

- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 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.*

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

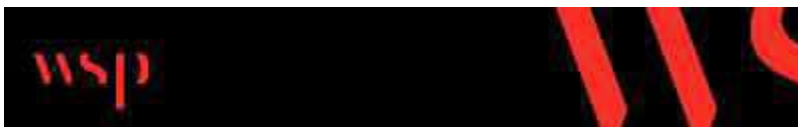
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WSP

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 16:10
To: [REDACTED] ZA - WSP - PPOffice; Strong, Ashlea
Cc: Kerri Wolter
Subject: RE: Vulpro Comment: ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 DSR

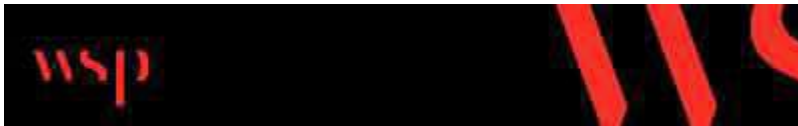
Dear Meagan,

Thank you for your participation in the project.

Your comment is well received, thank you.

I confirm that Vulpro has been added to the project database.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 08:00
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vulpro Comment: ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 DSR

Dear Jashmika, Palisa and Ashlea,
WSP

Thank you for allowing Vulpro to comment on the ABO UVEMVANE WEF DSR. Please find our comments attached to this email.

Please can you also register me under Vulpro for the following project: [REDACTED]

Please acknowledge receipt of our comments.

Thanks

Kind regards,



Renewable Energy Consultation



WSP
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West,
Waterfall City
Midrand,
1685
By email: [REDACTED]

8 April 2026

Dear Jashmika Maharaj, Palisa Bhengu and Ashlea Strong,

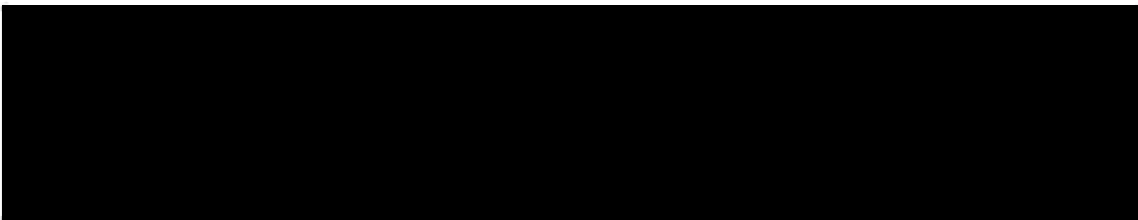
COMMENT: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (DFFE REF NOS: unknown)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report for the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Development, and associated infrastructure located near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces.

Vulpro's tracking data, incorporated into the Avifaunal Assessment, confirms the presence of Cape and White-backed Vultures within 50 km of the proposed development. These datapoints were provided in 2024. Vulpro has not tagged birds for tracking in the Hartebeespoort region since 2024, so our tracking coverage in this area has dropped. However, a February 2026 record of a Cape Vulture within 5 km of the site confirms continued use of the area, albeit likely not in large numbers. Given their gregarious and wide-ranging behaviour, they are therefore probably found within the area more frequently than tracking data alone would suggest. Vulpro also maintains that short-term surveys, including SABAP data or brief field assessments, are insufficient to reliably characterise vulture activity in an area.

Considering the confirmed presence, the long-term duration of Environmental Authorisations (EAs) for Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) (20-30 years), and the potential for sensitivity levels to change over time, Vulpro disagrees with the classification of this site as 'low sensitivity' for Cape Vultures. A precautionary approach must be adopted in line with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).

We are very concerned that, given the presence of vultures and other endangered/vulnerable bird species, no mitigation measures are proposed to address wind





turbine collision risk beyond the micro-siting of turbines to avoid sensitive areas. This approach is not consistent with the risk-averse principle embedded in the NEMA. We therefore request that the Avifaunal Assessment fully assess cumulative risks and incorporate vulture-specific mitigation measures, including but not limited to the following:

1. Implement automated shutdown-on-demand systems and/or trained live observers to reduce both human and technological error. Observers must be suitably trained and medically fit to perform their duties effectively. This must align with the BirdLife South Africa Shutdown-on-Demand Guidelines (2025).
2. Implement blade marking to reduce bird collisions and establish a monitoring programme to regularly review its effectiveness. This should consider the BirdLife South Africa and SAWEA Blade Patterning Guidelines (2024). It is noted, however, that this mitigation has not been tested on vultures, and its effectiveness remains largely uncertain.
3. Establish agreements with landowners to ensure that livestock do not give birth beneath or in close proximity to turbines, and that, in the event of vulture fatalities, a carcass removal programme (Vulture Food Management Programme) can be implemented to remove carrion from beneath turbines.
 - The Carcass Removal Programme must be incorporated into an adaptive management framework, with clear thresholds and trigger points that prompt the review and strengthening of mitigation measures. The roles, responsibilities, and procedures for implementation must be clearly defined and enforced.
4. Cover all anthropogenic water reservoirs and ensure that no water sources are located within the rotor-swept areas or near above-ground electrical infrastructure to minimise vulture visitation.
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 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.
6. Ensure all power line mitigation installations include a comprehensive maintenance schedule that 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 to be later transferred to Eskom.



7. 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.
8. Ensure that Vulpro is notified immediately of any vulture collision or electrocution incidents, particularly where rehabilitation intervention may be required.

Vulpro wishes to highlight key legislation underscoring the importance of vultures and the risks they face. The Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Vultures in South Africa, published on 18 March 2024 (Notice No. 4517, Gazette No. 50306) in terms of Section 43 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), sets out specific objectives for vulture conservation. Notably, Objective 6 aims “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) therefore have a clear responsibility to ensure this objective is achieved.

Thank you for considering these comments

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]
Vulpro Renewable Energy [Redacted]

References:

Smallie J, Froneman A, Smith DL, Mulvaney JM. 2024. Shutdown on Demand for the mitigation of bird collision risk at onshore wind farms in South Africa. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa.

South African Wind Energy Association, BirdLife South Africa, and The Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group. 2024. Blade Patterning Guidelines: Guidance note for avian specialists recommending patterned blades as mitigation to reduce avian impacts at South African wind farms. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 09:44
To: [REDACTED] ZA
[REDACTED]
Subject: - WSP - PPOffice
RE: Shapefiles for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Attachments: Uvemvane_WEF1_Layout.kmz

Dear Robyn and Mervyn,

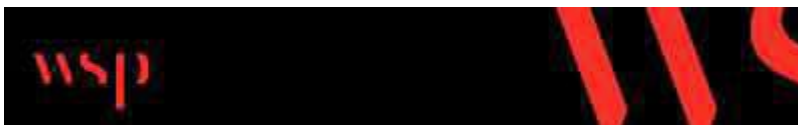
Apologies for the delayed response.

As requested, please see attached is the kmz file showing the project layout for the Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1,

Also, please note that the public review period takes into account three public holidays between March and April 2026 (21 March, 3 April and 6 April), resulting in an end date of 15 April 2026. However, if any stakeholder or I&AP requires more time to review the project, reasonable extensions will be accommodated.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 09:20
To: [REDACTED] ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: G [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Shapefiles for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Importance: High

Good day Jashmika,

MTPA and DARDLEA have been requesting the latest shapefiles for Uvemvane WEF for some time now so that we can review the draft Scoping Report, but have still not received a response. Please can you make them available to us ASAP.

I also did not receive confirmation about the review period - the draft report was made available on Friday 13 March. Due to the public holidays (x4) in the month of March and April, the closing date for comments is 16 April (and not 15 April as indicated in your email below).

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
[REDACTED]

From: R [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 15:43
To: ZA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Shapefiles for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Rob,

I see the layout has changed since the pre-application meeting. Please provide us with the latest shapefiles - we will need them as part of our review of the SR.

Kind Regards
Robyn

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
[REDACTED]

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 16:12
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good day Robyn,

The documents are the second project on the WSP website. Please see the link below and a onedrive link for the reports:

WSP: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

Onedrive: [ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

Kind regards,

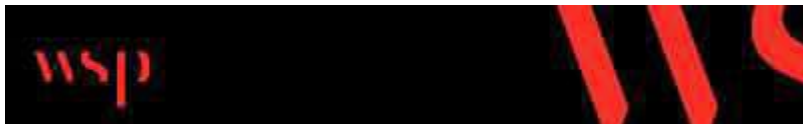
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: R [REDACTED] >

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 16:05

To: ZA - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Importance: High

Dear WSP,

I am unable to locate the documents on your website when clicking on the links in the email below. Please can you provide the documents to us via WeTransfer so that we don't have to download each appendix separately.

Also, I have noted that your public comment period is from 13 March to 15 April. There are however 3 public holidays in that period that cannot be reckoned in the number of days. By my calculations, the last day for comments is 17 April (if the documents are available today - if they aren't then this date will change accordingly).

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:46

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

- **Regulation 41(2) of GNR982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411• The Farm Orion No. 413• Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein No. 405• Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 449• Farm Bothas Spruit No. 404• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Portion 25 (a portion of Portion 11) of the Farm Steynskraal 399	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406• Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410• Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 35 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Portion 15 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Portion 32 (a portion of Portion 5) of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Remaining Extent of Portion 11 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Steynskraal 399	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal407 		
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ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

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

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
Scoping EIA for: • ABO Uvemvane WEF1	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(H)	28(H)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(H)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	10	12	14(ii)(a)(c)	18	23(ii)(a)(c)		
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

- Ratanda Proper Library - Nkomo St, Ratanda, Heidelberg - GP, 1443
- Heidelberg Public Library - 7 Jacobs St, Heidelberg, Heidelberg - GP, 1441
- Ward 3 Public Library - Joubert street, Balfour, 2410
- Grootvlei Power Station Stores - Seventh Street, Grootvlei
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 4800; E-mail: [pp\(5\)wsp.com](mailto:pp(5)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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

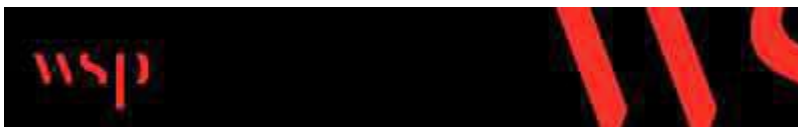
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Maharaj, Jashmika

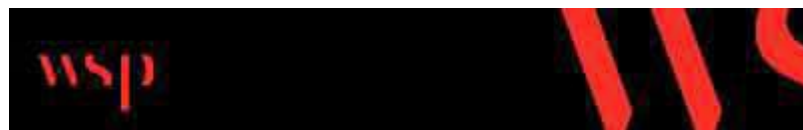
From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 12:16
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: DARDLEA comments | Draft SR for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Robyn,

I acknowledge receipt of your comments.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



From: R [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 16:22
To: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: DARDLEA comments | Draft SR for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Jashmika,

Herewith our comments on the draft Scoping Report.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200

From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 April 2026 11:46



LitikoLetekulima, Kutfutukiswa
KwetindzawoTasemakhaya, Temhlaba
Netesimondzawo

Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt/ S. Mbuyane
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-60

Ms Ashlea Strong

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Email: [REDACTED] pp@wsp.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE UVMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1 NEAR BALFOUR AND HEIDELBERG IN MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 13 March 2026 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

Site and Layout:

1. The proposed Uvemvane WEF 1 is located on a site comprising CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal, Intact Grassland Patches, Ecological Support Areas (ESA), Priority Focus Areas, Climate Change Corridors, and CBA and ESA Wetlands.
2. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within CBAs. Similarly, DARDLEA does not support development of WEFs (or associated infrastructure) in intact grassland patches. 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 crucial for supporting threatened avifauna. CBAs and intact grassland patches are, in terms of metapopulation dynamics, Mpumalanga's source areas. The loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own.
3. It is acknowledged that all turbines, laydown areas and substations (in Mpumalanga) have avoided CBAs and intact grassland patches, however, roads have not. This must be assessed in line with the requirement to potentially consider biodiversity offsets, once it has been demonstrated that all measures of avoidance have been exhausted. Any potential biodiversity offset exercise must be undertaken in accordance with the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023), and must specifically provide for "Additionality" and promote connectivity in the wider landscape.
4. Furthermore, the proximity of some turbines (e.g. WTGs 26, 27 and 28) to water resources is a concern, as is the location of others within Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus Areas (e.g. WTGs 14, 19 and 23). The reliable application of the mitigation hierarchy would require the initiation of the avoidance and minimization steps at pre-application stages, with avoidance measures embedded in the layout plan and detailed designs (refer to the Endangered Wildlife Trust's draft Best Practice Guidelines for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy in South Africa, dated February 2023).
5. There is no indication in the layout of medium voltage cables (MVC) on the Mpumalanga site. Furthermore, in order to eliminate avifaunal collisions and electrocutions, confirmation must be provided that any internal MVC can be buried.
6. It is noted that the application includes MVC on the Gauteng site, with the shapefile (provided via email on 9 April 2026) denoting that the MVC will be mostly above ground. Collisions of SCC avifauna with overhead MVC, particularly those SCC that fly at night, is a concern. DARDLEAs Mpumalanga Bird Flyways Research Project includes GPS tracking data of a small sample of

Greater and Lesser Flamingo, which record flights of Greater Flamingo at the northern intersection of the site (Gauteng side). DARDLEA therefore advocates for illuminated Bird Flight Diverters such as the OWL devices to be installed along the entire length of overhead lines in areas of night flight activity.

Specialist studies:

7. The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
8. The various specialists have made recommendations for aquatic buffers, which differ according to the aspects assessed. Appropriate context-specific wetland and aquatic buffers must be determined - and this must be demonstrated - that preserve the processes of wetland maintenance, as well as the species that inhabit and use the system, which likely function at a broader scale (e.g. waterbirds, bats and butterflies). Buffers must be reconciled accordingly, and the wetland specialist must consult the Bat, Terrestrial, and Ecological Invertebrate Specialists in this regard.
9. Furthermore, the following resources developed by BirdLife South Africa must be consulted:
 - 9.1. "Critical reminders for avifaunal impact assessments for large-scale infrastructure in High-Altitude Grasslands, Mesic Highveld Grasslands and associated wetlands of South Africa" (2024).
 - 9.2. Best Practice Guidelines for High-Elevation Wetland and Peatland Management in Southern Africa (2025).
10. Avoidance of wetlands and wetland buffers is applicable to all associated infrastructure, including roads and powerlines.
11. The responsibilities for the requirement to manage buffer zones must be clarified.

Avifauna:

12. The Avifaunal Assessment must confirm how protection of prime habitat aligns with BirdLife SA's Guidance note on *"Minimising the impacts of infrastructure development on Secretarybirds Sagittarius serpentarius"*.
13. The Avifaunal Assessment must confirm which waterbodies in the PAOI are frequented by Flamingo. A 2-3km turbine exclusion zone (including the rotor swept area) must be applied to natural pans, and to any waterbody frequented by Flamingo.
14. Turbine locations must be demonstrated to have been incorporated within vantage point visibility.
15. The confirmation of Black Harrier at the control site requires the application of the BirdLife SA (BLSA) Black Harriers and Wind Energy: Guidelines for impact assessment, monitoring, and mitigation.
16. The Avifauna Assessment has classified rocky ridges and steep slopes as "Mitigation Areas" rather than areas of avoidance, which is concerning. On page 35 of the assessment, it states that: *"Due to the presence of Verreaux's Eagle in the area, development on steep slopes (> 1:4) and on scarps, ridges and rocky outcrops is not recommended. These areas should be avoided by development as far as possible. Should turbine placement be proposed in these areas, then additional mitigation measures on these turbines will be required, such as blade pattering, and potentially shut-down-on-demand or other adaptive measures"*. Please note that:
 - 16.1. The mitigation hierarchy must be applied. Due to the confirmed presence of Verreaux Eagle on site, the BLSA Guideline (Verreaux's Eagle and Wind Farms: Guidelines for impact assessment, monitoring, and mitigation) must be strictly applied. To reduce the risk of collisions and displacement, wind turbines must be placed outside of the core territory, and other areas associated with increased flight activity and/or risky behaviour must also be avoided within the species' area of occupancy, including ridge tops, cliffs and steep slopes. These areas must be clearly depicted on a map (at an appropriate scale), and avoidance must be demonstrated.
 - 16.2. It is DARDLEAs position that Blade Patterning must be applied to *all* approved turbines in Mpumalanga, in accordance with the recommendations in the BirdLife SAWEA Blade Patterning Guidelines, since the viable wind resource in the province coincides with high-risk areas for threatened species. Blade patterning is a precaution, and cannot at this stage be used in the impact analysis as a means to reduce the significance rating of an identified impact.

- 16.3. Shut-down-on-demand (SDoD) is likely to reduce, *but not eliminate* the risk of fatalities, and this must be considered in the impact analysis. Furthermore, the SDoD technology proposed must be assessed.
17. For a low-density species, the flight time recorded for the Verreaux's Eagle is considered significant, with 28 flight paths over 6 seasons, and 7h35m at risk height. This also represents the second highest duration at risk height of all 25 priority species recorded during the surveys. The BLSA Verreaux's Eagle Guideline recommends that recording significant flight activity is a criteria that should trigger two years of pre-construction monitoring. The specialist's decision to conclude monitoring after only one year, despite these high durations, is a primary point of concern regarding the assessment's adequacy.
18. Further to the above, it should also be noted that the 72 hour requirement for vantage point surveys is the *minimum* requirement recommended in the guideline.
19. Furthermore, it is understood that focal site surveys neglected manmade structures. The BLSA Verreaux's Eagle Guideline emphasizes that it is critical to identify all potential nest sites, including those on man-made structures (e.g. pylons and masts), to accurately predict collision risk.
20. The Avifaunal Specialist must consult with the conservation authorities in both Mpumalanga and Gauteng to confirm whether they have records of Verreaux Eagle nest location/s in the vicinity of the site, which must inform amendments to the Avifaunal Assessment methodology.
21. According to the Scoping Report, the wind turbine specifications applied for are as follows: Rotor diameter up to 200m, and hub height up to 180m. The Avifaunal Assessment must make recommendations for the specifications regarding turbines size and design, including the maximum height or minimum ground clearance of turbines, which must be informed by the collision-risk assessment.
22. It is noted that no dedicated nocturnal avifaunal surveys were conducted "due to health and safety concerns". This is a concern, as nocturnal and crepuscular species are likely to be missed or underestimated by daytime surveys, which would affect the accuracy of predicted collision rates and result in underestimating the potential mortality of SCC (e.g. Greater Flamingo). Relying on daytime assumptions for a nocturnal flyer is likely to lead to inaccurate estimates of passage rates and risk-height durations.
23. In order to achieve a robust and meaningful assessment of bird collision risk, input data must reflect actual conditions, and the risk must account for turbine characteristics (i.e. number and size), bird behaviour (passage rates, flight heights and patterns), and a range of possible fatality rates must be presented based on different assumptions, using the lower and upper bounds of turbine specifications.

Invertebrates:

24. An Ecological Invertebrate Habitat Survey (which starts on Page 82 of Appendix G2), was undertaken due to sensitivities identified for a number of conservation important butterfly species highlighted in the Screening Tool. Of these, is the Endangered butterfly, Heidelberg Copper (*Chrysoritis aureus*). MTPA has records of the species occurring on the site (in Mpumalanga), however the specialist concluded that the site "appears to be less than suitable" for its presence, although did confirm that the host plant was recorded at several places on rocky ridges within the site. Nevertheless, the specialist assigned a rating of Very High Sensitivity (No-Go) to areas where *C. aureus* has historically been found. The Specialist must liaise with MTPA to ensure that their historical records are included in the "No-Go" areas.
25. The specialist concluded that "provided the wind energy infrastructure is micro-sited to areas of lower anticipated sensitivities, habitats that sustain a high diversity of butterfly species could be safe guarded". Furthermore, it is noted that the layout has changed since the Ecological Invertebrate Habitat Survey was undertaken. The Ecological Invertebrate Specialist must verify that all recommendations have been implemented, including any updates provided as part of the EIA specialist assessment, and any updates to the categories for butterfly ecological sensitivity.
26. The specialist must also confirm whether the persistence of important butterfly species in the no-go areas will require management interventions e.g. burning regimes, monitoring etc. if the WEF and associated infrastructure is developed.

Bats:

27. The layout provided in the Scoping Report does not yet fully exclude all turbines and infrastructure from the buffers recommended in the bat assessment. This includes: At least four turbines located within the turbine exclusion buffers (e.g. WTG 26 which is located 40m from an ESA Wetland); newly planned roads that cross over bat buffers in the northern and central areas of the site; and a Temporary Laydown Area in the southern portion of the site that crosses into the 500 m buffer zone of a small active roost. These conflicts must be resolved in the EIA process.
28. The Bat Assessment must make recommendations for the specifications for turbines size and design, including rotor diameter.
29. While the automated curtailment system is reported in the Scoping Report as preferred mitigation for Bat impacts, the Bat Assessment refers to the requirement for blanket peak period curtailment during the high-risk spring and summer months if automated systems are not used. All required mitigation must be detailed in the impact analysis and EMPr, which must demonstrate estimated effectiveness for the reduction of impact significance to acceptable levels.

Agriculture:

30. The report indicates that the project site is located within Protected Agricultural Areas (PAA) with a "High" sensitivity rating according to the screening tool. However, the justification provided in the report is limited to site-specific considerations. It is important to note that both the screening tool and the objectives of PDALA are intended to ensure the protection of such areas at a broader, strategic level, rather than focusing solely on individual sites. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development should be consulted and provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the report.

Cumulative Impact Assessment

31. Although other renewable energy facilities within 100 km have been identified in the Scoping Report in Table 8-3, reference is made in Section 8.2 - Cumulative Impact Assessment. Furthermore, the individual specialist assessments (Section 8.2.11 - 8.2.11) mostly refer to a 30 km radius (i.e. avifauna / bats) while others used a 50 km radius (i.e. Agriculture). The Plan of Study also does not specify the radius to be used in the various specialist assessments. We believe that a radius of 30km - 50 km 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 threatened avifauna for breeding. It would be more biologically appropriate for the cumulative impact assessment to incorporate a much wider area.
32. Although numerous renewable energy developments were identified in Tables 8-1, 8-2 and Figures 8-1 and 8-2, according to our specific renewable energy database mapping, in addition to the proposed Uvemvane WEF, there are actually an additional 11 facilities in Mpumalanga (3 WEFs and 13 Solar Facilities - 7 Approved, 3 In Process, and 1 which did not require environmental authorisation) within a 100 km radius (See Table 1 below). Some of these are mentioned in the text and included in the Figures but are not included in the Tables (i.e. Tables 8-1 and 8-2). Not all other renewable energy facilities that need to be included in the cumulative assessment in the surrounding area have therefore been identified.
33. A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, all adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities within an appropriate radius must be provided in the draft EIA.

Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

34. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) must include all recommendations outlined in: BirdLife South Africa 2025. Summary Bird Monitoring Reports from Operational Wind Energy Facilities in South Africa. BirdLife South Africa Occasional Report Series No. 3. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, including *inter alia*, the following:
 - 34.1. Monitoring and reporting of bird impacts must take place *throughout the lifespan* of the activity. Reporting to BirdLife South Africa and the Competent Authority must be compulsory. Monitoring must be overseen by an independent bird specialist.
 - 34.2. The EMPr must include a specific, measurable and timebound framework for decision-making regarding the duration of monitoring, and the specific circumstances for extension or curtailment.

- 34.3. The EMPr must be clear on when additional research is required.
- 34.4. Landowners must understand all access requirements and impacts associated with monitoring *throughout the lifespan of a project*.
- 34.5. Lease agreements must ensure that the effectiveness of monitoring is not compromised, and that restrictions do not compromise monitoring requirements in any way.

Table 1 - Cumulative Assessment - Uvernvane WEF (100 km)
Cumulative Impact on Key Biodiversity Priorities

Cumulative Impact on Key Biodiversity Priorities				Size	CBA		Intact Grassland		CC Corridors		NPAES	KBA	IBA	WTGs
		(ha)	(ha)	W	(ha)	(%)	(ha)	(%)	(*)	1+1	(%)			
1	Mukondolerti WEF	3592.43	1057.1	294	674.8	18.8	959.91	26.7	45.98	0	0	42		
2	Impumulo WEF	1020.74	858.5	44.7	771.4	402	428-2	22.3	60.17	100	39	13		
3	Uvernane WEF 1- Mpumalanga	4328.03	1514.4	35.0	631.1	14.6	1528.95	35.3	46.16	0	0	17		
	Uvernane WEF 1- Gauteng	3321.0BB										10		
4	Proposed WEF	7550.70	2159.8	28.6	14a.7	1.9	308.93	4.1	32.01	0	0	50		
ALL WEF Applications (Whole Province)		20720.99	5589.8	27.0	2223.0	10.7						132		
Approved WEF Applications		3592.43										42		
WEF Applications In Process)		9569.86										30		
WEF Appicat-ans ,p-apes cd)		7558.70										50		
1	Tournee 1 Solar PV	246.64	0.4	02	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.03	0	0	0		
2	Tournee 2SolarPV	343.85	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0	0		
3	Becrux Solar PV	431.69	39.1	9.1	0.0	0.0	3047	7.1	11.65	0	0	0		
4	Vhuvhili Solar PV	3282.19	1466.3	44.7	0.1	0.0	460.38	14.0	5842	0	0	0		
5	Grootvlei 75MW Solar PV	18780.83	1064.3	5.7	0.0	0.0	519.65	2.8	8.72	0	0	0		
6	Nalithuba Solar PV	290.76	1.3	0-4	0.0	0.0	11.97	4.1	1.82	0	0	0		
7	UmvuBilelo Solar PV	323.69	206.1	63.7	66.8	20.6	0	0.0	69.99	0	0	0		
8	Mukondoteni 1 Solar PV	2390.98	673.1	28.2	240.7	10.1	434.89	18.2	42.58	0	0	0		
9	Renewstable Inhlati Solar PV	172.25	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	Q.O	0.00	0	0	0		
10	Renewstable Anzani Solar PV	137.73	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0	0		
11	Renewstable Kopano Green Hydrogen	118.56	4.5	3.8	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	6.42	0	0	0		
12	Renewstable Mat la Green Hydrogen	176.66	214	12.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.0	13.91	0	0	0		
13	Doornrug Solar Park	2305.62												
14	Gosa Solar Tweefontein PV	85.21	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0	0		
15	Gosa Solar IMPunzi PV	85.66	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0	0		
16	Gosa Solar GGVPV	100.17	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0	0		
17	Tutuka Solar PV	256.45	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0	0		
18	Opt ADorsfontain Solar PV	651.80	104.9	16.1	0.0	0.0	0	QJJ	21.98	0	0	0		
19	Opt B Dorsfontein Solar PV	638.11	126.0	19.9	0.0	0.0	0	Q.O	27.67	0	0	0		
20	Welangn Solar PV	1915.76	1168.5	61.0	597.2	312	605.35	31.6	70.96	0	0	0		
21	Proposed SEF	393.78	116.3	29.5	0.0	0.0	52.65	13.4	42.65	56.5	0	0		
22	Prpcp-sr-d SEF	1232.79	221.0	17.2	0.0	0.0	224.13	17.5	27.41	0	0	0		
23	Proposed SEF	1637.01	136.0	8.7	0.0	0.0	0	Q.O	0.00	0	0	0		
24	Proposed SEF	270.13	178.0	65.9	129.9	48.1	147.52	54.6	87.16	0	0	0		
25	Evander Foose 1	27.49	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0		0	0	0		
ALL SOLAR PV Applications (100 km)		36395.62	5528.8	15.2	1034.0	2.0								
Approved Solar PV Applications		29272.50												
Solar PV Applications (In Progress)		3205.67												
Solar- PV Applications (Proposed)		3633.71												
ALL RE Applications (100 km)		57116.81	11118.6	19.5	3257.8	5.7								
ALL Approved RE Applications (100 km)		32B64.93												

Please ensure that DARDLEA receives updated shapefiles on submission of the draft EIA, along with a summary of the changes made to the layout presented in the Scoping Report.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,

Down in Egypt.

DATE: 14-04-2026



Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 09:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Shapefiles for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Robyn

Your concern has been noted and will be brought to the attention of the EAP to ensure that the request is addressed and that the public participation process is conducted in accordance with the EIA Regulation.

Kindly note that all registered I&APs must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to access relevant information to enable meaningful participation in the environmental assessment process

Regards
Thulisile

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 09:20
To: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]; ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: G [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Shapefiles for ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Importance: High

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good day Jashmika,

MTPA and DARDLEA have been requesting the latest shapefiles for Uvemvane WEF for some time now so that we can review the draft Scoping Report, but have still not received a response. Please can you make them available to us ASAP.

I also did not receive confirmation about the review period - the draft report was made available on Friday 13 March. Due to the public holidays (x4) in the month of March and April, the closing date for comments is 16 April (and not 15 April as indicated in your email below).

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 15:43

To: 3 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Rob,

I see the layout has changed since the pre-application meeting. Please provide us with the latest shapefiles - we will need them as part of our review of the SR.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200*

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 16:12

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good day Robyn,

The documents are the second project on the WSP website. Please see the link below and a onedrive link for the reports:

WSP: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

Onedrive: LL [ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

Kind regards,

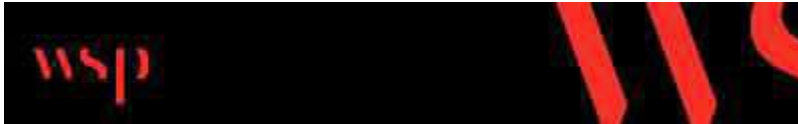
Public Participation Office

T +27 11 254 4800
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WSP

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

wsp.com



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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: R [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 16:05

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Importance: High

Dear WSP,

I am unable to locate the documents on your website when clicking on the links in the email below. Please can you provide the documents to us via WeTransfer so that we don't have to download each appendix separately.

Also, I have noted that your public comment period is from 13 March to 15 April. There are however 3 public holidays in that period that cannot be reckoned in the number of days. By my calculations, the last day for comments is 17 April (if the documents are available today - if they aren't then this date will change accordingly).

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:46

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Stakeholder,

**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1,
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.**

Notice is given in terms of:

- **Regulation 41(2) of GNR982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411• The Farm Orion No. 413• Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein No. 405• Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 449• Farm Bothas Spruit No. 404• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Portion 25 (a portion of Portion 11) of the Farm Steynskraal 399	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406• Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410• Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 35 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Portion 15 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Portion 32 (a portion of Portion 5) of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Remaining Extent of Portion 11 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Steynskraal 399	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal407 		
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ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

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

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
Scoping EIA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ABO Uvemvane WEF1	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(H)	28(H)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(H)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	10	12	14(ii)(a)(c)	18	23(ii)(a)(c)		
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

- Ratanda Proper Library - Nkomo St, Ratanda, Heidelberg - GP, 1443
- Heidelberg Public Library - 7 Jacobs St, Heidelberg, Heidelberg - GP, 1441
- Ward 3 Public Library - Joubert street, Balfour, 2410
- Grootvlei Power Station Stores - Seventh Street, Grootvlei
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 4800; E-mail: [pp\(5\)wsp.com](mailto:pp(5)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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

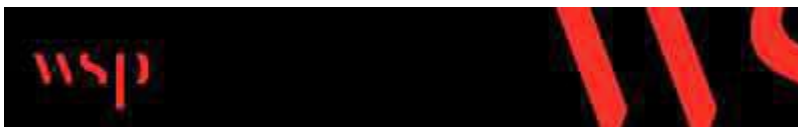
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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 11 April 2026 08:52
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (up to 170MWac), located in the Mpumalanga and Gauteng Province

Good day

Kindly register as an IAP. I would like to know what mitigation measures have been put in place to prevent bird and bat mortalities.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Tshwane University of Technology

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OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref: LUA 26/4471

Unit: LUA/SS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
WSP Group (Pty) Ltd

Email: [REDACTED]pp@wsp.com

Dear Ms. Strong

SUBJECT: MTPA'S COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR BALFOUR, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) hereby submits its formal comments on the Draft Scoping Report for the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility (WEF) proposed near Balfour. The MTPA acknowledges the significant reduction in the number of proposed turbines from 66 to 27, which has been implemented to avoid environmentally sensitive areas. The proposed hub height of up to 180 m, combined with a blade length of 100 m, presents specific considerations for biodiversity management. For the purposes of spatial assessment, the MTPA applied a precautionary 100 m buffer around each turbine footprint.

The sections below set out the MTPA's key areas of concern and the conditions under which the MTPA could consider supporting the progression of this project to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.

1. Avifaunal Risk and Site Sensitivity

The proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 is classified as an area of High Sensitivity for avifauna. This classification is substantiated by the confirmed presence of numerous Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) and by significant recorded flight activity within the potential rotor-swept zone.

The following avifaunal sensitivities and concerns have been identified through pre-application monitoring and specialist assessments:

High Flight Activity and Collision Risk

Pre-application monitoring recorded a total of 311 individual flight paths by 25 priority species across the study area. A matter of particular concern is that 89% of all recorded flights were estimated to occur at risk height (between 20 m and 300 m above ground level), the altitude band within which birds are most vulnerable to turbine blade collisions. The most frequently recorded species at risk height included the African Black Swift, the Black-winged Kite (Near Threatened), Verreaux's Eagle (Vulnerable), and the Greater Flamingo (Near Threatened). It must be emphasised that large-bodied, long-lived species with inherently low reproductive rates, such as eagles and storks, are disproportionately affected by even apparently low fatality rates, owing to their sensitivity to adult mortality within population dynamics.

Twelve Bird Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) were recorded across both the site and the control area. These included the Verreaux's Eagle, Secretarybird, African Marsh Harrier, Cape Vulture (which has been observed utilising nearby powerlines as overnight roost sites), and both the Greater and Lesser Flamingos.

The MTPA strongly supports the avifaunal report's recommendation to avoid ridge tops and steep slopes, which is informed by the well-documented increased collision risk for soaring raptors that utilise orographic lift generated by these landforms.

Based on the MTPA's review of several other wind energy facility applications across Mpumalanga Province, it is considered unusual that no nesting sites were identified or recorded during the survey period. This warrants additional targeted surveys during the EIA phase.

Verreaux's Eagle (Vulnerable)

A total of 28 individual flights were recorded for the Verreaux's Eagle across all survey periods, of which 24 were documented at risk height. The MTPA wishes to draw attention to the ecological significance of this mountainous area as potential foraging habitat for the Verreaux's Eagle, specifically in relation to the availability of Rock Hyrax as its primary prey species. Approximately 30 to 50 years ago, Rock Hyrax populations across Mpumalanga were severely depleted, with consequent significant negative impacts on Verreaux's Eagle population viability in the region. Against this background, the MTPA specifically requests that the occurrence and estimated abundance of Rock Hyrax be included in the terrestrial biodiversity assessment, with commentary on its role as a potential prey resource supporting the Verreaux's Eagle population in this landscape.

Furthermore, the MTPA suggest that the Verreaux's Eagle Risk Assessment (VERA) model be applied to the confirmed Verreaux's Eagle nest site identified north east of the project area, in order to quantitatively assess the collision risk posed to this species by the proposed turbine layout. We are not sure whether it is actually possible to run the model as the nest is >10m from the nearest turbine, but given the limited occurrence of topographic features in this landscape, and the frequent recorded occurrence on site, we anticipate the Verreaux Eagle to utilise this area.

Secretarybirds (Globally Endangered)

Citizen science data derived from a comparison of SABAP1 and SABAP2 reporting rates indicates a consistent and significant decline in Secretarybird occurrence across the majority of its South African range. As of early 2025, a total of ten confirmed Secretarybird fatalities have been reported at South African wind farms, including at facilities where observer-led Shutdown on Demand (SDoD) protocols are actively in place. Although the species has a low recorded passage rate at Uvemvane — as low as 0.002 flights per hour — it remains very susceptible to turbine blade collisions owing to its wide-ranging movements and tendency to fly at risk height. Fatalities at other facilities have frequently occurred in proximity to active nest sites (typically within 1.4 km to 2.2 km) and have been disproportionately associated with adverse weather conditions such as mist and rain, which may cause birds to misjudge proximity to turbines or to fail to respond adequately to SDoD protocols. The species is additionally vulnerable to both collisions with and electrocution on overhead powerlines associated with wind and solar energy infrastructure.

Collision risk modelling (CRM) and Potential Biological Removal (PBR) rates

The MTPA requires that, as part of the EIA phase, formal Collision Risk Modelling (CRM) and Potential Biological Removal (PBR) analyses be conducted and reported for all bird species of conservation concern recorded during the pre-application monitoring period. These analyses are essential for quantifying population-level impacts and for determining whether the proposed project can be considered ecologically sustainable within the broader regional context. The results of these analyses must inform layout optimisation decisions and the need for and design of mitigation measures.

Extending avifaunal monitoring to two years

In accordance with the applicable Best-Practice Guidelines for avifaunal monitoring, while pre-construction baseline monitoring typically spans a minimum of 12 consecutive months to capture a complete annual ecological cycle, there are several specific conditions under which this period must be extended to at least two years. The MTPA submits that several such conditions are likely applicable to the ABO Uvemvane WEF:

1. General High-Risk and Uncertainty

Extended monitoring is warranted where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species, particularly where:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the nature or magnitude of potential impacts, or regarding the efficacy of proposed mitigation measures, and where further monitoring would meaningfully reduce this uncertainty; and
- The available information is insufficient for evidence-based decision-making, particularly in respect of the formulation of effective avoidance and mitigation strategies.

The MTPA further notes that the most recent avifaunal field survey was conducted from 16 to 29 October 2024, which is approximately 17 months prior to the date of these comments. Conditions on the ground may have changed materially in the intervening period, for example, through the establishment of new nesting sites by species not previously recorded in the area, which may not be adequately captured in the current baseline dataset.

2. Species-Specific Requirements

- Verreaux's Eagle: The guidelines require that monitoring be conducted over a minimum of two years where a proposed wind farm is considered to pose a significant risk to this species. This requirement applies where turbines are proposed within medium or high-risk areas as identified by the VERA model (not yet conducted), or other landscape features associated with elevated collision risk. The topographic importance of this area and the frequent use of this site indicates this may be the case.

3. Insufficient Data for Modelling

Monitoring must also be extended where a single year of data does not provide sufficient statistical confidence for critical analytical outputs, including Collision Risk Modelling (CRM) and Potential Biological Removal (PBR) calculations. Given the number of priority species recorded and the complexity of flight activity identified at this site, the MTPA considers it prudent to require a two-year baseline to ensure the robustness of modelling inputs.

Vantage point monitoring

Based on the MTPA's spatial analysis, approximately 22% of the proposed turbines, specifically turbines WT-12, WT-14, WT-28, WT-29, WT-30, and WT-31, fall outside the 2 km effective monitoring radius of the established vantage points. This constitutes a gap in observational coverage and raises concerns regarding the ability of the current monitoring design to adequately characterise avifaunal use of, and associated risk at, these turbine locations.

2. Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivities

Turbine WT-14, together with its 100 m precautionary buffer, encroaches upon a designated Climate Change Refugia area and a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) classified as Irreplaceable. This turbine additionally falls outside the effective radius of any vantage point monitoring station, and is located within approximately 280 m of a confirmed Heidelberg Copper butterfly locality to the north of the turbine footprint. The MTPA is of the view that this turbine should either be relocated southwards or removed from the layout.

Invertebrate Sensitivities - Heidelberg Copper butterfly (*Chrysoritis aureus*)

The MTPA requires strict adherence to the specialist-identified High and Very High sensitivity areas for the Heidelberg Copper butterfly, as the primary means of reducing potential negative impacts on this taxon. As a lycaenid butterfly, the Heidelberg Copper is predominantly a low-flying species, typically recorded within one to two metres above the ground surface, and direct collision with turbine blades is therefore not considered the primary risk.

It is noted that an estimated 83 individual Heidelberg Copper butterflies have been recorded within the study area and project footprint. The MTPA strongly recommends the development of a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) specifically addressing the conservation management requirements of this species, incorporating active management of fire regime, maintenance and restoration of suitable habitat, and targeted alien invasive plant control.

In respect of turbine WT-14, the blade sweep area overlaps with a High sensitivity area for the Heidelberg Copper. An adjustment to the positioning of this turbine is required. As previously noted, the MTPA recommends that WT-14 be relocated southwards or removed from the layout.

Bats

The Scoping Report acknowledges that four proposed turbines have blade sweep areas that encroach upon designated bat No-Go areas, and concedes that these turbines will require relocation in. The MTPA concurs with this assessment and requires that a solution be implemented and documented for the EIA phase.

3. Mitigation Measures

Adherence to the Mitigation Hierarchy

The MTPA notes that the avifaunal guidelines advise against placing turbines on ridge tops, scarps, and steep slopes, owing to the elevated collision risk associated with birds utilising orographic lift generated by these terrain features. While the proposed project layout endeavours to avoid such areas, the Scoping Report indicates that where turbines are nonetheless placed in these sensitive locations, reliance will be placed on secondary mitigation measures such as

blade patterning and Shutdown on Demand (SDoD) protocols. The MTPA does not consider this approach to be consistent with the mitigation hierarchy, which unequivocally prioritises the physical avoidance of sensitive terrain over operational or technological mitigation.

The MTPA furthermore draws attention to the lethal secondary threats associated with grid connection infrastructure. Large-bodied birds, including vultures and eagles, are vulnerable to electrocution where they bridge energised components on electricity pylons. We strongly support the decision to bury medium voltage (33kV) lines where possible.

Recommended Mitigation Strategy

To address the concerns set out in this submission, the MTPA recommends a comprehensive mitigation strategy structured in accordance with the recognised mitigation hierarchy. The following measures are required:

Avoidance - Layout Optimisation

Technological and Operational Mitigation:

- **Blade Patterning:** High-contrast blade patterning must be applied to all turbines to improve turbine visibility to birds and reduce collision probability.
- **Shutdown on Demand (SDoD):** A species-specific and weather-sensitive SDoD protocol must be developed and implemented for all turbines in the vicinity of confirmed priority areas for avifauna. Two years of monitoring would support the identification of these areas.

Post-Construction Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- **Adaptive Management Triggers:** A pre-agreed set of fatality thresholds (trigger levels) must be established for priority species, above which pre-defined adaptive management responses, including enhanced SDoD, layout modification, or temporary turbine shutdown, will be automatically implemented. These must be included in the EMP.
- **Annual Reporting:** Annual post-construction monitoring reports must be submitted to the MTPA and Birdlife, covering fatality rates by species, SDoD event records, bat curtailment data, and the implementation status of all mitigation measures.
- **Butterfly Habitat Monitoring:** Population monitoring for the Heidelberg Copper butterfly must be incorporated into the post-construction monitoring programme, with surveys conducted annually during appropriate flight seasons to assess population trends and the effectiveness of habitat management measures.

Biodiversity Management Plan for the Heidelberg Copper and Associated Grassland Habitats

- A site-specific Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) must be developed for the Heidelberg Copper butterfly and its associated grassland habitats, to be implemented throughout the operational lifespan of the project.
- The BMP must incorporate a fire management plan designed to maintain suitable open grassland structure for butterfly populations, avoiding both excessive burning and the encroachment of woody vegetation.
- An alien invasive species management programme must be included within the BMP, targeting species that threaten Heidelberg Copper and *Metisella meninx* larval host plant communities.

Conclusion

In summary, the MTPA acknowledges the applicant's efforts to reduce the turbine layout in response to the biodiversity sensitivities identified during the scoping phase. The MTPA notes with appreciation the appointment of suitably qualified lepidopterists who have been able to comprehensively assess the likely impacts on the Heidelberg Copper butterfly and to provide a credible basis for managing the associated risks. The MTPA commends the applicant for this approach.

Our remaining reservations relate strictly to the avifauna. The proposed site remains highly sensitive. Given that not all proposed turbine locations were comprehensively covered by vantage points during the initial assessments, that the avifaunal survey is outdated (having been conducted a year and a half ago), and considering the recent recording of a Verreaux's Eagle nest located 12.6 km away, combined with the regular occurrence of this priority species on site, we maintain that there is still an underlying level of uncertainty regarding collision risks.

Therefore, it is our position that this development would greatly benefit from an additional year of pre-construction avifaunal monitoring. We also request a slight adjustment to the vantage point locations to ensure they adequately cover the newly finalized turbine locations before environmental authorization is fully supported.

Kind Regards,



DATE: 15 April 2026

COMPREHENSIVE OBJECTION REPORT

Proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 near Heidelberg and Balfour

Draft submission framework for use during the Scoping Phase

Project	ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1
DFFE Reference	2024-11-0018
Applicant	ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd
Environmental Assessment Practitioner	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Prepared for	Steynskraal 339IR; Driefontein 405 IR & Wildebeestfontein 559IR

1. Executive Summary

This report sets out a detailed objection to the proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (WEF1) during the Scoping Phase of the S&EIR process. The objection is not directed against renewable energy in principle. It is directed at the siting, scale, residual impacts, and procedural adequacy of this particular proposal.

According to the Draft Scoping Report, the project contemplates up to 27 turbines of up to 180 m hub height with blades of up to 100 m and a rotor diameter of up to 200 m, together with a study area of about 8,200 ha, an affected area of about 7,700 ha, a likely footprint of about 110 ha, up to 28-35 km of roads, six laydown areas, overhead and underground electrical infrastructure, and a BESS/electrical hub footprint of up to 25 ha in the maximum development scenario.

The report itself identifies or references critical biodiversity areas, ecological support areas, freshwater ecosystem priority areas, wetlands, tributaries of the Suikerbosrand River, species of conservation concern, priority bird activity, vulture records, bat-sensitive features, protected-area proximity, visual sensitivity, numerous residential and homestead receptors, and cumulative renewable-energy development pressures in the broader region.

In these circumstances, the competent authority should not treat this as a routine wind-farm application. At minimum, the scoping submission should be rigorously interrogated for compliance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, for whether need and desirability have been demonstrated in relation to this location, and for whether the EIA phase can realistically cure the current information gaps. If not, the scoping report should not be accepted in its current form.

2. Project Summary from the Draft Scoping Report

Item	Scoping report description
Generation facility	Commercial wind facility of up to 170 MWac with up to 27 turbines.
Turbine envelope	Hub height up to 180 m; blade length up to 100 m; rotor diameter up to 200 m; turbine capacity up to 10 MW.
Project area	Preferred study area of approximately 8,200 ha, with approximately 7,700 ha assessed.
Likely footprint	Approximately 110 ha, including turbines, roads, laydown areas, and electrical infrastructure.
Roads	Up to 28 km of access/internal roads, and elsewhere the report references up to 35 km in the maximum development scenario.
Electrical/BESS hub	One on-site collector substation / electrical hub with alternatives; elsewhere the report references up to 7 ha and also up to 25 ha in the maximum development scenario, which should be clarified.
Ancillary works	Laydown areas, batching areas, overhead/underground line, O&M and auxiliary buildings, communication tower, lighting mast,

Item	Scoping report description
	fencing, and BESS.
Location	Near Balfour and Heidelberg across Gauteng and Mpumalanga, with numerous farm portions listed in the report.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

3.1 Constitution, section 24

The Constitution protects the right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being, and requires reasonable legislative and other measures to prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote conservation, and secure ecologically sustainable development while promoting justifiable social and economic development.

3.2 NEMA section 2

NEMA requires sustainable development through consideration of all relevant factors, including avoidance or minimisation of ecosystem disturbance and biodiversity loss, avoidance or minimisation of pollution and landscape disturbance, a risk-averse and cautious approach, meaningful participation by interested and affected parties, and decisions that take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities.

3.3 NEMA section 24

Potential consequences or impacts of listed activities must be considered, investigated, assessed and reported on to the competent authority, and the authority must make a lawful, rational and informed decision based on adequate information.

3.4 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

If S&EIR applies, the scoping report must substantially comply with Appendix 2. The competent authority may refuse environmental authorisation at the scoping stage where the scoping report does not substantially comply and the applicant is unwilling or unable to ensure compliance within the prescribed timeframe.

3.5 Fuel Retailers case

The Constitutional Court held that environmental authorities must integrate environmental, social and economic considerations and may not assume that another authority has already dealt with need and desirability or the broader sustainable-development enquiry.

4. Core Objection Themes

The objections below are framed on two levels. First, the report itself identifies a range of sensitivities and risks that make this site inherently contentious. Second, the scoping phase appears to leave too many material issues to be resolved later, despite the obligation to demonstrate at scoping stage that the proposed site, layout and activity can proceed to EIA on a properly informed basis.

4.1 Inadequate demonstration of need and desirability in relation to this site

The report correctly notes that scoping must motivate need and desirability of the proposed activity, including the preferred location. That requirement is not satisfied merely by pointing to national electricity demand or the general policy support for renewable energy. The relevant question is why this specific development should be authorised in this specific receiving environment.

A project may be desirable in principle yet undesirable in a location characterised by high ecological sensitivity, rural scenic character, agricultural value, residential receptors, wildlife use and cumulative development pressure. The objection is therefore that the report appears to conflate national energy need with site-specific desirability.

The Constitutional Court in *Fuel Retailers* makes clear that competent authorities must themselves undertake the integrated sustainable-development enquiry and cannot simply defer key location and desirability questions to other decision-makers.

4.2 Apparent underweighting of the no-go alternative

The report states that the no-go alternative would avoid the project's negative environmental impacts and allow continued agricultural use of the land, yet the discussion is brief and framed mainly in terms of lost renewable-energy opportunity and foregone socio-economic benefits. That is not a neutral comparative assessment.

For a site where the report itself flags very high biodiversity sensitivity, very high noise sensitivity, very high visual sensitivity from screening, species of conservation concern, wetlands, watercourses, bat-sensitive features and avifaunal constraints, the no-go alternative should be robustly analysed as a legitimate preferred outcome rather than a formality.

4.3 Site sensitivity is too high to be treated as an ordinary mitigation exercise

The report's site sensitivity verification confirms very high sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and noise, and reflects high to very high sensitivity for landscape/visual aspects and certain specialist triggers. Large areas of natural habitat are recognised as maintaining important ecosystem processes and supporting indigenous flora and fauna.

Once a site is already acknowledged to contain multiple overlapping sensitivities, the burden on the proponent becomes higher. The applicant must show not simply that impacts exist, but that the chosen site remains the best practicable environmental option. On the current scoping material, that is not yet demonstrated.

4.4 Biodiversity and habitat integrity concerns

The report references critical biodiversity areas under the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan and the Gauteng C-Plan, freshwater ecosystem priority areas, wetlands, the Suikerbosrand River and tributaries, protected-area proximity, threatened ecosystem context, and species of conservation concern. It also notes that large areas of natural habitat remain on site.

The objection is not only to direct footprint loss. It is also to fragmentation, edge effects, disturbance from roads and laydown areas, ongoing maintenance traffic, noise, lights, fencing, invasive species pathways, and the degradation of ecological functioning over time.

Where a development footprint is dispersed across a broad rural landscape, the practical ecological footprint is often substantially larger than the nominal engineering footprint.

4.5 Avifauna risk is a central issue, not a peripheral one

The report contains extensive avifaunal material, including pre-application monitoring, priority species flight records, vulture records within 50 km and an avifaunal constraints map. It expressly lists turbine collision risk, collision/electrocution risk associated with power infrastructure, sensory disturbance, and effects on migratory and congregatory species as key EIA issues.

That alone indicates that avifaunal risk is potentially significant and not merely theoretical. For an onshore wind project, this is one of the most important potential fatal-flaw issues. The competent authority should require a transparent explanation of whether the revised 27-turbine layout materially reduces risk, or simply redistributes it.

4.6 Bat impacts remain potentially serious

The report references bats captured or collected near the project area, sensitive water sources with a 200 m buffer, ridges with required buffers, wooded areas with required buffers, and bat-sensitive areas generally. Bats are especially susceptible to both collision and barotrauma at wind facilities, and localised ecological damage can be difficult to detect and easy to underestimate.

A project that overlays turbines and associated infrastructure onto a mosaic of ridges, water-associated features and habitat edges requires exceptional caution. The objector should insist on a defensible avoidance-first approach, not a mitigation-first approach.

4.7 Watercourse and wetland concerns

The report identifies watercourses, wetlands, FEPA context, riparian systems, sedimentation risk, contamination risk, wetland habitat loss and changes in wetland functioning as matters for the EIA phase. Once roads, laydown areas, batching activities, hardstands and cable/line crossings are introduced into a working agricultural landscape, hydrological disturbance can become cumulative and persistent.

The issue is not limited to direct wetland encroachment. It includes altered drainage, compaction, erosion, sediment transport, contamination from construction activities and reduced ecological resilience.

4.8 Visual and landscape impacts are likely to be severe and long-term

The report describes the area as having a rural character interspersed with commercial agricultural activities and identifies visual sensitivity. The screening sensitivity table further records very high visual sensitivity at screening level and high sensitivity on specialist verification, including because the development lies on a topographical feature, close to numerous inhabited homesteads, hydrological features, mountains and tall hills.

Turbines of up to 180 m hub height and 200 m rotor diameter will become dominant visual structures over a very wide area. This is not merely a change in view. It is the industrialisation of a rural landscape and a permanent alteration of sense of place, visual amenity and rural character.

The VIA workplan itself recognises the need to assess scenic quality, visual absorption capacity, shadow flicker, cumulative visibility and photo simulations. That is a sign of the seriousness of the issue, not a sign that the issue is minor.

4.9 Noise and shadow flicker impacts on nearby receptors

The report identifies numerous permanent or temporary residential activities within the project area and confirms a very high noise sensitivity. It also notes identified social receptors and nearest noise-sensitive developments. This undermines any attempt to present the site as remote or receptor-poor.

Wind-farm noise assessment is inherently model-dependent and affected by turbine selection, topography and meteorology. At scoping stage, this uncertainty should weigh against acceptance where receptors are numerous and the development envelope is still broad. Shadow flicker is similarly acknowledged as requiring specialist assessment because inhabited residences and homesteads are close enough for the issue to arise.

4.10 Agricultural and rural-land-use impacts are understated if measured only by direct footprint

The report notes cultivated lands, pasture, grazing veld and ongoing agricultural use. It also relies heavily on the relatively small percentage of direct footprint as a reason why agricultural impacts may be acceptable.

That framing is too narrow. In practice, agricultural disruption can arise from abnormal-load access, widened roads, construction traffic, turning radii, drainage changes, security restrictions, fencing, interference with movement patterns, fire risk management, dust, and operational constraints near infrastructure. Fragmentation matters even when the literal hard footprint is modest.

4.11 Cumulative impacts appear especially important here

The report identifies other renewable-energy projects within 50 km and 100 km and expressly acknowledges concerns about cumulative habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance, and impacts on flora and fauna species of conservation concern. It also notes broader regional construction and maintenance pressures.

Where the proponent's own cumulative section already recognises ecological concern, the competent authority should not accept generic assurances. Cumulative impact assessment must be spatially explicit, receptor-specific and honest about threshold effects, especially for birds, bats, visual character and broad-scale habitat integrity.

4.12 Internal inconsistencies and moving project parameters require clarification

The report presents differing figures in places, including references to an electrical infrastructure hub of up to 7 ha in some project-summary material and up to 25 ha in the maximum development scenario, and references to both 4 and 5 access points / up to 28 km versus up to 35 km of roads. Those differences may be explainable, but they matter.

Where a scoping report relies on a maximum development envelope, that envelope must be stated clearly and consistently so that interested and affected parties can understand the true worst-case scenario on which they are being asked to comment.

4.13 Public participation must remain meaningful and not premature

Meaningful participation depends on sufficiently stable project information and enough detail to allow affected parties to understand what is proposed, where, with what residual risks, and why this site remains justified after sensitivity screening. If too many decisive matters are deferred to EIA, participation at scoping stage becomes less meaningful than the regulations require.

The objector should therefore request access to turbine coordinates, distances to the nearest occupied homesteads, clear maps from the affected farm perspective, and the specialist appendices in a fully accessible form if not already provided.

4.14 The best practicable environmental option has not yet been shown

NEMA's integrated-decision framework requires pursuit of the best practicable environmental option. On the present record, it is not clear that the applicant has demonstrated that this site and this configuration are preferable to less sensitive Locations, stronger setbacks, fewer turbines, greater exclusion zones, or the no-go alternative.

The objection is therefore not only that impacts exist, but that the scoping report does not yet persuade a reasonable decision-maker that the selected option is the least harmful viable option.

5. Procedural Requests to the Competent Authority

- The Competent Authority is requested not to accept the Draft Scoping Report in its current form unless it is satisfied that the report substantially complies with Appendix 2 and that all material location, layout, receptor and cumulative-impact questions have been properly framed and disclosed.
- Before acceptance of scoping, the applicant should be required to provide a clear and internally consistent maximum development envelope, finalised receptor mapping, property-specific distance schedules, and an explicit explanation of how the revised 27-turbine layout avoids or materially reduces the most sensitive areas and receptors.
- The EIA phase should be required to include a genuinely comparative assessment of the no-go alternative, stronger avoidance-led alternatives, wider setbacks to occupied dwellings and homesteads, and a transparent cumulative assessment for avifauna, bats, biodiversity, visual impacts and rural amenity.
- If those matters cannot be resolved adequately, the application should ultimately be refused.

6. Draft Prayer / Requested Outcome

For the reasons set out above, the objector respectfully requests that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (a) decline to accept the Draft Scoping Report in its present form unless the deficiencies identified by interested and affected parties are cured to the Department's satisfaction;
- (b) require the applicant to address, with specificity, all biodiversity, avifauna, bat, wetland, visual, noise, shadowflicker, agricultural, social-receptor and cumulative-impact concerns identified in this objection;
- (c) require a genuine and evidence-based comparison between the proposed development and the no-go alternative, as well as stronger avoidance-led alternatives; and
- (d) if the EIA ultimately confirms that significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided or reduced to acceptable levels, refuse environmental authorisation for the proposed development.

7. Source Notes for This Draft

Draft Environmental Scoping Report: ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1, March 2026, including project description, site sensitivity verification, cumulative-impact discussion, no-go discussion, and plan of study for EIA.

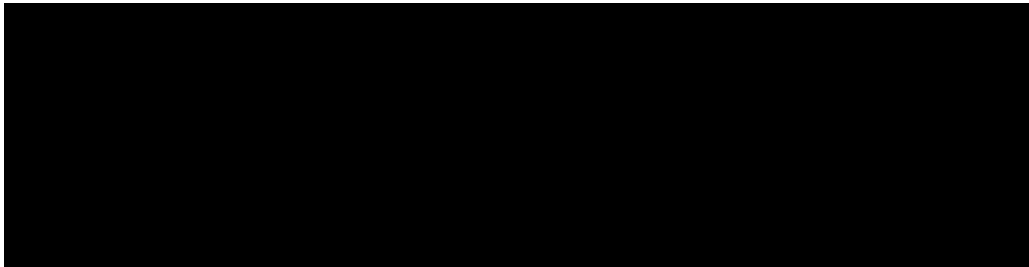
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, section 24.

National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, especially section 2 and section 24.

EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), including the provisions governing submission and consideration of scoping reports and Appendix 2 requirements.

Fuel Retailers Association of Southern Africa v Director-General: Environmental Management, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, Mpumalanga Province and Others [2007] ZACC 13.

8. Draft Signature Block

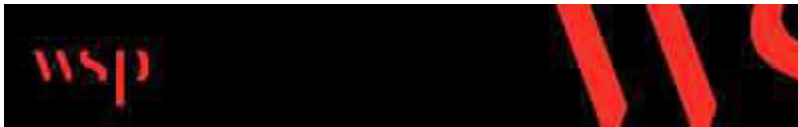


Maharaj, Jashmika

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 16:41
To: Maharaj, Jashmika
Subject: FW: Uvemvane WEF1 - Public Participation Process
Attachments: Uvemvane_Comprehensive_Objection_Report.docx

Tumelo Mathulwe
Principal Consultant

[REDACTED]



From: W [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 16:17
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Uvemvane WEF1 - Public Participation Process

To whom this may concern

Please receive our Draft Objection Report for the Public Participation Process of Uvemvane WEF1.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Sunday, 19 April 2026 18:51
To: [REDACTED] D)
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Attachments: 41106304_ABO Uvemvane_Stakeholder Notification Letter_Signed.pdf
Importance: High
Tracking:

Recipient	Delivery
[REDACTED]	
ZA - WSP - PPOffice	Delivered: 2026/04/19 18:53
[REDACTED]	

Good day,

The email trail refers.

Please note that the commenting period concluded on 15 April 2026.

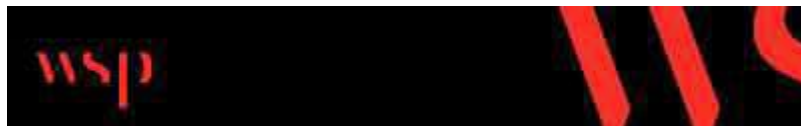
However, should the Department still wish to comment, then please forward through comments by 24 April 2026.

[r ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 06:33
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good day

Please forward your submission to [ENVIRONMENTCOMMENTSCcbgauteng.gov.za](https://environmentcommentscbgauteng.gov.za) so the Department (GDEnv) can respond.

Regards,
WM

From:

Dear Wesli,

I remember receiving this email sometime in March and it appeared that it was a call for us to comment on the report. Kindly liaise with them to impress on them that we don't get invited like this to comment on applications, they must follow our submission process.

Thanks

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

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:47

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pp@wsp.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

- **Regulation 41(2) of GNR982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411• The Farm Orion No. 413• Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406• Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410• Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406	

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ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

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

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
Scoping EIA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABO Uvemvane WEF1 	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(H)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(H)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	10	12	14(ii)(a)(c)	18	23(ii)(a)(c)		
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

- Ratanda Proper Library - Nkomo St, Ratanda, Heidelberg - GP, 1443
- Heidelberg Public Library - 7 Jacobs St, Heidelberg, Heidelberg - GP, 1441

- Ward 3 Public Library - Joubert street, Balfour, 2410
- Grootvlei Power Station Stores - Seventh Street, Grootvlei
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 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.*

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

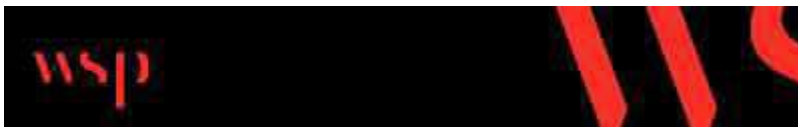
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T +27 11 361 1300

WSP

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

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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W*TER**
USE WATER SPARINGLY
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



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City of Johannesburg 011 661 6999 / 096 056 2874 / 5M5 45201
City of Tshwane 012 358 9799 - follow the voice prompt!
City of Ekurhuleni call centre 0800 54 3000 or via the My CoE App.



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15 April 2026

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
Pretoria
1685

c/o pp@wsp.com

Dear Ms Maharaj / Strong,

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, LOCATED NEAR HEIDELBERG AND BALFOUR IN THE GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

Temporary DFFE Reference nr: 2024-11-0018

We, the Trustees of Rustpoort 1906 Trust, an interested and affected party (I&AP) duly registered on this project, wishes to contribute the following comments:

1. Availability of Scoping Report

It was stated in the local Newspaper, The Heidelberg Herald as published on 11 March, that the Draft Scoping Report would be made available at the Heidelberg Public Library. Upon visiting the library on 7 April no documentation regarding the project was available for review, denying the public without access to the internet to participate in the process.

2. Relevance of proposed wind energy project in Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

The proposed wind energy project does not fall within a renewable energy development zone or strategic transmission zone. There are also multiple solar energy facilities and proposed projects in the region that will already provide renewable energy.

3. Environmental concerns

The report is supportive of the proposed project, even though all impacts and especially cumulative impacts have not properly been assessed.

Overall, impacts are rated as high concerning environmental aspects, but all ratings are brought down to "acceptable" levels if the mitigation measures are implemented. However, compliance to mitigation measures and the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), especially during the Operational Phase is not guaranteed, therefore placing the environment at significant risk, with dire implications for birds, bats and potentially other fauna.

In addition, further significant impacts stemming from the further development of infrastructure, not evaluated in this Draft Scoping Report, will also follow, such as the grid connection and overhead power lines, which causes severe fire risks in the agricultural hub annually, with huge financial implications.

Nothing is said in the report as to how the proposed wind energy facility may influence the microclimate of the region, as this is a highly productive agricultural area, which might jeopardize sustainable food production.

4. Visual impact concerns

It is noted that the impact will be high regarding visual impacts, due to the height, size and movement of the wind turbines. It is noted in the report that these impacts cannot be mitigated, due to the sheer size of the turbines. This will have a permanent impact of the sense of place of the area and diminish the tourism value of the region and furthermore impact the potential expansion of protected areas.

5. Safety concerns

It is noted that job opportunities will be created by especially the construction phase, which may lure job-seekers to the areas. The job opportunities will be temporary and therefore the proposed project may lead to a direct increase in crime. This will be exacerbated by the proposed road infrastructure, which will aid criminals due to increased access and mobility.

We reserve the opportunity to raise more concerns, if necessary, as the process commence.

Please confirm receipt of comments and concerns.

Yours sincerely
The Trustees

Maharaj, Jashmika

Subject: RE: Proposed Development of the ABO Uvenmvane Wind Energy Facility 1, Mapumalanga & Gauteng Project no 41106304
Attachments: 001.Comments Concerns on Draft Environmental Scoping Report ABO Uvenmvane Wind Energy Facility 1.pdf

From: C [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 17:56
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Development of the ABO Uvenmvane Wind Energy Facility 1, Mapumalanga & Gauteng Project no 41106304

For attention Ms Maharaj / Strong

Good day

Please find our comments on the above project attached hereto.

Also please be so kind as to confirm receipt hereof.

Thank you & Regards
The Trustees
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 10:08 AM
Subject: RE: Proposed Development of the ABO Uvenmvane Wind Energy Facility 1, Mapumalanga & Gauteng Project no 41106304
To: <pp(a)wsp.com>

We, the Trustees of Ruspoort 1906 Trust, herewith wish to be registered as stakeholders in order to receive all correspondence and information regarding this process to our e-mail address as below:

With Regards
The Trustees

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 14:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good day Khuliso

Thank you very much for the update.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

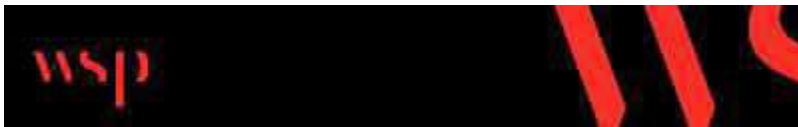
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1685 South Africa

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 07 April 2026 07:30
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation on the 13th of March 2026 for review and comment on the project mentioned in the subject line.

Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms M Rabothata and Ms Khuliso Khomari (Copied in this email).

Note, all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation by email: [REDACTED] for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation
Sub-Directorate: Policy Development Mainstreaming EIA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House, 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

DapiUlnHJnt;
FoftMlry. Ftsfrerkrt nn-d1hcEnTiroflnnonl
REPU0UC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:47 PM

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Stakeholder,

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The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

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Farm Names			

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Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
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MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

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DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

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- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 4800; **E-mail:** pp@wsp.com

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Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

T +27 11 254 4800

T +27 11 361 1300

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1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 09:24
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: Wind Farm
Attachments: Screenshot_20260415_091651_WhatsApp.jpg; Screenshot_20260415_091637_WhatsApp.jpg

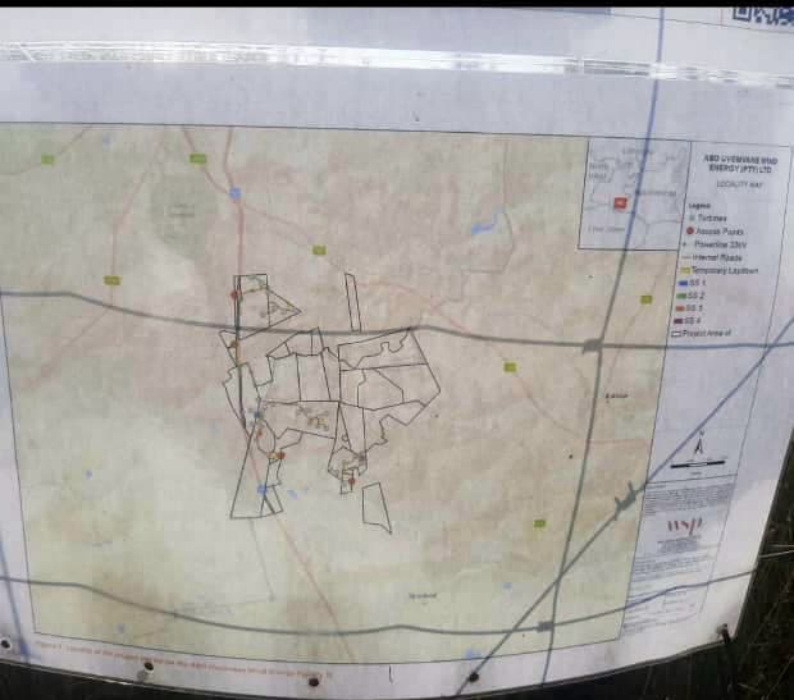
Good day
To whom it

We say NO to the developers on a wind farm on our property and farm

We treasure our Eco system and we would not allow this to happen
We wil be in touch with Fona And Flora to protect our wild life

So it is a DEFINITE NO TO YOUR PROJECT!!!!!!
our land 399 Steynskraal Heidelberg SAY NO !!!!!
AS owner of the farm we been living there for 58 years !!!!

Thankyou
[REDACTED]





ONG VAN DIE ABO UVEMVANE WINDENERG -FASUJTErT1.OMGEWWGSM,
MPUMALANGA EN GAUTENG

OMGEW1NGSMAGTING3PROSES

shed under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
orisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as
ter wil 'n Windenergie-fasiliteit (WEF) oprig en wil aansoek doen om omgewingsgoedkeuring naby He
n invloed op die omgewing (S&EIR) in:

Farm Names		Technologie
troom) WEF, insluitend verwante infrastruktuur		Wind
deel 2 van die plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van deel 13 (n gedeelte van deel 2) van die plaas Molanskraal 407	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van die plaas Modderfontein 410
die plaas Driefontein 405	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DM 1 »—<■ MI *»* '■ ■■ ■ ***	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 7 van die plaas
l) van die plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PMM SoOM S»nM *»*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 35 van die plaas
el 6) van die plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van deel 1 van die plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 15 van die plaas
el 4) van die plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SM'WM— >*■	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van die plaas Lagerspoort 406
e van deel 3) van die	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMM 3» (* 0MMM MR «M H) • •» / plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 32 (n gedeelte van die plaas Lagerspoort 406
el 13) van die plaas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van deel 2 van die plaas Lagerspoort 406	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van die plaas Lagerspoort 406
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 17 van die plaas Lagerspoort 406	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deel 24 (n gedeelte van deel 23) van die plaas Steynskraal 399	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oorblywende gedeelte van die plaas Lagerspoort 406



**ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST**
tTolectifi; forever, together

Private Bag X08
Wierda Park
0149
15 April 2026

Attention: WSP Team

Dear WSP Public Participation Office
pp@wsp.com, 011 254 4800

Re: Response to the proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility (WEF) 1 (up to 170MWac), located in the Mpumalanga and Gauteng Province (Project No: 41106304, Temporary DFFE Reference Number: 2024-11-0018)

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation, founded in 1973 and operating throughout southern Africa. The EWT conserves threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa by implementing research and conservation action towards mitigating threats facing species diversity and supporting sustainable natural resource management. The EWT furthermore communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region. The EWT is driven by a team of passionate and dedicated conservationists working through 13 specialised programmes across southern and East Africa, each falling under one of our three key strategic pillars: [Saving species, conserving habitats](#), and [benefitting people](#).

While the [EWT supports the just transition to renewable energy](#), these proposed developments are only considered feasible if they follow the mitigation hierarchy and the species environmental assessment guideline and avoid unnecessary and unsustainable environmental impacts. We further support solar energy but only where all possible options for avoiding, reducing, minimising, and offsetting of impacts (in that order) have been considered and implemented. Please refer to the links embedded in this paragraph for further insight into the EWT's perspectives, concerns, and considerations linked to renewable energy in general, and wind energy in particular.

The demand for energy is increasing globally, and WEFs are considered a viable option for renewable energy production. There are, however, concerns over the impacts of wind farms on wildlife in three key aspects: the disturbance or displacement of species from their habitats due to the construction of the associated WEF infrastructure; bird and bat collisions with turbine blades; and collisions and electrocutions on energy infrastructure associated with WEFs. This concern is compounded by the potential cumulative impacts of ongoing wind energy developments posing a direct risk to collision-prone species across sensitive areas, and an amplified level of disturbance and loss of habitat for wildlife in areas that overlap with WEFs.

The EWT believes that some of the impacts of WEFs can be avoided and reduced using suitable remedial actions and mitigation measures. Accordingly, we recommend four priority measures that must

[REDACTED]



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Prelectjn;loievtr,together

be considered and implemented to ensure minimum impact of wind energy on wildlife, for details of these four priority measures click [here](#).

In evaluating the above WEF and associated infrastructure application, we wish to highlight the following impacts and resultant recommendations:

Avifaunal and biodiversity impacts and concerns:

The proposed ABO Uvemvane WEF and associated powerline infrastructure overlap areas of high biodiversity sensitivity, including the Endangered **Tsakane Clay Grassland**, as well as multiple **Critical Biodiversity Areas** (CBA Category 1 and 2) and **Ecological Support Areas** (ESA Category 1 and 2). These designations indicate that the affected landscape plays a critical role in maintaining ecological integrity, supporting threatened species, and sustaining ecosystem functioning. Development within these areas is therefore of significant concern and should be approached with strong avoidance measures in line with biodiversity planning frameworks.

Furthermore, the development footprint intersects with Critically Endangered **river systems**, as identified in the South African National Biodiversity Institute National Wetland Map. These freshwater ecosystems are highly sensitive to disturbance and play an essential role in supporting both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, as well as broader ecological processes. Impacts on these systems may result in irreversible degradation if not adequately avoided and managed.

From an avifaunal perspective, the presence of **Secretarybird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*, Vulnerable)** within the project area raises concern, given the species' sensitivity to habitat transformation and disturbance, particularly within open grassland systems. Of critical importance is the confirmed presence of a **Verreaux's Eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*, Vulnerable)** nesting site located on a prominent ridge 1 km north of Heidelberg. Multiple independent observations have confirmed regular eagle activity within the broader landscape, including flight paths directed toward the proposed WEF footprint. The omission of this known nesting site from the avifaunal assessment represents a significant gap, particularly given that man-made structures such as communication towers—where the nest is located—were not adequately surveyed, despite this being a requirement of established assessment guidelines. This omission raises concerns regarding the completeness and reliability of the specialist assessment and its conclusions.

In addition, several methodological shortcomings were identified in the avifaunal assessment, which collectively undermine the robustness of the findings:

- The use of outdated biodiversity planning tools (e.g., older provincial CPlans and biodiversity sector plans), resulting in potentially inaccurate sensitivity mapping and turbine placement recommendations.
- An insufficient Project Area of Influence (PAOI), which may have excluded key habitats and species interactions within the broader landscape.
- Failure to adequately apply species-specific guidelines, including those for Verreaux's Eagle and Black Harrier, despite confirmed or recorded presence.



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CrtlHljfi farmer,together

- Inadequate focal site surveys, limited to farm dams and excluding key structures such as pylons and communication towers.
- The absence of VERA modelling, despite clear triggers for its application based on confirmed nesting activity and recorded flight behaviour.
- Insufficient monitoring duration, where one year of data collection is unlikely to adequately capture variability in raptor activity, particularly in a landscape supporting a confirmed breeding pair.
- Underestimation of avifaunal activity and risk, particularly in relation to Verreaux's Eagle flight patterns and topographic risk features.
- Limited consideration of cumulative impacts, despite the presence of multiple wind energy facilities within the broader landscape.

For more information on the avifaunal concerns, please contact Hennie de Beer ([REDACTED])

Bat collision risk:

Bats are particularly susceptible to anthropogenic changes because of their low reproductive rate, longevity, and high metabolic rates, limiting their ability to recover from declines and to maintain sustainable populations. Bat fatalities due to wind turbines raise serious concerns about population-level impacts. The main documented direct impacts of wind energy on bats include fatality via mainly direct collision with turbine blades or less likely by barotrauma. Indirect impacts include roost disturbances and/or destruction (if construction, operational or decommissioning activities occur close to bat roosts), destruction of foraging habitat (due to WEF construction and habitat change), displacement of bats from their foraging habitat (bats avoid the WEF area) and obstruction of movement paths to drinking, foraging, roosting and migration sites.

Impacts of wind turbines on bats vary depending on site selection, specifications of the wind turbines, species occurring in the area, season, and time of night. Bat fatalities may outnumber bird fatalities by 10:1 and fatality rates may be affected by turbine size and wind speed (low-wind nights are generally associated with increased fatality). Until we have a better understanding of South African bat population levels and fluxes, bat ecology and migration, it is recommended that a precautionary approach is adopted, and all known bat data are carefully considered. For detailed pre-construction monitoring, operational phase monitoring and mitigation guidelines please click [here](#).

Based on the above, the EWT considers the current level of assessment to be insufficient to adequately characterise the biodiversity and avifaunal risks associated with the proposed development. The omission of a confirmed active Verreaux's Eagle nesting site, together with the identified methodological limitations, raises significant concern regarding the findings presented in the Draft Environmental Scoping Report. It is therefore essential that these gaps be addressed during the EIA phase with up-to-date biodiversity planning tools, expanded survey efforts, appropriate application of species-specific guidelines, and robust assessment methodologies.

The EWT appreciates the opportunity provided by the developer to comment and we look forward to the opportunity to participate in the process of informing the responsible placement of turbines. We would

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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value the opportunity to provide our detailed landscape planning data and to assist through negotiation to inform decision making, but we cannot support high-risk options. We further request that the relevant competent authority and Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) take these concerns into consideration, including the associated powerlines and other infrastructure that will be required because of the proposed wind energy development.

The EWT reserves the right to revise initial comments presented here if additional information becomes available.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'S' or 'L' followed by a flourish.

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted footer block]

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 11:08
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG
Attachments: EWT Comments_ABO Uvemvane WEF.pdf

Good day WSPTeam,

Attached, please find the Endangered Wildlife Trust's comments to the proposed **ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility (WEF) 1** (up to 170MWac), located in the Mpumalanga and Gauteng Province. We are open to discuss the comments should you require.

Kind regards,

**DON'T
LET THEM 1
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 10:08
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: Objection to Proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby submit my formal objection to the proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 planned near Heidelberg and Balfour.

While I acknowledge the importance of renewable energy development, I have serious concerns regarding the suitability of this project in the proposed location and its potential long-term impacts on the environment, local communities, and safety.

My concerns are as follows:

1. Impact on Birdlife and Biodiversity

The area has been identified as home to over 200 bird species, including protected and vulnerable species such as vultures, raptors, and Secretarybirds. The placement of large wind turbines within known flight paths presents a significant risk of mortality and long-term disruption to these species. Additionally, the presence of sensitive species such as the Heidelberg copper butterfly raises further ecological concerns.

2. Environmental Degradation

The construction and operation of the wind facility will result in habitat destruction, soil disturbance, and fragmentation of natural ecosystems. The cumulative environmental impact of roads, substations, and powerlines has not been adequately justified for this area.

3. Impact on Quality of Life

International evidence highlights concerns around noise pollution, including infrasound, as well as shadow flicker caused by turbine blades. These factors may negatively affect the wellbeing, sleep patterns, and general quality of life of nearby residents.

4. Visual and Rural Landscape Impact

The scale of the proposed turbines will significantly alter the natural and rural character of the Heidelberg and Balfour area, which is valued for its open landscapes and environmental appeal.

5. Aviation Safety Risks

The proximity of the proposed development to the Heidelberg airfield raises serious safety concerns. The height and placement of turbines could interfere with flight paths, low-flying aircraft, and aviation training activities.

6. Long-Term Sustainability and Decommissioning

There is insufficient clarity regarding the long-term maintenance, decommissioning process, and environmental rehabilitation once the turbines reach the end of their lifespan. The issue of blade disposal is also a growing global concern.

Given the above, I believe that the risks and negative impacts of this development outweigh its potential benefits in this specific location.

I respectfully request that these concerns be fully considered and that the proposed development not proceed in its current form.

Please confirm receipt of this objection and include me in all further correspondence regarding this project.

Thank You



Mathulwe, Tumelo

From:

To:

ZA - WSP - PPOffice

Subject:

wind farm - Heidelberg / Balfour Gauteng

Morning

Heidelberg is a historic town and nature being part of it for centuries. A wind farm will have a negative impact on our wildlife (endangered species) and surrounding nature landscapes, as well as on the community.

- Noise pollution, low-frequency sound and infrasound generated by turbines,
- fatalities of *Aquila verreauxii*, vultures, Secretarybirds, flamingos and large raptors and *Chrysoritis aureus*,
- habitat destruction, soil degradation, and fragmentation of natural landscapes.
- Disruption of ecosystems.

I object to this development

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Disclaimer: [Click Here](#)

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 17:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OBJECTION: PROPOSED WINDFARM (ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility)

Good day Verlyn

Kindly note that your comments have been received and will be captured as part of this application.

Notification of the Draft Scoping Report was shared with registered stakeholders on 13 March 2026, and stakeholders were given a 30-day (excluding public holidays) period to review the report and submit their comments. Alongside the email notification, SMSs were sent on 13 March 2026, put up Site Notices on the same day and placed newspaper adverts in the Heidelberg Heraut on 11 March 2026. These adverts appeared in English, Afrikaans, and isiZulu to reach as many people as possible.

Additionally, you have been registered on the project stakeholder database and your comments will be included as part of the project comments and responses register.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

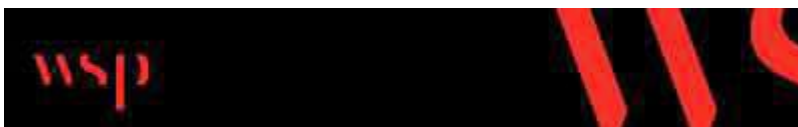
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 20:19
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <P [REDACTED]>
Subject: OBJECTION: PROPOSED WINDFARM (ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility)
Importance: High

Good day,

Find herewith a formal OBJECTION to any and all development of the abovementioned project. Why are we given so little time to object? Are you hiding this on purpose to push through this nonsense at any and all cost?

These wind turbines are an ecological nuisance disrupting birdlife, and the ecological surroundings. Apart from the impact on the surrounding wildlife which is what makes the rural areas such as Heidelberg attractive for living in and developing property, these turbines are also noisy, an absolute eyesore and as far as I am aware not easy to recycle the blades, making this not a green alternative.

Take this nonsense elsewhere where you are not going to spoil property values and the beauty of the surrounding natural habitat for all and sundry in Heidelberg and Balfour.

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection, and be assured of my full commitment to oppose this at every level given my employ with an Asset Manager who opposes these types of infrastructure developments as responsible custodians of funds for both Municipal entities and the PIC.

@ [REDACTED] Why are the residents of Heidelberg not notified of this in a timely manner to file objections???

Regards,

HEAD: RETAIL DISTRIBUTION

BCom (Economics) BComHons (Strategic Management); PGDip (Financial Planning Law, Golden Key); PGDip (Investment Planning, Cum Laude); CFA Level I (Passed 2019).



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 17:52
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: Objection Submission: ABO Uvemvane Wind Project

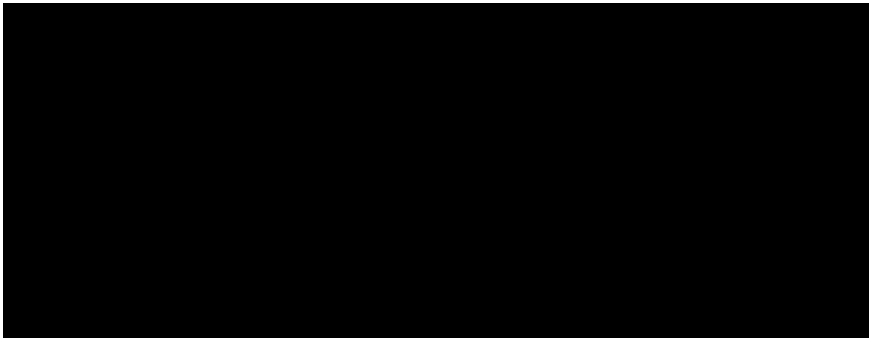
Residents of Heidelberg and Balfour object to the proposed ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility due to its significant and potentially irreversible environmental, safety, and quality-of-life impacts.

The development threatens over 200 bird species, including vulnerable raptors and vultures, as well as the endangered Heidelberg Copper butterfly. It risks habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, and disruption of critical flight paths.

Concerns also include noise pollution, visual intrusion, shadow flicker, and the degradation of the area's rural character. The proximity to Heidelberg's airfield raises serious aviation safety risks.

Additionally, the long-term environmental cost, infrastructure impact, and uncertainty around decommissioning further compound concerns.

Given these risks, residents call for urgent reconsideration of the project.



<div>3</div>	

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 17:42
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: Wind turbines

To whom it may concern.

Please note that I object in the strongest possible terms to the erection and implementation of any and all wind turbines in the Heidelberg/ Balfour district. These turbines are destructive and an absolute eyesore in this beautiful farming area. The wildlife, especially the birds of prey here, that are already on the endangered species list eg the Russian Steppbuzzard,, that we have seen and photographed, is just one example.

This should be stopped immediately.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Resident of Heidelberg

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 17:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Wind generation near Heidelberg and Bethal in Mpumalanga South Africa

Good day Garth,

We are currently in the Scoping Phase of the project and you can submit comments.

Kindly note that there will be further opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report when it is made available.

Please note that from your email you have been registered as a stakeholder on the project and you will receive all communication going forward.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

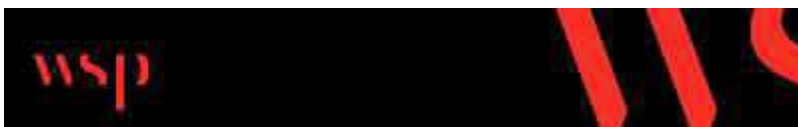
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From: G [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 16:05
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Fwd: Wind generation near Heidelberg and Bethal in Mpumalanga South Africa

Yours Truly

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 14 Apr 2026 at 15:57
Subject: Wind generation near Heidelberg and Bethal in Mpumalanga South Africa
To: <pp@ws.com>

Where cor how can we object to this proposed site and why do we only know about it 1 day before the objection submission closes.

Yours Truly

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

 Virus-free.www.avast.com

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 16:29
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]gistration

Good day Rian,

Kindly note that you have been registered as an I&AP.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

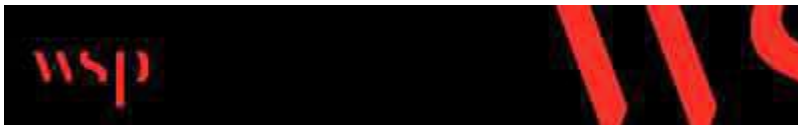
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From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: ABO WEFs I&AP Registration

Dear WSP Team

Please may you add my details in signature below as an I&AP for the ABO WEFs for which you are conducting EIAs?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



AMDA

developments

302E Sunclare
21 Dreyer Street, Claremont, Cape Town
PO Box 2681, Cape Town, 8000

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 17:56
To: [REDACTED], Vodacom; ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO USTEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Attachments: 41106304 - Ustemvane.kmz

Good day Harry

Please see the kmz attached

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

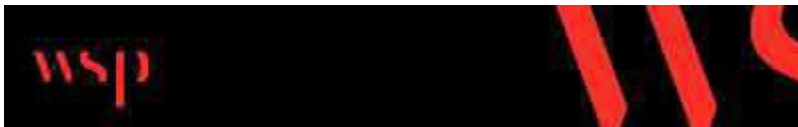
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From: H [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 April 2026 10:58
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO USTEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Hi There,
Kindly share the KMZ file with proposed turbine locations

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:47

This email originated from outside of the organisation: Be cautious about the sender, attachments and links. If uncertain use [Report button](#)

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

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

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411 • The Farm Orion No. 413 • Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein No. 405 • Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 449 • Farm Bothas Spruit No. 404 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Steynskraal 399 • Portion 25 (a portion of Portion 11) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406 • Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410 • Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Portion 35 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Portion 15 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Portion 32 (a portion of Portion 5) of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Remaining Extent of Portion 11 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 	

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The proposed project triggers several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), as amended, and therefore, authorisation to undertake the listed activities must be sought via a S&EIR process. The anticipated listed activity numbers associated with the proposed project 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							
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REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

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- Grootvlei Power Station Stores - Seventh Street, Grootvlei
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

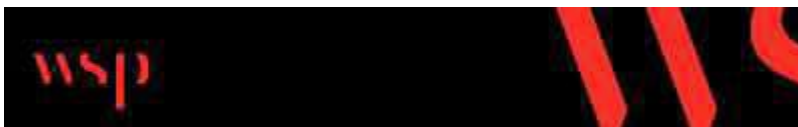
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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C2 General

Maharaj, Jashmika

Subject: FW: DSR COMMENTS FOR ABO UVEMVANE WEF IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA
Attachments: SIGNED DBAR COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WEF.pdf

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 22:16
To: Strong, Ashlea <[REDACTED]>
Subject: DSR COMMENTS FOR ABO UVEMVANE WEF IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA

Dear Ms. Strong,

I trust that this email finds you well.

Kindly find the attached comments from Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation for your attention and implementation.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083

Reference: 15/5/1

Enquiries: [REDACTED]

21 April 2026

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 6001
HALFWAY HOUSE
2210

Sir/ Madam

Municipal comments on the draft Scoping and Specialist reports for the Proposed Development of the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1, within Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces. Temporary DFFE Reference Number: 2024-11-0018

The draft Scoping Report and Specialist reports submitted by WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, has reference.

The draft Scoping Report and Specialist reports were reviewed and the comments on the proposed development of the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 project are as follows:

- On the draft scoping report under Aquatic Assessment (Section 2.7), according to the National Water Act (NWA) (Act No. 36 of 1998), the buffer zone meters must be specified (i.e. 100m buffers for rivers and 500m buffers for wetlands).
- It is recommended that the topsoil should be used for rehabilitation of the site (see Section 3.4, Table 3-4 under Excavation and earthworks activity on Page 52).
- It is noted that the water could be sourced from local municipality. Since the site is within three local municipalities, which municipality will be used to source water?
- Under Section 4.3, it is noted that the preliminary layout for ABO Uvemvane identified 58 wind turbines. However, Figure 4-1: Preliminary layout map demonstrates 66 wind turbines (see Page 60) correct layout map must be provided.
- On Page 61, there is an incorrect map labelling and Figure 4-2 map was not indicated as a map. However, the map referred to on Figure 4-2 was labelled as Figure 4-3. Consequently, there is no map shown for the 27 wind turbines due to wrong labelling (Figures mismatched) such must be rectified.
- It is noted that the project will utilise water from the municipality, however, on Page 84 (under NWA legislation section), it is stated that one of the water uses will include taking water from a water resource. Therefore, a source of water for the project must be specified.
- On Page 85, it is noted that the proposed project is within the mining areas. In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act No. 28 of 2002) Section 53, consent is required and such consent should be shared with the Lesedi Local Municipality.

- On Pages 132 and 133, there is a repetitive information between the Mountain Bushveld, and Rocky Shrubland and Grassland, therefore, such information must be revised.
- It is noted that the project will have an impact during operational phase as mentioned on Page 270 of the draft Scoping report. However, under '*Increase in traffic due to staff travelling*' aspect, the mitigation measure is not included and specified for this traffic impact.
- On Page 272 under disturbance of fauna and flora aspect, it is noted that the impact mentioned under the operational phase did not align with the mitigation measure provided, such information must be revised.
- It is recommended that during construction and operational phases, the employees should be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No. 85 of 1993) Section 8 as this is not specified on the project phases.

Specialist Studies Comments

- **In terms of the Heritage Impact Assessment:**
 - > On page 4, it is indicated that one of the laydown areas is located 20m from the burial site, a no-go development buffer of 100m is recommended around the site. Therefore, a revised layout with a laydown area shifted outside recommended buffer must be provided.
 - > During the construction phase, for the construction of internal roads within heritage high sensitive areas, the archaeologist must appointed to monitor all construction activities.
 - > Figure 6: Image indicating appropriate layout approaches (Winter and Wilson, 2021) for wind turbine development must be followed during construction/final layout development.
 - > Provide appendix 1 Archaeological Assessment (2024)
 - > Provide appendix 2: Desktop Paleontological Assessment (2024)
- **In terms of the Traffic Impact Assessment:**
 - > A geometric design and layout for internal roads from the site access must be provided as specified on Page 23.
 - > Permits from both Mpumalanga and Gauteng Department of Transport and Public Works for the conveyance of the abnormal load during construction and decommissioning phase must be provided as specified on this report.
 - > Mitigation measures on table 7.1 are not clearly listed, some information is omitted. Provide a revised table.
- **In terms of the Geotechnical Impact Assessment:**
 - > A slope assessment must be provided should permanent excavations or deep excavations be proposed on site as specified on page 15 of the report.
 - > Provide lab results.
- **In terms of the Avifauna Assessment**
 - > It was noted that under the References section that there is an Appendix G: Vulpro Data, however, the information of the Appendix G: Vulpro Data is not included on the report and must be provided.
- **In terms of the Noise Impact Assessment**
 - > It was noted that the Noise from vehicular traffic will however not be considered in the Scoping, or the future Environmental Noise Impact Assessment (ENIA) reports. However, standard working during working hours (a maximum of 45 hours) and days (5 days a week) is recommended by the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) (Act No. 75 of 1997) to reduce and mitigate impact of the noise in surrounding communities.
- **In terms of the social impact assessment and terrestrial biodiversity reports**
 - > It is noted that community awareness will be implemented therefore the Lesedi Local Municipality request to be notified of such community engagements.



- > It recommended that all mitigation measures and buffer zones specified in the reports be strictly implemented
- > Figure 2-1,6-5 and 7-1 of the social impact assessment omitted the information, therefore, a clear figure must be provided.

Documents Required

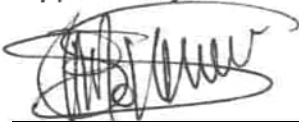
- Landowner consent
- Provide The Chance Fossil Find Protocol to be implemented throughout the construction phase.
- Stormwater management plan as specified on Page 15 of geotechnical report.
- Alien invasive species management plan
- It is noted on Page 100, Table 5-5 of the draft Scoping report that there are outstanding permits as such Provincial Biodiversity permit the Lesedi Local Municipality request to be part of the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) when such permits are applied for.
- Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the specified Local Municipality must be provided, since it was stated that the water could be sourced from local municipality.
- All specialist studies conducted must provide the valid certificate of registration with professional bodies.

The Municipality acknowledges the potential socio-economic benefits associated with the proposed development of the Wind Energy Facility and supports the application, subject to full compliance with all applicable environmental and other relevant legislative requirements. It is recommended that all mitigation measures and buffer zones specified in the reports be strictly implemented.

Prepared by:



Approved by:



**ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, LOCATED NEAR HEIDELBERG
AND BALFOUR IN THE GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: 4-27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sanra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Date: Monday, 20 April, 2026

Case ID: 27598

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

[Mr](#) Ashlea Strong

[WSP](#)

[webform_submission:user:field_address:0]

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Wind Energy Facility within the Dipaleseng Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province and the Lesedi Local Municipality, Gauteng Province.

A draft Environmental Scoping Report was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIAR), 2014 as amended.

The proposed development includes the installation of up to 27 ha of turbines, establishment of access roads, internal underground cabling, 33kV OHL/underground facility connection, a substation, BESS, transformer, auxiliary buildings, communication towers, fencing and laydown areas.

CTS Heritage was appointed to undertake the specialist Heritage Impact Assessment study in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Wiltshire, N., 2025. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development of the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 near Balfour in Mpumalanga/ Gauteng Provinces.

A total of 110 heritage sites including burial grounds of very high heritage significance, built structures ranging from low to very high heritage significance, archaeological sites including Iron Age sites ranging from low to high heritage significance were identified and recorded.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) is making the following comments in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act as contemplated by the EIA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA:

**ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, LOCATED NEAR HEIDELBERG
AND BALFOUR IN THE GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES**



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South African Heritage Resources Agency 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Date: Monday, 20 April, 2026

Case ID: 27598

- The submitted HIA report has been evaluated and considered. However, the appendices (AIA and PIA reports) referenced/referred to have not been submitted.
- The applicant is required to submit the referenced appendices and a .kml file mapping the entire project footprint for the evaluation of PalaeoSensitivity.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment report or a Basic Assessment report is required for further consideration.
- Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the requested documentation.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]
South African Heritage Resources Agency

[Redacted]
South African Heritage Resources Agency



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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P.O Box 4637 | Cape Town [8001
www.sahra.org.za

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/390161>

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Cc: nhiggitt; Khanyisile Bonile
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good day,

Kindly note that Interim Comments have been issued for the proposed development. The following are required for further consideration:

1. HIA appendices (the referenced Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment reports).
2. A .KML file mapping the entire development footprint.
3. An Environmental Impact Assessment or a Basic Assessment Report.

Kind regards,



From: N [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 15:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Afternoon,

This project is in both MP and GP. Whomever has this case, please urgently respond.

Regards,

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 15:17
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Commenting Authority,

Kindly note the commenting period for the project below has concluded.

At this point, could you please confirm if you will be submitting any comments?

Your input is valued and will help us ensure a thorough review.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

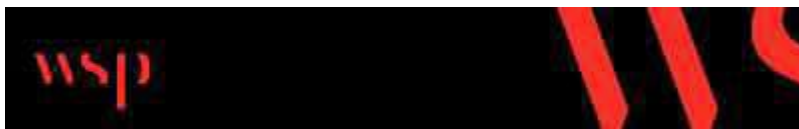
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:55

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Commenting Authority,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

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

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411 • The Farm Orion No. 413 • Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein No. 405 • Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 449 • Farm Bothas Spruit No. 404 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Steynskraal 399 • Portion 25 (a portion of Portion 11) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406 • Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410 • Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Portion 35 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Portion 15 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Portion 32 (a portion of Portion 5) of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Remaining Extent of Portion 11 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Steynskraal 399
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ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The proposed project triggers several listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GNR983), Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR985), as amended, and therefore, authorisation to undertake the listed activities must be sought via a S&EIR process. The anticipated listed activity numbers associated with the proposed project 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.

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NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

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- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: C [ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 4800; **E-mail:** [pp\(g\)wsp.com](mailto:pp(g)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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

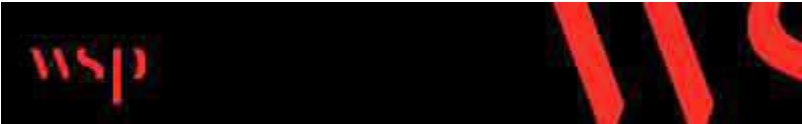
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1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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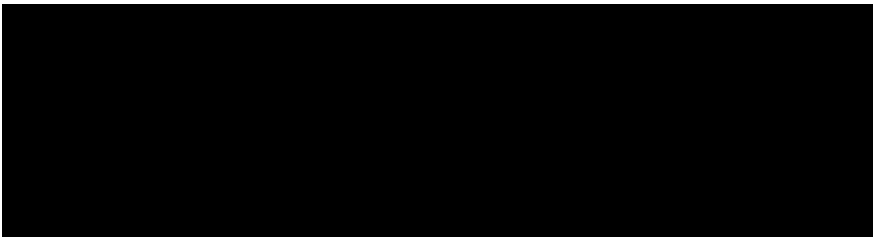
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[4 14 R]



SAHRA EMAIL DISCLAIMER

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 09:59
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Cc: TNethononda
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the follow-up.

Kindly note that the Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness did not provide comments, as upon review it was determined that the proposed development is neither located within a protected area nor within a designated buffer zone.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets
PRETORIA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 15:17
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Commenting Authority,

Kindly note the commenting period for the project below has concluded.

At this point, could you please confirm if you will be submitting any comments?

Your input is valued and will help us ensure a thorough review.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

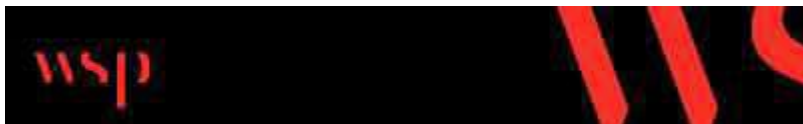
T +27 11 254 4800

T +27 11 361 1300

WSP

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

wsp.com



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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From:ZA- WSP - PPOffice

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:55

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Commenting Authority,

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

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411 • The Farm Orion No. 413 • Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein No. 405 • Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405 • Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407 • Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 • Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 449 • Farm Bothas Spruit No. 404 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Steynskraal 399 • Portion 25 (a portion of Portion 11) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406 • Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399 • Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410 • Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Portion 35 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Portion 15 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 • Portion 32 (a portion of Portion 5) of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406 • Remaining Extent of Portion 11 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Steynskraal 399
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ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

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MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

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- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: El [ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 4800; **E-mail:** [pp\(g\)wsp.com](mailto:pp(g)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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

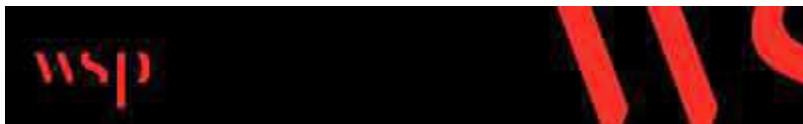
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Thursday, 16 April 2026 06:33]
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Attachments: EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR SUBMITTING EIA APPLICATIONS.pdf

Good day

Please forward your submission to [REDACTED] so the Department (GDEnv) can respond.

Regards,
WM

From:

Dear Wesi,

I remember receiving this email sometime in March and it appeared that it was a call for us to comment on the report. Kindly liaise with them to impress on them that we don't get invited like this to comment on applications, they must follow our submission process.

Thanks

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

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:47

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pp@wsp.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Tel: 011 254 4800; **E-mail:** [pp\(g\)wsp.com](mailto:pp(g)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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

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Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 05 May 2026 20:08
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ZA - WSP - PPOffice; 'MOAGI, WESI (GDARD)'
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Importance: High

Good day,

This is a follow up to my previous email.

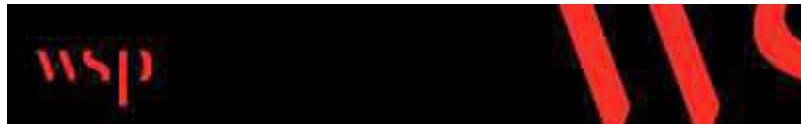
Please confirm whether this Department wishes to provide comments on the above-mentioned project.

Please note that the Final Scoping Report is being submitted to the DFFE this week Friday.

Therefore, any comments received after this date can only be considered during the EIA phase.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Sunday, 19 April 2026 18:51
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.
Importance: High

Good day,

The email trail refers.

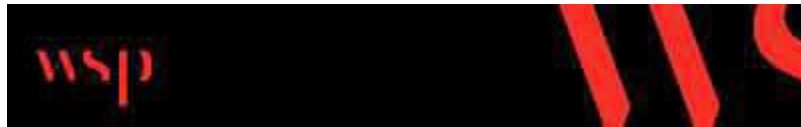
Please note that the commenting period concluded on 15 April 2026.

However, should the Department still wish to comment, then please forward through comments by 24 April 2026.

[r ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



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Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 06:33
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DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

- Ratanda Proper Library - Nkomo St, Ratanda, Heidelberg - GP, 1443
- Heidelberg Public Library - 7 Jacobs St, Heidelberg, Heidelberg - GP, 1441
- Ward 3 Public Library - Joubert street, Balfour, 2410
- Grootvlei Power Station Stores - Seventh Street, Grootvlei
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

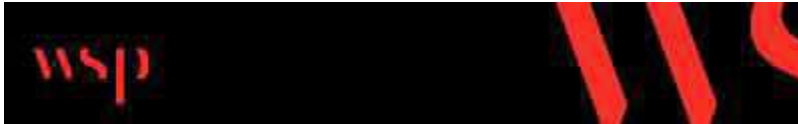
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1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803

Ms Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 6001
HALFWAY HOUSE
1685

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

PER MAIL /E-MAIL

Dear Ms Strong

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1 (UP TO 170MWAC)), LOCATED IN THE DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND THE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2026 and received by the Department on 23 March 2026, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

(a) Listed Activities and Application Form

- (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. Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.
- (ii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental 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. Furthermore, please also ensure that the potential impacts on the affected Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas are fully assessed in the final BAR.



Batho pele - putting people first

Departement van Bosbou, Visserie en die Omgewing • Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment • UmNyango wezamaHlathi, zokuThiya neBhoduluko • iSebe lezamaHlathi, ezokuLoba noKusingqongileyo • Umnyango WezamaHlathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo • Kgoro ya Dithokgwa, Boreahlapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Meru, Botshwasi ba dithapi le Tikoloho • Lefapha la Dikgwa, Dithapi le Tikologo • Litiko Letemahlatsi, Tinhlanti Netendzawo • Muhasho wa zwa Vhusima-madaka, Vhureakhovhe na Mupo • Ndzwawulo ya Swihlahla, Vunjoveri na Mbango. The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessively for the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act, and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

- (iii) Please expand the description of the listed activities applied for and relate their relevance to the proposed development. The description must include the scope of works, the footprints/sizes of what is proposed, and any other relevant detail relating to the project description.
- (iv) You have applied for Activity 14 of Listing Notice 1, which relates to storage of dangerous goods, however, the exact capacity of dangerous goods to be stored is not specified. You are required to provide the exact capacity of the storage of dangerous goods.
- (v) You have applied for Activity 19 of Listing Notice 1 *"the infilling or depositing of any material weighing more than 10 cubic meters into a watercourse, or the dredging, excavation, removal, or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles, or rock weighing more than 10 cubic meters from a watercourse."* Please provide the exact cubic metres that will be infilled or deposited into a watercourse, as well as the dredging, excavation, removal, or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles, or rock from a watercourse.
- (vi) You have applied for Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 *"the clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation"*. You specified that based on the information provided regarding the total project area, the facility is expected to result in the clearing of at least 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation. Please indicate the actual footprint to be cleared.
- (vii) You have applied for Activity 10 of Listing Notice 3 *"the development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres"*. You are required to provide the exact capacity of the storage of dangerous goods. You further stated that the storage contemplated may be located within, and will require vegetation clearance in sensitive areas. The storage areas may also be located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 100m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The placement of storage areas within delineated watercourses is generally discouraged due to the potential risk of pollution and impacts on aquatic ecosystems. You must ensure that all watercourses are delineated by a suitably qualified specialist and that appropriate buffer zones and mitigation measures are implemented.
- (viii) You have applied for Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 *"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"*. Please indicate the exact physical footprint that will be cleared for the construction of the internal access road(s).
- (ix) You have applied for Activity 14 of Listing Notice 3 *"the development of infrastructure or structures with a Physical footprint of 10 Square metres or more; where such development occurs."* It has been noted that the internal or access road will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses. You are required to provide an adequate explanation for the proposed alignment and demonstrate that alternatives were investigated to avoid watercourses and their associated areas. The potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of infrastructure within or in close proximity to watercourses must be comprehensively assessed by a suitably qualified aquatic specialist, and appropriate mitigation measures must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
- (x) You have applied for Activity 18 of Listing Notice 3 *"the widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre"*. Please specify the actual width of the proposed road widening.

- (xi) The final SR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (xii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, 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.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

(b) Locality, Site Layout and Sensitivity Maps

The report must provide the following:

- (i) A clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - > Substation;
 - > Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - > All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area and auxiliary buildings, dangerous goods facility etc.
- (ii) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed wind energy infrastructure.
- (iii) 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:
 - > Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - > Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - > Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams and water crossings of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - > The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - > Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - > Location of access and service roads;
 - > Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - > All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - > Buffer areas;
 - > Buildings, including accommodation;
 - > All "no-go" areas; and
 - > A north arrow and legend/key, to enable the Department to interpret the layout map.
- (iv) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (v) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(c) Specific Comments

- (i) The Department received correspondence from the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) indicating that they have been requesting the latest shapefiles for the Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility (WEF) for some time in order to properly review the Draft

Scoping Report. However, to date, no response or shapefiles have been provided. You are therefore required to make the latest shapefiles available to MTPA and DARDLEA to enable them to adequately review the content of the draft Scoping Report and the revised layout plan, and to provide informed comments and inputs thereon.

- (ii) Furthermore, the authorities indicated that there seems to be a confusion regarding the review period of the draft SR, taking into account the four (4) public holidays during March and April. You are therefore, requested to ensure that stakeholders, authorities and I&As are afforded the legally allotted time to comment on the draft report. It is important that the calculation of timeframes is as per the regulation 3 (1) which states as follows:

"Subject to sub-regulations (2) and (3), when a period of days must in terms of these Regulations be reckoned from or after a particular day, that period must be reckoned as from the start of the day following that particular day to the end of the last day of the period, but if the last day of the period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, that period must be extended to the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday".

Any deviations from the requirements of regulation 3(1) shall constitute a procedural flaw.

- (iii) It has been noted that the description of the proposed project is insufficient in the application form. You are requested to provide a comprehensive and detailed description of the proposed development. This must include all components and associated infrastructure related to the main facility, such as access roads, storage of dangerous goods, water pipelines, stormwater infrastructure, electrical connections, and any other supporting infrastructure required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The description must clearly indicate the location, extent, and footprint of all infrastructure within the project area to enable a proper assessment of the potential environmental impacts.
- (iv) The project area contains areas classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) as identified in the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) (2024) as well as the Gauteng Conservation Plan (C-Plan) (Version 4, 2024). Therefore, you are advised to provide confirmation from Mpumalanga and Gauteng confirming the area falling within the CBAs and ESAs.
- (v) Large portions of the site fall within areas mapped as irreplaceable and important Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs). Although the revised layout plan has been redesigned to avoid some sensitive areas and the number of turbines has been reduced from 58 (as per the preliminary layout) to 27, the proposed development will still result in impacts on CBA 1 and CBA 2 areas, based on the biodiversity maps provided. The provisions and applicability of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline must be explicitly considered and determined during the scoping phase of the project. ***The appointed biodiversity specialist is required to provide an informed, reasoned, and defensible opinion on the applicability of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline to the proposed development.***
- (vi) The SR must include a table summarising the specialist studies required by the Screening Tool and the sensitivity rating of the Screening Tool (very high, high, medium, low), another column indicating the sensitivity of the site after the EAP/Specialist conducted the Site Verification Assessment and a column indicating whether these studies will be conducted or that compliance statement will be submitted during the EIAR phase.
- (vii) For the themes that have been identified as medium and which have been confirmed to require compliance statements as per the outcome of the SSVR, please ensure that such

information is included in your plan of study under specialist studies to be conducted which will then form part of the EIAr phase.

- (viii) You are requested to demonstrate that reasonable and feasible alternatives, including alternative locations outside of Critical Biodiversity Areas, have been adequately considered and that the preferred site represents the least environmentally sensitive option.
- (ix) Please note that Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(x) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires that *"if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such"* must be included in the report. You are therefore required to provide a motivation should other alternative sites, routes, layouts, and technologies not be considered.

(d) Specialists' Declaration Forms

- (i) Please ensure that details of the specialists that prepared the specialist reports, including their curriculum vitae and specialist declarations of independence, are included in the Report. You are referred to Appendix 6 (1) (1) (a)-(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended).

(e) Public Participation Process

- (i) On page 220 of the draft SR, it is stated that Sesotho is spoken by 23% of the population and English by 3.1%. You are therefore requested to also include Sesotho language in the public participation process.
- (ii) You are advised to show an attempt made for the consultation i.e., having meetings with the local communities or their leaders or an investigation of their existence in the area.
- (iii) Please also ensure to reach out to illiterate, disabled, and other disadvantaged I&APs.
- (iv) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Directorates: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA (BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za) and Protected Areas Planning & Management Effectiveness (██████████) or (██████████)) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.
- (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. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (vi) A comment and response report which contains all comments received and responses provided to all comments and issues raised during the public participation process must be submitted. Please note that comments received from this Department must also form part of the comment and response report. Please structure the comment and response report in a table format, with separate columns, so that the response can be viewed alongside the comments, the date they were received, and the parties from whom they were received.

(f) Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA phase

- (i) 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.

- (ii) Should the specialist definition of a '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.
- (iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iv) Please note that if any of the specialist studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation (including site sensitivity verification reports and specialist compliance statements in certain instances) must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.
- (v) Please note that the protocols require certain specialists to be SACNASP registered. As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organization registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- (vi) It is 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), are now in effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.** Please note further that the protocols require the specialists to be registered with SACNASP.

(g) Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA phase

- (i) Regarding cumulative impacts:
 - > Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - > A detailed process flow 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.
 - > Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - > The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
A cumulative impact environmental statement must be provided on whether the proposed development must proceed.

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"

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.

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).

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



Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Letter signed by:

Designation:

Date: 23/04/2026

cc:	Ms Kelli Ross	ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Email:
-----	---------------	---	--------

Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 18:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; ZA - WSP - PPOffice; Bhengu, Palisa
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your response and for clarifying BirdLife South Africa's position.

We acknowledge your guidance and will ensure that the relevant BirdLife South Africa guidelines on renewable energy and birds are duly considered as part of the EIA process.

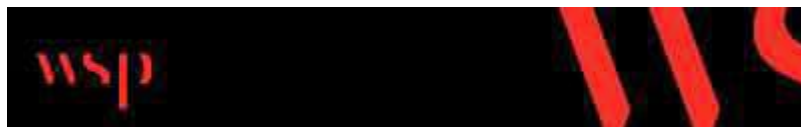
We also note that the absence of project-specific comments at this stage should not be interpreted as endorsement of the application.

We will keep you informed of key project updates as the process progresses.

Should any project-specific, bird-related questions arise, we will be in contact.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 10:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Re: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Jashmika

Thank you for your email. BirdLife South Africa do not have the capacity to review and comment on the large number of EIAs for renewable energy and associated infrastructure. Please ensure that you have consulted our various guidelines on renewable energy on birds, available at on our website. <https://www.birdlife.org.za/> These guidelines should be considered BirdLife South Africa's input into EIAs processes.

Note that a lack of more project-specific comment should not be interpreted as BirdLife South Africa's endorsement, or otherwise of an application.

We may comment on the EIA reports when they are available for review, but in the interim, please let us know if there are any specific bird-related questions or concerns related to the project(s) and/or guidelines, and we will gladly advise.

Kind regards
Sam



[REDACTED]
Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager



□HE3

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



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From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 at 14:24

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good day,

Kindly note the commenting period for the project below concluded on 15 April 2026.

Please advise if your organisation will be providing comments, if so, please can this be shared by **24 April 2026**.

A reminder that the documents can be accessed as below:

- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- OneDrive Link: [ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

Your input is valued and will help us ensure that the project has been thoroughly reviewed.

Kind regards,

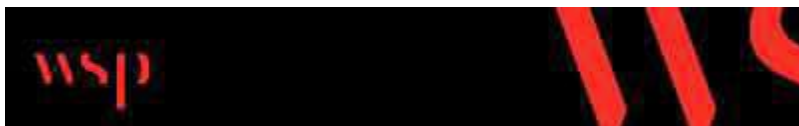
Jashmika Maharaj

Senior Consultant

WSP

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

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From:ZA- WSP - PPOffice

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 15:55

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Commenting Authority,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

- **Regulation 41(2) of GNR982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)**

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek411• The Farm Orion No. 413• Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Driefontein 405• Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal No.407• Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein No.405• Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405• Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal 407	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No. 407• Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 20 (a Portion of Portion 13) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407• Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden No. 449• Farm Bothas Spruit No. 404• Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Portion 25 (a portion of Portion 11) of the Farm Steynskraal 399	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 17 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406• Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 23) of the Farm Steynskraal 399• Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410• Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Portion 35 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Portion 15 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406• Portion 32 (a portion of Portion 5) of the Farm Lagerspoort No. 406• Remaining Extent of Portion 11 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Steynskraal 399	

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

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

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
Scoping EIA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ABO Uvemvane WEF1	GNR 983	11(i)	12(ii)(a)(c)	14	19	24(H)	28(ii)	48(i)(a)(c)	56(H)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR 985	4	10	12	14(ii)(a)(c)	18	23(ii)(a)(c)		
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is available for public comment from **13 March 2026 to 15 April 2026**. The report will be available for download from the link and QR code below. Printed copies of the DSR will be available for review at the following venues:

- Ratanda Proper Library - Nkomo St, Ratanda, Heidelberg - GP, 1443
- Heidelberg Public Library - 7 Jacobs St, Heidelberg, Heidelberg - GP, 1441
- Ward 3 Public Library - Joubert street, Balfour, 2410
- Grootvlei Power Station Stores - Seventh Street, Grootvlei
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: [ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft Scoping Report Public Review](#)

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 **15 April 2026**. Should you have any queries/comments, please do not hesitate to contact the WSP Public Participation Office

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

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 011 254 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.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

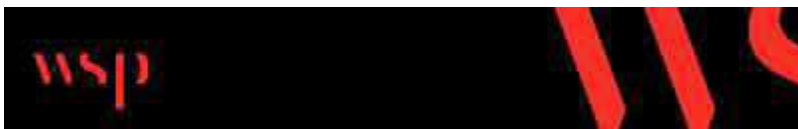
T +27 11 254 4800

T +27 11 361 1300

WSP

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

wsp.com



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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 05 May 2026 11:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DSR COMMENTS FOR ABO UVEMVANE WEF IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA
Attachments: SIGNED DBAR COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WEF.pdf
Importance: High

Tracking:

Recipient	Delivery	Read
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		

Dear Ms Rabothata,
I trust you are well.

This is a kind follow up to my previous query.

The attached comments were received by WSP on 17 April 2026. However, the comments do not refer to the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1.

Your urgent response is requested as the final scoping report is due on Friday, 08 May 2026.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]



From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 15:11
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DSR COMMENTS FOR ABO UVEMVANE WEF IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA

Dear M [REDACTED]
I trust you are well.

The attached comments were received by WSP on 17 April 2026. However, the comments do not refer to the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1.

Please kindly reshare the comments. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 22:16
To: Strong, Ashlea <[REDACTED]>
Subject: DSR COMMENTS FOR ABO UVEMVANE WEF IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA

Dear Ms. Strong,

I trust that this email finds you well.

Kindly find the attached comments from Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation for your attention and implementation.

Regards



Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

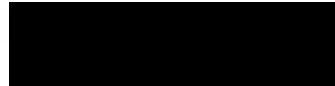
Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: ABO Uvemvane WEF



Ms. Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 6001
HALFWAY HOUSE
1685

Telephone Number:
Email Address:



PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Strong

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ISILIMELA SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE CITY OF CAPE TOWN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the report and does not have any objections to the draft Scoping Report and the Plan of Study. However, it is recommended that the PV facilities be placed in such a way that they avoid any highly sensitive biodiversity areas. Furthermore, the layout Plan overlaid with biodiversity sensitivities must be included and submitted during the next phase of the EIA. Detailed specialist studies (terrestrial, aquatic, avifauna, and bats) must be conducted in the EIA phase to refine the understanding of baseline conditions and inform mitigation measures.

The Environmental Impact Assessment report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.

All the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za for the attention of [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully



Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 15/04/2026



Maharaj, Jashmika

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 08:31
To: Maharaj, Jashmika; ZA - WSP - PPOffice; Strong, Ashlea; Mathulwe, Tumelo
Cc: MMatlala Rabothata; Khuliso KKP. Khomari; MMatlala Rabothata; bcadmin
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation on the 13th of May 2026 for review and comment on the project mentioned in the subject line.

Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms M Rabothata and Ms Khuliso Khomari (Copied in this email).

Note, all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation by email: [REDACTED] for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation
Sub-Directorate: Policy Development Mainstreaming EIA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House, 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083



From: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 9:51 PM
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Commenting Authority,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

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

DESCRIPTION

ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) proposes the development of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (WEF 1), (hereafter referred to as “the Project”), a commercial wind energy generation facility comprising up to 27 turbines and with a total generation capacity of up to 170 MWac in capacity, as well as associated infrastructure. In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the NEMA (No. 107 of 1998), as read with GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended), the proposed renewable energy facility and grid connection infrastructure trigger a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process.

The proposed Project is located approximately 9km west of the town of Balfour in the Mpumalanga Province in the Dipaleseng Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality and approximately 14km south-east of the town Heidelberg in the Gauteng Province in the Lesedi and Midvaal Local Municipalities within the Sedibeng District Municipality.

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

REGISTRATION

Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project 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.

This notification is to inform you that the Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 08 May 2026 for their review and decision -making.

FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The FSR will be made available from WSP on request and/or can be downloaded using the links below:

- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: P [14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Final Scoping Report](#)

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.

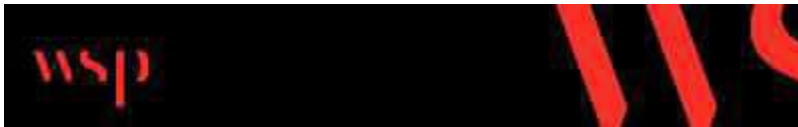
Kind regards,

Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

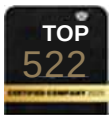
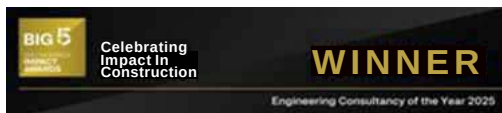


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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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Maharaj, Jashmika

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 10:40
To: [Maharaj, Jashmika](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; Strong, Ashlea; Kelli Ross
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1 (UP TO 170MWAC)), LOCATED IN THE DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND THE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 08 May 2026. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

Maharaj, Jashmika

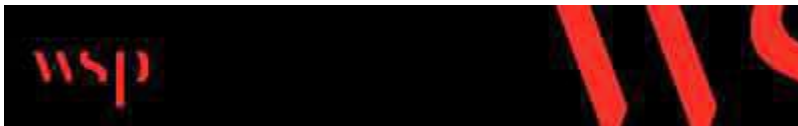
From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 08:40
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Mathulwe, Tumelo; L [REDACTED] a
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHOMRISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Marinda,

Your response is well noted. As advised, I will forward the project correspondence to your colleagues.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

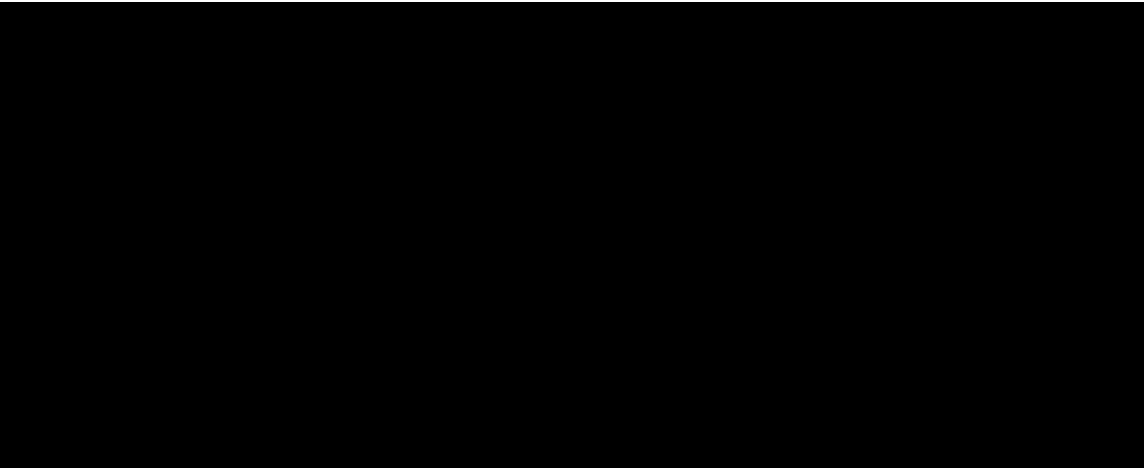


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 08:17
To: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED] >
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHOMRISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good morning,

Can you please in future email the proposed development correspondence to [REDACTED] as they are expertise in this field. (LEDP Department)

Thankyou.



From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 21:51

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

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commenting Authority,

**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1,
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.**

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)**

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The proposed Project is located approximately 9km west of the town of Balfour in the Mpumalanga Province in the Dipaleseng Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality and approximately 14km south-east of the town Heidelberg in the Gauteng Province in the Lesedi and Midvaal Local Municipalities within the Sedibeng District Municipality.

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REGISTRATION

Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project 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.

This notification is to inform you that the Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 08 May 2026 for their review and decision -making.

FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The FSR will be made available from WSP on request and/or can be downloaded using the links below:

- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: EL [14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Final Scoping Report](#)

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.

Kind regards,

Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

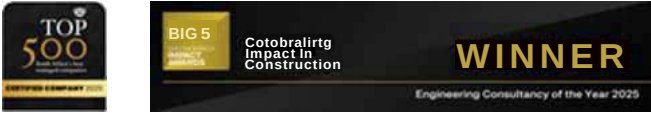


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1685 South Africa

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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ZERO TOLERANCE

TO FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

0 Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline
0800 701 701
SMS 39772
publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za

f Provincial Anti-Fraud Hotline
***0801111633**
SMS call-back: 30916
gpintegrity@thehotline.co.za

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 15:06
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

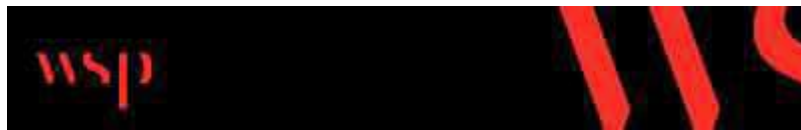
Good Day,

Thank you for your response to the project.

Please can you access the project via the link below. I will also share direct access to the OneDrive folder on a separate email.

CL [14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Final Scoping Report](#)

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 21:55
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

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

DESCRIPTION

ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) proposes the development of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (WEF 1), (hereafter referred to as "the Project"), a commercial wind energy generation facility comprising up to 27 turbines and with a total generation capacity of up to 170 MWac in capacity, as well as associated infrastructure. In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the NEMA (No. 107 of 1998), as read with GNR

983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended), the proposed renewable energy facility and grid connection infrastructure trigger a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process.

The proposed Project is located approximately 9km west of the town of Balfour in the Mpumalanga Province in the Dipaleseng Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality and approximately 14km south-east of the town Heidelberg in the Gauteng Province in the Lesedi and Midvaal Local Municipalities within the Sedibeng District Municipality.

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

REGISTRATION

Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project 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.

This notification is to inform you that the Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 08 May 2026 for their review and decision -making.

FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The FSR will be made available from WSP on request and/or can be downloaded using the links below:

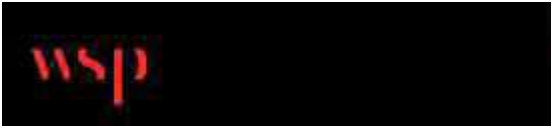
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: F_ [14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Final Scoping Report](#)

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.

Kind regards,

Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant





W



Private Bag X9506, Polokwane, 0700; Azmo Place, 49 Joubert Street, Polokwane, 0700
website: www.LOCMA.co.za

REFERENCE: 27/2/2/C21C/AUWEF1/5/26

ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd
Unit 2A
Quantico House
Loerie Park

For Attention: Ms Ashlea Strong

COMMENTS ON FINAL SCOPPING REPORT OF ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 (PTY) LTD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURES ON DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF FARMS, LOCATED NEAR HEIDELBERG AND BALFOUR IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA WITHIN DIPALESENG, LESEDI AND THE MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, C21B AND C21C QUATERNARY CATCHMENT LIMPOPO OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

Reference is made to the above-mentioned report, DFFE REF 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803 dated May 2026, prepared by WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has evaluated the above-mentioned report and wish to comment as follows:

1. The applicant shall conduct a preliminary legal assessment to identify all water use activities associated with the proposed project that will require Authorisation by the DWS and the applicant is hereby referred to section 22(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998).
2. Other water use-related activities associated with the proposed development that are not permissible under Section 22(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) must be authorised by the Department prior to such water use activities taking place, and the applicant is encouraged to consult with the Department for guidance on the requirements for such an authorisation.
3. **Portable Water:** In accordance with section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998, the applicant must note that taking water from water resource constitutes a water use. If this activity is carried out, Section 21(a) forms must be submitted to the Department. Additionally, if water is sourced from a contractor or service provider, a service level agreement must be provided to the Department before commencement of activity.
4. **Flood-lines:** The proposed operation's location map, showing the 1:100-year flood line in accordance with Section 144 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), must be submitted to the DWS.
5. **Stormwater Management:** The applicant must make sure that appropriate stormwater control and management practices are implemented during the project's development

BOARD MEMBERS: Adv. T. Moeeng (Chairperson), Mr. N. Govender (Deputy Chairperson), Mr. DT. Seroka, Adv. RM. Rosey, Mr. F. Joubert, Dr. VB. Akinwekomi, Mr. NLRambau, Ms E. Broekman, Ms. P. Mudzonani, and Mr. M Selepe (CEO)

and operation phases to prevent contaminants from entering water resources. Therefore, a plan for site rehabilitation needs to be developed.

6. **Water Uses:** The applicant must apply for a water use authorization for activities defined as such under Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998. It is important to note that stockpiling, use of septic/conservancy tanks, and dust suppression are constitute a water use under section 21(g) of the Act. Compliance with the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals, Regulation No. R267, enacted on March 24, 2017, is essential. Additionally, the applicant is required to indicate the quality, quantity, and source of water intended for dust suppression.
7. **Storage of oil, diesel, hydraulic fluids, and grease:** To prevent groundwater contamination, applicant must ensure that fluids are stored in impermeable concrete surfaces with berm walls for spill containment. A leak detection system is essential for early failure detection, and the design must ensure that leaks or spill is contained within the bunded area.
8. **Sanitation:** According to the final scoping report dated May 2026, sewage will be connected to the existing municipal sewage system. It is necessary for applicant to submit a Water Services Intermediary Letter from the local municipality to confirm that there is sufficient sewage capacity available. If the municipality lacks the capacity for sewage management and the applicant chooses to utilize septic tanks, a signed service level agreement with a certified sanitation company or approved dump points for effluent disposal must also be submitted to the department.
9. **Clearing of vegetation:** The applicant is advised to put measures in place before the commencement of activity to mitigate possible impacts arising from clearing vegetation.
10. All on-site waste, both hazardous and general, must be disposed of in a skip bin placed on a concrete slab to prevent groundwater contamination. Additionally, the applicant must have a service level agreement with a service provider for disposal at a registered waste disposal site to be submitted to the Department before starting the proposed activity.
11. The applicant is referred to Section 19(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), and to report any pollution incidents originating from the proposed project to the Provincial Office of DWS within 24 hours.

For any further queries/ correspondence in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. M Tshikalange on, email address [\[REDACTED\]](#)

█

Yours faithfully,



[REDACTED]

DATE: 05 August 2026

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 14:33
To: Zakiya Abrahams; ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility I&AP Registration

Good day Zakiya

Kindly note that you have been registered as an I&AP.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

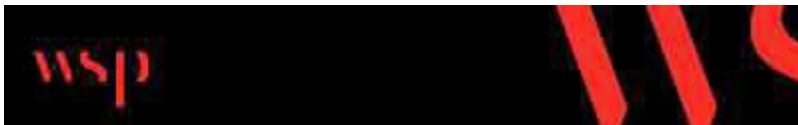
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WSP

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1685 South Africa

wsp.com



WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

Confidential

This message, including any document or file attached, is intended only for the addressee and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any other person is strictly prohibited from reading, using, disclosing or copying this message. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the message. Thank you.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: Z [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 11:03
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility I&AP Registration

Hello,

Please may I register as an I&AP for the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility ? Thank you.

Best regards,

PNE Group





forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DDFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803

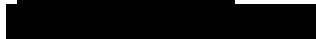


Ms Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 6001
HALFWAY HOUSE
1685

Telephone Number:



Email Address:



PER MAIL /E-MAIL

Dear Ms Strong

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1 (UP TO 170MWAC)), LOCATED IN THE DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND THE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2026 and received by the Department on 08 May 2026, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2026 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.



Batho pele - putting people first

Departement van Bosbou, Visserie en die Omgewing • Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment • UmNyango wezamaHlathi, zokuThiya neBhoduluko • iSebe lezamaHlathi, ezokuLoba noKusingqongileyo • Umnyango WezamaHlathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo • Kgoro ya Dithokgwa, Boreahlapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Meru, Botshwasi ba dithapi le Tikoloho • Lefapha la Dikgwa, Dithapi le Tikologo • Litiko Letemahlatsi, Tindhanti Netendzawo • Muhasho wa zwa Vhusima-madaka, Vhureakhovhe na Mupo • Ndzwawulo ya Swihlahla, Vunjoveri na Mbango. The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessively for the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act, and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

In addition, the following is required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Specific Comments

- (i) The proposed Uvemvane WEF 1 is located on a site comprising CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal, Intact Grassland Patches, Ecological Support Areas (ESA), Priority Focus Areas, and CBA and ESA Wetlands. You are required to:
 - > Demonstrate how the proposed development layout has applied the mitigation hierarchy, with specific emphasis on avoidance of sensitive biodiversity features as the preferred approach.
 - > Provide a detailed assessment of potential impacts on the identified biodiversity features, ecological connectivity, wetland systems, and associated ecosystem functioning during both construction and operational phases.
 - > Investigate and motivate feasible layout alternatives and micro-siting options aimed at avoiding or minimising impacts on CBAs, ESAs, intact grasslands, and wetlands.
 - > Include a cumulative impact assessment that considers existing and approved developments within the broader landscape and their combined effect on biodiversity and ecological processes.
 - > Ensure that all specialist recommendations and mitigation measures are incorporated into the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), including rehabilitation, monitoring, and long-term biodiversity management measures.
- (ii) In your comments and responses report on pages 90 and 91, you indicated that the terrestrial biodiversity scoping report concludes that offsetting will be required to manage residual impacts associated with CBAs. The layout and assessment of the residual impacts will be further refined during the impact assessment phase and reported in the terrestrial biodiversity specialist assessment report which will form the applicability of an offset strategy. Offsets must be confirmed as necessary, if it is confirmed, you are required to submit a Biodiversity Offset Report and/or Offset Strategy prepared by a suitably qualified specialist, addressing:
 - > offset objectives and principles;
 - > offset equivalence and conservation outcomes;
 - > proposed offset receiving areas;
 - > long-term management and monitoring measures;
 - > implementation responsibilities and financial provisions; and
 - > mechanisms to secure the offset area in perpetuity.
- (iii) Please ensure that the terrestrial biodiversity specialist assessment adequately assesses cumulative impacts and demonstrates whether the residual impacts, after mitigation and offset measures, can be reduced to acceptable levels.
- (iv) The findings and recommendations of the terrestrial biodiversity assessment and any proposed offset strategy must be fully incorporated into the draft EIAR and EMPr.
- (v) It is acknowledged that all turbines, laydown areas and substations (in Mpumalanga) have avoided CBAs and intact grassland patches, however, roads have not. This must be assessed in line with the requirement to potentially consider biodiversity offsets, once it has been demonstrated that all measures of avoidance have been exhausted. Any potential biodiversity offset exercise must be undertaken in accordance with the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023), and must specifically provide for “Additionality” and promote connectivity in the wider landscape.

- (vi) The project area contains areas classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) as identified in the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) (2024) and the delineations indicate that large areas in the east and centre of the PAOI are classified as CBA Irreplaceable, with smaller areas designated as CBA Optimal and ESAs. These areas should remain in a natural state that is maintained in good ecological condition and therefore must be excluded from the development footprint.
- (vii) A number of objections have been raised regarding the proposed wind energy development. The EAP is therefore requested to ensure that all issues and concerns raised by interested and affected parties are comprehensively and adequately addressed in the draft EIAR.
- (viii) It has been noted that the proposed development is located within a highly sensitive biodiversity area comprising Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird Areas, and habitat supporting numerous threatened bird species. In this regard, you are required to critically evaluate the suitability and environmental acceptability of the proposed development within the receiving environment.
- (ix) The potential impacts on biodiversity, particularly avifauna, are considered to be significant and may be of such a magnitude that they could compromise the viability of the affected ecological systems and species populations. You are therefore requested to undertake a comprehensive ecological assessment that adequately assesses the significance of impacts, including cumulative impacts, on sensitive biodiversity features and threatened species.
- (x) You are required to investigate and provide a comprehensive assessment of feasible alternatives, including alternative site locations and layout configurations, to avoid and minimise potential impacts on sensitive ecological features. The outcomes of these investigations must be clearly incorporated into the draft EIAR and must demonstrate whether the proposed development can be considered environmentally acceptable within the identified sensitive landscape.

(b) Listed Activities

- (i) The draft EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (ii) The draft EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.
- (iii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description.
- (iv) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments are received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

(c) Coordinates

- (i) Please provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous turning points, at each turning point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal

places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

(d) Alternatives

- (i) You are further required to provide details of all the alternatives considered for this development and indicate the preferred alternatives as per Appendix 2 (2) (1) (g) (i) (v) (vi) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended in the final report. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 taking into consideration the mitigation hierarchy to manage impacts identified.

(e) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The draft 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.
- (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.
- (iii) The draft 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 clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed wind energy facility;
 - > Position of the wind turbines;
 - > Powerlines;
 - > Internal roads;
 - > All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.;
 - > Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;
 - > Battery Energy Storage System;
 - > 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;
 - > Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - > All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
 - > Buildings, including accommodation.
- (iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - > 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;
 - > Buffer areas; and
 - > All “no-go” areas.
- (v) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (vi) Please note that Google maps will not be accepted.

(f) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure the language used to inform potential I&APs in the newspaper advertisement is not only communicated in 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.
- (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.
- (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments (pre and post-submission of the draft EIAR) received 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 which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs comments.
- (v) Please ensure that the EIAR indicates when and where the draft SR and EIAR were made available for a 30-day review and comment period.
- (vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

(g) Specialist Assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - > 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.
 - > 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.
 - > 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.
 - > 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.

- > 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.
- > Bird and bat specialist studies must have comments from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.
- > Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (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.
- (iv) Please also ensure that the EIAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.
- (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 aquatic sciences. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.
- (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.
- (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; and
 - > Geotechnical Assessment.
- (viii) Please ensure that each specialist study has the correct and same project description and layout to assess.
- (ix) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary must be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study

(h) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used over and above the EMPr for the wind facility. Accordingly, there needs to be a generic EMPr for the on-site substation, a generic EMPr for the overhead powerline, and a third, separate EMPr for the wind facility.
- (ii) Please ensure that any specific mitigation measures identified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the on-site substation and powerline are incorporated into the site-specific section of the generic EMPrs.
- (iii) Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the PV facility are also incorporated into the EMPr for the PV facility. In addition, please ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Please also include in the EMPrs, a recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and EMPr, and the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.

(i) 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, per the sample below.

Sample of minimum technical details required for the proposed facility.

Component	Description/dimensions
Height of PV structures	
Capacity of the PV facility	
Surface area to be covered by the facility (i.e., the area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas, including PV array area and associated infrastructure such as roads)	
Proximity to grid connection	
Number of overhead power lines required and voltage of overhead power lines	
Height of the Power Line	
Number of substations required and voltage of substations	
Area occupied by inverter/transformer stations/substations	
Area occupied by buildings	
Number of access roads, including length and width	
Length and width of internal roads	
Additional Infrastructure	

- (ii) Please ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post-

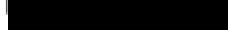
construction monitoring requirements finalised, as per Appendix 3(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

- (iii) Confirmation of the availability of services (e.g., sewage, water, etc. if required) must be included in the EIAR.
- (iv) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as an amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

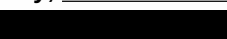
You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Letter signed by: M 

Designation: Deputy Director: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 22/06/2026

cc:	Kelli Ross	ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Email: 
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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2026 15:06
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Good Day,

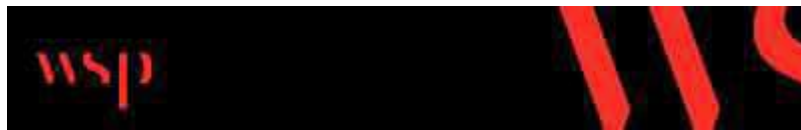
Thank you for your response to the project.

Please can you access the project via the link below. I will also share direct access to the OneDrive folder on a separate email.

CL [14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Final Scoping Report](#)

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]



From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 21:55
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.

Notice is given in terms of:

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

DESCRIPTION

ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) proposes the development of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (WEF 1), (hereafter referred to as "the Project"), a commercial wind energy generation facility comprising up to 27 turbines and with a total generation capacity of up to 170 MWac in capacity, as well as associated infrastructure. In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the NEMA (No. 107 of 1998), as read with GNR

983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended), the proposed renewable energy facility and grid connection infrastructure trigger a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process.

The proposed Project is located approximately 9km west of the town of Balfour in the Mpumalanga Province in the Dipaleseng Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality and approximately 14km south-east of the town Heidelberg in the Gauteng Province in the Lesedi and Midvaal Local Municipalities within the Sedibeng District Municipality.

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

REGISTRATION

Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project 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.

This notification is to inform you that the Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 08 May 2026 for their review and decision -making.

FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The FSR will be made available from WSP on request and/or can be downloaded using the links below:

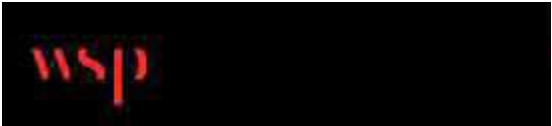
- WSP Website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>
- Datafree Website - <https://wsp-engage.com/>
- OneDrive Link: F_ [14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Final Scoping Report](#)

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.

Kind regards,

Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant





W

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 14:33
To: Zakiya Abrahams; ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility I&AP Registration

Good day Zakiya

Kindly note that you have been registered as an I&AP.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

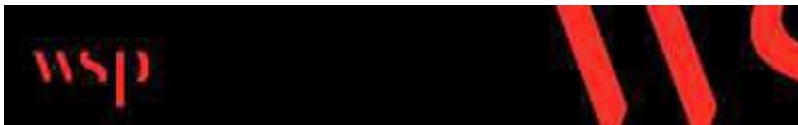
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WSP

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1685 South Africa

wsp.com



WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

Confidential

This message, including any document or file attached, is intended only for the addressee and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any other person is strictly prohibited from reading, using, disclosing or copying this message. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the message. Thank you.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: Zakiya Abrahams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 11:03
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility I&AP Registration

Hello,

Please may I register as an I&AP for the ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility ? Thank you.

Best regards,

Zakiya Abrahams



PNE Group

PNE South Africa

Reg. No. 2010/022616/07

VAT No. 4850258239

301 Sunclare Building

21 Dreyer Street

Claremont 7707

South Africa

Tel. [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Internet : www.pne-southafrica.com





forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunaa

Telephone: ([REDACTED]) **E-mail:** [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 6001
HALFWAY HOUSE
1685

Telephone Number: J [REDACTED]

Email Address: M [REDACTED]

PER MAIL /E-MAIL

Dear Ms Strong

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1 (UP TO 170MWAC)), LOCATED IN THE DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND THE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2026 and received by the Department on 08 May 2026, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2026 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.



**ANATION
THATWORKS** 

Batho pele - putting people first

Departement van Bosbou, Visserie en die Omgewing • Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment • UmNyango wezamaHlathi, zokuThiya neBhoduluko • iSebe lezamaHlathi, ezokuLoba noKusingqongileyo • Umnyango WezamaHlathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo • Kgoro ya Dithokgwa, Boreahlapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Meru, Botshwasi ba dithapi le Tikoloho • Lefapha la Dikgwa, Dithapi le Tikologo • Litiko Letemahlatsi, Tinhlanti Netendzawo • Muhasho wa zwa Vhusima-madaka, Vhureakhovhe na Mupo • Ndzawulo ya Swihlahla, Vunjoveri na Mbango. The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessively for the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act, and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

In addition, the following is required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Specific Comments

- (i) The proposed Uvemvane WEF 1 is located on a site comprising CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal, Intact Grassland Patches, Ecological Support Areas (ESA), Priority Focus Areas, and CBA and ESA Wetlands. You are required to:
 - > Demonstrate how the proposed development layout has applied the mitigation hierarchy, with specific emphasis on avoidance of sensitive biodiversity features as the preferred approach.
 - > Provide a detailed assessment of potential impacts on the identified biodiversity features, ecological connectivity, wetland systems, and associated ecosystem functioning during both construction and operational phases.
 - > Investigate and motivate feasible layout alternatives and micro-siting options aimed at avoiding or minimising impacts on CBAs, ESAs, intact grasslands, and wetlands.
 - > Include a cumulative impact assessment that considers existing and approved developments within the broader landscape and their combined effect on biodiversity and ecological processes.
 - > Ensure that all specialist recommendations and mitigation measures are incorporated into the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), including rehabilitation, monitoring, and long-term biodiversity management measures.
- (ii) In your comments and responses report on pages 90 and 91, you indicated that the terrestrial biodiversity scoping report concludes that offsetting will be required to manage residual impacts associated with CBAs. The layout and assessment of the residual impacts will be further refined during the impact assessment phase and reported in the terrestrial biodiversity specialist assessment report which will form the applicability of an offset strategy. Offsets must be confirmed as necessary, if it is confirmed, you are required to submit a Biodiversity Offset Report and/or Offset Strategy prepared by a suitably qualified specialist, addressing:
 - > offset objectives and principles;
 - > offset equivalence and conservation outcomes;
 - > proposed offset receiving areas;
 - > long-term management and monitoring measures;
 - > implementation responsibilities and financial provisions; and
 - > mechanisms to secure the offset area in perpetuity.
- (iii) Please ensure that the terrestrial biodiversity specialist assessment adequately assesses cumulative impacts and demonstrates whether the residual impacts, after mitigation and offset measures, can be reduced to acceptable levels.
- (iv) The findings and recommendations of the terrestrial biodiversity assessment and any proposed offset strategy must be fully incorporated into the draft EIAR and EMPr.
- (v) It is acknowledged that all turbines, laydown areas and substations (in Mpumalanga) have avoided CBAs and intact grassland patches, however, roads have not. This must be assessed in line with the requirement to potentially consider biodiversity offsets, once it has been demonstrated that all measures of avoidance have been exhausted. Any potential biodiversity offset exercise must be undertaken in accordance with the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023), and must specifically provide for “Additionality” and promote connectivity in the wider landscape.

- (vi) The project area contains areas classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) as identified in the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) (2024) and the delineations indicate that large areas in the east and centre of the PAOI are classified as CBA Irreplaceable, with smaller areas designated as CBA Optimal and ESAs. These areas should remain in a natural state that is maintained in good ecological condition and therefore must be excluded from the development footprint.
- (vii) A number of objections have been raised regarding the proposed wind energy development. The EAP is therefore requested to ensure that all issues and concerns raised by interested and affected parties are comprehensively and adequately addressed in the draft EIAR.
- (viii) It has been noted that the proposed development is located within a highly sensitive biodiversity area comprising Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird Areas, and habitat supporting numerous threatened bird species. In this regard, you are required to critically evaluate the suitability and environmental acceptability of the proposed development within the receiving environment.
- (ix) The potential impacts on biodiversity, particularly avifauna, are considered to be significant and may be of such a magnitude that they could compromise the viability of the affected ecological systems and species populations. You are therefore requested to undertake a comprehensive ecological assessment that adequately assesses the significance of impacts, including cumulative impacts, on sensitive biodiversity features and threatened species.
- (x) You are required to investigate and provide a comprehensive assessment of feasible alternatives, including alternative site locations and layout configurations, to avoid and minimise potential impacts on sensitive ecological features. The outcomes of these investigations must be clearly incorporated into the draft EIAR and must demonstrate whether the proposed development can be considered environmentally acceptable within the identified sensitive landscape.

(b) Listed Activities

- (i) The draft EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (ii) The draft EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.
- (iii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description.
- (iv) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments are received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

(c) Coordinates

- (i) Please provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous turning points, at each turning point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal

places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

(d) Alternatives

- (i) You are further required to provide details of all the alternatives considered for this development and indicate the preferred alternatives as per Appendix 2 (2) (1) (g) (i) (v) (vi) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended in the final report. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 taking into consideration the mitigation hierarchy to manage impacts identified.

(e) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The draft 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.
- (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.
- (iii) The draft 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 clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed wind energy facility;
 - > Position of the wind turbines;
 - > Powerlines;
 - > Internal roads;
 - > All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.;
 - > Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;
 - > Battery Energy Storage System;
 - > 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;
 - > Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - > All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
 - > Buildings, including accommodation.
- (iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - > 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;
 - > Buffer areas; and
 - > All “no-go” areas.
- (v) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (vi) Please note that Google maps will not be accepted.

(f) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure the language used to inform potential I&APs in the newspaper advertisement is not only communicated in 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.
- (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.
- (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: [REDACTED]) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments (pre and post-submission of the draft EIAR) received 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 which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs comments.
- (v) Please ensure that the EIAR indicates when and where the draft SR and EIAR were made available for a 30-day review and comment period.
- (vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

(g) Specialist Assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - > 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.
 - > 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.
 - > 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.
 - > 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.

- > 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.
- > Bird and bat specialist studies must have comments from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.
- > Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (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.
- (iv) Please also ensure that the EIAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.
- (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 aquatic sciences. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.
- (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.
- (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; and
 - > Geotechnical Assessment.
- (viii) Please ensure that each specialist study has the correct and same project description and layout to assess.
- (ix) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary must be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study

(h) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used over and above the EMPr for the wind facility. Accordingly, there needs to be a generic EMPr for the on-site substation, a generic EMPr for the overhead powerline, and a third, separate EMPr for the wind facility.
- (ii) Please ensure that any specific mitigation measures identified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the on-site substation and powerline are incorporated into the site-specific section of the generic EMPrs.
- (iii) Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the PV facility are also incorporated into the EMPr for the PV facility. In addition, please ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Please also include in the EMPrs, a recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and EMPr, and the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.

(i) 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, per the sample below.

Sample of minimum technical details required for the proposed facility.

Component	Description/dimensions
Height of PV structures	
Capacity of the PV facility	
Surface area to be covered by the facility (i.e., the area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas, including PV array area and associated infrastructure such as roads)	
Proximity to grid connection	
Number of overhead power lines required and voltage of overhead power lines	
Height of the Power Line	
Number of substations required and voltage of substations	
Area occupied by inverter/transformer stations/substations	
Area occupied by buildings	
Number of access roads, including length and width	
Length and width of internal roads	
Additional Infrastructure	

- (ii) Please ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post-

construction monitoring requirements finalised, as per Appendix 3(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

- (iii) Confirmation of the availability of services (e.g., sewage, water, etc. if required) must be included in the EIAR.
- (iv) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as an amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

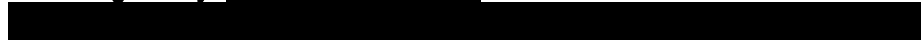
You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Letter signed by: 



Date: 22/06/2026

cc:	Kelli Ross	ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Email: K 
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Private Bag X9506, Polokwane, 0700; Azmo Place, 49 Joubert Street, Polokwane, 0700
website: www.LOCMA.co.za

ENQUIRIES: M Tshikalange TELEPHONE: [REDACTED] H REFERENCE: 27/2/2/C21C/AUWEF1/5/26

ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd

Unit 2A
Quantico House
Loerie Park

For Attention: Ms Ashlea Strong

COMMENTS ON FINAL SCOPPING REPORT OF ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 (PTY) LTD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ABO UMEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURES ON DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF FARMS, LOCATED NEAR HEIDELBERG AND BALFOUR IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA WITHIN DIPALESENG, LESEDI AND THE MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, C21B AND C21C QUATERNARY CATCHMENT LIMPOPO OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

Reference is made to the above-mentioned report, DFFE REF 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803 dated May 2026, prepared by WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has evaluated the above-mentioned report and wish to comment as follows:

1. The applicant shall conduct a preliminary legal assessment to identify all water use activities associated with the proposed project that will require Authorisation by the DWS and the applicant is hereby referred to section 22(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998).
2. Other water use-related activities associated with the proposed development that are not permissible under Section 22(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) must be authorised by the Department prior to such water use activities taking place, and the applicant is encouraged to consult with the Department for guidance on the requirements for such an authorisation.
3. **Portable Water:** In accordance with section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998, the applicant must note that taking water from water resource constitutes a water use. If this activity is carried out, Section 21(a) forms must be submitted to the Department. Additionally, if water is sourced from a contractor or service provider, a service level agreement must be provided to the Department before commencement of activity.
4. **Flood-lines:** The proposed operation's location map, showing the 1:100-year flood line in accordance with Section 144 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), must be submitted to the DWS.
5. **Stormwater Management:** The applicant must make sure that appropriate stormwater control and management practices are implemented during the project's development

BOARD MEMBERS: Adv. T. Moeeng (Chairperson), Mr. N. Govender (Deputy Chairperson), Mr. DT. Seroka, Adv. RM. Rosey, Mr. F. Joubert, Dr. VB. Akinwekomi, Mr. NLRambau, Ms E. Broekman, Ms. P. Mudzonani, and Mr. M Selepe (CEO)

and operation phases to prevent contaminants from entering water resources. Therefore, a plan for site rehabilitation needs to be developed.

6. **Water Uses:** The applicant must apply for a water use authorization for activities defined as such under Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998. It is important to note that stockpiling, use of septic/conservancy tanks, and dust suppression are constitute a water use under section 21(g) of the Act. Compliance with the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals, Regulation No. R267, enacted on March 24, 2017, is essential. Additionally, the applicant is required to indicate the quality, quantity, and source of water intended for dust suppression.
7. **Storage of oil, diesel, hydraulic fluids, and grease:** To prevent groundwater contamination, applicant must ensure that fluids are stored in impermeable concrete surfaces with berm walls for spill containment. A leak detection system is essential for early failure detection, and the design must ensure that leaks or spill is contained within the bunded area.
8. **Sanitation:** According to the final scoping report dated May 2026, sewage will be connected to the existing municipal sewage system. It is necessary for applicant to submit a Water Services Intermediary Letter from the local municipality to confirm that there is sufficient sewage capacity available. If the municipality lacks the capacity for sewage management and the applicant chooses to utilize septic tanks, a signed service level agreement with a certified sanitation company or approved dump points for effluent disposal must also be submitted to the department.
9. **Clearing of vegetation:** The applicant is advised to put measures in place before the commencement of activity to mitigate possible impacts arising from clearing vegetation.
10. All on-site waste, both hazardous and general, must be disposed of in a skip bin placed on a concrete slab to prevent groundwater contamination. Additionally, the applicant must have a service level agreement with a service provider for disposal at a registered waste disposal site to be submitted to the Department before starting the proposed activity.
11. The applicant is referred to Section 19(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), and to report any pollution incidents originating from the proposed project to the Provincial Office of DWS within 24 hours.

For any further queries/ correspondence in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. M Tshikalange on, email address [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,



DATE: 05 August 2026

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2026 15:24
To: Mathulwe, Tumelo
Subject: FW: MTPA's ref: LUA 26/4471(2) FW: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "14.12.16.3.3.2.2803_ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1_Draft EIR" with you

Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



MPUMALANGA TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY

ViuidlyCcoldjUiteA 100 Years of Kruger Tlcdimtd'PMk



Celia

Disclaimer:

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From: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2026 14:02

To: CeliadeWaal <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "14.12.16.3.3.2.2803_ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility I_Draft EIR" with you



Maharaj, Jashmika invited you to edit a folder

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)

Draft EIA Report Folder.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj



[14.12.16.3.3.2.2803 ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 Draft EIR](#)



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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2026 19:31
To: Lloyd Martin Machimana
Cc: Kelli Ross; Strong, Ashlea; ZA - WSP - PPOffice; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)

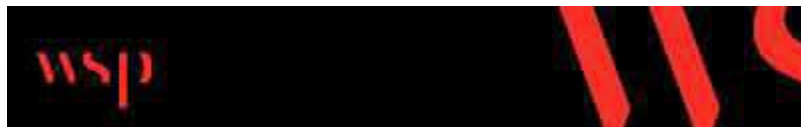
Good day,

Thank you for your correspondence and for your participation in this process.

Your email has been received and duly noted.

We look forward to further engagement from the Department.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2026 18:37
To: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)

From: Lloyd Martin Machimana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2026 14:25
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Cc: Sizwe Mazibuko [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)

Greetings Jashmika,

I trust you are well

Please note the Lesedi Environment Unit will engage with you regarding the report. Also note that a Land Use Amendment application in terms of the Lesedi SPLUMA Bylaw of 2015 as read in

conjunction with the Lesedi Land Use Scheme of 2025 will be applicable prior to any work commencement on site.

Kindly advise your client accordingly. A pre-consultation meeting may be scheduled with Planning unit to discuss the item

Kind Regards,

[Redacted Signature]

Local Economic Development & Planning

Tel: [Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Address: 1 HF Verwoerd Street, Civic Centre Building, Heidelberg, Gauteng, 1441

PC Box 201, Heidelberg, 1438 Office coordinates: WGS84 S 26°29'46" E 28°21'34"

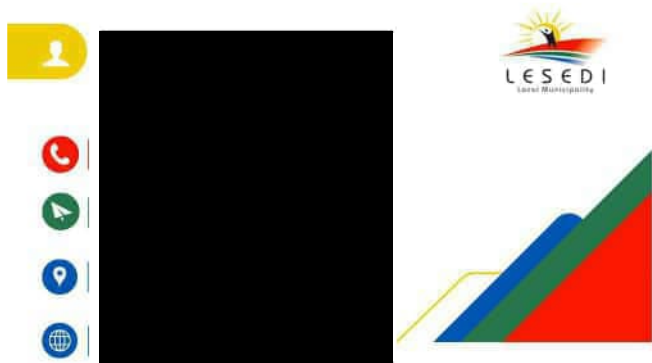


From: Juda Mbele [Redacted]

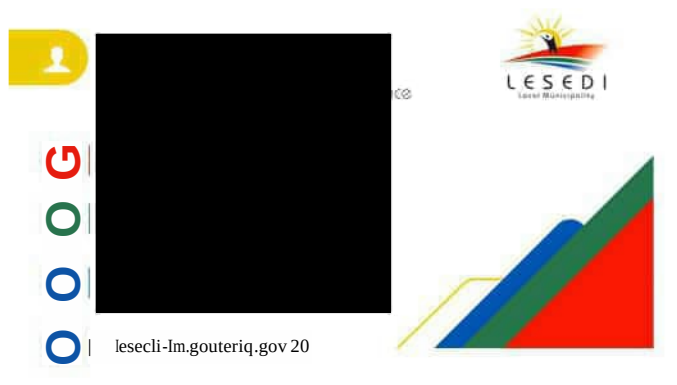
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:17 AM

To: Sizwe Mazibuko <[Redacted]>; Lloyd Martin Machimana <[Redacted]>

Subject: Fw: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)



From: Lebohang Rakosa [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:40
To: Juda Mbele <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)



From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: 24 August 2026 15:56
Subject: 41106304 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803)

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 of the applications for environmental authorisations (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proponent outlined in the table below proposes to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF), application for environmental authorisation, near Heidelberg and Balfour in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. The proposed authorisation includes the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Up to 170MWac WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406 Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Lagerspoort Nr 406 Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm De Hoek 411 Portion 45 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 Portion 7 of the Farm Lagerspoort Number 406 Portion 19 of the Farm De Hoek No 411 Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Modderfontein 410 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Farm Orion No 413 Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Lagerspoort 406 Portion 7 of the Farm Driefontein 405 Remaining Extent of Portion 9 of the Farm Malanskraal No 407 Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Malanskraal 407 Portion 12 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Driefontein 405 Remaining Extent of the Farm Driefontein 405 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remainder of Portion 6 (Kingsmead) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 Portion 17 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Farm Malanskraal No 407 Farm Bothas Spruit Nr. 404 Portion 16 (a Portion of Portion 4) of the Farm Malanskraal No 407 Remaining Extent of Portion 13 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 Remainder of Portion 18 (a Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm Malanskraal 407 Portion 1 of the Farm Weltevreden Nr. 449 	

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

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

Project Name	Listing Notice	Applicable Triggers							
Scoping EIA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABO Uvemvane WEF 1 	GNR983	11(i)	12(ii) (a)(c)	14	19	24 (ii)	28(ii)	48 (i) (a) (c)	56 (ii)
	GNR 984	1	15						
	GNR985	4	10	12	14(ii) (a)(c)	18	23(ii) (a)(c)		
MPRDA	Section 53	Surface use in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (no. 28 of 2002)							
NHRA	Section 38(8)	Review of an Impact Assessment related to an application for Environmental Authorisation							

REGISTRATION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Project are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT EIA REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

Due to an unforeseen delay, the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR) will be available for public comment from **25 August 2026 to 28 September 2026**.

Please see the attached letter for more information.

Kind regards,

Public Participation Office

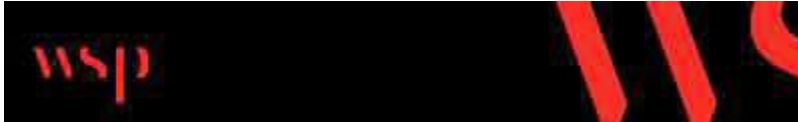
T +27 11 254 4800

T +27 11 361 1300

WSP

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

wsp.com



WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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The banner features a blue background with a sun rising over a rainbow on the left, and a gavel striking a chain on the right. The text 'ZERO TOLERANCE' is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the text 'L € S € D I TO FRAUD AND CORRUPTION' is shown. At the bottom, there are two boxes containing contact information for the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline and the Provincial Anti-Fraud Hotline.

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Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline
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CD SMS call-back; 30916
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Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline
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Provincial Anti-Fraud Hotline
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ZERO TOLERANCE
TO FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline
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Provincial Anti-Fraud Hothne
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CD SMS call'back; 30916
(SI gpintcgrity@th4>bi0tl1ne,cD_za



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

C LOG/D FAC/R/401/1/3/11/3

Telephone:
Facsimile:
E-mail:
Enquiries:



Department of Defence
Logistics Division
(Directorate Facilities)
Private Bag X319
Pretoria
0001

August 2026

ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Unit 2A, Quantico House
Lorie Park, Paul Kruger Street
Durbanville
Western Cape
7550

(Attention: The Directors)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE COMMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY(WEF) 1 NEAR HEIDELBURG AND BALFOUR, IN THE GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Reference A: Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impact on Defence Installations (Government Notice 320 in Government Gazette 43110 dd 20 March 2020)

1. The mail from ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd for request of Department of Defence comments on the Draft Scoping Report for the proposed ABO Uvemvane WEF 1 located approximately 16km southeast of Heidelberg Gauteng Province, and 10km west of Balfour town within the Dipaleseng Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

2. The following procedures are applied by the DOD to evaluate the potential impact of the intended development on the DOD:

- a. Potential Impact on Landwards Activities. The potential impact of the intended development on landwards force preparation, employment and support is evaluated at the hand of the proximity of the intended development to military training areas and base areas; and possible limitations on the landwards movement and deployment offerees.
- b. Potential Impact on DOD Communication Installations. The potential impact of the intended development on DOD communication installation is evaluated by



Lefapha la Bciphernelo . Umnyango wezckuVikeia . Kgoro ya Tshiretsetso iSebe lazoKr-useto . Department of Defence . M hasta wa Tsinledzo
UmNyango WezokuVikela . Ndzawulo ya swa VusireTialeri . Lehapha la Tsrtretetso Departement van Veroeciging LiTiko leTekuvike



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE COMMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED ABO
UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY(WEF) 1 NEAR HEIDELBURG AND BALFOUR,
IN THE GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

ascertaining whether the intended development intrudes into the DOD specified buffers around communication installations, as specified by the DOD Command Management and Information Services (CMIS) Division.

- c. Potential Impact on Aviation Routes and Flight Safety. The potential impact of the intended development on military aviation is discussed and evaluated amongst applicable specialists from the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and the South African Air Force (SAAF) as part of the proceedings of the Obstacle Evaluation Committee (OEC).

3. The following was concluded after conducting the various evaluations:

- a. Potential Impact on Landwards Activities. The location of the proposed developments of ABO Uvemvane WEF 1 is not in the proximity of military infrastructure, and it is therefore not expected to have impacts on the landward activities. Thus, there is no objection on the part of DOD landward activities.
- b. Potential Impact on DOD Communication Installations. The proposed developments of ABO Uvemvane WEF 1 will not intrude into the DOD specified buffers around communication installations and communication links. Therefore, there is no objection on the part of DOD communication installations.
- c. Potential Impact on DOD Aviation Routes and Flight Safety. The proposed developments of ABO Uvemvane WEF 1 is not located within the bounds of aviation related buffers and it will not hold implication for the SAAF. Thus, there is no objection on the part of DOD aviation routes and light safety.

4. Hope you will find this in order.

Yours faithfully



Tel: 016 360 7586 • E-mail: 

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Enquiries: Kameshree Reddy

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park,
Magwa Crescent West,
Waterfall City,
Midrand
1685

Tel: 

E-mail: pp@wsp.com

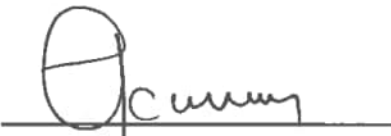
Dear Sir/Madam,

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.**

Your email dated 24th August 2026 refers.

Please be advised that the comments provided by Midvaal Local Municipality on the letter dated 27 March 2026 is still applicable. The municipality has no further comments on the draft environmental impact assessment report and specialist management plans.

Kind Regards




DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

DATE: 26/08/2026

Tel: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Enquiries: Kameshree Reddy

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park,
Magwa Crescent West,
Waterfall City,
Midrand
1685

Tel: 011 254 4800

E-mail: pp@wsp.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION PROCESS, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG.**

Your email dated 13th March 2026 refers.

1. Project Location

1.1 Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Modderfontein 410-IR.

2. Zoning of the property as per Midvaal Land Use Scheme, 2023.

2.1 The property is zoned "Agriculture" and the following uses are permitted as a primary right:

"Agricultural Building, Agricultural Uses, Commercial Farm, Conservation Areas, Cultivation Shed, Dwelling House, Farm Stall, Greenhouse, Government Purposes, Municipal Use, Nature Reserve, Prayer room, Street and Subsistence Farming."

3. Midvaal Spatial Development Framework 2025-2026.

3.1 In terms of the above-mentioned policy, the subject property is located outside the demarcated Urban Development Boundary and are earmarked for "farming" purposes.

4. Provincial Roads

4.1 The property is affected by existing Gautrans and National routes. Comments from GAUTRANS and SANRAL as the custodian of such routes will be required.

5. Floodlines

5.1 The properties are affected by floodlines and therefore comments from Randwater and Department of Water and Sanitation as the custodian of rivers will be required.

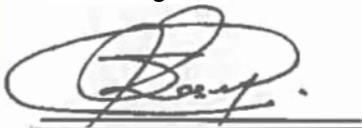
6. Land Use Section

6.1 The subject property is zoned "Agriculture" as stated in point 2 above and they do not have land use rights to allow for the proposed Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd. A rezoning application from "Agriculture" to "Industrial 1" with an annexure for Generation of energy in terms of Section 38 of the Midvaal Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-law must be submitted to council for evaluation.

6.2 In terms of Clause 27 of the Midvaal Land Use Scheme, 2023 a Site Development Plan must be submitted and approved prior to the approval of any building plan.

Considering the above-mentioned policy framework Midvaal Local Municipality would like to be registered as an interested and affected party for the reasons.

Kind Regards



DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DATE: 27/03/2026

4. Provincial Roads

4.1 The property is affected by existing Gautrans and National routes, and therefore comments from GAUTRANS and SANRAL as the custodian of such routes will be required.

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Considering the above-mentioned policy framework Midvaal Local Municipality would like to be registered as an interested and affected party for the reasons.

Kind Regards


DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

DATE: _____

Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Salome Mambane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 01 September 2026 09:31
To: Maharaj, Jashmika
Cc: EIAadmin; Thulisile Nyalunga; Strong, Ashlea; Kelli Ross
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2803

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

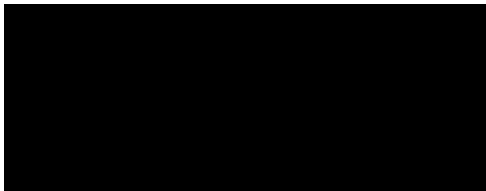
Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT L ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND AMENDED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED ABO UVEMVANE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1 (UP TO 170MWACJ), LOCATED IN THE DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND THE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 24 August 2026. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane

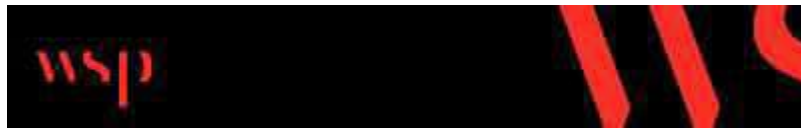


Maharaj, Jashmika

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Thursday, 03 September 2026 13:30
To: Maharaj, Jashmika
Subject: FW: 41106304 - ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 - General Comments

Tumelo Mathulwe
Principal Consultant

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2026 15:00
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: 41106304 - ABO Uvemvane Wind Energy Facility 1 - General Comments

Name: Inga Mlonyeni

Mobile Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Preferred Communication: email

Comments: My interest in the project is whether the development is compliant to the zoning laws of the municipality, alignment to Dipaleseng Spatial Development Framework