grassland patches (10) and areas designated as CBA Optimal (14) ▪ Construction camps and laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable areas ▪ Laydown areas should be located outside the freshwater ecosystems and outside of a 100m buffer of any wetland ▪ The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands, and the development of watercourse crossings, not been sufficiently analysed, nor alternatives proposed. ▪ 15m non-development buffer for wetlands. ▪ Cumulative Impact Assessment – 30km vs 55km or larger ▪ Cumulative Impact Assessment 20 renewable energy, recent data indicates 50 ▪ No Site Alternatives ▪ Turbines located in intact grassland patches (10) and areas designated as CBA Optimal (14) ▪ Construction camps and laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable areas ▪ Laydown areas should be located outside the freshwater ecosystems and outside of a 100m buffer of any wetland	

	▪ The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands, and the development of watercourse crossings, not been sufficiently analysed, nor alternatives proposed. ▪ 15m non-development buffer for wetlands. ▪ Cumulative Impact Assessment – 30km vs 55km or larger ▪ Cumulative Impact Assessment 20 renewable energy, recent data indicates 50. CA asked if there are any other wind facilities closed by that are proposed or approved and if discussion with the identified wind facilities on wake effect have been had. AS stated that a 55km radius was created and proposed and approved WEFs were identified within this area. The closest identified WEF is another Seriti Green proposed development, Ummbila Emoyeni, and the wake effect won't affect other wind facilities because they are too far away. This was presented through the cumulative assessment map. GC stated that the presented cumulative map does not depict all the proposed, approved and declined wind facilities. This was supported by ML, stating that there are other wind facilities in the application process. AS stated that the wind facilities depicted on the cumulative map are those that are on the DFFE 2023 quarter database, and the 2024 quarter 2 database has just been made available for download and will be used to update the map. Hence there are missing projects. ML stated that MTPA has a database of projects that could be shared with EAPs to accurately assess cumulative impacts. ML asked the distance of the wake effect. AS said it has been noted in the past that the problem arises when the facilities are neighbouring. The exact distance will be confirmed. DW stated that 20km has a minimal effect. GC stated that there is a concern that there a multiple proposed wind facilities in the proposed area which is also very sensitive. The focus on the cumulative impacts assessment is therefore important. RL stated that a formal email requesting the database of the applications can be sent to MDARDLEA and MPTA and a shapefile will be shared. **Action**: AS to request a database of the Mpumalanga application.	AS
3	**Wind Resource in Mpumalanga and site Selection**	

3.1	**MB presented the wind resource in MP section:**
	The wind farm site was selected based on grid and wind capacity. In addition to this there is a process to get land approval from landowners which takes some time.
	▪ Notwithstanding other requirements, wind farms require a strong wind resource.
	▪ Mpumalanga does not have a uniform wind resource across the province.
	▪ This resource is found at higher hub heights (150m plus)
	▪ The SA energy supply market remains dominated by coal, but the energy crisis coupled with the country's "Just Energy Transition" plans; solar and wind energy have become valuable alternative sources of energy.
	▪ Potential power station decommissioning in the near to medium-term.
	
	Site Selection
	▪ **Prospecting -** Identify potential sites based on:
	  ▪ Wind energy resource analysis;
	  ▪ Grid connection availability and feasibility;
	  ▪ Competition in the area; and
	  ▪ Environmental sensitivity.
		N/A

	▪ **Land securement** entails securing a critical mass of land to make the project commercially viable through option to lease agreements (1-2 years).
	▪ **Preliminary Assessment and Validation**:
	  ▪ Validation of wind models via ground up monitoring protocols (usually Met masts and SODARs) (1-2 years).
	  ▪ Commencement of baseline bird and bat monitoring for a 1 year period.
	▪ **Bankable Feasibility Assessment**:
	  ▪ Permitting: EIA, WULA, etc.
	  ▪ Additional studies pertaining to confirmation of bankable feasibility.
	GC stated that the site selection process is understood, however, from a sustainability point of view, there is a conflict of land use between the proposed wind facility and the sensitivity of the selected site. Further to this GC asked if alternative technology was considered for in areas of high sensitivity to bird collision. An alternative that could be explored, as suggested by GC was the vortex blade. GC further asked what the hub height and the rotor height is for this WEF. DW stated that the hub height will be 150m because Seriti Green is looking at either concrete or hybrid towers. AS stated that the height outlined in the application is 200m for both the hub and the rotor, while the EIR outlined a 182 diameter. The differences were made to keep turbine options open for Seriti. GC stated that it is difficult to measure impact if the dimensions are not definite. MB noted the suggested vortex blade technology for consideration.	

4	**Watercourses and Wetlands**	
4.1	**AS presented the Watercourses and wetland section:** The road network is usually the last thing to be done due the changes in the layout. As a result, there are some crossings that were not assessed. Given that a Water Use License (WUL) will be require, there is an opportunity to further assess the crossings. The following are the key points from the aquatic specialist. Any further questions and queries regarding the watercourses and wetlands are welcomed, however, AS will send them to the aquatic specialist for an appropriate response: ▪ EIA fieldwork for the freshwater assessment was undertaken in the first week of March 2024, timed to be within the growing season ▪ Certain direct road crossings and portions of roads in relatively close proximity to wetlands were not assessed in the initial field work due to numerous layout changes and associated changes to the road networks ▪ The scope of work of the freshwater study and the subsequent approach did not include the assessment of the PES and EIS of all individual wetland units over a very large study area that encompasses sizeable areas of three quaternary catchments and accordingly hundreds of wetland HGM units, based on an assumption that only a small portion of the overall number of wetlands would be directly affected by the proposed infrastructure, once the layout had been finalised. ▪ Due to the similarity of certain wetlands across the study area according to their physical characteristics including substrate, hydrology and vegetative compo position, wetlands were grouped into their respective HGM type and according to the quaternary catchment in which they fell. ▪ This approach was deemed to be adequate for the purposes the EIA authorisation process based on a layout that was not final and did not contain all infrastructure components and given the need for a study at this scale. The data presented is deemed adequate for decision making for the EIA. ▪ It is however acknowledged that once a detailed and final layout is available, the PES and EIS of all affected wetland units will need to be determined at a more	N/A

	refined scale to appropriately inform the Water Use Licence Application along with other ancillary information such as drivers and receptors analyses as well as goods and service provision assessments, landscaping rehab and plant species plans ▪ As detailed in Section 4.3 of the report, the 15m buffer was generated through the DWS approved buffer tool (Macfarlane and Bredin, 2017). ▪ In terms of the layout provided for assessment in the EIAR phase specialist reports, Turbine 42 was the only turbine located within the 15m buffer. Table 14 (page 76) details that Turbines and Hardstands 5 (approx. 90m), 21 (approximately 45m), 49 (approximately 75m) and 59 (approximately 65m) are located within 100m of the delineated freshwater boundaries, with all other turbines (except Turbine 42) occurring outside of a 100m radius of the proposed turbine locations. ▪ Turbine 42 was relocated in the optimised layout as requested. RL stated that the watercourse section is a concern because the discussion is not on WUL but on the impact of the wind facility on the receiving environment. Buffers for watercourses relate directly to the bat and bird impacts, which will not be considered during the WUL application. Additionally, road networks do not just impact water quality crossing. They traverse through areas of intact grasslands, patches and Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) As a result, it is not believed that the watercourses have been adequately assessed for EIA purposes. AS agreed and further stated that the buffers have been taken into consideration in terms of aquatic recommendations as well as bat recommendations. The buffers have been put on all watercourses, wetlands and farm dams. However, there is a level of further investigations into the crossing that needs to take place. RL asked about the buffer radius used to move Turbine 42 as there seem to be a conflict between the 100m vs the 15m buffer. AS confirmed that it has been moved outside the 15m buffer but might still be within the 100m buffer zone. RB confirmed that based on other projects, 100m is not deemed sufficient.	
5	**Intact Grasslands Patches/MBSP and Climate Change corridor**	
5.1	**RG presented the Intact Grasslands Patches/MBSP and Climate Change corridor section**. One of the main things that was noted from a biodiversity perspective, is the intact grassland patches and, of course, the climate change corridors. There are 10 wind turbines that intersect and those that are found close to the boundary layer of the intact grasslands, and that could be affected by the size of the footprint that we used for mapping. And there's six that intersect with the climate change corridors. With the current layout, there's been quite a few of the turbines that have been moved away or out of these sensitive areas. With regards to the road networks, no comment can be made until such a time the final map inclusive of the road networks has been provided. When calculations where made on the area of influence, it has been noted that turbines affects 1.877ha of CBA irreplaceable areas, 15.89ha of CBA Optimal areas and 7.99ha of intact grasslands patches. These numbers will change once road networks are included. During the field assessment it was found that 42 turbines fall within very low (areas that are either transformed completely or have invasive plants, patches or trees or cultivated areas) while only 8 turbines fall within high sensitivity areas. **Biodiversity Offset:**	

	Without having a final layout in terms of the number of hectares that might be impacted by the road network, it is difficult to speak about offset strategy. As a result, the offset report that was produced was a starting point. RL mentioned that in addition to road networks, there was no reference in the offset strategy made to that infrastructure was placed in the CBAS other than the turbines so the calculation of the areas that incept the CBA might not be completely accurate. RG agreed and reiterated that the numbers will change with the final layout map that includes the road networks and all infrastructure. ML stated that the timeframes for offset management were not accounted for in the report and this commitment will be required. RG stated that the guidelines for offsets were explicitly followed. Therefore, by implication, it would mean 30-year to perpetuity would definitely be part of it. This will be included in the final offset report. RL stated that it is imported to mention what can and cannot be offset. The offset strategy should first consider whether the EIA has successfully mitigated the impacts in terms of avoidance. While the offset report is good, it has not been sufficiently motivated given that avoidance has not be effectively achieved. RG stated that based on the changes of the layout map and the lack of a road network, it has been clear that the first step of mitigation hierarchy will need to be revisited. CA stated that it is important to demonstrate that the mitigation hierarchies were followed and how the project led to the need for an offset strategy. However, it is concerning that the project is in its final stages but there are still outstanding items such as road networks and therefore the final layout plan is not in place, which should have been done earlier in the process. This might imply that if a decision is issued, and few months down the line an amendment application is submitted.	
6	**Avifauna**	
6.1	**AF presented the avifauna section.** **IBA vs KBA** IBA boundaries have historically not been seen as avoidance areas or No-Go areas. There are approved WEFs in IBAs. As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's). Having said, the number of species of concern have been taken into consideration and furthermore, mitigation hierarchies, particularly avoidance, has been noted. **Modelled Buffers** The use of modelled buffers for avifauna is based on underlying landscape features and habitats. So, some areas will have larger buffers based on how the birds are perceived to use the landscapes, the underlying habits and moist grasslands for example. It has been noted that birds to do not confine themselves to any buffer hence the need for mitigation and adaptation strategies. **Nocturnal Bird Movement** With regards to birds that fly at night, mitigation measures such as radar are not a saving grace but can go a long way in assisting to identify night flying movement. The effectiveness of radar is uncertain but it has been implemented in other parts of world and one can therefore rely on such implementation to measure the success. Responsible development remains the mandate.	

Mitigation

There is a level of uncertainty with regards to mitigation, so each project needs to have a very tightly managed biodiversity management plan that governs the process around adaptive management with mitigations that are already in place. The mitigations that should already be in place are measures such as shutdown on demand and blade painting. The success of shutdown on demand is uncertain hence the impact rating post mitigation is not low but medium. The question of what the critical value the population can sustain is not defined and that definition will need to come from a strategic point of view with commonality across all specialists. It is also imperative to leave room for improvement as it is unknown when the project will be operational.

Another option that could be considered in terms of mitigation is have an expert on site that manages the mitigation process. Data collection of birds preference will need to be collected to ensure successful implementation. While there will be fatalities, the process (shutdown on demand) has proven to be effective in other projects.

RL stated that blade painting and shutdown on demand will be compulsory, however, these were not indicated in the EIA report. RL further asked what an adaptive management does program entails in terms of the recommended management measures. AF stated that there are numerous methods to implement shutdown on demand, and they may not be effective. Therefore, the adaptive management program will ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation.

ML mentioned that AF's answer assumes that data on collision and on the birds' preferences has been collected. The theory sounds good, but the practicality of this mitigation measure cannot be effectively implemented because there isn't enough information on bird preferences to effectively predict their movement.

ML further asked what they will know, as the stakeholders, the shape of the modelled buffers? As the sensitivities on the map in the report are merged with other sensitivities. How do we know if the modelled buffer is at least 75% of the more commonly used shaped buffer. Therefore, it is suggested that an appendix that explains how the shape buffers were calculated be attached to the avifauna report for evaluation purposes. AF stated that for the shape buffers to be more visible, a separate map might be help. The surface area of a shaped buffer will largely be equivalent to for example for Martial Eagles what a 5km radial buffer will be. The area protected for the birds is defined by the habitat and topography that they would use.

AF stated that in terms of bird roosts, from the information available, of vulture tracking data and vulture information in in the landscape, there are nor roost that they are aware of. It can be confirmed that observations of birds roosting on power lines have been noted in the Carolina area and on power lines to the Southeast of the Camden Power Station but not to the extent that they are deemed permanent. MK stated that there is a roost near Camdem. It is suggested that AF get in touch with VulPro since they have the latest data on vulture activity in the area.

ML asked if AF could comment on the Birdlife comment about flufftails. AF stated that the flufftails need further investigation and the information provided by BirdLife will be considered.

RL stated that it is understood that BirdLife models were updated 3 weeks ago, and it is therefore difficult for stakeholders to confirm whether the models conducted by AF includes the updates ones. AF stated that the updates are a result of some of the work done by AfriAvian in conjunction with the BirdLife collected information.

	GC agreed with AF's statement on the need for commonality and hopefully, a presentation will be put together at the Birds and Renewal Energy Forum. With regards to the birds that fly at night and the proposed shutdown radar, it is unknown what the impacts will be. Lastly the effectiveness of blade painting is also unknown. AF agreed that the effectiveness of the blade painting is unknown, and this is mostly because there are no turbines in the proposed project area to provide proof of their effectiveness. RL asked that given the response provided by AF, how can it be justified that the mitigation measures presented in the EIR report that will bring the impact to a lower rating when it is unknown that they will work. AF stated that the impact rating is debatable. If the precautionary principle is strictly applied, the ratings will most likely remain high. However, there is some confidence in the mitigation measures and the success that can be achieved, therefore, there will be some level of effectiveness. ML acknowledged that mitigation measures will bring down the rating and however the presence of threatened species on site still remains an issue and from a commenting authority point of view, the comments submitted to Seriti and WSP during the EIA process still stand. RL stated that there is a lot of outstanding information that is still required for decision making and the comments made during the commenting period cannot be sufficiently addressed in the comments and response report (CRR). Therefore, any substantial changes made to an EIA report will need to go through a 30-day comment period. RL then asked if the intention is to package everything comment in the CRR and submit to DFFE. AS stated that this is under discussion and a response will be sent to all comment authority. A detailed response to each commenting authority will be submitted.	
7	**Closure**	
7.1	**AS thanked everyone who joined and adjourned the meeting.**	

APPENDIX A: PRESENTATION



PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WINDENERGY FACILITY

Focus Group Meeting –

18 October 2024

1

Introduction

Seriti Green/Phefumula Emoyeni:

Marlien Burger

Debbie Weldon

WSP Group Africa (EAP):

Ashlea Strong

Tshepho Mamashela

Rudolph Greffrath

AfriAvian:

Albert Froneman

EWT:

Gareth Tate

MDARDLEA:

Robyn Luyt

Gavin Cowden

Sindisiwa Mbuyane

Clifford Kubheka

Okwethu Fakude

MTPA:

Frans Krige

Mervyn Lotter

DFFE:

Mmamohale Kabasa



2

2

Agenda

- Project Background
- Layout Optimisation
- Discussion on Comments Received
- Closing



3

3

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd (a private special purpose company to be incorporated), to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to meet the requirements under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, located approximately 16km north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa .

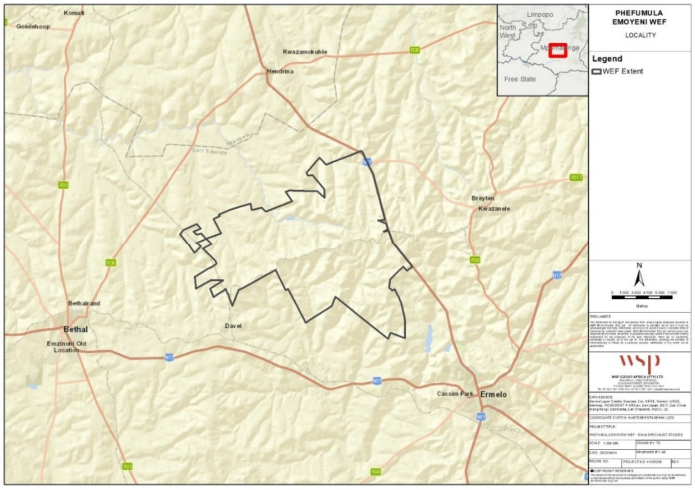


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Project Background

The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF will have a project area of approximately 33 660 hectares (ha) (original Area of Influence – AOI). Within this project area the extent of the buildable area was subject to optimisation based on technical and environmental requirements.



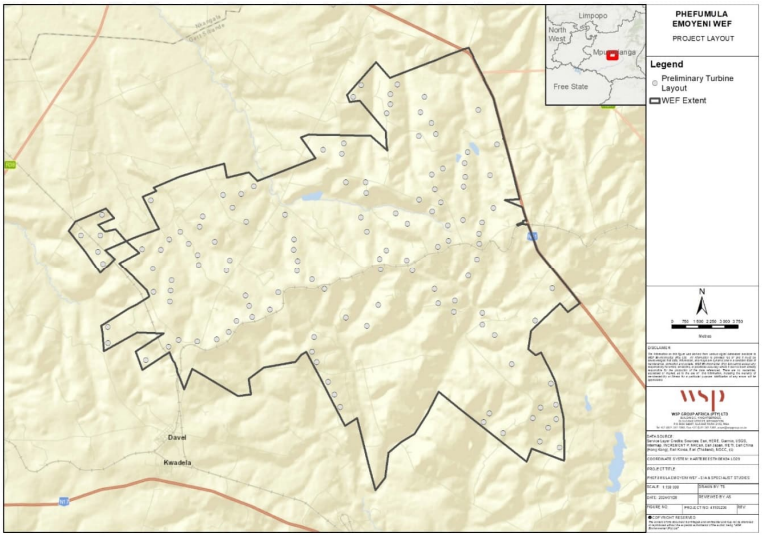


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Layout Optimisation

The preliminary layout identified up to 135 turbine positions and associated main WEF components



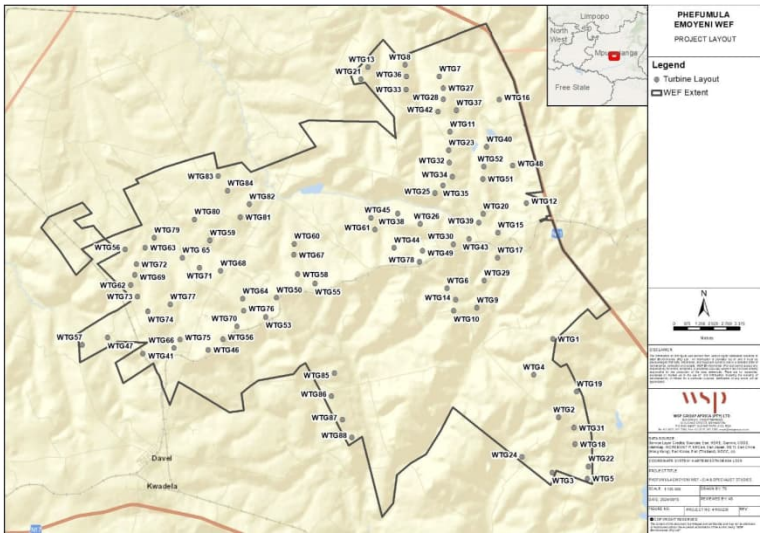


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Layout Optimisation

The Revised layout identified up to 88 turbine positions and associated main WEF components





7

7

Layout Optimisation

During the course of the EIA phase, the revised layout was optimised and finalised based on specialist inputs. These inputs included the following recommendations:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity:
  - Relocation of Turbine 04 such it falls outside of the NPAES area.
  - **This turbine was shifted outside of the NPAES**
  - **Turbines were shifted outside CBA irreplaceable and optimal areas and intact grasslands as far as practically possible**.
- Avifauna
  - WTG 85 and 86 are located within a recommended turbine exclusion (including rotor-swept area) buffer, these turbines need to micro-sited out of the exclusion zones.
  - **These two turbines were removed**
- Aquatic biodiversity assessment
  - It is strongly recommended that Turbine 42 be relocated to the north or east so that no part of its footprint is located within the delineated wetland boundary or associated 15m buffer. **This turbine was shifted as requested**.
  - Furthermore a number of access roads are proposed to be relocated. **Road layout to be updated in line with this request.**



8

8

Layout Optimisation

- Bats:
  - Turbine 11, T12, T13, T27, T44, T47, T48, T49, T53, T56, T63, T68, T81, T82, and T88 have rotor sweep areas that encroach on High sensitivity buffers.
  - **These turbines were shifted where required to avoid high sensitivity bat areas**.
- Heritage:
  - The ruins and semi-circular stone enclosures at PF006 impacted by WTG55. **Turbine was shifted to avoid heritage site**.
  - Burial sites which will be impacted by access roads (PF007, PF008, PF009) should preferably be avoided with a 30m buffer zone with access provided to family members.
- Noise
  - The closest wind turbine to these receptors (WTG88) be located slightly northwards, away from the receptors, so that noise levels remain below the 40 dB(A) threshold.
  - **This turbine was removed.**
- Social:
  - The developers should liaise with the owners of the property to identify an alternative location for the substation and BESS. The owners have proposed an area on the northernmost site property.

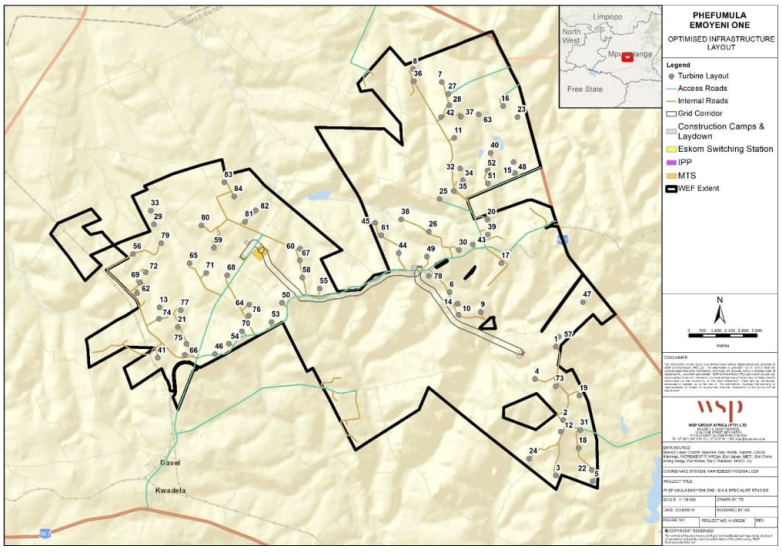


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9

Layout Optimisation

The Optimised layout identified up to 84 turbine positions and associated main WEF components and amended AOI.





It is important to note that although the Optimised Layout has been presented as the Final Layout for approval. The Applicant can still further optimise the layout.

Any changes, post Authorisation would be subject to a Part 2 Amendment Application.

10

10

Summary of Main Comments Recieved

- No Site Alternatives
- Turbines located in intact grassland patches (10) and areas designated as CBA Optimal (14)
- Construction camps and laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable areas
- Laydown areas should be located outside the freshwater ecosystems and outside of a 100m buffer of any wetland
- The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands, and the development of watercourse crossings, not been sufficiently analysed, nor alternatives proposed.
- 15m non-development buffer for wetlands.
- Cumulative Impact Assessment – 30km vs 55km or larger
- Cumulative Impact Assessment 20 renewable energy, recent data indicates 50



11

11

Summary of Main Comments Recieved

- Biodiversity offset cannot cater for the loss of Irreplaceable CBAs or intact grasslands and cannot compensate for the loss of species, specifically the loss of endangered bird or bat species.
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy 30ha of Irreplaceable CBAs and 48ha of CBA Optimal.
- Project Area - 48% within NPAES and MPAES
- New road network not available at time of writing BOR
- Offset Conservation outcome aim for a net positive impact where possible and must be measurable and achievable
- Duration of offset more 30 yrs



12

12

Summary of Main Comments Recieved

- Location of Project Area inside Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina IBA (SA018) and 18km west of the Chrissie Pans IBA
- Effectiveness of Avifaunal Mitigation such as Shut down on demand (SDoD), blade painting and Radar
  - Mitigation zones or overall
  - Detail around them mitigation measures
- Avifauna Significance Rating - High to Medium
- Cumulative impact of WEFs on avifauna in terms of collision risks
- Mitigation of collisions of night flying birds
- Movement corridors
- Avifauna Buffers – radial vs modelled
- Vulture risk assessment
- Nests – active vs inactive

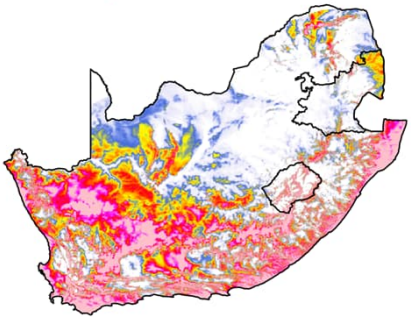


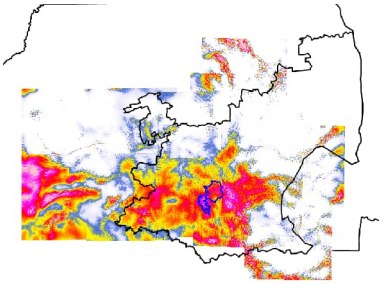
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13

Wind Resource in Mpumalanga

- Notwithstanding other requirements, wind farms require a strong wind resource.
- Mpumalanga does not have a uniform wind resource across the province.
- This resource is found at higher hub heights (150m plus)
- The SA energy supply market remains dominated by coal, but the energy crisis coupled with the country's "Just Energy Transition" plans; solar and wind energy have become valuable alternative sources of energy.
- Potential power station decommissioning in the near to medium-term







14

Wind Farm Site Selection

EIA Regulations requires a discussion of the "development footprint" alternatives

"Evidence of physical alteration as a result of the undertaking of the activity"

- **Prospecting -** Identify potential sites based on:
  - Wind energy resource analysis;
  - Grid connection availability and feasibility;
  - Competition in the area; and
  - Environmental sensitivity.
- **Land securement** entails securing a critical mass of land to make the project commercially viable through option to lease agreements (1-2 years).
- **Preliminary Assessment and Validation**:
  - Validation of wind models via ground up monitoring protocols (usually Met masts and SODARs) (1-2 years).
  - Commencement of baseline bird and bat monitoring for a 1 year period.
- **Bankable Feasibility Assessment**:
  - Permitting: EIA, WULA, etc.
  - Additional studies pertaining to confirmation of bankable feasibility.



15

15

Watercourses and Wetlands

- EIA fieldwork for the freshwater assessment was undertaken in the first week of March 2024, timed to be within the growing season
- Certain direct road crossings and portions of roads in relatively close proximity to wetlands were not assessed in the initial field work due to numerous layout changes and associated changes to the road networks
- The scope of work of the freshwater study and the subsequent approach did not include the assessment of the PES and EIS of all individual wetland units over a very large study area that encompasses sizeable areas of three quaternary catchments and accordingly hundreds of wetland HGM units, based on an assumption that only a small portion of the overall number of wetlands would be directly affected by the proposed infrastructure, once the layout had been finalised.
- Due to the similarity of certain wetlands across the study area according to their physical characteristics including substrate, hydrology and vegetative compo position, wetlands were grouped into their respective HGM type and according to the quaternary catchment in which they fell.
- This approach was deemed to be adequate for the purposes the EIA authorisation process based on a layout that was not final and did not contain all infrastructure components and given the need for a study at this scale. The data presented is deemed adequate for decision making for the EIA.



16

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Watercourses and Wetlands

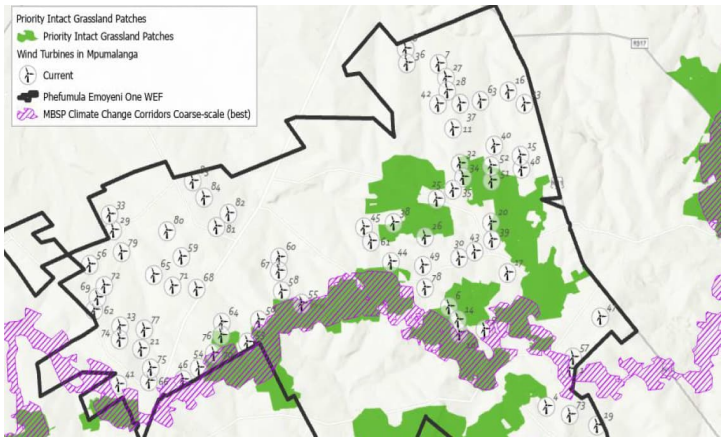
- It is however acknowledged that once a detailed and final layout is available, the PES and EIS of all affected wetland units will need to be determined at a more refined scale to appropriately inform the Water Use Licence Application along with other ancillary information such as drivers and receptors analyses as well as goods and service provision assessments, landscaping rehab and plant species plans
- As detailed in Section 4.3 of the report, the 15m buffer was generated through the DWS approved buffer tool (Macfarlane and Bredin, 2017).
- In terms of the layout provided for assessment in the EIAR phase specialist reports, Turbine 42 was the only turbine located within the 15m buffer. Table 14 (page 76) details that Turbines and Hardstands 5 (approx. 90m), 21 (approximately 45m), 49 (approximately 75m) and 59 (approximately 65m) are located within 100m of the delineated freshwater boundaries, with all other turbines (except Turbine 42) occurring outside of a 100m radius of the proposed turbine locations.
- **Turbine 42 was relocated in the optimised layout as requested.**



17

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Intact Grassland Patches/MBSP Climate Change Corridors



Intact Grassland Patches
Intersect with 10 Turbines

CCC
Intersect with 6 Turbines

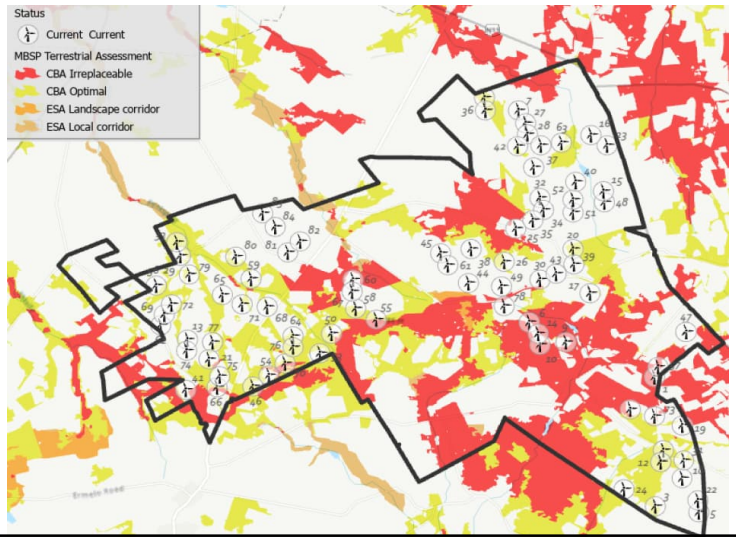


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Actual CBA Intercepts

- CBA Irreplaceable (1.877ha)
- CBA Optimal (15.89ha)
- Intact Grassland Patches (7.99ha)





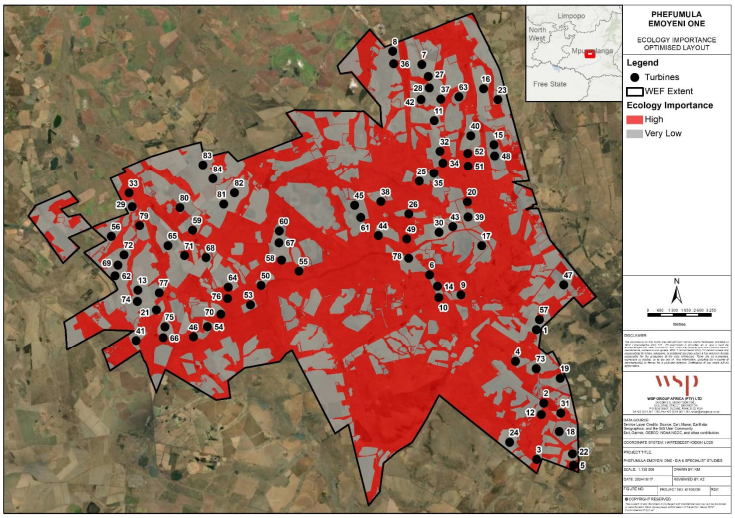
19

19

Infield Assessment

Very Low: 47 Turbines

High: 8 Turbines

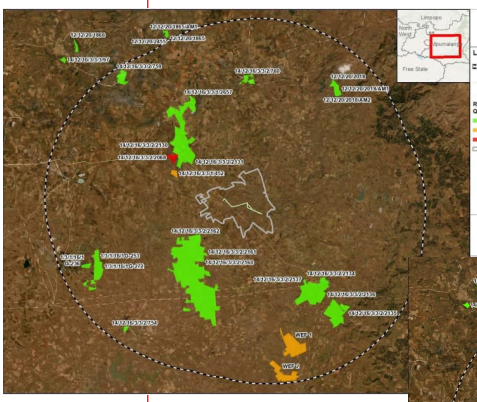




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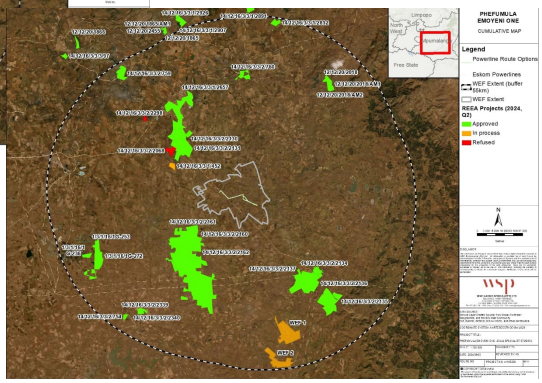
20

Cumulative Assessment



DFFE request a 30km radius around the Project Area - WSP expanded the assessment to 55km

It is noted that since the release of the Draft EIA Report an additional three have been added to the latest REEA 2024_Q2 database – this map will be replaced in the Final EIA





No approvals from MDARDLEA are included in the REEA Database

Additional projects that are not included on the REEA Database, but are known to WSP and the Developer are included.

Projects can only include projects that are or have been in the public domain.

21

Biodiversity Offsets

Offsets are the final option in the mitigation hierarchy once all other foregoing steps have been considered to their full extent.

Project infrastructure situated in a high biodiversity value landscape, interacting with areas of natural habitats,

- Terrestrial and aquatic CBAs, and an IBA,
- Supports numerous flora and fauna SCC

Mapped vegetation communities within the LSA that will be lost as a result of the proposed developments were ranked according to their occurrence in CBA1, CBA2, ESA and ONA areas mapped by the MBSP:

- CBA Irreplaceable (1.877ha) (WTG 10,55,57,66 and 70)
- CBA Optimal (15.89ha) (WTG 2,3,8,12,20,26,33,36,46,50,55,58,64,66,70 and 76)
- Intact Grassland Patches (7.99ha) (WTG 10,20,26,32,34,38,51,52,55,70 and 76)

Hectares impacted:

- Very Low: 74 ha (old lands, cultivation, alien trees)
- High: 24 ha

Hectares available:

- Very Low: 14 346 ha
- High: 16 823 ha

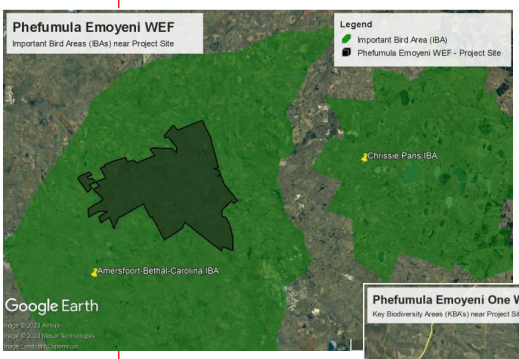
The Biodiversity offset strategy will be updated with the roads network as soon as it is made available by the engineers.



22

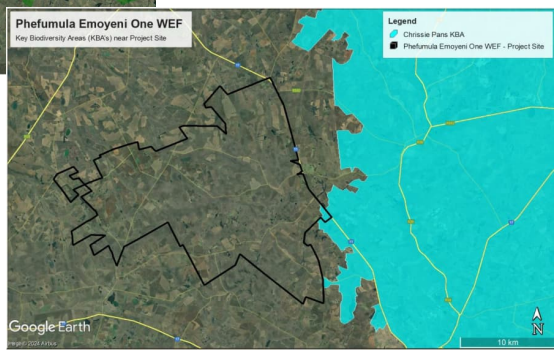
22

IBA vs KBA



IBA boundaries have historically not been seen as avoidance areas or No-Go's. There are approved WEFs in IBAs.

As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's).





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Avifauna Mitigation

- Nests – active *vs.* inactive
  - Avoidance – Buffers
- Biodiversity Management Plan
- Adaptive management programme (monitoring & evaluation)
- Blade Patterning
- Shut Down on Demand (SDoD)
  - Observer SDoD *vs.* Auto SDoD
  - Radar SDoD
  - Effectiveness of SDoD measures
- Implementation through a skilled professional on site overseeing the day-to-day management of the programme



24

24

Overall Queries

- To what level of detail to we need to define the mitigation measures specifically Avifauna?
- Can MDARDLEA provide us with the list of 50 Projects they have identified in the 55km radius of the AOI?



25

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Closing

- Detailed responses will be provided in the Comment and Response Report to be submitted with the Final EIA Report
- Any further comments post submission of the Final EIA Report to the DFFE should be submitted directly to the DFFE, cc the EAP and Applicant.



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Optional Slides



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Site Sensitivity Verification

Theme	DFFE Sensitivity	Specialist Verification
Agricultural Theme	Very High	Confirmed High and Medium Sensitivity
Animal Species Theme	High	Confirmed High Sensitivity High in areas of grassland and wetland habitat.
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	Very High	Confirmed very High Sensitivity
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	High	Confirmed low, medium and high Sensitivity
Avian Theme	Low	Confirmed High Sensitivity
Bats Theme	High	Confirmed High Sensitivity
Civil Aviation Theme	High	Confirmed Low Sensitivity
Defence Theme	Low	Confirmed Low Sensitivity
Flicker Theme	Very High	Confirmed moderate to high Sensitivity
Landscape	Very High	
Palaeontology Theme	Very High	Confirmed low sensitivity
Noise Theme	Very High	Confirmed Very High Sensitivity
Plant Species Theme	Medium	Confirmed Medium Sensitivity Medium in areas of primary grassland and wetland habitat.
RFI Theme	Very High	Confirmed moderate to high Sensitivity
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Very High	Very High/High in areas of primary grassland and wetland habitat and areas designated as CBA Irreplaceable and CBA Optimal. Low/ Medium in areas of secondary grassland habitat. Very Low in areas of modified habitat
Vulture Species Theme	Medium	Confirmed High Sensitivity



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Impact Mitigation Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
Agriculture	Agricultural production potential of land	C/O	(-)	Low	Low
Aquatic Biodiversity	Hydrological alteration due to stormwater discharges, increased erosion or development of new erosion, and deposition of increased sediment due to vegetation clearance	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Destruction of a certain area of wetland habitat, sedimentation and water quality impacts related to clearing of Vegetation and Terrain Levelling	C	(-)	High	High
	Hydrological alteration due to stormwater discharges, increased erosion or development of new erosion, and deposition of increased sediment from dust or transported by stormwater due to construction of surface infrastructure	C	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Hydrological alteration due to stormwater discharges, increased erosion or development of new erosion, and deposition of increased sediment from dust or transported by stormwater due to construction outside of the delineated wetland boundary	C	(-)	Low	Low
	Potential pollution (water quality impacts), impacts on wetland soils, hydrology and vegetation	C	(-)	Moderate	Moderate
	Water Quality impacts and damage to wetland soils and vegetation	C	(-)	Low	Low
	Permanent loss of a certain area of wetland habitat		(-)	High	High
	Hydrological alteration due to stormwater discharges related to operation and maintenance of the surface infrastructure located outside the delineated freshwater ecosystems	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Operation and maintenance of the proposed main access roads and other existing roads traversing freshwater ecosystems	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
Avifauna	Noise pollution and environmental disruption : Displacement of priority species from breeding/feeding/roosting areas	C	(-)	Moderate	Moderate
	Habitat transformation: Displacement of priority species from breeding/feeding/roosting areas	O	(-)	High	Moderate
	Bird mortality and injury: Population reduction of priority species	O	(-)	High	Moderate
	Electrocution of priority species on the on-site sub-stations and internal 33kV network	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Collisions of priority species with the internal 33kV network	O	(-)	High	Moderate
	Noise pollution and environmental disruption: Total/partial displacement of priority species from breeding/feeding/roosting areas	D	(-)	High	Moderate
Bat Monitoring and Impact Assessment	Disturbance of bat roosts	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Terrestrial habitat loss, and possible displacement of bats	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Bat fatalities from collision with turbines, and possible population declines	O	(-)	Very High	Moderate
	Declines in certain species populations, the ecosystem services	O	(-)	High	Moderate
	Disturbance of bat roosts	D	(-)	High	Low
	Terrestrial habitat loss, and possible displacement of bats	D	(-)	Low	Low

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Impact Mitigation Summary

Animal Species	Direct loss and disturbance of natural habitat.	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Impact on fauna SCC: Injury, mortality and disturbance of fauna	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Impact on fauna SCC: Injury and mortality of fauna, including SCC	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Impact on fauna SCC: Vibrations impacts from operating wind turbines disturbing fauna	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Impact on fauna SCC: Injury and mortality of fauna, including SCC	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
Terrestrial Biodiversity	Direct loss and disturbance of natural habitat	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Increased soil erosion and sedimentation	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Increase in wildfires from Project workers or faulty infrastructure	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Increased soil erosion and sedimentation	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
Plant Species	Direct loss and disturbance of natural habitat	C	(-)	High	Low
	Fragmentation reducing natural habitat connectivity and integrity	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Loss of flora of conservation concern	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
Geotechnical	Soil Erosion Impacts	C	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Contamination of ground and surface water resources	C	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	The displacement of natural earth material and overlying vegetation leading to erosion	C	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Slope instability around structures.	C	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Seismic activity	C	(-)	Vey Low	Very Low
	Soil Erosion Impacts	D	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Contamination of ground and surface water resources	D	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	The displacement of natural earth material and overlying vegetation leading to erosion	D	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Slope instability around structures	D	(-)	Low	Vey Low
Heritage	Loss of heritage resources	C	(-)	Moderate	Very low
	Impact to graves in burial sites	C	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Loss of heritage resources	O	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Impact to graves in burial sites	O	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Loss of heritage resources	D	(-	Moderate	Very Low

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Impact Mitigation Summary

Noise	Nuisance	C	(-)	Low	Vey Low
	Nuisance	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Nuisance	D	(-)	Low	Very Low
Traffic	Increase in Development Trips	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Slight increase in trips due to transport of permanent staff to site	O	(-)	Low	Low
	Increase in Development Trips	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
Visual	Visual Impacts - Airborne dust	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Visual Impacts - Presence of visually intrusive construction related activities and equipment in the landscape	C	(-)	High	Moderate
	Visual Impact - Reduction in visual resource value	O	(-)	Very High	Very High
	Visual Impacts - Flicker nuisance from painted spinning blades	O	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Visual Impacts -Flicker nuisance from painted spinning blades	O	(-)	Moderate	Moderate
	Light pollution at night due to turbine safety and project site security lighting	O	(-)	High	Moderate
	Visual Impacts - Airborne dust	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Visual Impacts - Presence of visually intrusive construction	D	(-)	Moderate	Low

Social	Increase in local employment, training and business opportunities	C	(+)	Moderate	High
	Influx of job seekers: Increased number of people seeking for jobs	C	(-)	Moderate	Vey Low
	Increased risk of grass fires	C	(-)	Low	Low
	Threat to Community health, safety and Security	C	(-)	Moderate	Vey Low
	Risk to safety, loss of agricultural land and damage to farm infrastructure	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Threat to Community health, safety and Security	C	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Environmental Health: Noise and dust generated from construction vehicles	C	(-)	Moderate	Very Low
	Increase in local employment	O	(+)	Moderate	Moderate
	Influx of job seekers	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Threat to Community health, safety and Security	O	(-)	Low	Low
	Environmental Health: Noise and dust generated from construction vehicles	O	(-)	Low	Low
	Visual Impacts: Obstruction of natural scenic view	O	(-)	Low	Low
	Energy Generation: Provision of more reliable, stable energy source	O	(+)	Moderate	High
	Retrenchment	D	(-)	Moderate	N/A
	Loss of livelihood (increase in poverty)	D	(-)	High	Moderate

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Impact Mitigation Summary

High Level Safety, Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	Human Health - chronic exposure to toxic chemical or biological agents	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - exposure to noise	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - exposure to temperature extremes and/or humidity	C	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Human Health - exposure to psychological stress	C	(-)	Low	Low
	Human Health - exposure to ergonomic stress	C	(-)	Low	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to fire radiation	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - chronic exposure to toxic chemical or biological agents	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to explosion over pressures	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to acute toxic chemical and biological agents	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to acute toxic chemical and biological agents	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to violent release of kinetic or potential energy	C	(-)	High	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to electromagnetic waves	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Environment - emissions to air	C	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Environment - emissions to water	C	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Environment - emissions to earth	C	(-)	Low	Low
	Environment - waste of resources e.g., water, power etc	C	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Public - Aesthetics	C	(-)	Low	Low

	Investors - Financial	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Employees and investors - Security	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Emergencies	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Investors - Legal	C	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - chronic exposure to toxic chemical or biological agents	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - chronic exposure to toxic chemical or biological agents	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - exposure to noise	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human Health - exposure to temperature extremes and/or humidity	O	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Human Health - exposure to psychological stress	O	(-)	Low	Very Low
	Human Health - exposure to ergonomic stress	O	(-)	Low	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to fire radiation	O	(-)	High	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to fire radiation	O	(-)	High	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to explosion over pressures	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to acute toxic chemical and biological agents	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to acute toxic chemical and biological agents	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to violent release of kinetic or potential energy	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
	Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to electromagnetic waves	O	(-)	Moderate	Low

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Impact Mitigation Summary

Environment - emissions to air	O	(-)	Low	Very Low
Environment - emissions to water	O	(-)	Low	Low
Environment - emissions to earth	O	(-)	Low	Very Low
Environment - waste of resources e.g., water, power etc	O	(-)	Low	Low
Public - Aesthetics	O	(-)	Low	Low
Investors - Financial	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
Employees and investors - Security	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
Employees and investors - Security	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
Emergencies	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
Investors - Legal	O	(-)	Moderate	Low
Human Health - chronic exposure to toxic chemical or biological agents	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human Health - exposure to noise	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human Health - exposure to temperature extremes and/or humidity	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human Health - exposure to psychological stress	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human Health - exposure to ergonomic stress	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to fire radiation	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to explosion over pressures	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to acute toxic chemical and biological agents	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to violent release of kinetic or potential energy	D	(-)	N/A	N/A

Human and Equipment Safety - exposure to electromagnetic waves	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Environment - emissions to air	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Environment - emissions to water	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Environment - emissions to earth	D	(-)	Moderate	Low
Environment - waste of resources e.g., water, power etc	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Public - Aesthetics	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Investors - Financial	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Employees and investors - Security	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Emergencies	D	(-)	N/A	N/A
Investors - Legal	D	(-)	Moderate	Low

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APPENDIX B: MEETING TRANSCRIPT

Phefumula Emoyeni WEF - Biodiversity Offset and EIA Report Focus Group Meeting

Fri, 18 Oct 2024

2:23 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Morning, Gavin. Morning, Okwethu. Can you hear us?

2:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Sorry, couldn't find the mute button.

2:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Hi. Hi. All right, someone has to say morning. Good morning, everyone. Morning, Okwethu. Are you on your own or are you with Sindi and Clifford. And Robyn, can you hear us fine? Good morning, yes, thank you. Yes, Sindi, we're just waiting for people. Morning Sindi.

3:16 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane

Morning, morning everyone.

3:17 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Good, good. Are you in the same room with Okwethu?

3:25 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane

We were in the same room but my gadget has allowed me to join so she'll be in her office and I'll be with Clifford. No, that's fine.

3:35 - Unidentified Speaker

Yes, thank you.

3:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay, we'll just wait a few minutes for the rest. We're still waiting for Gareth from EWT, we're waiting for the guys from MTPA, and we are waiting for, I believe, Mmamohale from DFFE, she did accept the meeting, so we're just waiting to see if she'll join. So let's just give them a couple of minutes.

4:30 - Mervyn Lotter

Good morning, Mervyn.

4:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

Good morning, Ashley. Hi, everyone.

4:36 - Mervyn Lotter
Morning, Mervyn. Mervyn, I know France originally said he wouldn't attend the meeting when it was still going to be in Ermelo, but do you know if he's joining today, or is it just you yourself? No, he is on holiday leave, but my colleague, Kumbelo Malele should be joining us soon. Oh, right. Did you forward on the invite to him?

5:06 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

Only about five minutes ago. She's not going to go through the system. We spoke about it, but I'd forgotten to send her the link.

5:16 - Mervyn Lotter

No, that's fine. I just want to make sure that I wait for everybody who's still waiting for Gareth and also for Okay, let me just quickly check with her.

5:27 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

She's in the next office.

5:29 - Mervyn Lotter

Alright. Thanks so much.

7:01 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, we'll give everyone one minute. We'll start at 9.35. I know that everybody's busy and we don't want to waste anybody's time. So we'll just keep an eye.

7:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Ashley, are DFFE joining us?

7:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Coenrad has just joined. Mmamohale was going to join but I don't see her yet. Still admitting him.

7:47 - Gavin Cowden

Can I just, I was going to ask this at the end of the meeting, since we've got 30 seconds, can I quickly ask, can we maybe at the end just have a quick chat about Ummbila I know it's a different team, maybe just Seriti and ourselves.

8:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I would rather not, because the EAP for that project isn't here. So I think it would be better to set up a separate meeting with the developer, with Seriti and yourselves, if possible.

8:19 - Gavin Cowden
No, that's fine, I understand. Because obviously we went to Windlab, I don't know who there in the room was at that session on Mpumalanga. And your CEO said that we need to talk about that. And obviously with all your EMPRs coming online for phase two to phase four, but I specifically want to talk about phase one, if that's possible. So, but can I ask you a quick question, seeing as I've got 10 seconds left. Ummbila Emoyeni, do you know what the height of the hub is? The hub height and the road, basically, how high is the turbine tip from the ground?

8:49 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

So hub height is 130 meters, tip height is 221. Blade length is 91 meters.

8:53 - Gavin Cowden

Okay, so the hub height is 171?

8:57 - Unidentified Speaker

130, height. 130, okay, yeah.

9:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

Top height, 221.

9:05 - Mervyn Lotter

Yeah. One? 221.

9:06 - Gavin Cowden

221, yeah, and rotor and blades are 91 meters wide and length.

9:13 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

9:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Okay, cool, thank you.

9:15 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Right, so yeah, I think it would be most appropriate to just set up a separate meeting for that. No, no, that's fine.

9:23 - Unidentified Speaker

I've just got some information. I'm trying to figure things out. So, yeah, we'll talk about that later. Thank you.

9:27 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Awesome. I'm going to be chucked out the boardroom at half past 12.

9:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

Gavin, I'll give you a call after the meeting.

9:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. We're just battling to admit Coenrad. So, I'm really trying to admit him here and it's just not working.

9:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Yeah, I'm trying as well. Just keep saying admitting and it just spins on that.

9:48 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I think they do have issues with their connectivity there. Although I've never had this much problem with his connection.

10:00 - Unidentified Speaker

Sure.

10:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Action failed. Let me try again.

10:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me try and see if...

10:21 - Robyn Luyt

I'm going to message him and tell him to reconnect. Maybe that will help.

10:28 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yeah. And also just sometimes when you've tried to join and you're not in, you can still see meeting chat in your team so I've also just letting Oh, I see down here now.

11:08 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me just share my screen to you. Can you confirm that it's sharing?

11:18 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

It is sharing. Thank you.

11:21 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Just so that you know, I have shared my screen so long, just so if everybody can just give me a thumbs up if you can see it.

11:33 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Great. Thank you, Sindi. Thanks. Thanks. Thanks, Gavin. And Coenrad's still not coming in.

11:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

I just failed again, and I just tried admitting now, too, but not having joy.

11:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
OK. Well, let's start off in the meantime while we're trying to figure out Coenrad's issues. We can always let him introduce himself when he's finally online. We just don't know how long it's going to take to get him in. So, yes, thank you, everybody, for joining. We are keen to engage with you this morning about the Phefumula Emoyeni One wind energy facility. We have – just want to get everybody's permission and thumbs up that you're happy that I record the meeting.

12:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Everybody good? Thanks, Mervyn. I will stop that now. It will really literally just be four minute purposes. All right. We also have, oh, we're trying again. With Coenrad?

12:56 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
All right, okay. All right, so I have Albert on our side who's also joined the meeting, but he will be checking out for hands raised as we go. We really want this to be an engaging session, one where you can just Just

engage freely. If you have something that you want to ask, stop us. Let's chat. Let's discuss. We'll pull that into a template or whatever in terms of the minutes. We'll pull it all together into sections. But let's rather just, if you have something to say, just put up your hand. Albert will be helping me with that, checking with four hands, et cetera. We're recording meeting so we will circulate a set of minutes.

13:49 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Robyn has her hand up.

13:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yes, Robyn.

13:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

So my process works, Robyn.

13:56 - 1Robyn Luyt

Sorry, I've just got a message from Coenrad and he says they're trying to connect but Teams isn't allowing them in. Oh, they are trying to do it. Yeah, I've explained that.

14:08 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. And send him a new link. Let me just forward him the meeting request again. Just let him know that I'm going to send him the meeting request directly again.

14:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

I've also just put it on WhatsApp for you, Robyn, if you want to maybe forward that to him like that.

14:38 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

try the WhatsApp link, he can also try the new meeting request.

14:56 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. All right. Let's see how we go there.

15:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Have you had any feedback from him there, Robyn?

15:12 - Robyn Luyt

I'm just, they're trying. I guess we're going to have to proceed until they can get online.

15:21 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
All right. Thank you. Thank you. We'll keep us up to date with how they're progressing there, but we have sent them to, we've sent you a and I've sent him the meeting request again. Right, so we're going to just start off some introductions. I apologize if I've missed anybody. I know I see I've already missed Coenrad here because I didn't have his acceptance of the meeting. But we'll just go around the room on this side quickly and just give our introductions. I know most of us know most people, but just to see who's here. And then also for the minutes. So obviously my name is Ashley Strong from WSP and then we're going to go down to Rudolf.

16:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Yes, Rudolpf Greffrath, WSP, responsible for the terrestrial biodiversity section.

16:11 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Tshepho Mamashela, , WSP, and I'm helping Ashley with the report writing. And Debbie.

16:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

Debbie Weldon,Seriti Green, project manager for Ummbila and part-time support for Phefumula. Marlien Burger, with Seriti Green, I'm the project manager for Phefumula.

16:33 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Albert Froneman, AfriAvian Environmental, the Avifauna specialist for the project.

16:40 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, Robyn, do you want to start off on the MDARDLEA side?

16:47 - Robyn Luyt

Thank you, Robyn Luyt, Director Environmental Impact Management for MDRADLEA.

16:52 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And Gavin.

16:55 - Gavin Cowden

Morning all, Gavin Cowden, I'm the Service Guide Leader in the Environmental Policy Planning and Coordination section.

17:00 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane

Wonderful. Sindi, your regional office, if you want to start with yourself. Morning everyone, Sindisiwe Mbuyane, Impact Management Gert Sibande. Morning everyone, Clifford Kubheka, Environmental Impact Management Gert Sibande.

17:18 - Okwethu Fakude

Great, Okwethu. Thank you. Good morning, everyone Okwethu Fakude impact management.

17:26 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

Thank you.

17:27 - Mervyn Lotter
Great. Thank you. And Mervyn. Good morning, everyone. Mervyn lots of diversity planning for the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. Good morning, everyone. Khumbelo Malele Land Use Advisor, MTPA. Wonderful. Thank you so much. And then Coenrad, glad that Finally got you in the meeting. Happy to have you here. Can you hear us clearly?

17:56 - Gavin Cowden

Yes, I can. Thank you. Apologies. There's some issues with the link. Mmamohale is still trying to get in.

18:04 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

18:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

I'm actually just want to apologize. I'm quite restricted in terms of time. I've got a couple of things due today, So I'll see how long I can join the meeting. Thank you.

18:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

100%.

18:20 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

But just the fact that you've joined us is wonderful. Kunod, do you want me to send Mama Harley the meeting request again? Did it help you?

18:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Yes, I got into the email you've sent me just now. So I think just send that one also to her, and she can try to use that link get in. Thank you.

18:44 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me just see how, I just need where is she, MK. There she is. I'm going to just resend it to her. If you can just maybe let her know for me, please.

18:59 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Yeah, she's sitting right next to me in the office next to me. So yeah, she's waiting. I'm trying to invite her, but I also can't invite there. I don't know what's wrong.

19:12 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Oh, that's weird. You know what, Teams is, yeah, it has its moments. I've re-sent it to her. She should get it shortly.

19:20 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Okay, thank you.

19:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
All right. Okay. All right. And then I know we did get an acceptance to join from EWT, but I see Gareth hasn't joined yet. So we'll just pop his, oh wait, that might be somebody. Is that Mmamohale? There's Mmamohale. Then we can let her have her action failed.

19:44 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

I'm trying admit her. Action failed.

19:52 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yeah, she's also battling to get in, Shame.

19:59 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay, well, let's proceed. Albert is keeping on trying to admit her. As soon as she's in, he'll let me know and we'll let her introduce herself. All right, so just in terms of the agenda, the main part of the agenda is just a discussion on the comments received to date where we've sort of pulled through the comments that we've received so far and we've pulled out the main key points and we've got some initial responses to those and and we can have a discussion and engage on those. But just to get us to that point, we've got a little bit of project background just to pull everybody onto the same page and to go through the layout optimization that has happened to date, just to bring everybody in the same place. So this first portion of the presentation, we'll just run through it until we get to the comments. And then we can look at our – start the discussion. So, just to remind that WSP was appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One, a special purpose vehicle that will be looking at developing the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility. We've been running through the EIA process. The project is located 16 kilometers north of in the Mpumalanga province.

21:34 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Just a reminder of what the project area looks like, This is the original area of influence. I think you would know that from the draft EIA reports that this area of influence has changed. There's been a few portions of land that have been removed. So this is what we started with at the time. And this is the area that was assessed by all the specialists from the beginning of the project. Is Mmamohale in yet? Not yet? Okay, we're still trying. The preliminary layout was... She's in. She's in now. Okay, Mmamohale, you've managed to get in.

22:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Can you hear us?

22:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Yes, good morning everyone. You can continue with your presentation.

22:25 - Unidentified Speaker

Brilliant.

22:26 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

We just want you to introduce yourself for the meeting.

22:34 - Mervyn Lotter

Mmamohale?

22:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Morning. I'm Mmamohale. I'm the case officer on the project. Thank you.

22:40 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you so much. Okay. Then we'll carry on. All right. So this was the preliminary layout. It had 135 turbine positions. And the associated wave components. You can see they were dotted around all over. And then we moved from this one through, that was where the specialist started in the scoping phase. By the end of the scoping phase, the revised layout had been looked at, where the number of turbines was significantly dropped to 88.

23:17 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
And this was what went through for assessment during the EIA phase. During the EIA phase, a number of the specialists came back with requests, specifically on Turbine 4 to move it out of the wetland area and the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy area. That was shifted out. The turbines were shifted out of all

possible CBA irreplaceable areas and optimal areas as far as possible. Then 85 86 were located inside turbine exclusion areas, no-go areas from an avifauna perspective, and they were then removed from the layout. The aquatic guys were looking at Turbine 52. That was too close to a wetland boundary in terms of the 50-meter buffer. And this turbine was also shifted out. And then obviously the road layout, they had identified a number of roads that needed to be shifted, and that was then sent to those. All of those proposals and the recommendations were sent through to the engineers so that they could work on that to update the final layout. Further to that, the Bats also had some of them that were in high sensitivity areas where there was still some blade sweep, and those were moved out. Heritage, there was one heritage feature where there was a a turbine that was encroaching on the buffer. And then there were some burial sites where buffers were suggested, but didn't affect the movement of the turbines at all. Noise, there was one that was close to some receptors. This turbine was also removed. And then there was just a general recommendation about liaising with owners to identify potential different locations for the substation. And the best. And that will also feed into the grid study when we get to that. So that was an overall one. And then we had the optimized layout that was at the end. And it was, I mean, there is a high likelihood that even though this is what's presented for final at the moment, there's potential that this could also change in the future. But because this is what we're presenting for approval, any changes to this would need a Part 2 amendment going forward. But it is likely that further optimisation would need to happen. Yeah, so that's just a flow of what we've had. And this then optimised layout shows the new area of influence with this section here in the middle. There's a section in the middle that you can see has been hacked out. There's now a piece of Italy that is no longer inside the area of influence that has been removed. That's where we're sitting at the end of the EIA phase. Moving on to a summary of the comments that we have received to date. Mainly based on comments that we have received from MDARDLEA and MTPA, biodiversity from DFFE and protected areas from DFFE. I know, Mmamohale, we're still waiting for your comments, so yours obviously aren't in here yet, but at least you'll see what the others have been saying in the meantime. As I said, this is a high-level summary of the main points that have been received to date into sections. Site alternatives was a big one. Turbines in intact grassland patches and CBAs. Construction and lay down camps in CBAs. Lay down areas inside the water that need to be outside the 100 metre buffer. Looking at the water crossings that weren't analysed sufficiently. 15 metre non-development buffers from wetlands. Cumulative in terms of both 30 DFFE often requesting 30 kilometers hours was 55 and the number of projects that were identified within that radius. Then we have a number of biodiversity comments mostly on the offset issues in terms of the offsets not being able to cater for the loss of CBAs and grass and species specifically. The strategy itself and how the hectare is, et cetera, were worked out. The fact that there's project 48% area in the NEPEAS, the new road network not being available, and then the offset conservation outcome aims of the strategy, and then the duration of the strategy, and then moving on to to more avifauna issues, the IBA, mitigation in terms of the effectiveness of avifauna mitigation, zones, you know, mitigation zones or for the whole facility and detail around that, significance rating of the avifauna, cumulative impact on the avifauna in terms of risk, collision risks, mitigation of collisions at night flying birds, movement corridors, avifauna buffers, risk and nests active versus intact. So that is the sort of summary.

29:05 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Actually, sorry to interject. I'm trying to raise my hand. There's something wrong with this. We did send you comments on the 10th of October.

29:14 - Mervyn Lotter

We also got them.

29:17 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

That's not possible because your email is there. Let me just check, double check, but we did send them through.

29:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Please resend them because I've been keeping an eye out for them and I haven't received them.

29:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Okay, great.

29:34 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thank you, Mmamohale.

29:39 - 1Mervyn Lotter
Sorry, just to... Ladies first. Okay. So, in the beginning, when you summarised the main issues of concern, Let's just say if we don't actually agree with those issues being summarized, I just don't want our, let's say, our quietness or failure to respond to all the issues raised, not to be seen as like we agreeing to anything. So it's more like, just a bit more cautious as to the purpose. And if we don't actually agree, we're not complicit, if we're silent on the issues. This is just your summary, which is perfectly fine, but I've only stated for the record keeping.

30:25 - Mervyn Lotter
No, that's 100%. I mean, we've basically identified sort of areas of the comments, so we don't want to go through, we know that people in this meeting, we only have a couple of hours together, so we can't go through every single comment and give you a response in this meeting, so we've tried to just summarise it up. If we've missed a particular issue, then you're welcome to raise but this was sort of just going through it and the sort of the main themes that were coming up for us. So that's what we've done in terms of the summary. But absolutely 100%. There will be more detailed responses obviously coming through where we respond to every single line item. But this is just a summary for now.

31:06 - Unidentified Speaker

Okay.

31:09 - Mervyn Lotter
Can I give you that one that is, I suppose, missing, I believe, from this, and that would just be that there's an exceptional high number of threatened species recorded on site and the mitigation is uncertain. It's just that high level of threatened species not coming through. Thanks.

31:27 - Unidentified Speaker

Okay.

31:29 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I'm going to just write it in the chat.

31:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

With uncertain mitigation. You're welcome to change my wording slightly if you need to. I'm just popping it in the chat so that we have it for the minutes. All right. Robyn?

31:53 - 1Robyn Luyt

Just for Mmamohale, the comments from DFFE were sent to you on the 10th of October at 11.33 a.m. Addressed to you, Ashley, and copied to me and some of the other stakeholders.

32:07 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Yeah, that is so strange because I literally, we haven't received those comments. We received comments from Biodiversity, I'll double check my emails, maybe it's gone into a junk mail.

32:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, if you could maybe just forward them to me, Robyn, wonderful if you don't mind.

32:40 - Unidentified Speaker

I'll do that.

32:43 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thank you.

32:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thank you so much. And then we'll obviously be responding to them as well. So that's not a problem. So that'll be great. Thank you so much. And I just know that we've got in hand.

33:09 - Mervyn Lotter

Thank you so much.

33:10 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Sorry, Ashley, since my buttons are also not working. Are there any other wind facilities close by, proposed or approved? Approved?

33:25 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
I do actually have a... Wait, let me... Let me go through to my slideshow. We've got a bunch of slides available, but what I can do, I just want to see all my slides quickly, and then I can show you what the cumulative assessment looks like,

33:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

No, I don't want to see that. I'm asking, are there other facilities close by? Because I want to discuss a particular point. If they are.

33:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

If you have a look at the maps on the screen, you can see Ummbila is there. There's also...

34:06 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

How far are they from this facility?

34:10 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Offhand, probably, this is a 55 kilometre radius around Phefumula, so it would be maybe halfway. It covers quite a large area. Let me see if I can get, it's this one, Ummbila is this one here.

34:33 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Okay, that's 10 kilometers.

34:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Yeah, and then this is Camden 1 and 2 down at the bottom, and Mukondeleli WEF over here near Secunda, but that's sort of on the 40 kilometer side of things. I can't remember what this one to the north this.

34:52 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Ashley, are you in discussions for those facilities in terms of wake effect?

35:01 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Wake effect, yes. Ummbila is the closest one and it's also a Seriti project. The wake effect won't affect the others because they are too far away.

35:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Okay, just make sure, so just make sure that you take that into consideration. Thank you.

35:23 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yeah, Seriti are aware of it. Okay, Gavin, who's first? Gavin is first. Gavin?

35:39 - 1Gavin Cowden
Sorry Debbie, yeah, just for Coenrad's benefit, I'm not sure which one you were asking about north. You've got Hendrina south, you've got Hendrina north, both of those are approved. I saw in your EIA as well, you actually included, I think it was the Forzando North. Let me just check on my map here, see what the status is.

36:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Now that you remind me, Hendrika, North and South, is that other long green to the North there?

36:08 - 1Gavin Cowden
There's another one which I can't mention, but there's another one North of that, and there is one here which you included in your EIA, which actually has been, I think, withdrawn or declined or refused. Let me just see my notes here. I did make a note of it. Let me just quickly see if I can find it. No, I've deleted it, sorry, when I made my comments. But there is one, one of the ones here. I think it might be Halfgevorden. solar facility, you include it in your EIA, it's actually been refused, as far as we know.

36:39 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, yeah, there is there's a couple of issues. So if you look on map that's on your screen, the red dots are the refused EAs.

36:54 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
The green are the approved and the orange are in process that we are aware of We are aware, we are in the projects around close enough to be affected by wake effect are aware of the project, yes. OK. OK. And then that was Gavin. And then Mervyn, for a second.

37:23 - Unidentified Speaker

Yes.

37:23 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Thanks. But if you say those in process, you need to include the three Ummbila ones. They're missing on your map. They have been submitted the scoping reports for comment. So they are in process.

37:36 - Mervyn Lotter
OK. Because they're not reflecting on the real data ACS and we've we we managed to download actually that was one of the comments that was said that um uh one of one of the main comments that came out was that there was um I know MDARDLEA has said they had 50 projects that were in our 55 kilometer radius um we are aware that the map in the report is from the 2023 we then managed to download 2024 for quarter two, literally the day that the reports went out for review. So we will be updating that map with this 2024 quarter two, but at that point, which is the latest database that's available at the moment. So maybe those Mulilo projects are on a quarter three or a quarter four map potentially, but we will then get in touch with them and get their boundaries, their WEF boundaries. We also have just today became aware of another new one from, which has been done by the EAPS Sivset. I'm not sure, Zephyr, I believe, which is also not on our map. So we're going to engage with Sivest to get their one as well. That one's been out for a while, and we remapped it several months ago.

39:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

You might know about it, but we don't know about it yet.

39:05 - Mervyn Lotter
So where they've already entered the public domain for comment, I mean, we also have a data set that you can always double check against the DFFU one. We're also trying to map those which are in the pre-application phase, those we can't share because that's still in discussions where we're just sharing information about sensitivity and the likes and concerns. But my question was about the wake effect that Coenrad raised. What is that distance? Where you may have that wake effect becomes something to consider of concern?

39:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
I know we've specifically had wake effect issues where the projects have been immediately neighbouring. When it's a good sort of 5, 10 kilometres, it doesn't seem to be an issue. But I can double check that figure, not highly Immediately neighbouring is an issue, definitely an issue. And we've had those before in the Western Cape, where immediately neighbouring where your property boundaries are literally the same. 20 kilometres has a minimum. Yeah, there we go. So 20 kilometres is a minimal effect. So anything less than that would be where the issue would be. And it would also need to be immediately north or whatever in the prevailing wind direction, you would need to have a look.

40:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

And the loss would equate to half a percent of the gigawatt hours.

40:36 - Mervyn Lotter

Okay, so it's quite a lot.

40:38 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

We didn't get that last comment. Sorry, could you just – I didn't hear that clearly. That other person made a comment there.

40:45 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5
Yes, so the effect would be at 20 kilometres, half a percent of the gigawatt hours. At 10 kilometres or less, maybe one to three percent on the gigawatt hours. So not significant, not significant impacts.

41:03 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Okay, because you've got...

41:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

In Ummbila's case, Ummbila is the closest. The closest. So we all have an internal arrangement on that.

41:13 - Mervyn Lotter

So yeah, Ummbila is 6 kilometres. Hendrina is just on 10, and Ummbila is I think 9, and Zephyr is about 10 as well. So anyway, It may be a few to consider, but that's fine. Thank you.

41:26 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, there's 11. Then Gavin, your hand was next.

41:32 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thanks, Ashley. There's a lot I can say about this, but let me try and summarise it. Okay, it's just for interest, I just had a look quickly on our map. Zephyr's exactly 11.4 kilometres from your southern boundary. Okay, so Zephyr's one, and there's another one that you haven't also included, Ujekamanzi. It's in public domain as well. Yeah, so my point that we're really concerned. And I think this is something that we need to take up probably with you Coenrad and DFFE, but obviously the cumulative impacts. And that's why we've concentrated a lot on this, because a lot of these developments are in the same area, very sensitive areas. We've even gone to the stage of working out the CBAs, the footprint, which you saw in our comments. Yeah, I just think that I wanted to raise that this is a real concern. But if you do need to know, we can't obviously divulge all of them. I mean, there's actually a neighbour pretty close to you, I think within a couple of kilometres, but it's proposed. It hasn't gone online yet and it hasn't submitted, but we know about it. And yeah, I think the best is obviously, if you're not sure, talk to us and then we can maybe assist you and guide you. But I think from a strategic point of view, we need to, maybe Coenrad with DFFV, we need to talk offline and address this, because we're really concerned about, and we really applaud you for taking 55, kilometre buffer, a radius. But yeah, it's still, it's insufficient. We're actually taking a more strategic approach to this now. Okay, that's, I think, all I wanted to say. Thank you.

43:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you, Gavin. And we will definitely, actually, one of my requests at the end of the presentation is, could you send us the information that we're missing that you're allowed to? Because I'm aware anything

that hasn't actually been in the public domain cannot be on our map. Because it's, yeah, that's just, it's not in the public domain. So if that is a request that we have from our side is it is difficult to find these if you're not, if it's not on the databases and not, if other developers or EAPS don't come to you, you don't know about the other projects. So if you could think through what you can, that would be lovely.

43:45 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thank you. I told you about those other ones now that we know that in the public domain, as Mervyn said, Zephyr is already at the EIA stage. I think it's due for public comments, I think, next week. But actually, the real point I wanted to make is that the real concern, and we also need to take this offline, is that in our experience, that Renewal Energy's database of DFFE, I remember waiting, I think, for quarter two, because we realized there were a whole lot of applications that we knew about. And I was literally waiting with anticipation. I think it was quarter two or quarter three. I think it came out at 11 o'clock, because I waited the whole day. I was like, where's this report? Where's this report? And when it came out, it didn't have all the ones that we knew of, and it wasn't updated. So you made a comment earlier saying that you'll see on the next one. But to me, don't hold your breath, because it's not going to be the accurate. It's not going to be the reality on the ground. So you rather talk to us about that, but that's a concern I have, and I don't know how we're going to overcome that. But from our point of view, from the province point of view, we're looking at it from the data we've got. Because that's what the purpose of cumulative impact. Okay, so we'll talk more about that, thanks.

44:48 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you, that's great. So yeah, so the cumulative issue was a big issue that we saw come through. And I mean, if we can ask you guys for assistance on that, that'll be wonderful. We actually do request if you can send that information through what you can, not what you can't. Yes, I'd be very grateful for your assistance there. I mean, I know that the, the issues with the database. We've had one of our projects that were as authorized that took two years to come up onto the database, so you're quite right. Okay, Robyn.

45:25 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thanks, I just want to echo everything Gavin has just said, but if we can just request, Ashley, that you send a formal email asking for the information to myself, Gavin, and Copy Me and just make it a standard operating procedure for all of your wind farm applications.

45:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

We can do that, 100%. We will do that. Thank you so much.

45:52 - Mervyn Lotter
Sorry, I want to just jump in. No, just what we can offer. Like if you're giving that data set, we also as the MTPA, and I think I may have stressed this to Debbie before, we receive all these applications to comment on. Mapping them for the last 24 years. We just make a shape file and we say it's by Afro Energy and it's for prospecting coal or whatever, but we have a database at Spatial and we don't often know when they approve, but we know who's applying. And if you need to try and find out who's got a mining right or whatever on any of the properties you're looking, that's something we can share because the data has in effect entered the public domain, so we can give you fall with the details.

46:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
That's lovely because that would then be not just renewable energy, it would be other authorizations that would be absolutely fantastic. Yes, thank you so much for that offer, that sounds fantastic. Wonderful, thank you for that. All right, okay, so there we've sort of covered the cumulative one there. I think I'm going to have over. The first one that comes up a lot, if we just jump onto a new comment, is the site alternative issues. I think I'm going to just jump to our slides here and just ask Seriti to just go through how they select the wind farm locations. We've got just two Either way, I'm happy to do it too.

47:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8
So the wind farm was selected based on grid capacity or grid availability, as well as the wind resource. And Mpumalanga doesn't have a uniform wind resource as per the wind tiles that you can see there. If you look at the second wind tile, what's it? Right. To the right. You'll see that the higher wind speed is specifically where the Phefumula Emoyeni area is. So the site was selected based on wind resource and grid capacity or grid availability in the province.

48:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And it takes a good few years to get to the point to sort of finally settle on a project, a site to move into EIA, right?

48:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5
Yeah, so following on Oxley, the wind resource, we do a high-level assessment in terms of sensitivities, and then Oxley has a case of securing the landowners. So that in itself takes a couple of years to get them on board, and that's why the wind farm is situated where it is, because those are the landowners who've signed up. Obviously, there's a fee involved in terms of access to their land, so that restricts us, and that's why we don't necessarily have a whole lot all over the place, but it's very specific for each waterfall.

49:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
And that's why Mbele is a separate project, and Phefumula Emoyeni is a separate project. So, they're not site alternatives, they're separate projects. So, where you can get landowners to sign up, that would be your project. And the alternatives then is not a location alternative but a development footprint alternative in terms of how the would layout look, where would the development be, how would we fit it into the landscape and that's the alternatives that we would then look at. In terms of the regulations as well that requires the discussion of development footprint alternative and not necessarily actual physical location. Which is what we've done in terms of the layouts. So it takes a good sort of, before we get involved as EAPS, it's probably a five-year process.

50:01 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

We also have wind data, wind monitoring data. Two years, I think. Yes, for one to two years after land securement has taken place to secure or to get an area of influence.

50:16 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
So that's the sort of the reasoning behind a no site alternative and why there's so much importance and so much emphasis placed on the layouts and the development footprint alternatives that go into a wind facility. Because it's very difficult, every developer would have, as you see, it's a different project in terms of a location, yeah.

50:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. I think what we're going to do then is we're going to jump. So, that was just the one comment that we've had. Yes? I see Gavin's hand. Oh, Gavin?

50:55 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thanks, Albert. I was going to jump in anyway. Okay, just on that, alternatives. I think it's really, I understand where you're coming from It's where the wind is. But if you look at it strategically and from a sustainability point of view, and it comes back to the cumulatives, it's a that, you know, there's no alternative sites because there's a conflict in land use here. And then this seems to be the case for most of these wind energy facilities in the province, because obviously they're going where the wind is. But unfortunately, that's also where there's areas of high sensitivity. So I just wanted to raise that. But my question is, is that I don't think I picked it. I know I commented quite a lot, and I looked a lot at the alternatives in the report. What about technology alternatives? Because, okay, let's say you can't look at alternative sites. What about alternative technology? And I've done a bit of homework, and you guys probably know this better than I do, but there's now a vortex bladeless turbine. What is the possibility? What have you guys considered in areas that are high sensitivity for birds and bird collisions and bats, putting these alternative technology or using alternative technology in those areas? And I think one of those vortex bladeless ones, and I think they're building them up to 180 meters now, the biggest one, which generates, I think, one megawatt. So you'll probably need six of them for about the same as one of your normal wind turbines. So putting six of those in an area where we put normally one traditional vertical axis wind turbine. So I just wanted to ask that question. And I know I did talk about it in the report, but it's not raised here. But I just wanted to raise it because I really do think that if you guys are looking for a positive authorization or wind facilities in these areas. I think we really need to start thinking about that because... Sorry, who was that?

52:49 - Unidentified Speaker

Coenrad, I think.

52:50 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Coenrad, was that you?

52:55 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Sorry, no, you can continue.

52:56 - Mervyn Lotter

Oh, OK. Sorry, we thought...

52:59 - Gavin Cowden
No, I'm done. I thought you were chasing me, Coenrad. But I think I'm going to... I was just on another line. Okay, that's right. So sorry, while I've still got the floor, Ashley, so that's my point. I just wanted to ask, have you guys considered that? To what extent have you considered that? And I think if wind facilities are gonna occur in these areas, I think developers are gonna have to look at it more seriously because there's a big conflict in terms of the sensitivities. And then just quickly while, I can ask this later, but I just wanted to ask you, like with the Ummbila one, what is your actual hub height probably going to be because we've got new data now just recently in about flight paths for birds. And hub height and the height above the ground is possibly going to be a big issue. So in reality, do you know what the hub height is going to be and the rotor height is going to be for the Phefumula? Is it going to be the same as on Bila or is it going to be different? Thanks.

53:54 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

It's likely to be higher. Possibly up high, with a similar blade length, because we're looking at either concrete or hybrid towers for their removal.

54:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
I know that what we've outlined in the end of the report, we've said what's gone into the authorisation is metre high, 200 metre rotor diameter. However, in the BASM, not authorisation, I'm sorry, application, sorry, you're quite right. What's in the application form is 200, 200, but in the back of, in the final, in the conclusion of the report, it does talk about a 90, 85 meter, it's a, it's like a, it's a, yes, a 182 height, not hub height, 182 diameter, which is a much smaller blade. Which is the most likely turbine that's going to happen. The only reason why we add the slightly larger amount into the application is should the technology change and there is a better turbine that they could use and drop the turbine field by half, then the 200-200 gives them that option to consider different turbine, but it is likely going to be a lot smaller than what the application is requesting.

55:30 - 1Gavin Cowden
Gavin? Yeah, sorry, thanks. Can you hear me? Yes. Okay. Sorry, I don't know if I unmuted. Yeah, that's great, but I think that also came through strongly in our comments, is that it's really difficult to assess the impact if we're not sure what the technology is going to be or what the specs are going to be. So yeah, I just think that obviously, yeah, and I also saw that with other EMPRs, you know, one that's coming online now, that it still says in the EIA up to, so there's no definite, so it's difficult to measure the impacts or even mitigate or manage the impact. So I just think that obviously, where possible, I think you guys, if you could put in there, I mean, you're telling us now, it's definitely helping, because now I've got a pretty much good idea of answering my question. But yeah, okay, thanks for that. And then the technology alternatives, I'm putting it out if you can answer it, that'll be great. If you can't, that's also fine. But I really do, I think I made my point. Thanks.

56:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I've seen a lot of note-taking.

56:25 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

Yes, I've noted the alternative technology. Thank you.

56:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Brilliant. Thank you, Gavin, for your input there. All right, let's see, where are we going to go now? Oh, goodness. Sorry, I'm jumping around the slides all over the place as the conversation continues. I think what I'm going to do is I'm going to, I think we've had a good discussion on the cumulatives. We've had a good discussion on alternatives. I think I'm going to go leave the CBAs and that for, and then I can hand over to Rudolf just now for the biodiversity stuff. Just in between that, I'm going to just present some responses that we got from the aquatic specialists on the water course issues. And that also covers, So basically what they've said is, and these will be in detail included in the comment and response report, the road network is a difficult thing and it's usually the last thing to come through. So yes, they absolutely, they say yes, they didn't get to look at all the relative crossings because they've changed as the layout has changed. So when they've done the initial assessment for the EIA work. It was during March, which is the best time for them to go in terms of a good summer survey and making sure they can see where all the wetlands are. They did do a very detailed desktop.

57:58 - Unidentified Speaker

Oh dear.

57:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay. Can you hear me now? Can you hear me? Oh, you could hear me the whole time. Okay. No, that's fine. As long as someone could hear me. So they did do a in the growing season, and yes, the road networks have changed. So over time, and every time the layout changes, the road network is the last thing to then be updated. And it takes the engineers. So as soon as the layout changes, it gets sent through to the engineers, and the engineers can take up to a month to actually work through the road networks to make them make sense, to sort of arrange the shortest possible things. So yeah, there are some crossings that they haven't looked at. What is the comforting there is that there is another catch in terms of assessments for crossings, in terms of the water use license application, which will still need to be done. This is typically done post EIA, once the roads and everything is actually finalized approved because then they know exactly where all those crossings. And then there's another level of detailed work that gets done on all the crossings to determine the PES and the EIS and all the coordinates are done for the water use license application. And that also needs to be put out for public review. So typically what they have done already is adequate for EIA authorization purposes and is adequate for a decision at an EIA level. And then just these ones here are talking about the fact that the water use license application still needs to be done, where there's a whole other level of detail that is done on the aquatic wetlands, the watercourses, et cetera. They've also just responded to say that the 15 meter buffer was generated through the DWS approved buffer tool. And that there was only one turbine, which was turbine 42, that was located within that buffer. And that turbine was moved by the developer's engineer outside of that buffer. So that was just some of the responses. These detailed responses will be in the comment and response report to commenting on the wetland. Watercourse comments. I am not and don't have a watercourse expert in the room, and I'm definitely not a watercourse expert, so if there are any further comments on that front, please don't hesitate to just send us an email or pop some comments in the chat, and I will forward it through to our specialists.

Unfortunately, they were unable to make it today, so I can always forward other and comments through to them should you need any extra information on that front. All right, so then moving on to the biodiversity side. I think let's, oh sorry is there a hand? Sorry Albert disappeared.

1:01:17 - Mervyn Lotter

Robert, I can see you. Yes, it's me Ashley.

1:01:19 - 1Robyn Luyt
Yes. Thanks. I just My concern with that response, Ashley, is that we're now talking about a water use license. You referred to it as catching those impacts. But the concern is that buffers for watercourses relate directly to bat impacts and bird impacts also. And that is not going to be considered in the water use license application. Also, Road impacts don't just impact watercourse crossings, they traverse through areas of inside grassland patches and CBAs, so that's also a concern. I don't believe that it has necessarily been assessed adequately for EIA purposes because watercourse crossings affect, the roads affect more than the aquatic impacts?

1:02:21 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Yes. No. Agreed. 100%. I think in terms of the water use license, I think they were specifically talking about crossings. What has already the buffers that are in there, they are, the buffers have been taken into account in terms of aquatic recommendations as well as the BAT recommendations. Those buffers have been put on all the watercourses and wetlands and even farm dams in terms of their layers, in terms of the sensitivity maps. So they were taken into account in terms of the impact assessment.

1:03:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
So there is a level of impact, not necessarily impact assessment that comes through the WULA, but there is some level of additional, should I say, study that goes into it and specifically the crossings. But I do agree with you the rest of the impact of the roads themselves, yes, there is that. And that's why the final road layout hasn't been done yet because what happened was the aquatic guys and also the biodiversity guys recommended certain roads to be moved and then the layout changed. So now that road layout has to, and it literally takes about three weeks to redo a layout. And they have been sent all those recommendations from the specialists so that they can try and move those roads to the best possible site. And as I said earlier, these things are always adaptive and emerging, and there's always changes. So if those roads do change in the future again, which is potentially likely, they would be subject to a part two amendment.

1:04:17 - 1Robyn Luyt

Sorry, just to follow up from that, if you can just clarify this turbine 42, because it seems to be in conflict with the 100 meter radius versus the 15 meter radius.

1:04:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

So it's definitely outside of the 15 meter. It was moved outside but it may still be within the 100m. So we'll double check that.

1:04:46 - Robyn Luyt

And then just to confirm that we've seen with other applications that meters is not sufficient to mitigate for bat and bird impacts.

1:04:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay, noted. Thank you, Robyn. Right, I think we're going to move on to Rudolph's portion. He's going to go through intact grasslands, CBAs, infield assessments and the biodiversity offset. I think we'll just skip over the cumulative slide because I think we've already discussed that. Just let me know when you need me to move the slide over. Do you want to just...

1:05:33 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Did I?

1:05:34 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

1:05:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

All right.

1:05:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Hi, everybody. Thank you. Thanks for your time. So one of the main things that we did pick up from a biodiversity perspective, terrestrial, is the intact grassland patches and, of course, the climate change corridors. So here you see the layout and how many of the turbines intersect. There's a couple that, I suppose, are pretty much on the boundary layer of the intact grasslands, and that could be affected by the size of the footprint that we used for our mapping. Of course, I nicked this map, I think, from your work, so I do excuse. It shows the climate change corridors quite nicely, so I thought that would be great. So there's 10 turbines that intersect the intact grassland Some of them are, I suppose, close to the edge. We just need to, I suppose, be more specific on the size of the base and, of course, the buffer we put around each of them. That might change a bit. And then there's six that intersect with the climate change corridors. So there's absolutely no argument as to the value of intact grasslands or the climate change corridors, absolutely no argument with that. And with the current layout, I think there's been quite a few of the turbines that's been moved away or out of these sensitive areas. What we do see is that the road network, we can't exactly comment on that at the moment because we don't have a final layout for the roads. That might change the perspective a little bit, but at the moment, this is where we're sitting. And of course, as you can see from our mitigation measures, it's always been the point to move as many of the turbines as possible out of these highly sensitive areas. Next slide. So this is the intercepts. So this is very much MTPA data. So it's from a, suppose a desktop perspective from our side. Um, it's not fine tune where we had anybody in field. And from that, the, you know, the CPA replaceable that that seems to be, uh, intersected is hectares. Optimal is 15.4.8. And the intake grasslands is almost eight hectares. Um, again, those numbers could change once the road networks are included. Um, but again, there is no argument about the sensitivity of these areas. So this is where you see our infield assessment. The high ecological importance areas, those

are the CBAs irreplaceable and optimal altogether. You'll see that the climate change corridors are not indicated there. This is very much something I think we can start adding, but for this specific map you've seen here, was the result of our terrestrial ecologist going out to the field, field testing, and making sure that everything that is indicated from a desktop level is tested, and we can in that way refine on those. The low or the very low areas are either transformed completely or it's the an invasive plant, patches or trees or cultivated areas. Then for the next one, you'll see now I just want to start just quickly touching on the offsets. So without having a final layout in terms of the amount of hectares that might be impacted by the road network and the it's very hard to start talking about the offset. So the offset report that was produced was very much a, um, I suppose a starting point and a worst case because it's we actually went and, um, added our own roads on onto the offset report. Um, to kind of just look at the worst case scenario. So the could be quite different from what we have here. Again, we know that the project infrastructure does cross the terrestrial and aquatic CBAs. I mean, we've spoken about that quite extensively. And then we look at the CBA replaceable areas, exactly which of the turbines cover those, which of the turbines cover optimal. Then we try to, and of course, the intact grass and patches. And then we've got the data that was supplied to us, to the terrestrial biodiversity specialist, the reasoning behind the CBA replaceable or the CBA in general, you know, the designation, why those designations were put in place in terms of what exactly is present. So, you know, from our side, there's no argument about the high value of these areas. Then you'll see the hectares impacted. So the only reason I'm putting that in there is to show that the amount that is there Um, and it could change very likely a bit more, um, to show how many the specific suppose of of concern would be the high value. Um that you see this at the moment. Well, we look at about 24 hectares, but I think it's changed already. Um and then something that I just wanted to note was if you look at the entire people, Moolah, um, project boundary, the amount of very low, in other words, old lands, cultivation, alien trees, vegetation types that are present is about 14,000 hectares, with high value about 16, almost 17,000 hectares. And the only reason I want to highlight that is the possibility for some extensive, I suppose, conservation action in terms of the high value areas that are possible. And once an offset strategy or offset report it's got more details in terms of what is going on on the ground, and we can be more accurate in terms of our calculations. Then it's, you know, we're looking at inside the actual boundaries of the formula. There are many options that we can start looking at. I know there was a, I think there was a query about how we got to our calculations for our first version of the And that was all based on the offset guidelines. And I'm happy to share all of those calculations to whoever might be interested. But yeah, I mean, this is where we are at the moment. I don't think I've got another slide, but yeah. If there's any questions, I'll be very happy to address.

1:12:55 - Mervyn Lotter

Robert?

1:12:58 - 1Robyn Luyt

Thank you. I don't think the question around the calculations was more around the fact that in the EIA itself, there was no reference to what infrastructure was placed in CBAs other than the turbines, which we surmised on our own mapping techniques. There was no reference to the roads or any infrastructure in irreplaceable areas. So my point is the calculations were not made clear because the sizes for irreplaceable areas only first appeared in the offset strategy. I wasn't questioning how you got to your calculations based on like for like, etc.

1:13:43 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Yes, I understand. I mean, I think what I'm trying to bring across is that, you know, there's some more supporting documentation that might be needed. So just to show where what is, for instance, the roads, I think that could be a that could change the calculations a little bit and could make it more interesting. But I'd like that point. Thank you very much, Robyn.

1:14:04 - Mervyn Lotter

Mervyn?

1:14:07 - 1Mervyn Lotter
Thanks. Yeah, I must say, I thought it was a good report. And I suppose the question that I had was in terms of the roads, which are being discussed now, and then also the timeframe. Often with these offset agreements, there is a commitment to manage the property for a number of years, because there's management plans, fire breaks have to be burnt, alien plant control. Just that part was mapping. There just needs to be a commitment in terms of the term and for how many years the management will be supported.

1:14:39 - Unidentified Speaker

Thanks.

1:14:40 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Thank you, Mervyn. I think I should also, in the report, I should just maybe make it a little more upfront that the guidelines for offsets were explicitly followed. So by implication, I would have means that something like a 30-year doing perpetuity would definitely be part of it. But that type of nitty-gritty, I'll definitely include that to make it more accessible. But thank you for that. I appreciate it.

1:15:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Great. Any further questions on this section of the discussion? I'd like to propose that we take a five or 10-minute comfort break. I'm sure people or drinking coffee. Is everybody happy with a five-minute comfort break? Robyn, another question before we do?

1:15:33 - 1Robyn Luyt
I think just for minute purposes to reiterate again the position on what can and can't be offset and that this offset strategy should really first consider whether the EIA has successfully mitigated in terms of, well, avoided and mitigated before we even get to offsets. I just think as good as the offset report is, it hasn't necessarily, it's not really placed sufficiently given that avoidance hasn't been achieved effectively.

1:16:14 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Thank you Robyn. I think what has become clear with the different iterations of layout is that our avoidance, we're almost on that first step of the mitigation hierarchy is being revisited a couple of times. So taking that into consideration, I mean, I'll definitely make it clearer as to at what step we are and what the would be. But thank you, I appreciate that moment.

1:16:42 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4
Thank you. Actually, just before we break, just from my side, yeah, I think what Robyn said, I just want to emphasize it's of critical importance that you demonstrate that you followed properly the whole mitigation hierarchy and how you arrived to the biodiversity offset and also as part of your final EIR, there must be a biodiversity offset plan linked to that. But I'm getting a little bit concerned. You're also indicating at the bottom or somewhere in the slide that it seems that you're still waiting for engineers to do some of the roads, et cetera, et cetera. We're sitting now with the final EIR phase, and it seems that there will be still iterations on the layout plans, et cetera, et cetera. I'm getting concerned. Actually, this should have been done much earlier in the process. I don't know if you're going to meet your timeframes, or you're going to submit something, and it's not actually finalized. And we issue a decision, and then two months after that, the applicant starts coming up with amendments, really. And that creates more problems in the end of the day. So I just want to explain. My concern about the things that are still hanging, that should have been pulled in already and considered properly, like the roads. That is a concern of me, especially in terms of the timeframes. Thank you.

1:18:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you, Coenrad, for your input. Good to know. All right. I think let's just do a five-minute comfort break. Back here at five minutes or 10 minutes. Anybody got a preference? How long does it take to make a cup of coffee?

1:18:47 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Let's make it 10 minutes.

1:18:48 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let's make it 10 minutes and back here at 5 to 11. So 10.50.

1:18:54 - Gavin Cowden

All right? Thanks, Gavin. Great. Thanks, guys.

1:18:59 - 1Gavin Cowden

Thanks, Albert. You did a great job.

1:19:00 - Mervyn Lotter

Thank you.

1:28:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And I hope everybody is comfortable. We're going to move on to the avifauna portion of our discussion. Albert, where would you like to start? Or mitigation?

1:28:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Actually, I think maybe if you want to go back just to the queries and stuff here, just to briefly touch on those.

1:28:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me just check that everyone can hear us. Everybody can hear us? Okay, everybody's there. Thanks, guys. Okay.

1:28:50 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
All right. So I think, yeah, there's obviously the IBA, KBA issue of the you know, in my opinion, don't really read those boundaries, but we're obviously very cognizant of the importance of why IDAs were identified, defined, and their key trigger species, species of conservation concern, and then linked to that the key biodiversity areas. So, kind of wearing a bit a broader perspective on it and taking everything into account. And Mervyn, your earlier comment of, you know, the number of species of conservation concern, priority species that, you know, we have on site is not something we're not aware of, very well noted, and also dearly concerned about and wanting to try as best we can to take those into consideration with regard to, Coenrad, to link to your point earlier of making sure the necessary steps in the mitigation hierarchy are followed both from an avoidance point of view and then from a mitigation point of view. So maybe just to initially touch a little bit on the avoidance aspect and Again, I don't want to get bogged down into nitty gritty detail, but we can chat about it. Are things like the definition of modelled buffers versus radial or circular buffers? I think our perspective with using more of a modelled buffer that is based on the underlying landscape features, whether those are, for example, from a wetland point of view. Do we just stock standard, take the wetland specialist delineations and buffer those further? We could, but I think birds, as I've just said, use the landscape quite differently. So we try and then say where are the areas that the birds are going to be using more based on the underlying habitat. And so in some areas there will be larger buffers based on the underlying habitat and surrounding moist grassland as an example. And then where that does not prevail, we will revert to what the aquatic specialists have said. Obviously, I mean, it's common knowledge and I don't want to belabour the point, but we know that the birds don't fly according to our buffers or to any buffer for that matter, whether it is modelled or a circular buffer. So that brings us to the need for mitigation. But Ashley, we'll move to the mitigation slide just a little bit later. I think maybe just to touch on some of the other aspects of significance ratings, not bringing it all the way back down to low, which I agree, even given everything we do put in place, the sensitivity is still there and which underscores the need for mitigation. That certainly the commitment to do mitigation and to have an adaptive management strategy in place to look at that mitigation is definitely there, and we will unpack the mitigation a little bit more. And Gavin, your points earlier around the cumulative impacts of these facilities, I think that is a much and higher level discussion that is always difficult to deal with on a project basis. And I really think we do need a higher view. And Gareth, it's great to see you here around the work that the EWT are doing in conjunction with the NTPA and how potentially that information, I think, can feed into that process of us better understanding these risks at a landscape scale. And, you know, then drawing boundaries like 30 or 55 100 kilometres are all a little bit arbitrary. But, you know, we do need to get to grips with how the birds use the landscape. And that speaks to things like movement corridors. And I think it's worth just touching on the in the dark, the birds that fly at night, definitely a valid concern and, you know, something that when we speak about mitigation around aspects to consider like radar, which I think is not necessarily a saving grace, but can go a long way to assist us in identifying night flying movements. It's maybe not

going to see small passerine birds moving through the landscape unless they come in dense bands, as we are seeing, you know, the effectiveness of these kind of mitigation measures in the northern hemisphere during migration events, where there's a lot of birds moving together. But I think if we look at birds like flamingos, where they would typically move in flocks at night and even recognizing that they have a very characteristic flight pattern. It's not impossible for radar to be able to pick up on those sort of things and that however does leave us with the the level of uncertainty around the effectiveness of something like that but we still, you know, rely on what we are seeing internationally and I think the commitment of the responsible developers. So we are going to do this and we are going to actually be committed to make this work and I'm going to touch on that a little bit more in the mitigation slide. So I've spoken about the movement corridors at a regional level of the buffers, radial versus modelled. There were some aspects about vulture risk assessment coming from Vulpro. And Gareth, that's perhaps an aspect with regard to the work you are doing at a regional and a provincial level that we need to touch on to bring that information to the fore, especially in terms of movement of birds in the Mpumalanga landscape, I think, is a critical aspect. The other challenge we are dealing with is the differentiation between active and inactive nests. Of the larger birds of prey, I think it's very obvious and easy where partial eagles, et cetera, you know, a nest is often reused. They may not use it for few years and then come back, we have had instances in the landscape where Marshall Eagle nests actually a large blue gum tree, the branch breaks off. However, the birds usually typically have alternate nest sites in those territories. And again, in terms of delineating a circular buffer is, in my opinion, risky from that point of view. Having a more habitat-based buffer, plus which should be defined as an exclusion buffer for a collision risk perspective, and then a smaller disturbance buffer around where a nest actually is located, and then a much larger mitigation level buffer, because we know for a fact that the birds actually move than five or six kilometres from their nests, and therefore we need a very tight and robust mitigation strategy in place. Still just on the aspect of nests that are active and inactive, one of the greatest challenges that we have through all the monitoring work we have done in the province, in Mpumalanga and the Free State, as a matter of fact, centre, around secretary birds, where these birds seem to be under a lot of pressure from various levels of disturbance, habitat transformation, and they are desperate to breed. We see them building a lot of, starting a lot of nest structures, and before they even get to a point where I can say, well, there's really something happening here, The Egyptian geese take over the nest they abandon Or they start building a nest and there's some level of disturbance They build nests very close to roads very close to infrastructure, so it leaves us with a great challenge to Put generous buffers around each of those nests which is What I would like to do, but I would wipe out the entire area landscape because of how often the birds either roost or start building nests on trees. And we've not seen successful breeding, which is very, very, very concerning for me. And most of the failed attempts we have had in the landscape in the last year has largely been as a result of Egyptian geese just pushing the birds off their nests. I know it's a bit of an aside, but it makes it very, difficult to put in hard and fast, generous buffers around a nest that has been taken over by geese, because Marlene next to me here is going to say, Albert, but that's a, you know, a goose nest. It's not a secretary bird nest. And the birds never come back because they are harassed to the extent where they don't actually read on those nests and they go and build a new nest. So that circles me to the effectiveness of mitigation. Ashley, and maybe if we can jump to the mitigation slide. And I'm sure everyone has got a ton of questions. I can actually hear Mervyn jotting them down. But when we talk about mitigation, I think I've got the same point up there. The avoidance buffers. But I think what I'd like to see, and it does leave a door open for uncertainty, I'm not going to argue that. There is the aspect of what we are putting in place at a lot of the operational facilities where we are working in the rest of the country, is a very tightly managed biodiversity management plan. That governs the process around adaptive management with mitigations that are already in place. Now, those mitigations that could already be in place are aspects like shutdown on demand. We obviously, I mean, let's just briefly touch on the blade patterning. That's a no brainer for me. In my humble opinion, in the highly sensitive areas, as we are, and I think the blade patterning guidance that is being developed by

SAWEA is definitely speaking to this around, let's not take an experimental approach here. Let's paint all the blades. Let's get that in place and done and buttoned down. Then where we have the adaptive management program, we look at the implementation of either shutdown on demand across the entire facility, because we know the number of species of conservation concern that we are dealing with in the landscape are not few and far between. And when we stack all these species together, they are going to use the site. I mean, we heard earlier around the amount of available habitat there is. And, Read, you made a very important point I think, around the fact that there's opportunity for conservation strategies of that landscape on the site. Now, then immediately I go, but the birds are going to use it. The birds are, in any case, going to use it until that landscape is completely degraded by the likes of agriculture, pollution into the wetlands, cattle grazing into the wetlands, alien infestation, et cetera. I mean, these are the things we know that is happening. Having a robust mitigation strategy in place around observer-led shutdown on demand, is that going to be feasible? I question it because of the fact that the birds don't behave like us that struggle to get up in the morning. They literally do catch the early worm because they are out there early early on in the day, which pushes us towards automated mitigation strategies. That becomes difficult, I know, because are we going to shut down for every second Adida compared to southern bald ibis? That looks very similar. And the effectiveness, therefore, is uncertain, and hence why the impact post-mitigation is not low. Why it is medium, and why we are saying this is not something we can just say, well, checkbox, we do it, we leave it, it's there. It's a process of continuous monitoring and evaluation. And benchmarking that against critical values of what can the population sustain. And Mervyn, I think it was in your comments or in yours where, you know, the projected number of fatalities that we are dealing with. Definitely from an industry perspective, from a specialist perspective, and from bird life, for example, I know that is very high on the agenda to try and define those values. I think it's very difficult and I don't want to say unreasonably realistic, but on a per project basis to do this and come up with national thresholds or provincial thresholds, I think that needs to come in from a more strategic point of view, that we all are towing the same line, because the way I would perhaps be looking at it compared to how other specialists would be looking at it could create a lot of Um, so there needs to be commonality in that regard. And I know with third life and somewhere there's a lot of initiatives going on in the background that I'm sure you guys are also aware of to try and get to those. You know, to draw some lines in the concrete, not even in the sand, and that would lead us to be able to Evaluate the impact we could potentially have here or would be having and through the management strategies say, well, automated is only so effective, therefore, I mean, we've looked at some other facilities where there are initiatives of predictive curtailment, knowing that in this particular area, there are cranes roosting at a wetland during the crepuscular zone, those turbines will be proactively shut down when we know the birds are going to be moving through the landscape. There are always, I think, more things we can try and do. And I think these initiatives are also improving all the time. Technology is getting better. So I would also caution around buttoning it down to the nth degree now, because this facility may only be built in five years, six years. I mean, Marlene and Debbie would be far better placed to tell me, oh, but this could happen in so many years or it could not happen at all. But let's not go down that road. When it happens, there may be much better technologies available on the table. So I do always want to leave that door open, that we can implement something that may be much better at the time. But at the same time, I don't think we should skirt away from committing to having mitigation measures in place. And then last but not least, I think, you know, this is something that's coming through for us very strongly and also looking at what works on the ground nationally. Having a committed individual on site that actually manages the process, that is skilled, that is qualified, that has that passion and commitment to evaluate on the ground. Unfortunately, they are not enough of us that sit around the table here that really are passionate about our birds and about the environment. And we need a champion at each facility. We've seen how successful that has been, for example, at Engie's Excelsior wind farm. And they have had fatalities, as sad as it is, but they are committed to making it work They've got an individual that manages the process very, very tightly. Their system was designed for Cape vultures. They've not killed one Cape vulture. That's a big plus for me. And

it shows me that it can work as long as you have someone on site managing it. We've got other facilities, and I'll own up to it, that we don't have a committed individual that manages on site, and that's where my concern lies and persistently working towards encouraging those developers to do more post-operation. And I think where I'm coming from here is we've got the opportunity to pre-authorization and say we need this level of commitment to do specific things for the birds that when and if we get to a point of going into operation, it's been planned for from a financial point of view. Anyway, I'm rambling perhaps, maybe there are some specific questions that people want to wing my way.

1:49:19 - Mervyn Lotter

Robert.

1:49:23 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thank you, Albert. I just want to ask, when you say adaptive management programme, In this specific instance for this project, what is it that you mean? Because we, my understanding is that blade painting will, Mpumalanga's position anyway, is that blade painting will be compulsory across any wind farm in the province. Shutdown on demand, you've already advanced in your report, should be compulsory across the site, although that wasn't actually taken up into the EIA and I didn't understand why. With those two measures already in place, what is left in terms of adaptive management? And it's a question I asked in my comments. And why can't those adaptive management measures be outlined specifically in the EIA?

1:50:14 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Thanks, Robyn. Valid concern. And, you know, there are only so many tools currently at our disposal that we could consider. But I think it is worth mentioning that, you know, when we look at it from an adaptive point of view, there are numerous types of shutdown on demand available. So, yes, we could, for argument's sake, say, start with observer shutdown on demand. Noted what I said earlier, it may not be effective, but remember, unfortunately, there is always a financial consideration. Linden Debbie here has to wear that hat. We've seen that in other projects where if we look at an automated shutdown on demand type of systems, there are various tiers that are presently available to industry to implement. So you might start off with tier one that is not very effective at identifying individual species. So that is a concern I would have, but from an affordability point of view, we may start off with that. If that does not work, and that comes back to the continuous monitoring and evaluation for me, we need to have the option of changing and adapting to that very rapidly. And what is very rapidly, very valid concern and point that clients at Avifaunal Specialists also, you know, would like to say, you know, at least within three or six months, we've got to look at making changes to the system. I mentioned earlier the issue of predictive curtailment and the work that is currently being done around understanding how and when birds fly in the landscape and under which environmental conditions those high-risk flights are taking place is key for me. And as much as Debbie and Marlene does not want to hear this, if mortalities or impacts are exceeding those values we so desperately need, of if we have killed two southern bald ibis at this project, we have exceeded our threshold for that year, or if it is zero, once we have killed one, do we currently have that information? To say when the wind speed is seven meters per second and it is 18.5 degrees and the barometric pressure is this, then we know that the Ibises are going to fly at this height through the landscape. We need that information. Can we wait for that information to be on the table? Ideally, we'd want to. However, there's a much greater pressure on us, everyone in the room, from government's point of view of a just energy transition that needs to happen. Are we busy collecting that information? I think we are. And when we get to that point, we will be able to say, Marlene, you've got to switch off your turbine number 44 to 48 between

six and seven in the morning, because that's when the high risk is there. She's going to screw squeal, but it is what it is, because we need to mitigate this. Sorry, it's a long-winded answer, Robyn, but we need to look at alternatives at the time, and that's where, you know, the monitoring evaluation, someone that manages out on site, not expecting Albert to wing pass there once every year to do this, that's not going to cut it.

1:54:08 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And moving.

1:54:12 - 1Mervyn Lotter
Thanks so yeah, but in your example, you're just giving Robyn. I mean, it does assume we have data on the collision, the heart, the preferences of these birds and whether it is predictable or not, because I think a lot of their movement could be random based on the prevailing wind speed that day or a fire or food source somewhere outside of even the footprint area. But it kind of brings me to my And the more I think about these modelled or shape buffers is that it's, um, there is a level of, it sounds good in practice. I mean, the theory, as I said in my comments, the theory makes sense to me, but the practice, the practical application of isn't. So if we think about, um, we, the shape of there's two things, one being we don't have enough information to be able to accurately predict, um, those movements, the, and some of these species, like a secretary bird, they don't favour a wetland or a rocky outcrop, and a relatively flat terrain, they can move anywhere. So it's impossible to say this is the area they're going to be moving on when we don't have the data to support that. And so we're making proposals based on, let's say, data quality, and that's what gets me nervous. And particularly that the implications of it would be maybe fatalities because of collision and then you put yourself in our shoes. Now we need to evaluate this application and now we know if we get an application where there's a one kilometre buffer around a nest site, we can look and measure and assess. Are we getting, we're not getting that, we get maybe there's a shape buffer but we don't know how big that buffer is. We can't see it on the map because it's merged with other sensitivities and wetlands and stuff so you can't actually see what does the shaped buffer look like, So we going on the word of the proposer, being now yourself or your team who developed these models. So how do we actually know that in this shape buffer of yours that there is a minimum at least that it will never be narrower than, let's say, 75% more commonly used size buffer. So we need those kind of like incorporated, those requirements, those thresholds into the model that we know it will never be smaller than a certain amount. And your halving, for example, the Marshall is a bit more drastic. A 2.5 kilometre buffer is not sufficient when the buffer should be around 5.3 kilometres. So it kind of makes it difficult for us to evaluate this. And maybe what is needed then is a separate document, maybe an appendix which says this is how the shape buffers were calculated. This is uncertainty, you have a layer if you want to download it, or this is what it looks like, because it leaves us with no information to assess. I feel I don't have confidence applying it because I can't even see that buffer on the map. So from a review point of view, it makes it very difficult for us. And then also from the application point of view, there's a lot of uncertainty. In theory, I like it, but it mustn't be a form of like smoke and mirrors where it sounds great, but people can't really see it and use it on an apply it to the landscape. So yeah, I just want to leave that with you then. Could you comment on the Black Sparrowhawk? It had a 750 meter buffer in the scoping report and then in the EIA it's now got a 250 buffer. And then also looking at the offset report of Read's that spoke about two roosting sites for Cape Vultures, but they are in every phone or report. Can you maybe just comment as to maybe they were considered and we it wasn't particularly articulated. Could you just give us some background on those? Thank you.

1:58:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Okay, thanks. I hear your point, and I think with regard to the, um, shaped buffers versus radial buffers. I think it's a very valid thing because, um, you see What we need are separate maps indicating those buffers. And typically, what we try and do with regard to a shaped no turbine buffer, to use the Marshall Eagle, which I think is an excellent example, that shaped buffer, the surface area of the shaped buffer will largely be equivalent to what a five kilometre radial buffer will be. Therefore, the area protected for the birds is defined by the habitat they would use. If I think openly around, let's say, are the marshal eagles going to use an agricultural field? Maybe they are, because there could be guineafowl in there, which they But they may be more prone to natural vegetation. So the shaped buffer would then be influenced by where there is better habitat for them to hunt in. And that will influence that shape. So I think to demonstrate that, separate maps that speak to those aspects would address that concern. And sharing the actual Facial layers because they there I mean, it's not trust me. I'm not a doctor, but Robyn is almost a doctor we Do that obviously, but you know point well take we need a separate map that shows that Then there's still a no disturbance buff And I think that's maybe where some of the confusion around the two and a half kilometre and then the five kilometre is The 2.5km speaks to all infrastructure exclusions, apart from maybe upgrading an existing road, because there are existing roads in that 2.5km buffer. So we're trying to avoid disturbance with a 2.5km buffer, which we feel is sufficient from a disturbance point of view, and obviously there won't be turbines in there. But then the shaped buffer that covers a similar area compared to the five kilometre area is then a no turbine area, and outside of that is a mitigation zone. That mitigation zone then speaks to where mitigation measures that we had the whole discussion about should be implemented. Further protect the birds. That speaks on the buffer sizes. You asked about the Black Sparrowhawk, the 250 versus 750 meters. I think there we're dealing with a species of least concern, Black Sparrowhawk, that from extensive work in the landscape, these birds move their nests quite around in the landscape. So again, I would rather look at the implementation of mitigation measures for these birds when priority species than having very large, generous buffers and knowing these birds regularly change their nest sites in the landscape. So I think in part that is the reason for the contraction of that buffer. A point well noted, it was not clearly articulated between the scoping and the EIA report for that quite drastic retraction of that buffer area, but obviously still open for further discussion on that. Then to move on to your point about the vulture colonies, Read and I have had a discussion and I think, Read, you want to maybe just chip in there?

2:02:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Yeah, I just have to double check that because it doesn't sound right. Yeah, I just, I'm an apologist for that. I'll have to just check what went on there, but it doesn't sound as it was supposed to be.

2:02:47 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Yeah, from the information we have and through our interrogation of vulture tracking data and vulture information, in the landscape, we are certainly not aware of definite roost sites. There have been observations of birds roosting on power lines in the Carolina area, and we've seen a few birds roost on power lines to the southeast of the Camden power station, but not to the extent where I would term it a permanent, regularly used roost site. Through all the information, and I'm open for correction here, is, you know, if we, you know, we're not aware of permanent roosts in that area. The birds are moving through, and we've substantiated this with quite extensive additional monitoring in the landscape. Typically in the summer months when it's hot, the birds do move through, but it's midday movements and it's largely birds moving through the landscape. So it's not continuous active on-site presence of foraging, scouting around, wafting around, looking for food. It's birds moving through, often at high altitude, but definitely there has been birds in road to swept areas. Again, I circle back to my earlier comment of effectiveness of shut down

on demand measures against large conspicuous birds like vultures. I think we can do pretty well in that regard.

2:04:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6
Okay, can I just please, sorry, I'm struggling to put up my hand, it's Mmamahole. We have, yes, with regards to the vultures, there is a roost on transmission and distribution lines near the Chrissiesmere area and south of the Camden substation.

2:05:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Excellent, thank you. I would really appreciate more information on that. As I say, the one near Chrissiesmere may be the one that we are aware of, but if you can provide us, with more information on that. We definitely welcome that.

2:05:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6
I'd like to suggest that you get in touch with Vulpro. I'm not sure if there's somebody from Vulpro in the meeting. They have the most recent information on the vultures activities in the area. And they have actually provided comments to actually on the 10th of October, so you should have gotten them. Yes, OK, great.

2:05:50 - Mervyn Lotter
Thank you for that. And just want to add that it was from Read's report that I saw reference to the two vulture colonies. So it was, you know, the vulture roost, not colony, but a vulture roost. And then we raised it. So Read, if you could please just get back and confirm. But my last comment would be, it's not actually one that we picked up one, but it's something bird life. We were copied on BirdLife's comments, and that's about the white-winged flufftail, and that their monitoring shows several suitable sites throughout the Phefumula Emoyeni project area. So, have you seen that while we got the floor? Do you want to comment on the white-winged flufftail models?

2:06:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Thanks, Mervyn. Yes, I can comment on that. Obviously, as you know, my colleague Robyn in Canada has done a lot of work on the on the flap tails, and it definitely is on the table for us to investigate further and to take that information that has been shared by BirdLife into consideration. I think when looking at that is the suitability of those areas are not as good as what there are other areas further to the east where the suitability increases greatly, but we are looking at it into more detail and also in discussion with Marlene and Debbie around potentially doing some further on-site verification in that regard, but it is definitely well noted and being further interrogated. Thanks.

2:07:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

Okay, just a timing issue because the comments, this has to be wrapped up now. We don't have that.

2:07:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

We don't. I'm well aware of that.

2:07:39 - Unidentified Speaker

Thanks.

2:07:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Gavin. Oh, sorry. I'm not sure now what happened.

2:07:49 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Ladies first.

2:07:53 - 1Robyn Luyt
Gavin, your hand up was at first, so thank you. I'm just going to jump in because it's based on what Mervyn has just said. And going back to your models, Albert. My understanding is that these BirdLife models were updated just three weeks ago and it's difficult based on Mervyn's point, or going back to Mervyn's point, for us to confirm whether your models or your modelling includes BirdLife's most up-to-date models.

2:08:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
With regard to white-winged flufftail, or should I rather say species 23, Um, we, um, I think the update of their model is actually as a result of additional information that we as AfriAvian collected in the landscape. Um, in conjunction with information they have been collecting in the wider landscape further to the north. Um, that has How can I put this? Um, increased the threshold or the lower or lowered the threshold for the suitability of the species in the landscape based on localities where it has in more recent times been confirmed to be present. So this is hot off the press kind of information that based on where in the last season birds have been reported that increased the potential suitability, and hence puts the onus on us to say, well, how does the habitat look on Phefumula? And Mervyn, well noted your comment around the timing issue. Can one pull that rabbit out of a hat in a few days? Not an easy one to do.

2:09:52 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thanks. Gavin? Sure, OK. Sorry, I wanted to go last because I wanted to have a more bird's eye view again. So I am from the strategic side. So OK, so first of all, just quickly in terms of what Albert said about the commonality of the fatality thresholds, I couldn't agree more. Hopefully we'll, well, I'm hopefully doing a presentation at the Birds in Real Energy Forum, and I will probably put that in. And what comes to mind is that I know it's public domain. I'm just looking at the draft scoping reports out now. And I mean, the avian fauna specialist looked at basically using flight heights. You have to look at the report, but the point is, is they use somewhat different method. And those figures, Albert, were based on the mortality, the monitoring data from bird life. And I just plugged them in quickly to get an idea, just to look at cumulative impact. So as I said, I'm coming from a birds eye view, so everything's more strategic with me. So, yeah, I've got a question as well, but let me quickly go to your comment about the ghosts in the night. Okay, and shut down radar, shut down on demand. And it's true, we don't really know what the impacts are going to be. And we got to assess it. And it's really difficult when you're getting an application. And you got to look at the impacts and try and measure them and predict what the impacts are going to be. And it's really difficult because

there's so many variables. But, so yeah, our standard has been, as Robyn said, obviously blade painting, and obviously we're concerned about the flamingos, and the radar shut down on the mark. But, sorry, I can't contain my enthusiasm here. So yeah, they're not really ghosts in the night. As people know, I think a lot of you in the room might know that we've started a study to track birds, and unfortunately, we've only managed to put collars on four greater flamingos. But really, we've just sort of started getting some data trickling in. And that's why I asked earlier about the hub height and the blade height, because it seems like, and as Mervyn said quite rightly, it could be the environmental conditions, because it seems that the winds come a little bit later this year, and it's normally August, September. Winds seem to be heavier now in October. But it seems like they're flying at lower heights than the lesser flamingo. That's just my interpretation. My colleagues can correct me if I'm wrong. Is that we're starting to get some data in. This data is going to be absolutely invaluable. I mean, looking at the one chart that I saw, it looks like you might even be able to do shutdown on demand on a Monday and a Tuesday between this time and that time, and then you could be good to go. So that is absolutely invaluable. So I just had to share that with you. And obviously, you know, it comes onto my last point. It's about blade painting with flamingos. Is it effective, Albert, blade painting? I know that a lot of the studies that have been done in like in Hopefield and stuff, they're no flamingos, but is it effective? Would it possibly, if the birds are flying during the day, and we're finding from our data that the birds are flying quite a lot at night, and yeah, would blood painting then be effective if they're flying during the day? Yeah, I think that is all my comments, I think for now, yeah. Oh yes, and sorry, about two minutes, I just quickly started extracting information talking for you guys. We're talking about the 55km radius. Hence my point about the sensitivity of the area, and unfortunately, a lot of these wind farms are coming in this area where the wind is. Basically, with Phefumula, 695, the 55km radius, 695 turbines of the 708 turbines in the whole province are in 55km of Phefumula. That highlights the point about the sensitivity of this area and that basically, yeah. Okay, thank you.

2:13:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Thanks, Gavin. I think your question around pattern blades, do they work in this landscape? Short answer is we don't know, because one, we don't have any turbines and we don't have proof that given our suite of species we are dealing with. I mean, most of the evaluation and testing on blade patterning in the northern hemisphere. Right. So that is well known that it seems to be quite effective. But more research is needed. And in all the presentations, I know you guys were in the IFC work workshop in person and then the webinar recently where Rob Simmons, Dr. Rob Simmons, presented on this. It seems promising, but there's no guarantees yet. So, therefore, is blade patterning a mitigation measure that we know is going to work at this stage? No, it isn't. Therefore, we need to do more. I certainly would want to see the results from work being done in the provincial level and at a national level around other species. We really, you know, have just bought our tickets around blade patterning and we're starting to move into the departure lounge around understanding this. So we still have a long way to go to really say it is effective or not, but we need pattern blades in the landscape and very robust monitoring and evaluation because that's the only way we're going to find out whether this actually works and your birds with tracking devices on them are going to be key to understanding how these birds use that landscape and regular fixes from those tracking devices when they move into areas is where there are turbines is really going to unpack that for us. How do they use that spatial area in close proximity to turbines? Is it working? Isn't it working? So there's a lot of potential there. So the more birds we can have with tracking devices on them, the better, because that's going to tell us how the birds use that land. Scope. Robert.

2:16:30 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thank you, Albert. I think for going back to how we deal with your answers in our EIA world, it kind of, and

you've basically said what we all know, honestly. So that brings into question the impact analysis in the EIA. And how can we then say that the impact, the mitigation measures that have been proposed could justifiably bring down those high level, higher significance ratings to moderate when we don't even know that they work?

2:17:10 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

2:17:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Yeah, it is a challenge, Robyn, and we are often constrained by the impact rating system, and in many instances, yes, impacts will still be there. How high they are going to be is always debatable, and, you know, is it justifiable to just say they are moderate? We do have to obviously, on two sides of the fence, there's the precautionary principle, which if we apply that strictly we would most probably remain at high or do we have some confidence in some of these measures like what I articulated earlier around the successes that has been achieved in conjunction with our mitigation hierarchy that we are following because if we assume at the high level we have not avoided but we have avoided So in that sense, yes, is that avoidance sufficient? We are providing some safe space for the birds so that in its own right I think does help to bring down the risk and then we are putting in all these additional measures. So is that then justifiable to say no, it's having no effect? I don't think so. It is having but yeah is it kind of high moderate or moderate or low moderate is the elephant in the room I suppose.

2:18:59 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I think we're at the end of of our presentation.

2:19:14 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Are there any last comments before we move to close?

2:19:21 - Unidentified Speaker

Mervyn?

2:19:25 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Thanks. It's just something which when Albert finished off now with his moderate, like we can bring it down. I mean, the mitigation measures will have a positive impact. It will reduce the risk.

2:19:38 - 1Mervyn Lotter
And that's acknowledged. It's just because you have these 10 threatened species on site, bringing it down from a high to a moderate could still have a significant impact. And that's, I think, ultimately the crux of our concern. And I just want to make a statement that, for monitoring purposes, that we still stand by our comments that were submitted. Thank you.

2:19:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thanks, Mervyn.

2:20:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Thanks, Mervyn.

2:20:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Robyn?

2:20:05 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thank you. I just want to understand, Coenrad raised it at the beginning of the meeting. You've got 15 days to submit your final EIA. Like Mervyn said, we stand by our comments. I don't believe that we are in a position to support the activity, unfortunately. There is a lot of outstanding information still required, which I don't think can just be addressed in a comments and response report and package into a final EIA. For example, there are requirements that were requests that were made in our comments about analysing the impact of collisions on night flying species. And that's just one of the eight pages of comments that we made. So obviously any substantive changes that are made to an EIA report have to go out for a 30 day comment period. So, is it the intention for you to package a response now, submit to final EIA to DFFE for a decision?

2:21:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
That is something that's currently in discussion and we will let you know what the decision is once it's been made. Okay. We will be providing detailed responses to all the comments. As I said, this was a high level. I mean, we can't go through each one individually in this setting. We will be providing individual responses to each and every comment that everybody has made and forwarded it to you in individual letters. It will also be included in the comment and response report. Should the decision be made to submit the package and submit a final EIR, you will We obviously also have the opportunity to provide additional comments directly to the DFFE, and cc the developer and the EAP, but we will let you know that that decision hasn't been made yet. But yes, I'd like to really thank everybody for their time today. It has been a very useful and productive session, I think. I've personally found it very good. Thank you for all your input. It has been a pleasure to engage with you all today. And we will formalize our request for that cumulative impact, cumulative details.

2:22:39 - Mervyn Lotter
We will definitely ask for that. And I think there was something you might want from your side, Albert, that we could include in there. We'll formalize that request as well. So I just want to say thank to everybody for joining us today and I hope you have a wonderful weekend and really thank you for your time.

2:23:02 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Thanks Ashley, thanks everybody.

Appendix C.3

FGM - 28 MARCH 2025

AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	41105236	**MEETING DATE**	28 March 2025
PROJECT NAME	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF EIA Report Focus Group Meeting	**VENUE**	Virtual Meetings: MS Teams
CLIENT	Seriti Green (Pty) Ltd / Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	**RECORDED BY**	WSP
MEETING SUBJECT	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF EIA Report Focus Group Meeting		

PRESENT	**WSP** Ashlea Strong (AS) Tshepho Mamashela (TM) Rudolph Greffrath (RG) **Seriti Green** Ben Brimble (BB) Marlien Burger (MB) Debbie Weldon (DW) **Afri Avian** Albert Froneman (AF) Robin Colyn (RC) **MDARDLEA** Robyn Luyt (RL) Gavin Cowden (GC) Sindisiwe Mbuyane (SM) Okwethu Fakude (OF) **MTPA** Mervyn Lotter (ML) Frans Krige (FK) **Bird Life** Samantha Raiston (SR)
APOLOGIES	**SAS** Paul de Cruz **DFFE** Coenrad Agenbach Mmamohale Kabasa
DISTRIBUTION	As above.

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ITEM	SUBJECT	Response.
The following minutes are considered a summary of the meeting held. *The presentation presented during the meeting is included in **Appendix A**.* *The full transcript of the meeting has been attached in **Appendix B** for further reference.*		
1	**Project background**	
1.1	AS presented the project background: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd (a private special purpose company to be incorporated), to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to meet the requirements under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, located approximately 16km north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa . The project includes two EIA processes one for the Wind Energy Facility and one for the Electrical Grid Connection. The proposed WEF underwent scoping phase, and a draft EIR was submitted to DFFE for commenting. Upon receipt of comments it was noted that additional studies are required. As such, the application was left to lapse to allow further investigations to take place. These additional investigations took place between January and March 2025. The DEIR will therefore be resubmitted in April 2025. The proposed Grid Connection also underwent the scoping phase, during which comments were received also requesting additional studies. A Regulation 3(7) extension request was approved on December 2025. The DEIR is currently out for public review (Public review ends on 04 April 2025).	N/A
2	**Site Selection**	

2.1	MB present the site selection process: The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF will have a project area of approximately 33 660 hectares (ha) (original Area of Influence – AOI). Within this project area the extent of the buildable area was subject to optimisation based on technical and environmental requirements.
	▪ **Prospecting -** Identify potential sites based on:
	  ▪ Wind energy resource analysis;
	  ▪ Grid connection availability and feasibility;
	  ▪ Competition in the area; and
	  ▪ Environmental sensitivity.
	▪ **Land securement** entails securing a critical mass of land to make the project commercially viable through option to lease agreements (1-2 years).
	▪ **Preliminary Assessment and Validation**:
		N/A

	▪ Validation of wind models via ground up monitoring protocols (usually Met masts and SODARs) (1-2 years). ▪ Commencement of baseline bird and bat monitoring for a 1 year period. ▪ **Bankable Feasibility Assessment**: ▪ Permitting: EIA, WULA, etc. Additional studies pertaining to confirmation of bankable feasibility **Wind Resource in Mpumalanga** The wind farm site was selected based on grid and wind capacity. In addition to this there is a process to get land approval from landowners which takes some time. ▪ Notwithstanding other requirements, wind farms require a strong wind resource. ▪ Mpumalanga does not have a uniform wind resource across the province. ▪ This resource is found at higher hub heights (150m plus) ▪ The SA energy supply market remains dominated by coal, but the energy crisis coupled with the country's "Just Energy Transition" plans; solar and wind energy have become valuable alternative sources of energy. ▪ Potential power station decommissioning in the near to medium-term.	
3	**Layout Optimisation**	
3.1	**AS presented a summary of layout optimisation process** ▪ The preliminary layout identified up to 135 turbine positions and associated main WEF components ▪ The Revised layout identified up to 88 turbine positions and associated main WEF components This is layout that was previously assessed by specialists and was subsequently submitted during the initial EIA phase. ▪ During the course of the EIA phase, the revised layout was optimised and finalised based on specialist inputs. These inputs included the following recommendations: ▪ **Terrestrial Biodiversity:** o Turbines were shifted outside CBA irreplaceable and optimal areas and intact grasslands as far as practically possible. ▪ **Avifauna** o WTG 85 and 86 are located within a recommended turbine exclusion (including rotor-swept area) buffer, these turbines need to micro-sited out of the exclusion zones. o These two turbines were removed ▪ Aquatic biodiversity assessment o It is strongly recommended that Turbine 42 be relocated to the north or east so that no part of its footprint is located within the delineated wetland boundary or associated 15m buffer. This turbine was shifted as requested. o Furthermore a number of access roads are proposed to be relocated. Road layout to be updated in line with this request.	N/A

- **Bats:**
  - Turbine 11, T12, T13, T27, T44, T47, T48, T49, T53, T56, T63, T68, T81, T82, and T88 have rotor sweep areas that encroach on High sensitivity buffers.
  - These turbines were shifted where required to avoid high sensitivity bat areas
- **Heritage**:
  - The ruins and semi-circular stone enclosures at PF006 impacted by WTG55. Turbine was shifted to avoid heritage site.
  - Burial sites which will be impacted by access roads (PF007, PF008, PF009) should preferably be avoided with a 30m buffer zone with access provided to family members.
- **Noise**
  - The closest wind turbine to these receptors (WTG88) be located slightly northwards, away from the receptors, so that noise levels remain below the 40 dB(A) threshold.
  - This turbine was removed.
- **Social:**
  - The developers should liaise with the owners of the property to identify an alternative location for the substation and BESS. The owners have proposed an area on the northernmost site property.

Further micro-siting was undertaken by the client on each turbine resulting in 12 turbines being dropped from the layout to produce the optimised layout. The Optimised layout identified up to 76 turbine positions and associated main WEF components and amended AOI.

Grid Layout Optimisation

The preliminary layout indicates an up to 400kV grid connection, MTS and substations components. There was one alternative route layout for the Dx3 OHL option.

Due to the sensitivity of the area that this layout traversed, this alternative was eliminated and an optimised layout (Alternative 2) was assessed in this EIA study.

A thorough optimization process was undertaken to minimize environmental impacts associated with Alternative 1, while ensuring efficient infrastructure placement. The preliminary layout alternative included:

- MTS positioned within CBA1;
- DX1 located within CBA2;
- DX2 and DX3 positioned within CBA1; and
- OHL corridor crossings through wetlands, CBA areas, Climate Change Corridor (CCC) and intact grasslands

	To address these concerns, avoidance strategies were implemented to exclude infrastructure from core habitats and sensitive ecological zones. The optimized layout alternative significantly reduced these impacts by: ▪ Relocating MTS, DX1, DX2, and DX3 to avoid CBA1 and CBA2 areas ▪ Adjusting the OHL corridor to minimize crossings through wetlands, CBAs, CCC zones, and intact grasslands ▪ Refining the infrastructure placement to align with the mitigation hierarchy, prioritizing avoidance first, followed by mitigation and offsets where necessary	
4	**Summary of comments**	
4.1	AS presented a summary of comments received during the EIA Phase and feedback:	N/A

Comment	**Feedback**
No Site Alternatives	As previously discussed, the Application underwent a rigorous pre-screening process to identify the site. EIA Regulations require that alternatives must be assessed. This does not mean only site alternative but can be layout alternatives within the development footprint.
Turbines located in intact grassland patches (10) and areas designated as CBA Optimal (14)	There are no turbines within intact grasslands and CBA irreplaceable areas. Only 8 turbines intersect with CBA optimal areas.
Construction camps and laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable	Construction camps and laydown areas have been removed from CBA Irreplaceable areas
The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands, and the development of watercourse crossings, not been sufficiently analysed, nor alternatives proposed	The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands has been assessed, with all watercourse crossing having now been assessed.
Laydown areas should be located outside the freshwater ecosystems and outside of a 100m buffer of any wetland	Only two turbines currently intersect with freshwater ecosystems and these will be moved for the final layout
15m non-development buffer for wetlands	The 15m non-development buffer on wetlands has been implemented as a no-go area for turbine infrastructure
Cumulative Impact Assessment	A 100km radius has now been included in the updated EIA Report for the Cumulative Assessment

	Biodiversity offset cannot cater for the loss of Irreplaceable CBAs or intact grasslands and cannot compensate for the loss of species, specifically the loss of endangered bird or bat species.	This comment is acknowledged. The layout has been revisited and optimised such that no turbines are located within intact grasslands or CBA irreplaceable areas. Furthermore, the road and grid layouts have also been optimised to reduce their impact on the areas as far as practically possible.	
	Biodiversity Offset Strategy 30ha of Irreplaceable CBAs and 48ha of CBA Optimal.	Subsequent to the layout optimisation, the biodiversity offset report has been updated to reflect the full extent of the impacts in these areas as a result of all infrastructure.	
	Project Area - 48% within NPAES and MPAES	The project area still overlaps NPAES and MPAES areas. However, significant effort has been put into reducing the impact on these areas. Notably the number of turbines located within these areas has dropped from 23 to 16.	
	New road network not available at time of writing BOR	The road layout was finalised and provided to specialists for assessment.	
	Offset Conservation outcome aim for a net positive impact where possible and must be measurable and achievable	The Biodiversity Offset Report has been updated to take note of these recommendations.	
	Duration of offset more 30 yrs		
5	**Cumulative Assessment**		
5.1	The surrounding projects that have not already been awarded Preferred Bidder (PB) status under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) or the Risk Mitigation IPP procurement programme (RMIPPPP), are still subject to the REIPPPP bidding process or subject to securing an off taker of electricity through an alternative process. Some of the surrounding proposed WEFs secured EAs several years ago but have not obtained PB status (or a private off taker agreement) and as such have not been developed. There are not many WEF in the 100km radius. The only one of these projects that is currently being built is Umbila. **GC** asked what informed the cumulative map that was presented. **AS** stated that it was a combination of information from DFFE and MTPA. **GC** asked if projects that were in the pre-application have been considered. **AS** stated only projects that are in public domain have been considered. **GC** stated that the issue with cumulative impacts with regards to the Phefumula application is that most of proposed WEFs fall within intact grasslands and CBA. This conflicts the provinces sustainable efforts. Further to this **GC** asked if cumulative impacts on birds were assessed. **AS** stated that this will be covered during the avifauna presentation.		N/A
6	**Watercourses and Wetlands**		
6.1	**AS presented the Watercourses and wetland section:** ▪ EIA-phase Report for **Grid** was updated in February 2025, based on revised layout (substations) and alignment (OHPLs).		N/A

- EIA-phase Report for the **WE F**was updated in March 2025 based on the revised layout.
- For both Grid and WEF, field assessments were completed to ensure that crossing points of wetlands, and wetlands within a radius of potential impact not previously assessed were assessed.

To summarise the findings of the updated Grid report:

- All activities associated with the construction or upgrading of proposed infrastructure that are located within / or would directly affect wetlands would pose a 'Medium' risk significance to the freshwater ecosystems.
- All other activities associated with a 'Low' risk significance.
- Given the current OHPL alignment over extensive wetland areas, it is considered unlikely that all wetlands would be able to be spanned by the proposed powerline route.
- Potential direct impacts associated with power line tower placement inside wetland habitat was considered to pose a 'Medium' risk significance to the affected wetlands.
- Thus NB to micro-site within assessment corridor to avoid direct tower placement within wetlands.
- Substation layout was revised in consultation with the proponent to ensure the substations are located outside of any freshwater ecosystem and the associated non-development buffer.
- In the light of the impacts associated with the development of the power line, it is recommended that a pre-development walkdown be undertaken by a freshwater specialist to ensure the optimal placement of towers / pylons along the proposed alignment – Thus, to ensure no towers placed within wetlands.
- Further, although the proponent has amended the position of the substations to avoid freshwater ecosystems and their associated non-development buffer, particular attention must be given to ensure proper stormwater design and pollution protection as three of the substations will be located in the immediate catchment of wetlands.
- Thus if no towers are placed in wetlands and stormwater carefully planned for substations the grid would be associated with a low degree of risk and can be authorized

To summarise the findings of the WEF report:

- All activities associated with the construction or upgrading of proposed infrastructure that are located within / or would directly affect wetlands would pose a 'Medium' risk significance to the freshwater ecosystems.
- All other activities associated with a 'Low' risk significance.
- The freshwater related sensitivities of the study area as outlined in the scoping phase freshwater assessment have been adequately considered in the latest iteration of the development layout - all proposed turbine locations except two have avoided placement within any freshwater ecosystem or associated 15m non-development buffer.

	▪ Certain new access roads cross wetlands, and mitigation measures in terms of design and construction have been made to minimise the potential impact. ▪ A recommendation has been made that these two wind turbines (WTG 5 and 42) be relocated outside of the wetlands and their associated buffer. ▪ In addition, a road realignment recommendation has been made to avoid the unnecessary impacting of another seep wetland. ▪ As the current layout does not indicate the position of proposed underground cabling, and other construction and operation infrastructure such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) infrastructure, the finalised position of this infrastructure as well as of turbine locations and proposed roads must be assessed as part of a walkdown assessment of this infrastructure by a freshwater specialist. ▪ Provided these recommendations, and the outcomes of the walkdown assessment are actioned, the WEF development can be authorised. **RL** commented that the 15m buffer for wet area applies to aquatic health versus the objective that would be applicable to birds and bats. Therefore, it is advisable to have these buffers consolidated in order to understand the objectives that are being met. The 15m buffer might not be applicable to the avifauna objectives. **AS** welcomed the comment. **AF** stated that avifauna specialists often struggle with what aquatic specialist look for. Hence in the Phefumula instance bird habitats from an aquatic poine of view were considered independent of the aquatic specialist. This was then used as delineation. **FK** stated the concern with regards to the grid connection, especially the DS route because it goes parallel with the valley bottom wetland for at least 2km. It is important to therefore ensure that the powerline does not fall within the wetland. **AS** stated that the aquatic specialist has assessed a and guesstimation of 300m wide corridor for authorisation. This concern will be directed to the aquatic specialist for a more appropriate response.	
7	**Intact Grasslands Patches/MBSP and Climate Change corridor**	
7.1	**RG presented the Intact Grasslands Patches/MBSP and Climate Change corridor section**. During the initial submission of the EIA, one of the main things that was noted from a biodiversity perspective, is the intact grassland patches and, of course, the climate change corridors. There were 10 wind turbines that intersect and those that are found close to the boundary layer of the intact grasslands, and that could be affected by the size of the footprint that we used for mapping. And there were six that intersect with the climate change corridors. All comments were taken into consideration to optimise the layout. With the current layout, there are no turbines within the intact grassland Patches or the climate change corridor. **RL** asked if any turbines number were changed during the optimisation process and further asked for current layout shapefile. **AS** confirmed that the turbine numbers remain the same and that as soon all changes to the layout are final, a shapefile will be shared with MDARDLEA.	

	Actual CBA Intercepts Before optimisation of the layout the following was the area extents that intercept CBAs: ▪ CBA Irreplaceable ▪ 1.877ha ▪ (WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70) ▪ CBA Optimal ▪ 15.89ha ▪ (WTG 2,3,12,33,76,70,66,64,58,55,50,46,36,26,20,8) ▪ Intact Grassland Patches ▪ 7.99ha ▪ (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76) ▪ Post Optimisation of the layout the following stands: ▪ CBA Irreplaceable ▪ 0 ha ▪ 0 WTG ▪ CBA Optimal ▪ 7.7 ha ▪ (WTG 2, 8, 12, 20, 26, 33, 64, 66) ▪ Intact Grassland Patches ▪ 0 ha ▪ 0 WTG Previous Turbines within NPAES (23): 1, 2, 3, 6,10,12,14,20,26,31,32,33,34,46, 50,51,55,57,58,64,66,70,76 Latest Turbines within NPAES (16): 1,2,3,6,10,12,14,20,26,31, 33, 46,50,57,64,66 ML acknowledged the changes that led to the optimised layout that avoids the sensitive area. This addresses a lot of but not all concerns that were held previously. **AS** welcomed the comment.	
8	**Avifauna**	
8.1	**AF presented the avifauna section.** **IBA vs KBA** IBA boundaries have historically not been seen as avoidance areas or No-Go areas. There are approved WEFs in IBAs. As per communication from BirdLife South Africa	

(July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's). Having said, the number of species of concern have been taken into consideration and furthermore, mitigation hierarchies, particularly avoidance, has been noted.

Mitigation

- Nests – active *vs.* inactive
    - Avoidance – Buffers
- Biodiversity Management Plan
- Adaptive management programme (monitoring & evaluation)
- Blade Patterning
- Shut Down on Demand (SDoD)
    - Observer SDoD *vs.* Auto SDoD
    - Radar SDoD
    - Effectiveness of SDoD measures
- Implementation through a skilled professional on site overseeing the day-to-day management of the programme

RL stated that in Mpumalanga blade patterning is a requirement. However, Umbila, another Seriti WEF project that is being constructed will not have patterning. Given the proximity of Umbila to Phefumula, how feasible will it be use it as a control. AF stated that a collaboration between the Umbila and Phefumula will need to occur to ensure that the implemrntation of Phefumula is more effective based off the data collected from Umbila.

RL asked if adaptive management is interpreted the same as MDARDLEA and MPTA does. This is because in Mpumalanga, it is advocated that SDoD technology in combination with RADAR for nighttime flight would need to be applied for all turbines that are approved. Adaptive management will then be implemented based on the data that is collected once the win farm is operational. Therefore the interpretation is that turbines cannot operate without any form of SDoD technology. **AF** confirmed that the definition of adaptive management is interpreted the same way.

GC stated that there is concern with flamingos that fly between turbine 29 and turbine 79 at night. Therefore this raises concerns with SDoD. Using mitigation hierarchy, it is advised that these area be avoided. If avoidance is not an option, then the correct mitigations must be put in place. **AF** welcomed the comment and stated that precautionary principle will be applied.

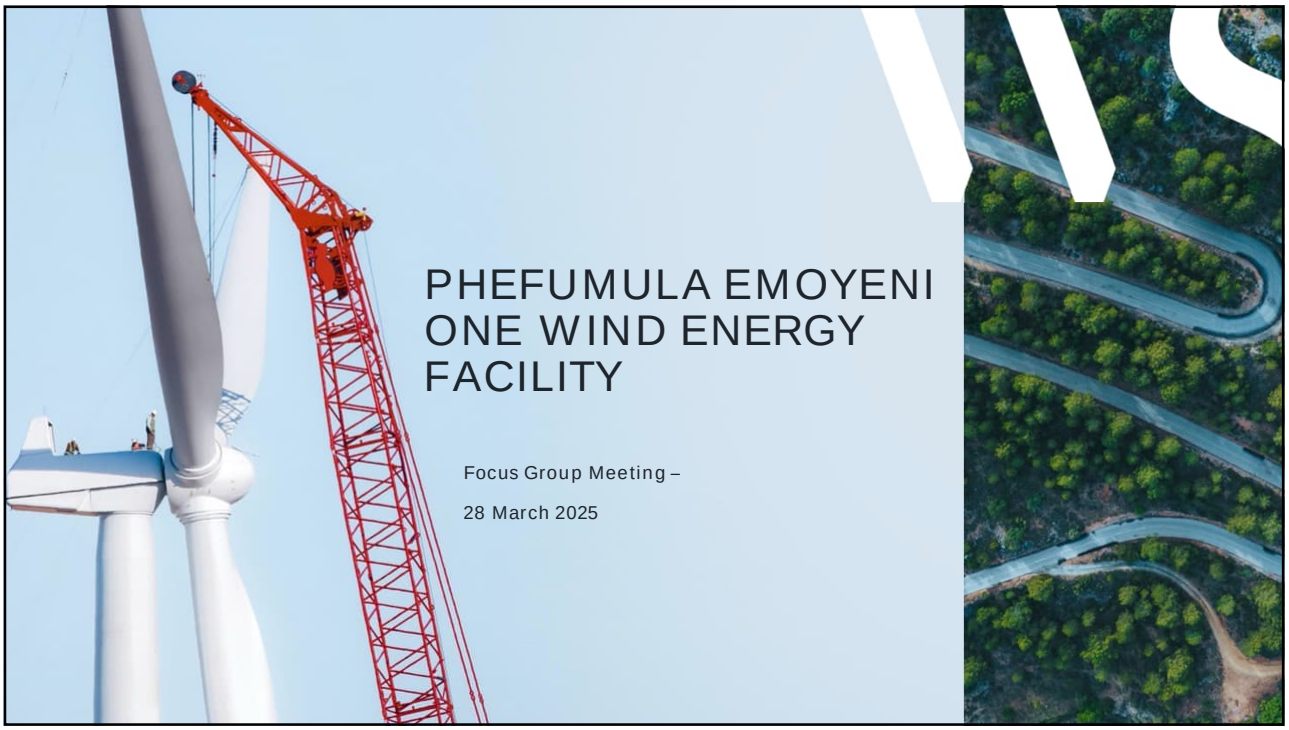
ML mentioned that SDoD is costly, and it has been noted that it is implemented only when needed. Given that there are 16 species of concern, which is higher than average.

ML stated KBA and KBI are areas that have been demarcated as landscapes were congregation of birds exists and have the right forage for them. Wind farms will

	therefore cause collision. Therefore, to look at the footprint of the turbine instead of the regional area is inaccurate. **AF** welcomed the comment. **SR** agrees with ML that it is imperative to consider the landscape level in getting a commitment to operation phase migration. A strong commitment upfront to mitigation must be taken. **AF** agreed. **GC** asked how many of the secretary birds nest sites are active. AF stated that there are a lot of consideration that could determine the actual active nests. It could be accurate or inaccurate. This the reason there is a need for adaptive management.	
8.2	**Species 23 Assessment** **RC presented the species 23 results** ▪ Methods ▪ Habitat suitability model ▪ In situ wetland assessment ▪ Findings ▪ No suitable habitat (>0.25) within project area and surrounds – thus low risk ▪ 20 wetlands assessed ▪ Most wetlands were dominated by graminoid riparian and channelled valley-bottom habitats, but extensive degradation (e.g., overgrazing, trampling by livestock) reduced suitability for Species 23 ▪ Due to unsuitability of habitat no acoustic surveys conducted. Implications & Sensitivity Rating ▪ The combination of modelling and field assessments confirms that Species 23 is unlikely to be affected by the proposed WEF development. ▪ The probability of species occurrence and associated risk is considered low. **SR** where closest habit is situated and what are the likelihood of it moving through the landscape. **RC** stated that there are a lot of unknowns. What informed the low status of occurrence was that distributionally the species will occur 25 – 30km east of the side were there are marshes, was the field survey in conjunction with the model data.	
8.3	**AF presented Vulture risk (Cape Vulture)** ▪ Low passage rate – only 4 vultures recorded ▪ Screening tool vulture theme – medium × ▪ Cervantes (2023) utilisation distribution – Low ✓ ▪ Tracking data analysis – tier 1 ✓ ▪ Low use flight paths and/or areas with very stochastic and/or low local use. **ML** stated that the biodiversity report referred to two vulture roost However in the avifauna report that was submitted, no reference to vulture roost was made.	

	Therefore, confirmation of whether the roosts exist or not is important**. RG** confirmed that was a mistake that was not supposed to be in the biodiversity offset report. **ML** stated that the previously submitted avifauna report refers to black sparrow hawks foraging within 2-5km from a nest. A buffer of 750m was considered for the Scoping report and a 250m for the EIA. No explanation was given for this reduction. **AF** stated that changing nature of species in the landscape was considered for species of less concern, and to try and standardize for smaller species in the landscape birds of prey the reduce buffer zone was applied. **ML** stated compared to past wind farm application the buffer is small. This makes the risk of collision higher. This can be offset by a system such as SDoD. AF welcomed the comment and emphasised the need for mitigation. **ML** what will the applicant agree to and to what extent will the recommended mitigation be applied. **AF** stated that it is difficult to speak for the Seriti team. **RL** asked if MDARDLEA tacking data was included for modelling the flamingos. And since the grid traverse the pan where turbines 29 and 79 are located what is the appropriate flamingo buffer. **AF** confirmed that it was considered. **RL** further mentioned the Ludwig's bastards is not responsive to diverts and although those aren't recorded on site, the have been recorded and with the bird Lasser data. What mitigation measure have been considered for this. AF stated that the only option is staggering the placement of pylons to make it more visible in the landscape. **SR** mentioned the SDoD approach is different for different species and asked if there are details with such information in the avifauna report. **AF** confirmed that different mitigations for different species will be addressed. **GC** commented that WEFs are usually in sensitive areas. It is imperatives for developers to explore alternative technologies to eradicate some of the conflicts that exist between receiving environment the proposed development.	
9	**Closure**	
9.1	**AS thanked everyone who joined and adjourned the meeting.**	

APPENDIX A: PRESENTATION



PHEFUMULA EMOYENI ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Focus Group Meeting –

28 March 2025

1

Introduction

Seriti Green/Phefumula Emoyeni:

Marlien Burger

Debbie Weldon

Ben Brimble

WSP Group Africa (EAP):

Ashlea Strong

Tshepho Mamashela

Rudolph Greffrath

AfriAvian:

Albert Froneman

SAS:

Paul de Cruz

EWT:

Gareth Tate

Bird Life

Samantha Ralston

MDARDLEA:

Robyn Luyt

Gavin Cowden

Sindisiwa Mbuyane

Clifford Kubheka

Okwethu Fakude

MTPA:

Frans Krige

Mervyn Lotter

DFFE:

Coenrad Agenbach

Mmamohale Kabasa



2

2

Agenda

- Project Background
- Layout Optimisation
- Feedback on Comments Received
  - Aquatic
  - Avifauna
  - Biodiversity
- Closing



3

3

Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd (a private special purpose company to be incorporated), to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to meet the requirements under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), for the proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, located approximately 16km north of Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa .

The project includes two EIA processes one for the Wind Energy Facility and one for the Electrical Grid Connection.

The proposed WEF underwent scoping phase, and a draft EIR was submitted to DFFE for commenting. Upon receipt of comments it was noted that additional studies are required. As such, the application was left to lapse to allow further investigations to take place. These additional investigations took place between January and March 2025.

The DEIR will therefore be resubmitted in April 2025.

The proposed Grid Connection also underwent the scoping phase, during which comments were received also requesting additional studies. A Regulation 3(7) extension request was approved on December 2025.

The DEIR is currently out for public review (Public review ends on 04 April 2025).

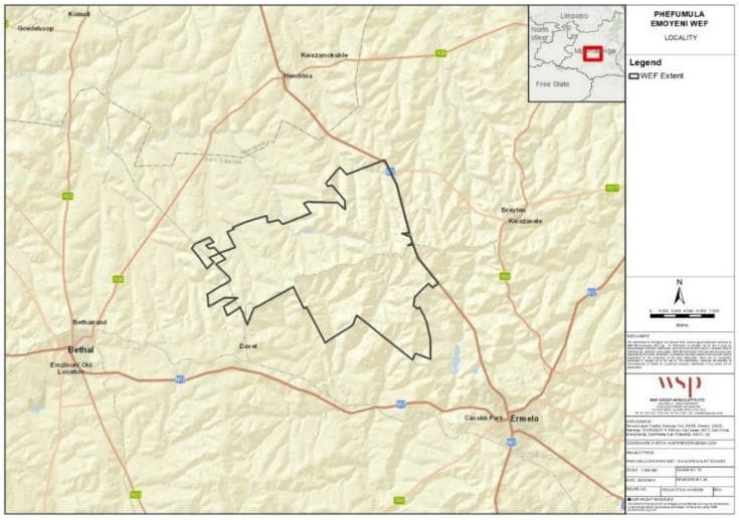


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Project Background

The proposed Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF will have a project area of approximately 33 660 hectares (ha) (original Area of Influence – AOI). Within this project area the extent of the buildable area was subject to optimisation based on technical and environmental requirements.





5

5

Wind Farm Site Selection

- **Prospecting -** Identify potential sites based on:
  - Wind energy resource analysis;
  - Grid connection availability and feasibility;
  - Competition in the area; and
  - Environmental sensitivity.
- **Land securement** entails securing a critical mass of land to make the project commercially viable through option to lease agreements (1-2 years).
- **Preliminary Assessment and Validation**:
  - Validation of wind models via ground up monitoring protocols (usually Met masts and SODARs) (1-2 years).
  - Commencement of baseline bird and bat monitoring for a 1 year period.
- **Bankable Feasibility Assessment**:
  - Permitting: EIA, WULA, etc.
  - Additional studies pertaining to confirmation of bankable feasibility.

EIA Regulations requires a discussion of the "development footprint" alternatives

"Evidence of physical alteration as a result of the undertaking of the activity"

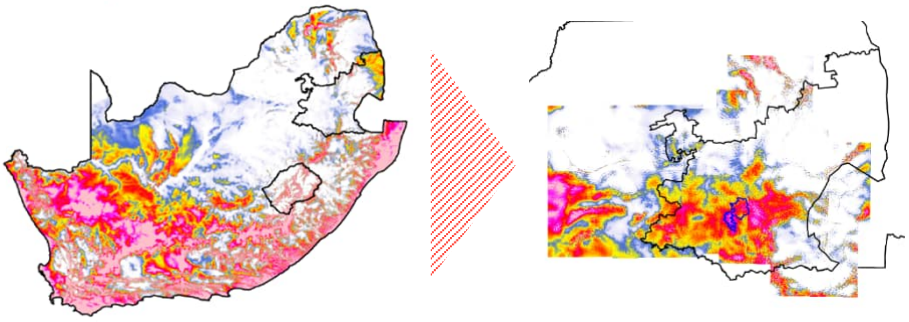


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Wind Resource in Mpumalanga

- Notwithstanding other requirements, wind farms require a strong wind resource.
- Mpumalanga does not have a uniform wind resource across the province.
- This resource is found at higher hub heights (150m plus)
- The SA energy supply market remains dominated by coal, but the energy crisis coupled with the country's "Just Energy Transition" plans; solar and wind energy have become valuable alternative sources of energy.
- Potential power station decommissioning in the near to medium-term

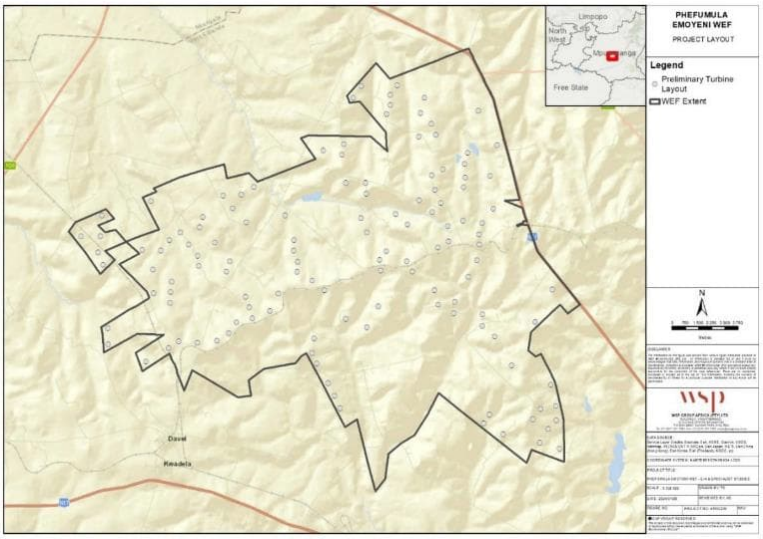




7

Layout Optimisation - WEF

The preliminary layout identified up to 135 turbine positions and associated main WEF components



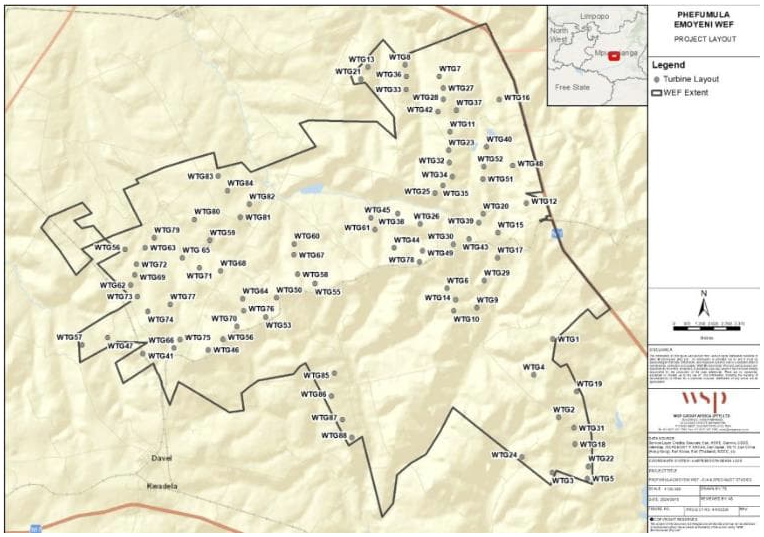


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Layout Optimisation - WEF

The Revised layout identified up to 88 turbine positions and associated main WEF components





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Layout Optimisation - WEF

During the course of the EIA phase, the revised layout was optimised and finalised based on specialist inputs. These inputs included the following recommendations:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity:
  - **Turbines were shifted outside CBA irreplaceable and optimal areas and intact grasslands as far as practically possible**.
- Avifauna
  - WTG 85 and 86 are located within a recommended turbine exclusion (including rotor-swept area) buffer, these turbines need to micro-sited out of the exclusion zones.
  - **These two turbines were removed**
- Aquatic biodiversity assessment
  - It is strongly recommended that Turbine 42 be relocated to the north or east so that no part of its footprint is located within the delineated wetland boundary or associated 15m buffer. **This turbine was shifted as requested**.
  - Furthermore a number of access roads are proposed to be relocated. **Road layout to be updated in line with this request.**
- Bats:
  - Turbine 11, T12, T13, T27, T44, T47, T48, T49, T53, T56, T63, T68, T81, T82, and T88 have rotor sweep areas that encroach on High sensitivity buffers.
  - **These turbines were shifted where required to avoid high sensitivity bat areas**.



10

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Layout Optimisation - WEF

- Heritage:
  - The ruins and semi-circular stone enclosures at PF006 impacted by WTG55. **Turbine was shifted to avoid heritage site**.
  - Burial sites which will be impacted by access roads (PF007, PF008, PF009) should preferably be avoided with a 30m buffer zone with access provided to family members.
- Noise
  - The closest wind turbine to these receptors (WTG88) be located slightly northwards, away from the receptors, so that noise levels remain below the 40 dB(A) threshold.
  - **This turbine was removed.**
- Social:
  - The developers should liaise with the owners of the property to identify an alternative location for the substation and BESS. The owners have proposed an area on the northernmost site property.

Further micro-siting was undertaken by the client on each turbine resulting in 12 turbines being dropped from the layout to produce the optimised layout.



11

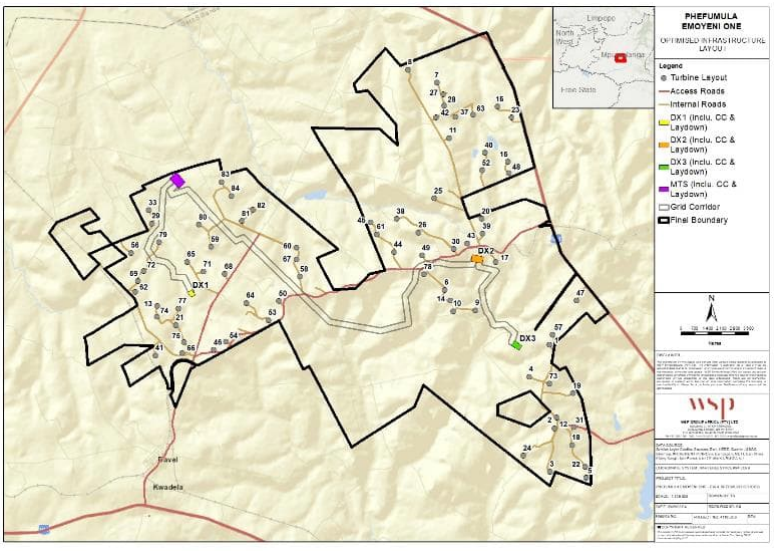
11

Layout Optimisation - WEF

The Optimised layout identified up to 76 turbine positions and associated main WEF components and amended AOI.

It is important to note that although the Optimised Layout has been presented as the Final Layout for approval. The Applicant can still further optimise the layout.

Any changes, post Authorisation would be subject to a Part 2 Amendment Application.





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Layout Optimisation - Grid

The preliminary layout indicates an up to 400kV grid connection, MTS and substations components. There was one alternative route layout for the Dx3 OHL option.





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Layout Optimisation - Grid

Due to the sensitivity of the area that this layout traversed, this alternative was eliminated and an optimised layout (Alternative 2) was assessed in this EIA study.

A thorough optimization process was undertaken to minimize environmental impacts associated with Alternative 1, while ensuring efficient infrastructure placement. The preliminary layout alternative included:

- MTS positioned within CBA1;
- DX1 located within CBA2;
- DX2 and DX3 positioned within CBA1; and
- OHL corridor crossings through wetlands, CBA areas, Climate Change Corridor (CCC) and intact grasslands

To address these concerns, avoidance strategies were implemented to exclude infrastructure from core habitats and sensitive ecological zones. The optimized layout alternative significantly reduced these impacts by:

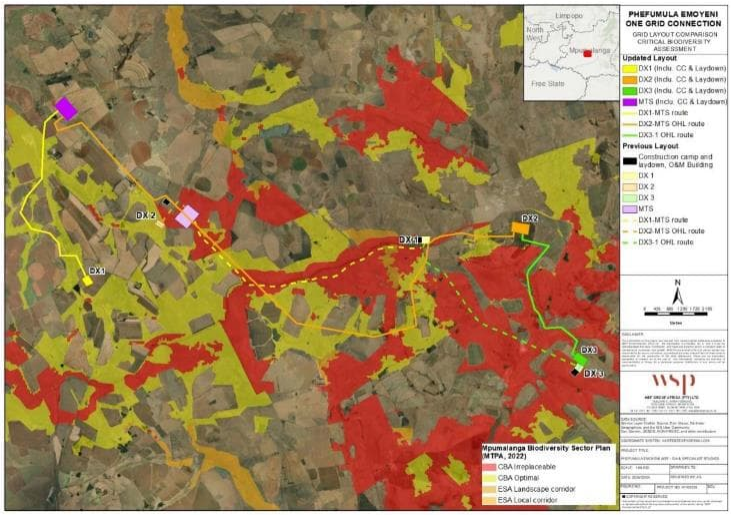
- Relocating MTS, DX1, DX2, and DX3 to avoid CBA1 and CBA2 areas
- Adjusting the OHL corridor to minimize crossings through wetlands, CBAs, CCC zones, and intact grasslands
- Refining the infrastructure placement to align with the mitigation hierarchy, prioritizing avoidance first, followed by mitigation and offsets where necessary



14

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Layout Optimisation - Grid





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Feedback on Main Comments Recieved

Comment	Feedback
No Site Alternatives	As previously discussed, the Application underwent a rigorous pre-screening process to identify the site. EIA Regulations require that alternatives must be assessed. This does not mean only site alternative but can be layout alternatives within the development footprint.
Turbines located in intact grassland patches (10) and areas designated as CBA Optimal (14)	There are no turbines within intact grasslands and CBA irreplaceable areas. Only 8 turbines intersect with CBA optimal areas.
Construction camps and laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable	Construction camps and laydown areas have been removed from CBA Irreplaceable areas
The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands, and the development of watercourse crossings, not been sufficiently analysed, nor alternatives proposed	The impact of road construction in watercourses and wetlands has been assessed, with all watercourse crossing having now been assessed.
Laydown areas should be located outside the freshwater ecosystems and outside of a 100m buffer of any wetland	Only two turbines currently intersect with freshwater ecosystems and these will be moved for the final layout
15m non-development buffer for wetlands	The 15m non-development buffer on wetlands has been implemented as a no-go area for turbine infrastructure
Cumulative Impact Assessment	A 100km radius has now been included in the updated EIA Report for the Cumulative Assessment



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Feedback on Main Comments Recieved

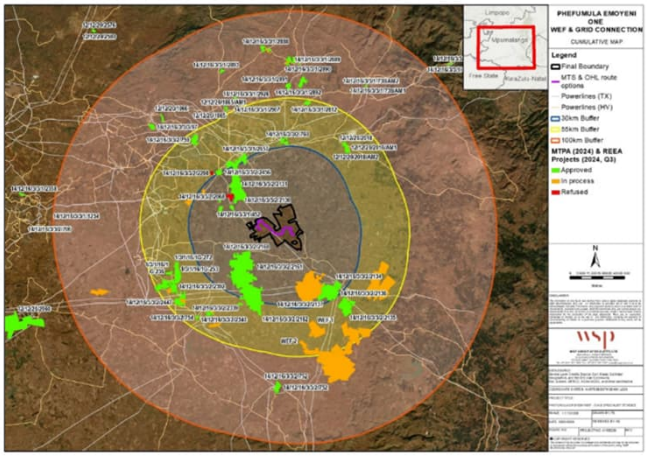
Comment	Feedback
Biodiversity offset cannot cater for the loss of Irreplaceable CBAs or intact grasslands and cannot compensate for the loss of species, specifically the loss of endangered bird or bat species.	This comment is acknowledged. The layout has been revisited and optimised such that no turbines are located within intact grasslands or CBA irreplaceable areas. Furthermore, the road and grid layouts have also been optimised to reduce their impact on the areas as far as practically possible.
Biodiversity Offset Strategy 30ha of Irreplaceable CBAs and 48ha of CBA Optimal.	Subsequent to the layout optimisation, the biodiversity offset report has been updated to reflect the full extent of the impacts in these areas as a result of all infrastructure.
Project Area - 48% within NPAES and MPAES	The project area still overlaps NPAES and MPAES areas. However, significant effort has been put into reducing the impact on these areas. Notably the number of turbines located within these areas has dropped from 23 to 16.
New road network not available at time of writing BOR	The road layout was finalised and provided to specialists for assessment.
Offset Conservation outcome aim for a net positive impact where possible and must be measurable and achievable	The Biodiversity Offset Report has been updated to take note of these recommendations.
Duration of offset more 30 yrs	



17

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Cumulative Assessment



The surrounding projects that have not already been awarded Preferred Bidder (PB) status under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) or the Risk Mitigation IPP procurement programme (RMIPPPP), are still subject to the REIPPPP bidding process or subject to securing an off taker of electricity through an alternative process. Some of the surrounding proposed WEFs secured EAs several years ago but have not obtained PB status (or a private off taker agreement) and as such have not been developed.



18

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Watercourses and Wetlands

- EIA-phase Report for **Grid** updated in February 2025, based on revised layout (substations) and alignment (OHPLs).
- EIA-phase Report for the **WEF** updated in March 2025 based on the revised layout.
- For both Grid and WEF, field assessments were completed to ensure that crossing points of wetlands, and wetlands within a radius of potential impact not previously assessed were assessed.



19

19

Watercourses and Wetlands - Grid

- All activities associated with the construction or upgrading of proposed infrastructure that are located within / or would directly affect wetlands would pose a 'Medium' risk significance to the freshwater ecosystems.
- All other activities associated with a 'Low' risk significance.
- Given the current OHPL alignment over extensive wetland areas, it is considered unlikely that all wetlands would be able to be spanned by the proposed powerline route.
- Potential direct impacts associated with power line tower placement inside wetland habitat was considered to pose a 'Medium' risk significance to the affected wetlands.
- Thus NB to micro-site within assessment corridor to avoid direct tower placement within wetlands.
- Substation layout was revised in consultation with the proponent to ensure the substations are located outside of any freshwater ecosystem and the associated non-development buffer.



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Watercourses and Wetlands - Grid

- In the light of the impacts associated with the development of the power line, it is recommended that a pre-development walkdown be undertaken by a freshwater specialist to ensure the optimal placement of towers / pylons along the proposed alignment – Thus, to ensure no towers placed within wetlands.
- Further, although the proponent has amended the position of the substations to avoid freshwater ecosystems and their associated non-development buffer, particular attention must be given to ensure proper stormwater design and pollution protection as three of the substations will be located in the immediate catchment of wetlands.
- Thus if no towers are placed in wetlands and stormwater carefully planned for substations the grid would be associated with a low degree of risk and can be authorized.



21

21

Watercourses and Wetlands - WEF

- All activities associated with the construction or upgrading of proposed infrastructure that are located within / or would directly affect wetlands would pose a 'Medium' risk significance to the freshwater ecosystems.
- All other activities associated with a 'Low' risk significance.
- The freshwater related sensitivities of the study area as outlined in the scoping phase freshwater assessment have been adequately considered in the latest iteration of the development layout - all proposed turbine locations except two have avoided placement within any freshwater ecosystem or associated 15m non-development buffer.
- Certain new access roads cross wetlands, and mitigation measures in terms of design and construction have been made to minimise the potential impact.



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Watercourses and Wetlands - WEF

- A recommendation has been made that these two wind turbines (WTG 5 and 42) be relocated outside of the wetlands and their associated buffer.
- In addition, a road realignment recommendation has been made to avoid the unnecessary impacting of another seep wetland.
- As the current layout does not indicate the position of proposed underground cabling, and other construction and operation infrastructure such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) infrastructure, the finalised position of this infrastructure as well as of turbine locations and proposed roads must be assessed as part of a walkdown assessment of this infrastructure by a freshwater specialist.
- Provided these recommendations, and the outcomes of the walkdown assessment are actioned, the WEF development can be authorised.

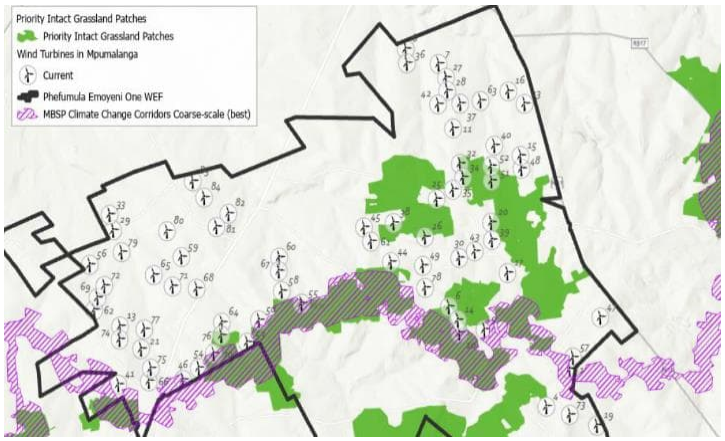


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Intact Grassland Patches/MBSP Climate Change Corridors

Optimised Layout 2024



Intact Grassland Patches
Intersect with 10 Turbines

CCC
Intersect with 6 Turbines

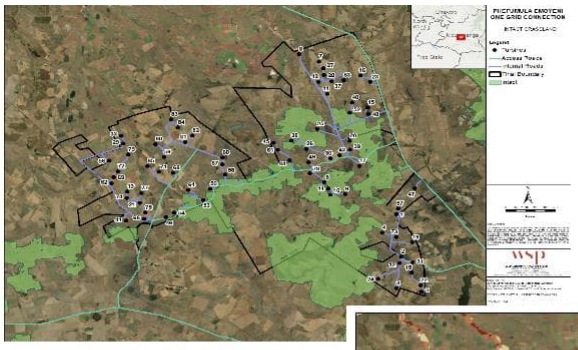


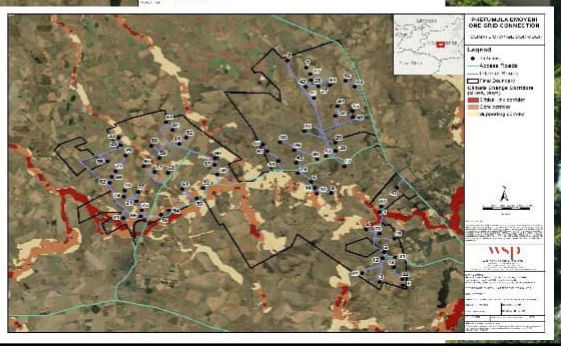
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Amended Optimised Layout 2025

Intact Grassland Patches/MBSP Climate Change Corridors







Intact Grassland Patches
0 Turbines

CCC
0 Turbines

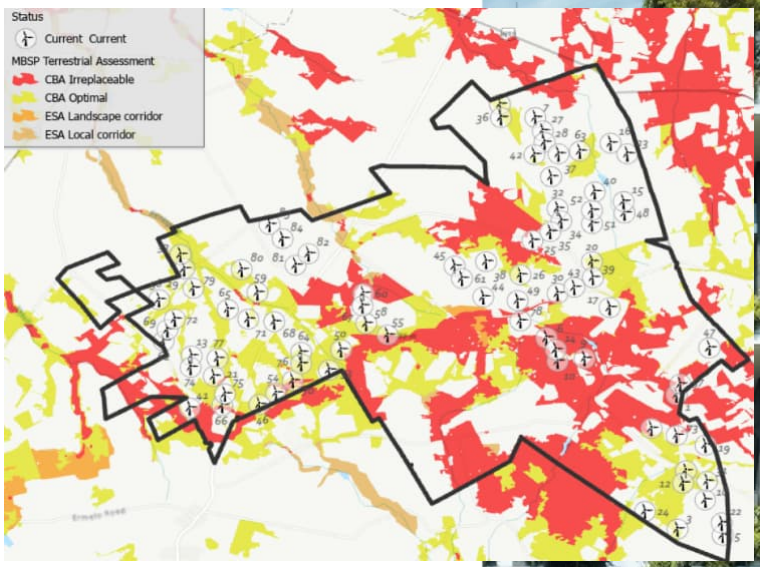
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Optimised Layout 2024

Actual CBA Intercepts

- CBA Irreplaceable
  - 1.877ha
  - (WTG 10, 55, 57, 66 and 70)
- CBA Optimal
  - 15.89ha
  - (WTG 2,3,12,33,76,70,66 ,64,58,55,50,46,36 ,26,20,8)
- Intact Grassland Patches
  - 7.99ha
  - (WTG 10 20 26 32 34 38 51 52 55 70 76)



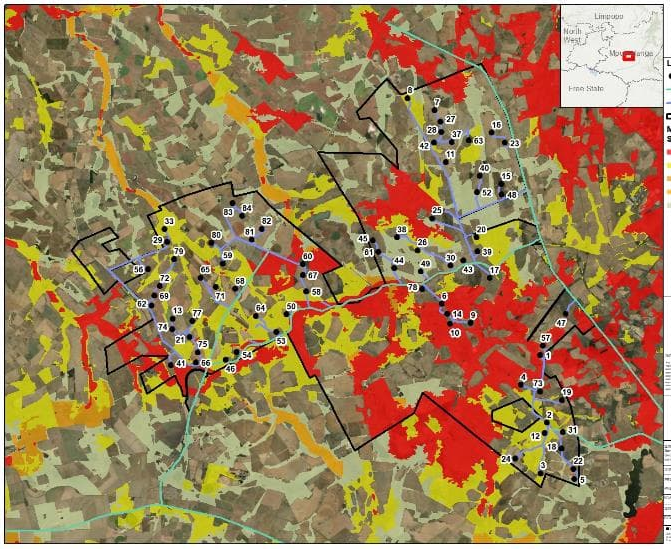
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Actual CBA Intercepts

Amended Optimised Layout 2025

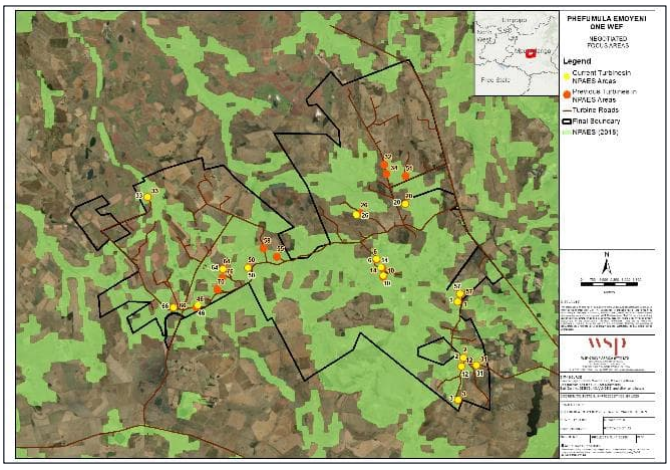
- CBA Irreplaceable
  - 0 ha
  - 0 WTG
- CBA Optimal
  - 7.7 ha
  - (WTG 2, 8, 12, 20, 26, 33, 64, 66)
- Intact Grassland Patches
  - 0 ha
  - 0 WTG



27

27

NPAES



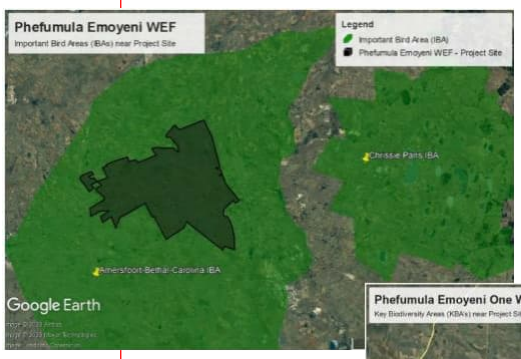
Previous Turbines within NPAES (23):
1, 2, 3, 6,10,12,14,20,26,31,32,33,34,46, 50,51,55,57,58,64,66,70,76

Latest Turbines within NPAES (16):
1,2,3,6,10,12,14,20,26,31, 33, 46,50,57,64,66

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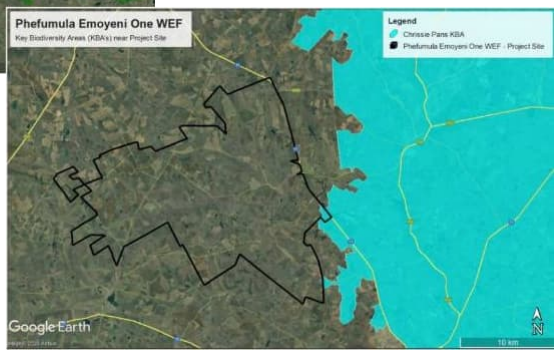
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IBA vs KBA



IBA boundaries have historically not been seen as avoidance areas or No-Go's. There are approved WEFs in IBAs.

As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's).





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Avifauna Mitigation

- Nests – active *vs.* inactive
  - Avoidance – Buffers
- Biodiversity Management Plan
- Adaptive management programme (monitoring & evaluation)
- Blade Patterning
- Shut Down on Demand (SDoD)
  - Observer SDoD *vs.* Auto SDoD
  - Radar SDoD
  - Effectiveness of SDoD measures
- Implementation through a skilled professional on site overseeing the day-to-day management of the programme



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Avifauna – Species 23 Assessment

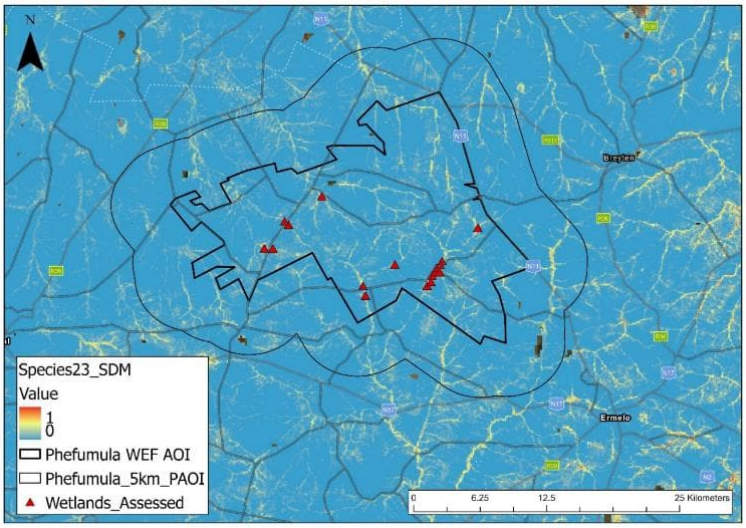
- Methods
  - Habitat suitability model
  - In situ wetland assessment
- Findings
  - No suitable habitat (>0.25) within project area and surrounds – thus low risk
  - 20 wetlands assessed
  - Most wetlands were dominated by graminoid riparian and channelled valley-bottom habitats, but extensive degradation (e.g., overgrazing, trampling by livestock) reduced suitability for Species 23
  - Due to unsuitability of habitat no acoustic surveys conducted.



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Avifauna – Species 23 Assessment





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Avifauna – Species 23 Assessment





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Avifauna – Species 23 Assessment

Implications & Sensitivity Rating

- The combination of modelling and field assessments confirms that Species 23 is unlikely to be affected by the proposed WEF development.
- The probability of species occurrence and associated risk is considered low.



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Avifauna – Vulture risk (Cape Vulture)

- Low passage rate – only 4 vultures recorded
- Screening tool vulture theme – medium ×
- Cervantes (2023) utilisation distribution – Low ✓
- Tracking data analysis – tier 1 ✓
  - Low use flight paths and/or areas with very stochastic and/or low local use.

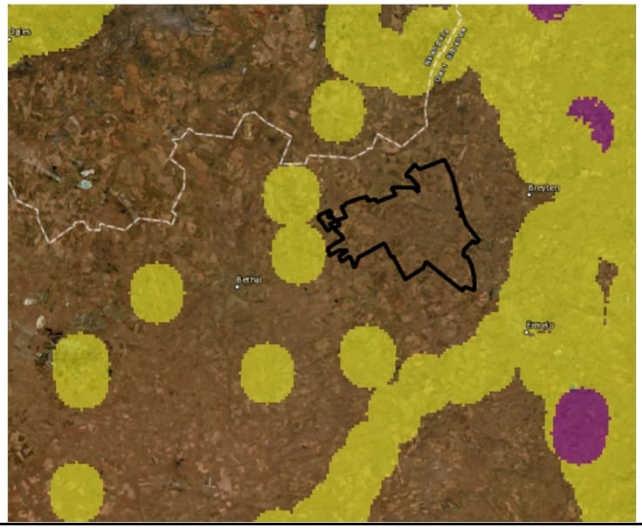


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Avifauna – Vulture risk (Cape Vulture)

- Tracking data analysis – tier 1





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wsp

Discussion



APPENDIX B: MEETING TRANSCRIPT

Phefumula Emoyeni WEF - Biodiversity Offset and EIA Report Focus Group Meeting

Fri, 18 Oct 2024

2:23 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Morning, Gavin. Morning, Okwethu. Can you hear us?

2:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Sorry, couldn't find the mute button.

2:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Hi. Hi. All right, someone has to say morning. Good morning, everyone. Morning, Okwethu. Are you on your own or are you with Sindi and Clifford. And Robyn, can you hear us fine? Good morning, yes, thank you. Yes, Sindi, we're just waiting for people. Morning Sindi.

3:16 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane

Morning, morning everyone.

3:17 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Good, good. Are you in the same room with Okwethu?

3:25 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane

We were in the same room but my gadget has allowed me to join so she'll be in her office and I'll be with Clifford. No, that's fine.

3:35 - Unidentified Speaker

Yes, thank you.

3:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay, we'll just wait a few minutes for the rest. We're still waiting for Gareth from EWT, we're waiting for the guys from MTPA, and we are waiting for, I believe, Mmamohale from DFFE, she did accept the meeting, so we're just waiting to see if she'll join. So let's just give them a couple of minutes.

4:30 - Mervyn Lotter

Good morning, Mervyn.

4:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

Good morning, Ashley. Hi, everyone.

4:36 - Mervyn Lotter
Morning, Mervyn. Mervyn, I know France originally said he wouldn't attend the meeting when it was still going to be in Ermelo, but do you know if he's joining today, or is it just you yourself? No, he is on holiday leave, but my colleague, Kumbelo Malele should be joining us soon. Oh, right. Did you forward on the invite to him?

5:06 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

Only about five minutes ago. She's not going to go through the system. We spoke about it, but I'd forgotten to send her the link.

5:16 - Mervyn Lotter

No, that's fine. I just want to make sure that I wait for everybody who's still waiting for Gareth and also for Okay, let me just quickly check with her.

5:27 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

She's in the next office.

5:29 - Mervyn Lotter

Alright. Thanks so much.

7:01 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, we'll give everyone one minute. We'll start at 9.35. I know that everybody's busy and we don't want to waste anybody's time. So we'll just keep an eye.

7:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Ashley, are DFFE joining us?

7:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Coenrad has just joined. Mmamohale was going to join but I don't see her yet. Still admitting him.

7:47 - Gavin Cowden

Can I just, I was going to ask this at the end of the meeting, since we've got 30 seconds, can I quickly ask, can we maybe at the end just have a quick chat about Ummbila I know it's a different team, maybe just Seriti and ourselves.

8:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I would rather not, because the EAP for that project isn't here. So I think it would be better to set up a separate meeting with the developer, with Seriti and yourselves, if possible.

8:19 - Gavin Cowden
No, that's fine, I understand. Because obviously we went to Windlab, I don't know who there in the room was at that session on Mpumalanga. And your CEO said that we need to talk about that. And obviously with all your EMPRs coming online for phase two to phase four, but I specifically want to talk about phase one, if that's possible. So, but can I ask you a quick question, seeing as I've got 10 seconds left. Ummbila Emoyeni, do you know what the height of the hub is? The hub height and the road, basically, how high is the turbine tip from the ground?

8:49 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

So hub height is 130 meters, tip height is 221. Blade length is 91 meters.

8:53 - Gavin Cowden

Okay, so the hub height is 171?

8:57 - Unidentified Speaker

130, height. 130, okay, yeah.

9:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

Top height, 221.

9:05 - Mervyn Lotter

Yeah. One? 221.

9:06 - Gavin Cowden

221, yeah, and rotor and blades are 91 meters wide and length.

9:13 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

9:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Okay, cool, thank you.

9:15 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Right, so yeah, I think it would be most appropriate to just set up a separate meeting for that. No, no, that's fine.

9:23 - Unidentified Speaker

I've just got some information. I'm trying to figure things out. So, yeah, we'll talk about that later. Thank you.

9:27 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Awesome. I'm going to be chucked out the boardroom at half past 12.

9:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

Gavin, I'll give you a call after the meeting.

9:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. We're just battling to admit Coenrad. So, I'm really trying to admit him here and it's just not working.

9:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Yeah, I'm trying as well. Just keep saying admitting and it just spins on that.

9:48 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I think they do have issues with their connectivity there. Although I've never had this much problem with his connection.

10:00 - Unidentified Speaker

Sure.

10:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Action failed. Let me try again.

10:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me try and see if...

10:21 - Robyn Luyt

I'm going to message him and tell him to reconnect. Maybe that will help.

10:28 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yeah. And also just sometimes when you've tried to join and you're not in, you can still see meeting chat in your team so I've also just letting Oh, I see down here now.

11:08 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me just share my screen to you. Can you confirm that it's sharing?

11:18 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

It is sharing. Thank you.

11:21 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Just so that you know, I have shared my screen so long, just so if everybody can just give me a thumbs up if you can see it.

11:33 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Great. Thank you, Sindi. Thanks. Thanks. Thanks, Gavin. And Coenrad's still not coming in.

11:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

I just failed again, and I just tried admitting now, too, but not having joy.

11:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
OK. Well, let's start off in the meantime while we're trying to figure out Coenrad's issues. We can always let him introduce himself when he's finally online. We just don't know how long it's going to take to get him in. So, yes, thank you, everybody, for joining. We are keen to engage with you this morning about the Phefumula Emoyeni One wind energy facility. We have – just want to get everybody's permission and thumbs up that you're happy that I record the meeting.

12:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Everybody good? Thanks, Mervyn. I will stop that now. It will really literally just be four minute purposes. All right. We also have, oh, we're trying again. With Coenrad?

12:56 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
All right, okay. All right, so I have Albert on our side who's also joined the meeting, but he will be checking out for hands raised as we go. We really want this to be an engaging session, one where you can just Just

engage freely. If you have something that you want to ask, stop us. Let's chat. Let's discuss. We'll pull that into a template or whatever in terms of the minutes. We'll pull it all together into sections. But let's rather just, if you have something to say, just put up your hand. Albert will be helping me with that, checking with four hands, et cetera. We're recording meeting so we will circulate a set of minutes.

13:49 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Robyn has her hand up.

13:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yes, Robyn.

13:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

So my process works, Robyn.

13:56 - 1Robyn Luyt

Sorry, I've just got a message from Coenrad and he says they're trying to connect but Teams isn't allowing them in. Oh, they are trying to do it. Yeah, I've explained that.

14:08 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. And send him a new link. Let me just forward him the meeting request again. Just let him know that I'm going to send him the meeting request directly again.

14:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

I've also just put it on WhatsApp for you, Robyn, if you want to maybe forward that to him like that.

14:38 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

try the WhatsApp link, he can also try the new meeting request.

14:56 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. All right. Let's see how we go there.

15:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Have you had any feedback from him there, Robyn?

15:12 - Robyn Luyt

I'm just, they're trying. I guess we're going to have to proceed until they can get online.

15:21 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
All right. Thank you. Thank you. We'll keep us up to date with how they're progressing there, but we have sent them to, we've sent you a and I've sent him the meeting request again. Right, so we're going to just start off some introductions. I apologize if I've missed anybody. I know I see I've already missed Coenrad here because I didn't have his acceptance of the meeting. But we'll just go around the room on this side quickly and just give our introductions. I know most of us know most people, but just to see who's here. And then also for the minutes. So obviously my name is Ashley Strong from WSP and then we're going to go down to Rudolf.

16:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Yes, Rudolpf Greffrath, WSP, responsible for the terrestrial biodiversity section.

16:11 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Tshepho Mamashela, , WSP, and I'm helping Ashley with the report writing. And Debbie.

16:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

Debbie Weldon,Seriti Green, project manager for Ummbila and part-time support for Phefumula. Marlien Burger, with Seriti Green, I'm the project manager for Phefumula.

16:33 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Albert Froneman, AfriAvian Environmental, the Avifauna specialist for the project.

16:40 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, Robyn, do you want to start off on the MDARDLEA side?

16:47 - Robyn Luyt

Thank you, Robyn Luyt, Director Environmental Impact Management for MDRADLEA.

16:52 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And Gavin.

16:55 - Gavin Cowden

Morning all, Gavin Cowden, I'm the Service Guide Leader in the Environmental Policy Planning and Coordination section.

17:00 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane

Wonderful. Sindi, your regional office, if you want to start with yourself. Morning everyone, Sindisiwe Mbuyane, Impact Management Gert Sibande. Morning everyone, Clifford Kubheka, Environmental Impact Management Gert Sibande.

17:18 - Okwethu Fakude

Great, Okwethu. Thank you. Good morning, everyone Okwethu Fakude impact management.

17:26 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

Thank you.

17:27 - Mervyn Lotter
Great. Thank you. And Mervyn. Good morning, everyone. Mervyn lots of diversity planning for the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. Good morning, everyone. Khumbelo Malele Land Use Advisor, MTPA. Wonderful. Thank you so much. And then Coenrad, glad that Finally got you in the meeting. Happy to have you here. Can you hear us clearly?

17:56 - Gavin Cowden

Yes, I can. Thank you. Apologies. There's some issues with the link. Mmamohale is still trying to get in.

18:04 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

18:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

I'm actually just want to apologize. I'm quite restricted in terms of time. I've got a couple of things due today, So I'll see how long I can join the meeting. Thank you.

18:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

100%.

18:20 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

But just the fact that you've joined us is wonderful. Kunod, do you want me to send Mama Harley the meeting request again? Did it help you?

18:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Yes, I got into the email you've sent me just now. So I think just send that one also to her, and she can try to use that link get in. Thank you.

18:44 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me just see how, I just need where is she, MK. There she is. I'm going to just resend it to her. If you can just maybe let her know for me, please.

18:59 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Yeah, she's sitting right next to me in the office next to me. So yeah, she's waiting. I'm trying to invite her, but I also can't invite there. I don't know what's wrong.

19:12 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Oh, that's weird. You know what, Teams is, yeah, it has its moments. I've re-sent it to her. She should get it shortly.

19:20 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Okay, thank you.

19:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
All right. Okay. All right. And then I know we did get an acceptance to join from EWT, but I see Gareth hasn't joined yet. So we'll just pop his, oh wait, that might be somebody. Is that Mmamohale? There's Mmamohale. Then we can let her have her action failed.

19:44 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

I'm trying admit her. Action failed.

19:52 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yeah, she's also battling to get in, Shame.

19:59 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay, well, let's proceed. Albert is keeping on trying to admit her. As soon as she's in, he'll let me know and we'll let her introduce herself. All right, so just in terms of the agenda, the main part of the agenda is just a discussion on the comments received to date where we've sort of pulled through the comments that we've received so far and we've pulled out the main key points and we've got some initial responses to those and and we can have a discussion and engage on those. But just to get us to that point, we've got a little bit of project background just to pull everybody onto the same page and to go through the layout optimization that has happened to date, just to bring everybody in the same place. So this first portion of the presentation, we'll just run through it until we get to the comments. And then we can look at our – start the discussion. So, just to remind that WSP was appointed by Phefumula Emoyeni One, a special purpose vehicle that will be looking at developing the Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy facility. We've been running through the EIA process. The project is located 16 kilometers north of in the Mpumalanga province.

21:34 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Just a reminder of what the project area looks like, This is the original area of influence. I think you would know that from the draft EIA reports that this area of influence has changed. There's been a few portions of land that have been removed. So this is what we started with at the time. And this is the area that was assessed by all the specialists from the beginning of the project. Is Mmamohale in yet? Not yet? Okay, we're still trying. The preliminary layout was... She's in. She's in now. Okay, Mmamohale, you've managed to get in.

22:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Can you hear us?

22:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Yes, good morning everyone. You can continue with your presentation.

22:25 - Unidentified Speaker

Brilliant.

22:26 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

We just want you to introduce yourself for the meeting.

22:34 - Mervyn Lotter

Mmamohale?

22:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Morning. I'm Mmamohale. I'm the case officer on the project. Thank you.

22:40 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you so much. Okay. Then we'll carry on. All right. So this was the preliminary layout. It had 135 turbine positions. And the associated wave components. You can see they were dotted around all over. And then we moved from this one through, that was where the specialist started in the scoping phase. By the end of the scoping phase, the revised layout had been looked at, where the number of turbines was significantly dropped to 88.

23:17 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
And this was what went through for assessment during the EIA phase. During the EIA phase, a number of the specialists came back with requests, specifically on Turbine 4 to move it out of the wetland area and the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy area. That was shifted out. The turbines were shifted out of all

possible CBA irreplaceable areas and optimal areas as far as possible. Then 85 86 were located inside turbine exclusion areas, no-go areas from an avifauna perspective, and they were then removed from the layout. The aquatic guys were looking at Turbine 52. That was too close to a wetland boundary in terms of the 50-meter buffer. And this turbine was also shifted out. And then obviously the road layout, they had identified a number of roads that needed to be shifted, and that was then sent to those. All of those proposals and the recommendations were sent through to the engineers so that they could work on that to update the final layout. Further to that, the Bats also had some of them that were in high sensitivity areas where there was still some blade sweep, and those were moved out. Heritage, there was one heritage feature where there was a a turbine that was encroaching on the buffer. And then there were some burial sites where buffers were suggested, but didn't affect the movement of the turbines at all. Noise, there was one that was close to some receptors. This turbine was also removed. And then there was just a general recommendation about liaising with owners to identify potential different locations for the substation. And the best. And that will also feed into the grid study when we get to that. So that was an overall one. And then we had the optimized layout that was at the end. And it was, I mean, there is a high likelihood that even though this is what's presented for final at the moment, there's potential that this could also change in the future. But because this is what we're presenting for approval, any changes to this would need a Part 2 amendment going forward. But it is likely that further optimisation would need to happen. Yeah, so that's just a flow of what we've had. And this then optimised layout shows the new area of influence with this section here in the middle. There's a section in the middle that you can see has been hacked out. There's now a piece of Italy that is no longer inside the area of influence that has been removed. That's where we're sitting at the end of the EIA phase. Moving on to a summary of the comments that we have received to date. Mainly based on comments that we have received from MDARDLEA and MTPA, biodiversity from DFFE and protected areas from DFFE. I know, Mmamohale, we're still waiting for your comments, so yours obviously aren't in here yet, but at least you'll see what the others have been saying in the meantime. As I said, this is a high-level summary of the main points that have been received to date into sections. Site alternatives was a big one. Turbines in intact grassland patches and CBAs. Construction and lay down camps in CBAs. Lay down areas inside the water that need to be outside the 100 metre buffer. Looking at the water crossings that weren't analysed sufficiently. 15 metre non-development buffers from wetlands. Cumulative in terms of both 30 DFFE often requesting 30 kilometers hours was 55 and the number of projects that were identified within that radius. Then we have a number of biodiversity comments mostly on the offset issues in terms of the offsets not being able to cater for the loss of CBAs and grass and species specifically. The strategy itself and how the hectare is, et cetera, were worked out. The fact that there's project 48% area in the NEPEAS, the new road network not being available, and then the offset conservation outcome aims of the strategy, and then the duration of the strategy, and then moving on to to more avifauna issues, the IBA, mitigation in terms of the effectiveness of avifauna mitigation, zones, you know, mitigation zones or for the whole facility and detail around that, significance rating of the avifauna, cumulative impact on the avifauna in terms of risk, collision risks, mitigation of collisions at night flying birds, movement corridors, avifauna buffers, risk and nests active versus intact. So that is the sort of summary.

29:05 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Actually, sorry to interject. I'm trying to raise my hand. There's something wrong with this. We did send you comments on the 10th of October.

29:14 - Mervyn Lotter

We also got them.

29:17 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

That's not possible because your email is there. Let me just check, double check, but we did send them through.

29:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Please resend them because I've been keeping an eye out for them and I haven't received them.

29:32 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6

Okay, great.

29:34 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thank you, Mmamohale.

29:39 - 1Mervyn Lotter
Sorry, just to... Ladies first. Okay. So, in the beginning, when you summarised the main issues of concern, Let's just say if we don't actually agree with those issues being summarized, I just don't want our, let's say, our quietness or failure to respond to all the issues raised, not to be seen as like we agreeing to anything. So it's more like, just a bit more cautious as to the purpose. And if we don't actually agree, we're not complicit, if we're silent on the issues. This is just your summary, which is perfectly fine, but I've only stated for the record keeping.

30:25 - Mervyn Lotter
No, that's 100%. I mean, we've basically identified sort of areas of the comments, so we don't want to go through, we know that people in this meeting, we only have a couple of hours together, so we can't go through every single comment and give you a response in this meeting, so we've tried to just summarise it up. If we've missed a particular issue, then you're welcome to raise but this was sort of just going through it and the sort of the main themes that were coming up for us. So that's what we've done in terms of the summary. But absolutely 100%. There will be more detailed responses obviously coming through where we respond to every single line item. But this is just a summary for now.

31:06 - Unidentified Speaker

Okay.

31:09 - Mervyn Lotter
Can I give you that one that is, I suppose, missing, I believe, from this, and that would just be that there's an exceptional high number of threatened species recorded on site and the mitigation is uncertain. It's just that high level of threatened species not coming through. Thanks.

31:27 - Unidentified Speaker

Okay.

31:29 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I'm going to just write it in the chat.

31:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

With uncertain mitigation. You're welcome to change my wording slightly if you need to. I'm just popping it in the chat so that we have it for the minutes. All right. Robyn?

31:53 - 1Robyn Luyt

Just for Mmamohale, the comments from DFFE were sent to you on the 10th of October at 11.33 a.m. Addressed to you, Ashley, and copied to me and some of the other stakeholders.

32:07 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Yeah, that is so strange because I literally, we haven't received those comments. We received comments from Biodiversity, I'll double check my emails, maybe it's gone into a junk mail.

32:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, if you could maybe just forward them to me, Robyn, wonderful if you don't mind.

32:40 - Unidentified Speaker

I'll do that.

32:43 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thank you.

32:51 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thank you so much. And then we'll obviously be responding to them as well. So that's not a problem. So that'll be great. Thank you so much. And I just know that we've got in hand.

33:09 - Mervyn Lotter

Thank you so much.

33:10 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Sorry, Ashley, since my buttons are also not working. Are there any other wind facilities close by, proposed or approved? Approved?

33:25 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
I do actually have a... Wait, let me... Let me go through to my slideshow. We've got a bunch of slides available, but what I can do, I just want to see all my slides quickly, and then I can show you what the cumulative assessment looks like,

33:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

No, I don't want to see that. I'm asking, are there other facilities close by? Because I want to discuss a particular point. If they are.

33:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

If you have a look at the maps on the screen, you can see Ummbila is there. There's also...

34:06 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

How far are they from this facility?

34:10 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Offhand, probably, this is a 55 kilometre radius around Phefumula, so it would be maybe halfway. It covers quite a large area. Let me see if I can get, it's this one, Ummbila is this one here.

34:33 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Okay, that's 10 kilometers.

34:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Yeah, and then this is Camden 1 and 2 down at the bottom, and Mukondeleli WEF over here near Secunda, but that's sort of on the 40 kilometer side of things. I can't remember what this one to the north this.

34:52 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Ashley, are you in discussions for those facilities in terms of wake effect?

35:01 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Wake effect, yes. Ummbila is the closest one and it's also a Seriti project. The wake effect won't affect the others because they are too far away.

35:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Okay, just make sure, so just make sure that you take that into consideration. Thank you.

35:23 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Yeah, Seriti are aware of it. Okay, Gavin, who's first? Gavin is first. Gavin?

35:39 - 1Gavin Cowden
Sorry Debbie, yeah, just for Coenrad's benefit, I'm not sure which one you were asking about north. You've got Hendrina south, you've got Hendrina north, both of those are approved. I saw in your EIA as well, you actually included, I think it was the Forzando North. Let me just check on my map here, see what the status is.

36:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Now that you remind me, Hendrika, North and South, is that other long green to the North there?

36:08 - 1Gavin Cowden
There's another one which I can't mention, but there's another one North of that, and there is one here which you included in your EIA, which actually has been, I think, withdrawn or declined or refused. Let me just see my notes here. I did make a note of it. Let me just quickly see if I can find it. No, I've deleted it, sorry, when I made my comments. But there is one, one of the ones here. I think it might be Halfgevorden. solar facility, you include it in your EIA, it's actually been refused, as far as we know.

36:39 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, yeah, there is there's a couple of issues. So if you look on map that's on your screen, the red dots are the refused EAs.

36:54 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
The green are the approved and the orange are in process that we are aware of We are aware, we are in the projects around close enough to be affected by wake effect are aware of the project, yes. OK. OK. And then that was Gavin. And then Mervyn, for a second.

37:23 - Unidentified Speaker

Yes.

37:23 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Thanks. But if you say those in process, you need to include the three Ummbila ones. They're missing on your map. They have been submitted the scoping reports for comment. So they are in process.

37:36 - Mervyn Lotter
OK. Because they're not reflecting on the real data ACS and we've we we managed to download actually that was one of the comments that was said that um uh one of one of the main comments that came out was that there was um I know MDARDLEA has said they had 50 projects that were in our 55 kilometer radius um we are aware that the map in the report is from the 2023 we then managed to download 2024 for quarter two, literally the day that the reports went out for review. So we will be updating that map with this 2024 quarter two, but at that point, which is the latest database that's available at the moment. So maybe those Mulilo projects are on a quarter three or a quarter four map potentially, but we will then get in touch with them and get their boundaries, their WEF boundaries. We also have just today became aware of another new one from, which has been done by the EAPS Sivset. I'm not sure, Zephyr, I believe, which is also not on our map. So we're going to engage with Sivest to get their one as well. That one's been out for a while, and we remapped it several months ago.

39:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

You might know about it, but we don't know about it yet.

39:05 - Mervyn Lotter
So where they've already entered the public domain for comment, I mean, we also have a data set that you can always double check against the DFFU one. We're also trying to map those which are in the pre-application phase, those we can't share because that's still in discussions where we're just sharing information about sensitivity and the likes and concerns. But my question was about the wake effect that Coenrad raised. What is that distance? Where you may have that wake effect becomes something to consider of concern?

39:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
I know we've specifically had wake effect issues where the projects have been immediately neighbouring. When it's a good sort of 5, 10 kilometres, it doesn't seem to be an issue. But I can double check that figure, not highly Immediately neighbouring is an issue, definitely an issue. And we've had those before in the Western Cape, where immediately neighbouring where your property boundaries are literally the same. 20 kilometres has a minimum. Yeah, there we go. So 20 kilometres is a minimal effect. So anything less than that would be where the issue would be. And it would also need to be immediately north or whatever in the prevailing wind direction, you would need to have a look.

40:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

And the loss would equate to half a percent of the gigawatt hours.

40:36 - Mervyn Lotter

Okay, so it's quite a lot.

40:38 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

We didn't get that last comment. Sorry, could you just – I didn't hear that clearly. That other person made a comment there.

40:45 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5
Yes, so the effect would be at 20 kilometres, half a percent of the gigawatt hours. At 10 kilometres or less, maybe one to three percent on the gigawatt hours. So not significant, not significant impacts.

41:03 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Okay, because you've got...

41:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

In Ummbila's case, Ummbila is the closest. The closest. So we all have an internal arrangement on that.

41:13 - Mervyn Lotter

So yeah, Ummbila is 6 kilometres. Hendrina is just on 10, and Ummbila is I think 9, and Zephyr is about 10 as well. So anyway, It may be a few to consider, but that's fine. Thank you.

41:26 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay, there's 11. Then Gavin, your hand was next.

41:32 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thanks, Ashley. There's a lot I can say about this, but let me try and summarise it. Okay, it's just for interest, I just had a look quickly on our map. Zephyr's exactly 11.4 kilometres from your southern boundary. Okay, so Zephyr's one, and there's another one that you haven't also included, Ujekamanzi. It's in public domain as well. Yeah, so my point that we're really concerned. And I think this is something that we need to take up probably with you Coenrad and DFFE, but obviously the cumulative impacts. And that's why we've concentrated a lot on this, because a lot of these developments are in the same area, very sensitive areas. We've even gone to the stage of working out the CBAs, the footprint, which you saw in our comments. Yeah, I just think that I wanted to raise that this is a real concern. But if you do need to know, we can't obviously divulge all of them. I mean, there's actually a neighbour pretty close to you, I think within a couple of kilometres, but it's proposed. It hasn't gone online yet and it hasn't submitted, but we know about it. And yeah, I think the best is obviously, if you're not sure, talk to us and then we can maybe assist you and guide you. But I think from a strategic point of view, we need to, maybe Coenrad with DFFV, we need to talk offline and address this, because we're really concerned about, and we really applaud you for taking 55, kilometre buffer, a radius. But yeah, it's still, it's insufficient. We're actually taking a more strategic approach to this now. Okay, that's, I think, all I wanted to say. Thank you.

43:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you, Gavin. And we will definitely, actually, one of my requests at the end of the presentation is, could you send us the information that we're missing that you're allowed to? Because I'm aware anything

that hasn't actually been in the public domain cannot be on our map. Because it's, yeah, that's just, it's not in the public domain. So if that is a request that we have from our side is it is difficult to find these if you're not, if it's not on the databases and not, if other developers or EAPS don't come to you, you don't know about the other projects. So if you could think through what you can, that would be lovely.

43:45 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thank you. I told you about those other ones now that we know that in the public domain, as Mervyn said, Zephyr is already at the EIA stage. I think it's due for public comments, I think, next week. But actually, the real point I wanted to make is that the real concern, and we also need to take this offline, is that in our experience, that Renewal Energy's database of DFFE, I remember waiting, I think, for quarter two, because we realized there were a whole lot of applications that we knew about. And I was literally waiting with anticipation. I think it was quarter two or quarter three. I think it came out at 11 o'clock, because I waited the whole day. I was like, where's this report? Where's this report? And when it came out, it didn't have all the ones that we knew of, and it wasn't updated. So you made a comment earlier saying that you'll see on the next one. But to me, don't hold your breath, because it's not going to be the accurate. It's not going to be the reality on the ground. So you rather talk to us about that, but that's a concern I have, and I don't know how we're going to overcome that. But from our point of view, from the province point of view, we're looking at it from the data we've got. Because that's what the purpose of cumulative impact. Okay, so we'll talk more about that, thanks.

44:48 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you, that's great. So yeah, so the cumulative issue was a big issue that we saw come through. And I mean, if we can ask you guys for assistance on that, that'll be wonderful. We actually do request if you can send that information through what you can, not what you can't. Yes, I'd be very grateful for your assistance there. I mean, I know that the, the issues with the database. We've had one of our projects that were as authorized that took two years to come up onto the database, so you're quite right. Okay, Robyn.

45:25 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thanks, I just want to echo everything Gavin has just said, but if we can just request, Ashley, that you send a formal email asking for the information to myself, Gavin, and Copy Me and just make it a standard operating procedure for all of your wind farm applications.

45:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

We can do that, 100%. We will do that. Thank you so much.

45:52 - Mervyn Lotter
Sorry, I want to just jump in. No, just what we can offer. Like if you're giving that data set, we also as the MTPA, and I think I may have stressed this to Debbie before, we receive all these applications to comment on. Mapping them for the last 24 years. We just make a shape file and we say it's by Afro Energy and it's for prospecting coal or whatever, but we have a database at Spatial and we don't often know when they approve, but we know who's applying. And if you need to try and find out who's got a mining right or whatever on any of the properties you're looking, that's something we can share because the data has in effect entered the public domain, so we can give you fall with the details.

46:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
That's lovely because that would then be not just renewable energy, it would be other authorizations that would be absolutely fantastic. Yes, thank you so much for that offer, that sounds fantastic. Wonderful, thank you for that. All right, okay, so there we've sort of covered the cumulative one there. I think I'm going to have over. The first one that comes up a lot, if we just jump onto a new comment, is the site alternative issues. I think I'm going to just jump to our slides here and just ask Seriti to just go through how they select the wind farm locations. We've got just two Either way, I'm happy to do it too.

47:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8
So the wind farm was selected based on grid capacity or grid availability, as well as the wind resource. And Mpumalanga doesn't have a uniform wind resource as per the wind tiles that you can see there. If you look at the second wind tile, what's it? Right. To the right. You'll see that the higher wind speed is specifically where the Phefumula Emoyeni area is. So the site was selected based on wind resource and grid capacity or grid availability in the province.

48:19 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And it takes a good few years to get to the point to sort of finally settle on a project, a site to move into EIA, right?

48:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5
Yeah, so following on Oxley, the wind resource, we do a high-level assessment in terms of sensitivities, and then Oxley has a case of securing the landowners. So that in itself takes a couple of years to get them on board, and that's why the wind farm is situated where it is, because those are the landowners who've signed up. Obviously, there's a fee involved in terms of access to their land, so that restricts us, and that's why we don't necessarily have a whole lot all over the place, but it's very specific for each waterfall.

49:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
And that's why Mbele is a separate project, and Phefumula Emoyeni is a separate project. So, they're not site alternatives, they're separate projects. So, where you can get landowners to sign up, that would be your project. And the alternatives then is not a location alternative but a development footprint alternative in terms of how the would layout look, where would the development be, how would we fit it into the landscape and that's the alternatives that we would then look at. In terms of the regulations as well that requires the discussion of development footprint alternative and not necessarily actual physical location. Which is what we've done in terms of the layouts. So it takes a good sort of, before we get involved as EAPS, it's probably a five-year process.

50:01 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

We also have wind data, wind monitoring data. Two years, I think. Yes, for one to two years after land securement has taken place to secure or to get an area of influence.

50:16 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
So that's the sort of the reasoning behind a no site alternative and why there's so much importance and so much emphasis placed on the layouts and the development footprint alternatives that go into a wind facility. Because it's very difficult, every developer would have, as you see, it's a different project in terms of a location, yeah.

50:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Okay. I think what we're going to do then is we're going to jump. So, that was just the one comment that we've had. Yes? I see Gavin's hand. Oh, Gavin?

50:55 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thanks, Albert. I was going to jump in anyway. Okay, just on that, alternatives. I think it's really, I understand where you're coming from It's where the wind is. But if you look at it strategically and from a sustainability point of view, and it comes back to the cumulatives, it's a that, you know, there's no alternative sites because there's a conflict in land use here. And then this seems to be the case for most of these wind energy facilities in the province, because obviously they're going where the wind is. But unfortunately, that's also where there's areas of high sensitivity. So I just wanted to raise that. But my question is, is that I don't think I picked it. I know I commented quite a lot, and I looked a lot at the alternatives in the report. What about technology alternatives? Because, okay, let's say you can't look at alternative sites. What about alternative technology? And I've done a bit of homework, and you guys probably know this better than I do, but there's now a vortex bladeless turbine. What is the possibility? What have you guys considered in areas that are high sensitivity for birds and bird collisions and bats, putting these alternative technology or using alternative technology in those areas? And I think one of those vortex bladeless ones, and I think they're building them up to 180 meters now, the biggest one, which generates, I think, one megawatt. So you'll probably need six of them for about the same as one of your normal wind turbines. So putting six of those in an area where we put normally one traditional vertical axis wind turbine. So I just wanted to ask that question. And I know I did talk about it in the report, but it's not raised here. But I just wanted to raise it because I really do think that if you guys are looking for a positive authorization or wind facilities in these areas. I think we really need to start thinking about that because... Sorry, who was that?

52:49 - Unidentified Speaker

Coenrad, I think.

52:50 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Coenrad, was that you?

52:55 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4

Sorry, no, you can continue.

52:56 - Mervyn Lotter

Oh, OK. Sorry, we thought...

52:59 - Gavin Cowden
No, I'm done. I thought you were chasing me, Coenrad. But I think I'm going to... I was just on another line. Okay, that's right. So sorry, while I've still got the floor, Ashley, so that's my point. I just wanted to ask, have you guys considered that? To what extent have you considered that? And I think if wind facilities are gonna occur in these areas, I think developers are gonna have to look at it more seriously because there's a big conflict in terms of the sensitivities. And then just quickly while, I can ask this later, but I just wanted to ask you, like with the Ummbila one, what is your actual hub height probably going to be because we've got new data now just recently in about flight paths for birds. And hub height and the height above the ground is possibly going to be a big issue. So in reality, do you know what the hub height is going to be and the rotor height is going to be for the Phefumula? Is it going to be the same as on Bila or is it going to be different? Thanks.

53:54 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 5

It's likely to be higher. Possibly up high, with a similar blade length, because we're looking at either concrete or hybrid towers for their removal.

54:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
I know that what we've outlined in the end of the report, we've said what's gone into the authorisation is metre high, 200 metre rotor diameter. However, in the BASM, not authorisation, I'm sorry, application, sorry, you're quite right. What's in the application form is 200, 200, but in the back of, in the final, in the conclusion of the report, it does talk about a 90, 85 meter, it's a, it's like a, it's a, yes, a 182 height, not hub height, 182 diameter, which is a much smaller blade. Which is the most likely turbine that's going to happen. The only reason why we add the slightly larger amount into the application is should the technology change and there is a better turbine that they could use and drop the turbine field by half, then the 200-200 gives them that option to consider different turbine, but it is likely going to be a lot smaller than what the application is requesting.

55:30 - 1Gavin Cowden
Gavin? Yeah, sorry, thanks. Can you hear me? Yes. Okay. Sorry, I don't know if I unmuted. Yeah, that's great, but I think that also came through strongly in our comments, is that it's really difficult to assess the impact if we're not sure what the technology is going to be or what the specs are going to be. So yeah, I just think that obviously, yeah, and I also saw that with other EMPRs, you know, one that's coming online now, that it still says in the EIA up to, so there's no definite, so it's difficult to measure the impacts or even mitigate or manage the impact. So I just think that obviously, where possible, I think you guys, if you could put in there, I mean, you're telling us now, it's definitely helping, because now I've got a pretty much good idea of answering my question. But yeah, okay, thanks for that. And then the technology alternatives, I'm putting it out if you can answer it, that'll be great. If you can't, that's also fine. But I really do, I think I made my point. Thanks.

56:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I've seen a lot of note-taking.

56:25 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 8

Yes, I've noted the alternative technology. Thank you.

56:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Brilliant. Thank you, Gavin, for your input there. All right, let's see, where are we going to go now? Oh, goodness. Sorry, I'm jumping around the slides all over the place as the conversation continues. I think what I'm going to do is I'm going to, I think we've had a good discussion on the cumulatives. We've had a good discussion on alternatives. I think I'm going to go leave the CBAs and that for, and then I can hand over to Rudolf just now for the biodiversity stuff. Just in between that, I'm going to just present some responses that we got from the aquatic specialists on the water course issues. And that also covers, So basically what they've said is, and these will be in detail included in the comment and response report, the road network is a difficult thing and it's usually the last thing to come through. So yes, they absolutely, they say yes, they didn't get to look at all the relative crossings because they've changed as the layout has changed. So when they've done the initial assessment for the EIA work. It was during March, which is the best time for them to go in terms of a good summer survey and making sure they can see where all the wetlands are. They did do a very detailed desktop.

57:58 - Unidentified Speaker

Oh dear.

57:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay. Can you hear me now? Can you hear me? Oh, you could hear me the whole time. Okay. No, that's fine. As long as someone could hear me. So they did do a in the growing season, and yes, the road networks have changed. So over time, and every time the layout changes, the road network is the last thing to then be updated. And it takes the engineers. So as soon as the layout changes, it gets sent through to the engineers, and the engineers can take up to a month to actually work through the road networks to make them make sense, to sort of arrange the shortest possible things. So yeah, there are some crossings that they haven't looked at. What is the comforting there is that there is another catch in terms of assessments for crossings, in terms of the water use license application, which will still need to be done. This is typically done post EIA, once the roads and everything is actually finalized approved because then they know exactly where all those crossings. And then there's another level of detailed work that gets done on all the crossings to determine the PES and the EIS and all the coordinates are done for the water use license application. And that also needs to be put out for public review. So typically what they have done already is adequate for EIA authorization purposes and is adequate for a decision at an EIA level. And then just these ones here are talking about the fact that the water use license application still needs to be done, where there's a whole other level of detail that is done on the aquatic wetlands, the watercourses, et cetera. They've also just responded to say that the 15 meter buffer was generated through the DWS approved buffer tool. And that there was only one turbine, which was turbine 42, that was located within that buffer. And that turbine was moved by the developer's engineer outside of that buffer. So that was just some of the responses. These detailed responses will be in the comment and response report to commenting on the wetland. Watercourse comments. I am not and don't have a watercourse expert in the room, and I'm definitely not a watercourse expert, so if there are any further comments on that front, please don't hesitate to just send us an email or pop some comments in the chat, and I will forward it through to our specialists.

Unfortunately, they were unable to make it today, so I can always forward other and comments through to them should you need any extra information on that front. All right, so then moving on to the biodiversity side. I think let's, oh sorry is there a hand? Sorry Albert disappeared.

1:01:17 - Mervyn Lotter

Robert, I can see you. Yes, it's me Ashley.

1:01:19 - 1Robyn Luyt
Yes. Thanks. I just My concern with that response, Ashley, is that we're now talking about a water use license. You referred to it as catching those impacts. But the concern is that buffers for watercourses relate directly to bat impacts and bird impacts also. And that is not going to be considered in the water use license application. Also, Road impacts don't just impact watercourse crossings, they traverse through areas of inside grassland patches and CBAs, so that's also a concern. I don't believe that it has necessarily been assessed adequately for EIA purposes because watercourse crossings affect, the roads affect more than the aquatic impacts?

1:02:21 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Yes. No. Agreed. 100%. I think in terms of the water use license, I think they were specifically talking about crossings. What has already the buffers that are in there, they are, the buffers have been taken into account in terms of aquatic recommendations as well as the BAT recommendations. Those buffers have been put on all the watercourses and wetlands and even farm dams in terms of their layers, in terms of the sensitivity maps. So they were taken into account in terms of the impact assessment.

1:03:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
So there is a level of impact, not necessarily impact assessment that comes through the WULA, but there is some level of additional, should I say, study that goes into it and specifically the crossings. But I do agree with you the rest of the impact of the roads themselves, yes, there is that. And that's why the final road layout hasn't been done yet because what happened was the aquatic guys and also the biodiversity guys recommended certain roads to be moved and then the layout changed. So now that road layout has to, and it literally takes about three weeks to redo a layout. And they have been sent all those recommendations from the specialists so that they can try and move those roads to the best possible site. And as I said earlier, these things are always adaptive and emerging, and there's always changes. So if those roads do change in the future again, which is potentially likely, they would be subject to a part two amendment.

1:04:17 - 1Robyn Luyt

Sorry, just to follow up from that, if you can just clarify this turbine 42, because it seems to be in conflict with the 100 meter radius versus the 15 meter radius.

1:04:31 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

So it's definitely outside of the 15 meter. It was moved outside but it may still be within the 100m. So we'll double check that.

1:04:46 - Robyn Luyt

And then just to confirm that we've seen with other applications that meters is not sufficient to mitigate for bat and bird impacts.

1:04:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Okay, noted. Thank you, Robyn. Right, I think we're going to move on to Rudolph's portion. He's going to go through intact grasslands, CBAs, infield assessments and the biodiversity offset. I think we'll just skip over the cumulative slide because I think we've already discussed that. Just let me know when you need me to move the slide over. Do you want to just...

1:05:33 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3

Did I?

1:05:34 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

1:05:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

All right.

1:05:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Hi, everybody. Thank you. Thanks for your time. So one of the main things that we did pick up from a biodiversity perspective, terrestrial, is the intact grassland patches and, of course, the climate change corridors. So here you see the layout and how many of the turbines intersect. There's a couple that, I suppose, are pretty much on the boundary layer of the intact grasslands, and that could be affected by the size of the footprint that we used for our mapping. Of course, I nicked this map, I think, from your work, so I do excuse. It shows the climate change corridors quite nicely, so I thought that would be great. So there's 10 turbines that intersect the intact grassland Some of them are, I suppose, close to the edge. We just need to, I suppose, be more specific on the size of the base and, of course, the buffer we put around each of them. That might change a bit. And then there's six that intersect with the climate change corridors. So there's absolutely no argument as to the value of intact grasslands or the climate change corridors, absolutely no argument with that. And with the current layout, I think there's been quite a few of the turbines that's been moved away or out of these sensitive areas. What we do see is that the road network, we can't exactly comment on that at the moment because we don't have a final layout for the roads. That might change the perspective a little bit, but at the moment, this is where we're sitting. And of course, as you can see from our mitigation measures, it's always been the point to move as many of the turbines as possible out of these highly sensitive areas. Next slide. So this is the intercepts. So this is very much MTPA data. So it's from a, suppose a desktop perspective from our side. Um, it's not fine tune where we had anybody in field. And from that, the, you know, the CPA replaceable that that seems to be, uh, intersected is hectares. Optimal is 15.4.8. And the intake grasslands is almost eight hectares. Um, again, those numbers could change once the road networks are included. Um, but again, there is no argument about the sensitivity of these areas. So this is where you see our infield assessment. The high ecological importance areas, those

are the CBAs irreplaceable and optimal altogether. You'll see that the climate change corridors are not indicated there. This is very much something I think we can start adding, but for this specific map you've seen here, was the result of our terrestrial ecologist going out to the field, field testing, and making sure that everything that is indicated from a desktop level is tested, and we can in that way refine on those. The low or the very low areas are either transformed completely or it's the an invasive plant, patches or trees or cultivated areas. Then for the next one, you'll see now I just want to start just quickly touching on the offsets. So without having a final layout in terms of the amount of hectares that might be impacted by the road network and the it's very hard to start talking about the offset. So the offset report that was produced was very much a, um, I suppose a starting point and a worst case because it's we actually went and, um, added our own roads on onto the offset report. Um, to kind of just look at the worst case scenario. So the could be quite different from what we have here. Again, we know that the project infrastructure does cross the terrestrial and aquatic CBAs. I mean, we've spoken about that quite extensively. And then we look at the CBA replaceable areas, exactly which of the turbines cover those, which of the turbines cover optimal. Then we try to, and of course, the intact grass and patches. And then we've got the data that was supplied to us, to the terrestrial biodiversity specialist, the reasoning behind the CBA replaceable or the CBA in general, you know, the designation, why those designations were put in place in terms of what exactly is present. So, you know, from our side, there's no argument about the high value of these areas. Then you'll see the hectares impacted. So the only reason I'm putting that in there is to show that the amount that is there Um, and it could change very likely a bit more, um, to show how many the specific suppose of of concern would be the high value. Um that you see this at the moment. Well, we look at about 24 hectares, but I think it's changed already. Um and then something that I just wanted to note was if you look at the entire people, Moolah, um, project boundary, the amount of very low, in other words, old lands, cultivation, alien trees, vegetation types that are present is about 14,000 hectares, with high value about 16, almost 17,000 hectares. And the only reason I want to highlight that is the possibility for some extensive, I suppose, conservation action in terms of the high value areas that are possible. And once an offset strategy or offset report it's got more details in terms of what is going on on the ground, and we can be more accurate in terms of our calculations. Then it's, you know, we're looking at inside the actual boundaries of the formula. There are many options that we can start looking at. I know there was a, I think there was a query about how we got to our calculations for our first version of the And that was all based on the offset guidelines. And I'm happy to share all of those calculations to whoever might be interested. But yeah, I mean, this is where we are at the moment. I don't think I've got another slide, but yeah. If there's any questions, I'll be very happy to address.

1:12:55 - Mervyn Lotter

Robert?

1:12:58 - 1Robyn Luyt

Thank you. I don't think the question around the calculations was more around the fact that in the EIA itself, there was no reference to what infrastructure was placed in CBAs other than the turbines, which we surmised on our own mapping techniques. There was no reference to the roads or any infrastructure in irreplaceable areas. So my point is the calculations were not made clear because the sizes for irreplaceable areas only first appeared in the offset strategy. I wasn't questioning how you got to your calculations based on like for like, etc.

1:13:43 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Yes, I understand. I mean, I think what I'm trying to bring across is that, you know, there's some more supporting documentation that might be needed. So just to show where what is, for instance, the roads, I think that could be a that could change the calculations a little bit and could make it more interesting. But I'd like that point. Thank you very much, Robyn.

1:14:04 - Mervyn Lotter

Mervyn?

1:14:07 - 1Mervyn Lotter
Thanks. Yeah, I must say, I thought it was a good report. And I suppose the question that I had was in terms of the roads, which are being discussed now, and then also the timeframe. Often with these offset agreements, there is a commitment to manage the property for a number of years, because there's management plans, fire breaks have to be burnt, alien plant control. Just that part was mapping. There just needs to be a commitment in terms of the term and for how many years the management will be supported.

1:14:39 - Unidentified Speaker

Thanks.

1:14:40 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Thank you, Mervyn. I think I should also, in the report, I should just maybe make it a little more upfront that the guidelines for offsets were explicitly followed. So by implication, I would have means that something like a 30-year doing perpetuity would definitely be part of it. But that type of nitty-gritty, I'll definitely include that to make it more accessible. But thank you for that. I appreciate it.

1:15:09 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Great. Any further questions on this section of the discussion? I'd like to propose that we take a five or 10-minute comfort break. I'm sure people or drinking coffee. Is everybody happy with a five-minute comfort break? Robyn, another question before we do?

1:15:33 - 1Robyn Luyt
I think just for minute purposes to reiterate again the position on what can and can't be offset and that this offset strategy should really first consider whether the EIA has successfully mitigated in terms of, well, avoided and mitigated before we even get to offsets. I just think as good as the offset report is, it hasn't necessarily, it's not really placed sufficiently given that avoidance hasn't been achieved effectively.

1:16:14 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Thank you Robyn. I think what has become clear with the different iterations of layout is that our avoidance, we're almost on that first step of the mitigation hierarchy is being revisited a couple of times. So taking that into consideration, I mean, I'll definitely make it clearer as to at what step we are and what the would be. But thank you, I appreciate that moment.

1:16:42 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 4
Thank you. Actually, just before we break, just from my side, yeah, I think what Robyn said, I just want to emphasize it's of critical importance that you demonstrate that you followed properly the whole mitigation hierarchy and how you arrived to the biodiversity offset and also as part of your final EIR, there must be a biodiversity offset plan linked to that. But I'm getting a little bit concerned. You're also indicating at the bottom or somewhere in the slide that it seems that you're still waiting for engineers to do some of the roads, et cetera, et cetera. We're sitting now with the final EIR phase, and it seems that there will be still iterations on the layout plans, et cetera, et cetera. I'm getting concerned. Actually, this should have been done much earlier in the process. I don't know if you're going to meet your timeframes, or you're going to submit something, and it's not actually finalized. And we issue a decision, and then two months after that, the applicant starts coming up with amendments, really. And that creates more problems in the end of the day. So I just want to explain. My concern about the things that are still hanging, that should have been pulled in already and considered properly, like the roads. That is a concern of me, especially in terms of the timeframes. Thank you.

1:18:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
Thank you, Coenrad, for your input. Good to know. All right. I think let's just do a five-minute comfort break. Back here at five minutes or 10 minutes. Anybody got a preference? How long does it take to make a cup of coffee?

1:18:47 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Let's make it 10 minutes.

1:18:48 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let's make it 10 minutes and back here at 5 to 11. So 10.50.

1:18:54 - Gavin Cowden

All right? Thanks, Gavin. Great. Thanks, guys.

1:18:59 - 1Gavin Cowden

Thanks, Albert. You did a great job.

1:19:00 - Mervyn Lotter

Thank you.

1:28:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And I hope everybody is comfortable. We're going to move on to the avifauna portion of our discussion. Albert, where would you like to start? Or mitigation?

1:28:22 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Actually, I think maybe if you want to go back just to the queries and stuff here, just to briefly touch on those.

1:28:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Let me just check that everyone can hear us. Everybody can hear us? Okay, everybody's there. Thanks, guys. Okay.

1:28:50 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
All right. So I think, yeah, there's obviously the IBA, KBA issue of the you know, in my opinion, don't really read those boundaries, but we're obviously very cognizant of the importance of why IDAs were identified, defined, and their key trigger species, species of conservation concern, and then linked to that the key biodiversity areas. So, kind of wearing a bit a broader perspective on it and taking everything into account. And Mervyn, your earlier comment of, you know, the number of species of conservation concern, priority species that, you know, we have on site is not something we're not aware of, very well noted, and also dearly concerned about and wanting to try as best we can to take those into consideration with regard to, Coenrad, to link to your point earlier of making sure the necessary steps in the mitigation hierarchy are followed both from an avoidance point of view and then from a mitigation point of view. So maybe just to initially touch a little bit on the avoidance aspect and Again, I don't want to get bogged down into nitty gritty detail, but we can chat about it. Are things like the definition of modelled buffers versus radial or circular buffers? I think our perspective with using more of a modelled buffer that is based on the underlying landscape features, whether those are, for example, from a wetland point of view. Do we just stock standard, take the wetland specialist delineations and buffer those further? We could, but I think birds, as I've just said, use the landscape quite differently. So we try and then say where are the areas that the birds are going to be using more based on the underlying habitat. And so in some areas there will be larger buffers based on the underlying habitat and surrounding moist grassland as an example. And then where that does not prevail, we will revert to what the aquatic specialists have said. Obviously, I mean, it's common knowledge and I don't want to belabour the point, but we know that the birds don't fly according to our buffers or to any buffer for that matter, whether it is modelled or a circular buffer. So that brings us to the need for mitigation. But Ashley, we'll move to the mitigation slide just a little bit later. I think maybe just to touch on some of the other aspects of significance ratings, not bringing it all the way back down to low, which I agree, even given everything we do put in place, the sensitivity is still there and which underscores the need for mitigation. That certainly the commitment to do mitigation and to have an adaptive management strategy in place to look at that mitigation is definitely there, and we will unpack the mitigation a little bit more. And Gavin, your points earlier around the cumulative impacts of these facilities, I think that is a much and higher level discussion that is always difficult to deal with on a project basis. And I really think we do need a higher view. And Gareth, it's great to see you here around the work that the EWT are doing in conjunction with the NTPA and how potentially that information, I think, can feed into that process of us better understanding these risks at a landscape scale. And, you know, then drawing boundaries like 30 or 55 100 kilometres are all a little bit arbitrary. But, you know, we do need to get to grips with how the birds use the landscape. And that speaks to things like movement corridors. And I think it's worth just touching on the in the dark, the birds that fly at night, definitely a valid concern and, you know, something that when we speak about mitigation around aspects to consider like radar, which I think is not necessarily a saving grace, but can go a long way to assist us in identifying night flying movements. It's maybe not

going to see small passerine birds moving through the landscape unless they come in dense bands, as we are seeing, you know, the effectiveness of these kind of mitigation measures in the northern hemisphere during migration events, where there's a lot of birds moving together. But I think if we look at birds like flamingos, where they would typically move in flocks at night and even recognizing that they have a very characteristic flight pattern. It's not impossible for radar to be able to pick up on those sort of things and that however does leave us with the the level of uncertainty around the effectiveness of something like that but we still, you know, rely on what we are seeing internationally and I think the commitment of the responsible developers. So we are going to do this and we are going to actually be committed to make this work and I'm going to touch on that a little bit more in the mitigation slide. So I've spoken about the movement corridors at a regional level of the buffers, radial versus modelled. There were some aspects about vulture risk assessment coming from Vulpro. And Gareth, that's perhaps an aspect with regard to the work you are doing at a regional and a provincial level that we need to touch on to bring that information to the fore, especially in terms of movement of birds in the Mpumalanga landscape, I think, is a critical aspect. The other challenge we are dealing with is the differentiation between active and inactive nests. Of the larger birds of prey, I think it's very obvious and easy where partial eagles, et cetera, you know, a nest is often reused. They may not use it for few years and then come back, we have had instances in the landscape where Marshall Eagle nests actually a large blue gum tree, the branch breaks off. However, the birds usually typically have alternate nest sites in those territories. And again, in terms of delineating a circular buffer is, in my opinion, risky from that point of view. Having a more habitat-based buffer, plus which should be defined as an exclusion buffer for a collision risk perspective, and then a smaller disturbance buffer around where a nest actually is located, and then a much larger mitigation level buffer, because we know for a fact that the birds actually move than five or six kilometres from their nests, and therefore we need a very tight and robust mitigation strategy in place. Still just on the aspect of nests that are active and inactive, one of the greatest challenges that we have through all the monitoring work we have done in the province, in Mpumalanga and the Free State, as a matter of fact, centre, around secretary birds, where these birds seem to be under a lot of pressure from various levels of disturbance, habitat transformation, and they are desperate to breed. We see them building a lot of, starting a lot of nest structures, and before they even get to a point where I can say, well, there's really something happening here, The Egyptian geese take over the nest they abandon Or they start building a nest and there's some level of disturbance They build nests very close to roads very close to infrastructure, so it leaves us with a great challenge to Put generous buffers around each of those nests which is What I would like to do, but I would wipe out the entire area landscape because of how often the birds either roost or start building nests on trees. And we've not seen successful breeding, which is very, very, very concerning for me. And most of the failed attempts we have had in the landscape in the last year has largely been as a result of Egyptian geese just pushing the birds off their nests. I know it's a bit of an aside, but it makes it very, difficult to put in hard and fast, generous buffers around a nest that has been taken over by geese, because Marlene next to me here is going to say, Albert, but that's a, you know, a goose nest. It's not a secretary bird nest. And the birds never come back because they are harassed to the extent where they don't actually read on those nests and they go and build a new nest. So that circles me to the effectiveness of mitigation. Ashley, and maybe if we can jump to the mitigation slide. And I'm sure everyone has got a ton of questions. I can actually hear Mervyn jotting them down. But when we talk about mitigation, I think I've got the same point up there. The avoidance buffers. But I think what I'd like to see, and it does leave a door open for uncertainty, I'm not going to argue that. There is the aspect of what we are putting in place at a lot of the operational facilities where we are working in the rest of the country, is a very tightly managed biodiversity management plan. That governs the process around adaptive management with mitigations that are already in place. Now, those mitigations that could already be in place are aspects like shutdown on demand. We obviously, I mean, let's just briefly touch on the blade patterning. That's a no brainer for me. In my humble opinion, in the highly sensitive areas, as we are, and I think the blade patterning guidance that is being developed by

SAWEA is definitely speaking to this around, let's not take an experimental approach here. Let's paint all the blades. Let's get that in place and done and buttoned down. Then where we have the adaptive management program, we look at the implementation of either shutdown on demand across the entire facility, because we know the number of species of conservation concern that we are dealing with in the landscape are not few and far between. And when we stack all these species together, they are going to use the site. I mean, we heard earlier around the amount of available habitat there is. And, Read, you made a very important point I think, around the fact that there's opportunity for conservation strategies of that landscape on the site. Now, then immediately I go, but the birds are going to use it. The birds are, in any case, going to use it until that landscape is completely degraded by the likes of agriculture, pollution into the wetlands, cattle grazing into the wetlands, alien infestation, et cetera. I mean, these are the things we know that is happening. Having a robust mitigation strategy in place around observer-led shutdown on demand, is that going to be feasible? I question it because of the fact that the birds don't behave like us that struggle to get up in the morning. They literally do catch the early worm because they are out there early early on in the day, which pushes us towards automated mitigation strategies. That becomes difficult, I know, because are we going to shut down for every second Adida compared to southern bald ibis? That looks very similar. And the effectiveness, therefore, is uncertain, and hence why the impact post-mitigation is not low. Why it is medium, and why we are saying this is not something we can just say, well, checkbox, we do it, we leave it, it's there. It's a process of continuous monitoring and evaluation. And benchmarking that against critical values of what can the population sustain. And Mervyn, I think it was in your comments or in yours where, you know, the projected number of fatalities that we are dealing with. Definitely from an industry perspective, from a specialist perspective, and from bird life, for example, I know that is very high on the agenda to try and define those values. I think it's very difficult and I don't want to say unreasonably realistic, but on a per project basis to do this and come up with national thresholds or provincial thresholds, I think that needs to come in from a more strategic point of view, that we all are towing the same line, because the way I would perhaps be looking at it compared to how other specialists would be looking at it could create a lot of Um, so there needs to be commonality in that regard. And I know with third life and somewhere there's a lot of initiatives going on in the background that I'm sure you guys are also aware of to try and get to those. You know, to draw some lines in the concrete, not even in the sand, and that would lead us to be able to Evaluate the impact we could potentially have here or would be having and through the management strategies say, well, automated is only so effective, therefore, I mean, we've looked at some other facilities where there are initiatives of predictive curtailment, knowing that in this particular area, there are cranes roosting at a wetland during the crepuscular zone, those turbines will be proactively shut down when we know the birds are going to be moving through the landscape. There are always, I think, more things we can try and do. And I think these initiatives are also improving all the time. Technology is getting better. So I would also caution around buttoning it down to the nth degree now, because this facility may only be built in five years, six years. I mean, Marlene and Debbie would be far better placed to tell me, oh, but this could happen in so many years or it could not happen at all. But let's not go down that road. When it happens, there may be much better technologies available on the table. So I do always want to leave that door open, that we can implement something that may be much better at the time. But at the same time, I don't think we should skirt away from committing to having mitigation measures in place. And then last but not least, I think, you know, this is something that's coming through for us very strongly and also looking at what works on the ground nationally. Having a committed individual on site that actually manages the process, that is skilled, that is qualified, that has that passion and commitment to evaluate on the ground. Unfortunately, they are not enough of us that sit around the table here that really are passionate about our birds and about the environment. And we need a champion at each facility. We've seen how successful that has been, for example, at Engie's Excelsior wind farm. And they have had fatalities, as sad as it is, but they are committed to making it work They've got an individual that manages the process very, very tightly. Their system was designed for Cape vultures. They've not killed one Cape vulture. That's a big plus for me. And

it shows me that it can work as long as you have someone on site managing it. We've got other facilities, and I'll own up to it, that we don't have a committed individual that manages on site, and that's where my concern lies and persistently working towards encouraging those developers to do more post-operation. And I think where I'm coming from here is we've got the opportunity to pre-authorization and say we need this level of commitment to do specific things for the birds that when and if we get to a point of going into operation, it's been planned for from a financial point of view. Anyway, I'm rambling perhaps, maybe there are some specific questions that people want to wing my way.

1:49:19 - Mervyn Lotter

Robert.

1:49:23 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thank you, Albert. I just want to ask, when you say adaptive management programme, In this specific instance for this project, what is it that you mean? Because we, my understanding is that blade painting will, Mpumalanga's position anyway, is that blade painting will be compulsory across any wind farm in the province. Shutdown on demand, you've already advanced in your report, should be compulsory across the site, although that wasn't actually taken up into the EIA and I didn't understand why. With those two measures already in place, what is left in terms of adaptive management? And it's a question I asked in my comments. And why can't those adaptive management measures be outlined specifically in the EIA?

1:50:14 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Thanks, Robyn. Valid concern. And, you know, there are only so many tools currently at our disposal that we could consider. But I think it is worth mentioning that, you know, when we look at it from an adaptive point of view, there are numerous types of shutdown on demand available. So, yes, we could, for argument's sake, say, start with observer shutdown on demand. Noted what I said earlier, it may not be effective, but remember, unfortunately, there is always a financial consideration. Linden Debbie here has to wear that hat. We've seen that in other projects where if we look at an automated shutdown on demand type of systems, there are various tiers that are presently available to industry to implement. So you might start off with tier one that is not very effective at identifying individual species. So that is a concern I would have, but from an affordability point of view, we may start off with that. If that does not work, and that comes back to the continuous monitoring and evaluation for me, we need to have the option of changing and adapting to that very rapidly. And what is very rapidly, very valid concern and point that clients at Avifaunal Specialists also, you know, would like to say, you know, at least within three or six months, we've got to look at making changes to the system. I mentioned earlier the issue of predictive curtailment and the work that is currently being done around understanding how and when birds fly in the landscape and under which environmental conditions those high-risk flights are taking place is key for me. And as much as Debbie and Marlene does not want to hear this, if mortalities or impacts are exceeding those values we so desperately need, of if we have killed two southern bald ibis at this project, we have exceeded our threshold for that year, or if it is zero, once we have killed one, do we currently have that information? To say when the wind speed is seven meters per second and it is 18.5 degrees and the barometric pressure is this, then we know that the Ibises are going to fly at this height through the landscape. We need that information. Can we wait for that information to be on the table? Ideally, we'd want to. However, there's a much greater pressure on us, everyone in the room, from government's point of view of a just energy transition that needs to happen. Are we busy collecting that information? I think we are. And when we get to that point, we will be able to say, Marlene, you've got to switch off your turbine number 44 to 48 between

six and seven in the morning, because that's when the high risk is there. She's going to screw squeal, but it is what it is, because we need to mitigate this. Sorry, it's a long-winded answer, Robyn, but we need to look at alternatives at the time, and that's where, you know, the monitoring evaluation, someone that manages out on site, not expecting Albert to wing pass there once every year to do this, that's not going to cut it.

1:54:08 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

And moving.

1:54:12 - 1Mervyn Lotter
Thanks so yeah, but in your example, you're just giving Robyn. I mean, it does assume we have data on the collision, the heart, the preferences of these birds and whether it is predictable or not, because I think a lot of their movement could be random based on the prevailing wind speed that day or a fire or food source somewhere outside of even the footprint area. But it kind of brings me to my And the more I think about these modelled or shape buffers is that it's, um, there is a level of, it sounds good in practice. I mean, the theory, as I said in my comments, the theory makes sense to me, but the practice, the practical application of isn't. So if we think about, um, we, the shape of there's two things, one being we don't have enough information to be able to accurately predict, um, those movements, the, and some of these species, like a secretary bird, they don't favour a wetland or a rocky outcrop, and a relatively flat terrain, they can move anywhere. So it's impossible to say this is the area they're going to be moving on when we don't have the data to support that. And so we're making proposals based on, let's say, data quality, and that's what gets me nervous. And particularly that the implications of it would be maybe fatalities because of collision and then you put yourself in our shoes. Now we need to evaluate this application and now we know if we get an application where there's a one kilometre buffer around a nest site, we can look and measure and assess. Are we getting, we're not getting that, we get maybe there's a shape buffer but we don't know how big that buffer is. We can't see it on the map because it's merged with other sensitivities and wetlands and stuff so you can't actually see what does the shaped buffer look like, So we going on the word of the proposer, being now yourself or your team who developed these models. So how do we actually know that in this shape buffer of yours that there is a minimum at least that it will never be narrower than, let's say, 75% more commonly used size buffer. So we need those kind of like incorporated, those requirements, those thresholds into the model that we know it will never be smaller than a certain amount. And your halving, for example, the Marshall is a bit more drastic. A 2.5 kilometre buffer is not sufficient when the buffer should be around 5.3 kilometres. So it kind of makes it difficult for us to evaluate this. And maybe what is needed then is a separate document, maybe an appendix which says this is how the shape buffers were calculated. This is uncertainty, you have a layer if you want to download it, or this is what it looks like, because it leaves us with no information to assess. I feel I don't have confidence applying it because I can't even see that buffer on the map. So from a review point of view, it makes it very difficult for us. And then also from the application point of view, there's a lot of uncertainty. In theory, I like it, but it mustn't be a form of like smoke and mirrors where it sounds great, but people can't really see it and use it on an apply it to the landscape. So yeah, I just want to leave that with you then. Could you comment on the Black Sparrowhawk? It had a 750 meter buffer in the scoping report and then in the EIA it's now got a 250 buffer. And then also looking at the offset report of Read's that spoke about two roosting sites for Cape Vultures, but they are in every phone or report. Can you maybe just comment as to maybe they were considered and we it wasn't particularly articulated. Could you just give us some background on those? Thank you.

1:58:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Okay, thanks. I hear your point, and I think with regard to the, um, shaped buffers versus radial buffers. I think it's a very valid thing because, um, you see What we need are separate maps indicating those buffers. And typically, what we try and do with regard to a shaped no turbine buffer, to use the Marshall Eagle, which I think is an excellent example, that shaped buffer, the surface area of the shaped buffer will largely be equivalent to what a five kilometre radial buffer will be. Therefore, the area protected for the birds is defined by the habitat they would use. If I think openly around, let's say, are the marshal eagles going to use an agricultural field? Maybe they are, because there could be guineafowl in there, which they But they may be more prone to natural vegetation. So the shaped buffer would then be influenced by where there is better habitat for them to hunt in. And that will influence that shape. So I think to demonstrate that, separate maps that speak to those aspects would address that concern. And sharing the actual Facial layers because they there I mean, it's not trust me. I'm not a doctor, but Robyn is almost a doctor we Do that obviously, but you know point well take we need a separate map that shows that Then there's still a no disturbance buff And I think that's maybe where some of the confusion around the two and a half kilometre and then the five kilometre is The 2.5km speaks to all infrastructure exclusions, apart from maybe upgrading an existing road, because there are existing roads in that 2.5km buffer. So we're trying to avoid disturbance with a 2.5km buffer, which we feel is sufficient from a disturbance point of view, and obviously there won't be turbines in there. But then the shaped buffer that covers a similar area compared to the five kilometre area is then a no turbine area, and outside of that is a mitigation zone. That mitigation zone then speaks to where mitigation measures that we had the whole discussion about should be implemented. Further protect the birds. That speaks on the buffer sizes. You asked about the Black Sparrowhawk, the 250 versus 750 meters. I think there we're dealing with a species of least concern, Black Sparrowhawk, that from extensive work in the landscape, these birds move their nests quite around in the landscape. So again, I would rather look at the implementation of mitigation measures for these birds when priority species than having very large, generous buffers and knowing these birds regularly change their nest sites in the landscape. So I think in part that is the reason for the contraction of that buffer. A point well noted, it was not clearly articulated between the scoping and the EIA report for that quite drastic retraction of that buffer area, but obviously still open for further discussion on that. Then to move on to your point about the vulture colonies, Read and I have had a discussion and I think, Read, you want to maybe just chip in there?

2:02:35 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 3
Yeah, I just have to double check that because it doesn't sound right. Yeah, I just, I'm an apologist for that. I'll have to just check what went on there, but it doesn't sound as it was supposed to be.

2:02:47 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Yeah, from the information we have and through our interrogation of vulture tracking data and vulture information, in the landscape, we are certainly not aware of definite roost sites. There have been observations of birds roosting on power lines in the Carolina area, and we've seen a few birds roost on power lines to the southeast of the Camden power station, but not to the extent where I would term it a permanent, regularly used roost site. Through all the information, and I'm open for correction here, is, you know, if we, you know, we're not aware of permanent roosts in that area. The birds are moving through, and we've substantiated this with quite extensive additional monitoring in the landscape. Typically in the summer months when it's hot, the birds do move through, but it's midday movements and it's largely birds moving through the landscape. So it's not continuous active on-site presence of foraging, scouting around, wafting around, looking for food. It's birds moving through, often at high altitude, but definitely there has been birds in road to swept areas. Again, I circle back to my earlier comment of effectiveness of shut down

on demand measures against large conspicuous birds like vultures. I think we can do pretty well in that regard.

2:04:37 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6
Okay, can I just please, sorry, I'm struggling to put up my hand, it's Mmamahole. We have, yes, with regards to the vultures, there is a roost on transmission and distribution lines near the Chrissiesmere area and south of the Camden substation.

2:05:04 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Excellent, thank you. I would really appreciate more information on that. As I say, the one near Chrissiesmere may be the one that we are aware of, but if you can provide us, with more information on that. We definitely welcome that.

2:05:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 6
I'd like to suggest that you get in touch with Vulpro. I'm not sure if there's somebody from Vulpro in the meeting. They have the most recent information on the vultures activities in the area. And they have actually provided comments to actually on the 10th of October, so you should have gotten them. Yes, OK, great.

2:05:50 - Mervyn Lotter
Thank you for that. And just want to add that it was from Read's report that I saw reference to the two vulture colonies. So it was, you know, the vulture roost, not colony, but a vulture roost. And then we raised it. So Read, if you could please just get back and confirm. But my last comment would be, it's not actually one that we picked up one, but it's something bird life. We were copied on BirdLife's comments, and that's about the white-winged flufftail, and that their monitoring shows several suitable sites throughout the Phefumula Emoyeni project area. So, have you seen that while we got the floor? Do you want to comment on the white-winged flufftail models?

2:06:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Thanks, Mervyn. Yes, I can comment on that. Obviously, as you know, my colleague Robyn in Canada has done a lot of work on the on the flap tails, and it definitely is on the table for us to investigate further and to take that information that has been shared by BirdLife into consideration. I think when looking at that is the suitability of those areas are not as good as what there are other areas further to the east where the suitability increases greatly, but we are looking at it into more detail and also in discussion with Marlene and Debbie around potentially doing some further on-site verification in that regard, but it is definitely well noted and being further interrogated. Thanks.

2:07:30 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 7

Okay, just a timing issue because the comments, this has to be wrapped up now. We don't have that.

2:07:36 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

We don't. I'm well aware of that.

2:07:39 - Unidentified Speaker

Thanks.

2:07:41 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Gavin. Oh, sorry. I'm not sure now what happened.

2:07:49 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Ladies first.

2:07:53 - 1Robyn Luyt
Gavin, your hand up was at first, so thank you. I'm just going to jump in because it's based on what Mervyn has just said. And going back to your models, Albert. My understanding is that these BirdLife models were updated just three weeks ago and it's difficult based on Mervyn's point, or going back to Mervyn's point, for us to confirm whether your models or your modelling includes BirdLife's most up-to-date models.

2:08:24 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
With regard to white-winged flufftail, or should I rather say species 23, Um, we, um, I think the update of their model is actually as a result of additional information that we as AfriAvian collected in the landscape. Um, in conjunction with information they have been collecting in the wider landscape further to the north. Um, that has How can I put this? Um, increased the threshold or the lower or lowered the threshold for the suitability of the species in the landscape based on localities where it has in more recent times been confirmed to be present. So this is hot off the press kind of information that based on where in the last season birds have been reported that increased the potential suitability, and hence puts the onus on us to say, well, how does the habitat look on Phefumula? And Mervyn, well noted your comment around the timing issue. Can one pull that rabbit out of a hat in a few days? Not an easy one to do.

2:09:52 - 1Gavin Cowden
Thanks. Gavin? Sure, OK. Sorry, I wanted to go last because I wanted to have a more bird's eye view again. So I am from the strategic side. So OK, so first of all, just quickly in terms of what Albert said about the commonality of the fatality thresholds, I couldn't agree more. Hopefully we'll, well, I'm hopefully doing a presentation at the Birds in Real Energy Forum, and I will probably put that in. And what comes to mind is that I know it's public domain. I'm just looking at the draft scoping reports out now. And I mean, the avian fauna specialist looked at basically using flight heights. You have to look at the report, but the point is, is they use somewhat different method. And those figures, Albert, were based on the mortality, the monitoring data from bird life. And I just plugged them in quickly to get an idea, just to look at cumulative impact. So as I said, I'm coming from a birds eye view, so everything's more strategic with me. So, yeah, I've got a question as well, but let me quickly go to your comment about the ghosts in the night. Okay, and shut down radar, shut down on demand. And it's true, we don't really know what the impacts are going to be. And we got to assess it. And it's really difficult when you're getting an application. And you got to look at the impacts and try and measure them and predict what the impacts are going to be. And it's really difficult because

there's so many variables. But, so yeah, our standard has been, as Robyn said, obviously blade painting, and obviously we're concerned about the flamingos, and the radar shut down on the mark. But, sorry, I can't contain my enthusiasm here. So yeah, they're not really ghosts in the night. As people know, I think a lot of you in the room might know that we've started a study to track birds, and unfortunately, we've only managed to put collars on four greater flamingos. But really, we've just sort of started getting some data trickling in. And that's why I asked earlier about the hub height and the blade height, because it seems like, and as Mervyn said quite rightly, it could be the environmental conditions, because it seems that the winds come a little bit later this year, and it's normally August, September. Winds seem to be heavier now in October. But it seems like they're flying at lower heights than the lesser flamingo. That's just my interpretation. My colleagues can correct me if I'm wrong. Is that we're starting to get some data in. This data is going to be absolutely invaluable. I mean, looking at the one chart that I saw, it looks like you might even be able to do shutdown on demand on a Monday and a Tuesday between this time and that time, and then you could be good to go. So that is absolutely invaluable. So I just had to share that with you. And obviously, you know, it comes onto my last point. It's about blade painting with flamingos. Is it effective, Albert, blade painting? I know that a lot of the studies that have been done in like in Hopefield and stuff, they're no flamingos, but is it effective? Would it possibly, if the birds are flying during the day, and we're finding from our data that the birds are flying quite a lot at night, and yeah, would blood painting then be effective if they're flying during the day? Yeah, I think that is all my comments, I think for now, yeah. Oh yes, and sorry, about two minutes, I just quickly started extracting information talking for you guys. We're talking about the 55km radius. Hence my point about the sensitivity of the area, and unfortunately, a lot of these wind farms are coming in this area where the wind is. Basically, with Phefumula, 695, the 55km radius, 695 turbines of the 708 turbines in the whole province are in 55km of Phefumula. That highlights the point about the sensitivity of this area and that basically, yeah. Okay, thank you.

2:13:46 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Thanks, Gavin. I think your question around pattern blades, do they work in this landscape? Short answer is we don't know, because one, we don't have any turbines and we don't have proof that given our suite of species we are dealing with. I mean, most of the evaluation and testing on blade patterning in the northern hemisphere. Right. So that is well known that it seems to be quite effective. But more research is needed. And in all the presentations, I know you guys were in the IFC work workshop in person and then the webinar recently where Rob Simmons, Dr. Rob Simmons, presented on this. It seems promising, but there's no guarantees yet. So, therefore, is blade patterning a mitigation measure that we know is going to work at this stage? No, it isn't. Therefore, we need to do more. I certainly would want to see the results from work being done in the provincial level and at a national level around other species. We really, you know, have just bought our tickets around blade patterning and we're starting to move into the departure lounge around understanding this. So we still have a long way to go to really say it is effective or not, but we need pattern blades in the landscape and very robust monitoring and evaluation because that's the only way we're going to find out whether this actually works and your birds with tracking devices on them are going to be key to understanding how these birds use that landscape and regular fixes from those tracking devices when they move into areas is where there are turbines is really going to unpack that for us. How do they use that spatial area in close proximity to turbines? Is it working? Isn't it working? So there's a lot of potential there. So the more birds we can have with tracking devices on them, the better, because that's going to tell us how the birds use that land. Scope. Robert.

2:16:30 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thank you, Albert. I think for going back to how we deal with your answers in our EIA world, it kind of, and

you've basically said what we all know, honestly. So that brings into question the impact analysis in the EIA. And how can we then say that the impact, the mitigation measures that have been proposed could justifiably bring down those high level, higher significance ratings to moderate when we don't even know that they work?

2:17:10 - Unidentified Speaker

Yeah.

2:17:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2
Yeah, it is a challenge, Robyn, and we are often constrained by the impact rating system, and in many instances, yes, impacts will still be there. How high they are going to be is always debatable, and, you know, is it justifiable to just say they are moderate? We do have to obviously, on two sides of the fence, there's the precautionary principle, which if we apply that strictly we would most probably remain at high or do we have some confidence in some of these measures like what I articulated earlier around the successes that has been achieved in conjunction with our mitigation hierarchy that we are following because if we assume at the high level we have not avoided but we have avoided So in that sense, yes, is that avoidance sufficient? We are providing some safe space for the birds so that in its own right I think does help to bring down the risk and then we are putting in all these additional measures. So is that then justifiable to say no, it's having no effect? I don't think so. It is having but yeah is it kind of high moderate or moderate or low moderate is the elephant in the room I suppose.

2:18:59 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

I think we're at the end of of our presentation.

2:19:14 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Are there any last comments before we move to close?

2:19:21 - Unidentified Speaker

Mervyn?

2:19:25 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Thanks. It's just something which when Albert finished off now with his moderate, like we can bring it down. I mean, the mitigation measures will have a positive impact. It will reduce the risk.

2:19:38 - 1Mervyn Lotter
And that's acknowledged. It's just because you have these 10 threatened species on site, bringing it down from a high to a moderate could still have a significant impact. And that's, I think, ultimately the crux of our concern. And I just want to make a statement that, for monitoring purposes, that we still stand by our comments that were submitted. Thank you.

2:19:58 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Thanks, Mervyn.

2:20:00 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 2

Thanks, Mervyn.

2:20:02 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1

Robyn?

2:20:05 - 1Robyn Luyt
Thank you. I just want to understand, Coenrad raised it at the beginning of the meeting. You've got 15 days to submit your final EIA. Like Mervyn said, we stand by our comments. I don't believe that we are in a position to support the activity, unfortunately. There is a lot of outstanding information still required, which I don't think can just be addressed in a comments and response report and package into a final EIA. For example, there are requirements that were requests that were made in our comments about analysing the impact of collisions on night flying species. And that's just one of the eight pages of comments that we made. So obviously any substantive changes that are made to an EIA report have to go out for a 30 day comment period. So, is it the intention for you to package a response now, submit to final EIA to DFFE for a decision?

2:21:13 - Conference Room (Strong, Ashlea) - Speaker 1
That is something that's currently in discussion and we will let you know what the decision is once it's been made. Okay. We will be providing detailed responses to all the comments. As I said, this was a high level. I mean, we can't go through each one individually in this setting. We will be providing individual responses to each and every comment that everybody has made and forwarded it to you in individual letters. It will also be included in the comment and response report. Should the decision be made to submit the package and submit a final EIR, you will We obviously also have the opportunity to provide additional comments directly to the DFFE, and cc the developer and the EAP, but we will let you know that that decision hasn't been made yet. But yes, I'd like to really thank everybody for their time today. It has been a very useful and productive session, I think. I've personally found it very good. Thank you for all your input. It has been a pleasure to engage with you all today. And we will formalize our request for that cumulative impact, cumulative details.

2:22:39 - Mervyn Lotter
We will definitely ask for that. And I think there was something you might want from your side, Albert, that we could include in there. We'll formalize that request as well. So I just want to say thank to everybody for joining us today and I hope you have a wonderful weekend and really thank you for your time.

2:23:02 - 1Mervyn Lotter

Thanks Ashley, thanks everybody.