



VOLUME III

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2 NEAR LOXTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

On behalf of

LOXTON WIND FACILITY 2 (PTY) LTD

May 2023

DFFE REFERENCE 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237
DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT



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1 INTRODUCTION

Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd (LWF 2 - 'the Project Applicant') is applying for environmental authorisation to construct and operate the up to 480 MW Loxton Wind Energy Facility (WEF) 2 and its associated on-site substation and battery energy storage system. Hereafter the proposed Loxton WEF 2 and its associated infrastructure will be referred to as the 'proposed development'.

The proposed development is located approximately 17 km north of the town of Loxton within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd ('Arcus') has been appointed by LWF 2 to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process for EA under Chapter 4 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended.

2 THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The sharing of information forms the basis of a Public Participation (PP) Process, with an aim to encourage the public to have meaningful input into the decision-making process. The primary aims of the public participation process are:

- To inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- To identify and respond to issues, comments and concerns as raised by I&APs;
- To promote transparency of the project and its potential consequences and ensure I&APs understanding of the proposed development;
- To facilitate open dialogue and liaise with all I&APs;
- To assist in identifying potential environmental (biophysical and socio-economic) impacts associated with the proposed development; and
- To ensure that all I&AP issues and comments are accurately recorded, addressed and documented in a Comments & Response Report.

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) (Arcus, January 2023) presented and assessed the initial proposed wind turbine layout and associated infrastructures of the Loxton WEF 2 and its associated infrastructure. In March 2023, the DFFE accepted the FSR. The results of the specialists' scoping assessments, DFFE comments on the FSR, and other technical and financial constraints for the proposed development site were taken into consideration and a revised 'preferred layout' was produced.

This Public Participation Report has been compiled as Volume III to the respective Volume I – EIA Report. This report has been updated to include all comments received throughout the application process up until submission of the EIA report.

The sharing of information will comply with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI Act 4 of 2013). The following steps has been and will continue to be undertaken throughout the PP process to ensure compliance:

- The contact details, e-mail address and postal address of the public will not be made available for public review, however this will be made available to the Department and to any I&AP who may wish to appeal; and
- The contact details, e-mail address and postal address of I&APs will be blacked out in the Comments and Responses Trail and Public Participation Documents.

3 METHODOLOGY

The Public Participation Process follows the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), as well as the Public Participation Guidelines in terms of NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014.

3.1 Identification of Potential Interested and Affected Parties

The I&AP database (Appendix 1) was created by Arcus, in consultation with the Applicant. The I&AP database includes pre-identified / registered I&APs, including:

- Pre-identified I&APs who are all identifiable affected landowners and surrounding landowners. Landowners and surrounding landowners have and will continue to be requested to inform the occupiers of their properties regarding the project;
- Government organisations, NGOs, relevant municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders and organ of states that might be affected;
- Registered I&APs who responded to the advertisements (i.e., newspapers, notices and e-mails) and requested to be registered or request to register any other person/s; and
- Registered I&APs who have commented during the public review period of the scoping report and / or requested to be added to the I&AP database in response to.

This database was updated throughout the duration of the scoping process and will continue to be updated throughout the EIA phase. Anyone with an interest in the proposed development are encouraged to register.

3.2 Initial Notification Phase

Initial Notification was conducted prior to the completion of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR). Notification during this phase was undertaken in the following manner:

- A2 correx site notice boards (English and Afrikaans), were placed along the boundary of the development site on the 09 November 2022 (see Appendix 2).
- A4 notification posters (English and Afrikaans), were placed at public gathering places in the town of Loxton and Beaufort West on the 09 November 2022 (see Appendix 2).
- Newspaper Advertisements (English and Afrikaans), were placed in the Victoria West Messenger and the Diamond Field Advertiser newspapers on the 09 November 2022 (see Appendix 3).

The public notices and initial notification contained sufficient information on the proposed application and afforded pre-identified and interested I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues / queries / concerns, and indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered. The contact person at Arcus, contact number and email details were clearly stated on the notifications.

3.3 Scoping Phase

3.3.1 Availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for Public Review

Notification regarding the availability of the DSR for public review and comment (Appendix 4) were sent to all registered I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial period, as well as affected landowners, surrounding landowners and their occupiers) via e-mail. SMS notifications was sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who did not have an email / postal address. The written notification also advised registered I&APs of the following:

- How and where they could access the DSR (electronic and hardcopy);

- The duration that the DSR was made available for public comment, and the date by when comments must be submitted; and
- It will afford I&APs the opportunity to submit their comment / questions / queries / concerns regarding the development and content of the DBAR.

The table below presents the respective locations the DSR was made available for public review and comment from **Monday, 14 November 2022 to Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (both days inclusive)**:

Location	Physical Address
Hard Copy Location	
Loxton Public Library <i>Located within the Ubuntu Local Municipality Offices, Loxton</i>	Magrieta Prinsloo St, Loxton, 8405
CD copies were available upon request.	
Electronic Copy Locations	
Arcus Website	https://arcusconsulting.co.za/projects/
Electronic Transfer	I&APs could request for copies to be shared via a One Drive folder.
Comment Submission	
Company	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Via Email	LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Online Portal	https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement
Via Post	240 Main Road, 1 st Floor Great Westerford, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700
Via Telephone	+271 (0) 596 3502 / +27 (0) 72 595 0104
Contact Person	Ashlin Bodasing

The commenting period was 30 days, as per the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

3.3.2 Submission of the Final Scoping Report (FSR)

Written Notification (English and / or Afrikaans) regarding the submission of the FSR to DFFE for a decision (Appendix 5) were sent to all registered I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial and draft scoping period, as well as affected landowners, surrounding landowners and their occupiers) via e-mail.

3.4 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase

During the EIA phase, the following tasks will be undertaken for public participation:

- Written Notification (English and / or Afrikaans) will be sent to all registered I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial and scoping period, as well as affected landowners, surrounding landowners and their occupiers) via e-mail. SMS notifications will be sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have a postal or email addresses.
- If written notification cannot be sent to an I&AP, notification will be provided telephonically.
- Notification will inform registered I&APs of the availability of the Draft EIAR for public review and comment (30 days);

- An Issues Trail / Comments and Responses Report will be updated following the scoping phase, to record comments and / or queries received and the responses provided. This report will be included in a Final EIA for submission to the DFFE;
- Authorisation / Decision; and
- Notification letters to all registered I&APs, key stakeholders, and organs of state to inform them of the decision by the DFFE and the appeal procedure.

Furthermore, I&APs will also be able to register on the I&AP database throughout the duration of the EIA process. Once registered, I&APs will be informed about the progress of the project.

4 DECISION AND APPEAL PHASE

All registered I&APs will be provided with access to the decision on the EIA Report and the reasons for such decision. Attention of all registered I&APs will be drawn to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the NEMA, 1998, National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Notifications regarding the decision made by the DFFE will be provided in the following manner to all registered I&APs:

- Via e-mail, which will include an attachment of the decision, reasons for the decision, and appeal procedure;
- Via SMS, which will be sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have a postal or email addresses. The SMS will advise the I&AP that access to the decision, reasons for the decision, and appeal procedure must be accessed from the Arcus website: <https://arcusconsulting.co.za/projects/>; and
- Courtesy telephone calls will be made to those who cannot receive access by either of the above-mentioned methods to advise them of the decision made by the DFFE and to confirm if and / or how they wish to receive access to the decision, reasons for decision, and appeal procedure.

I&APs will be provided with access to the decision, reasons for the decision by the DFFE and the process for appeals within 14 days of date of receipt of the decision.

5 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Initial Scoping Phase

During the initial notification phase, no comments / queries / questions / concerns were received from I&APs.

Scoping Phase

During the scoping phase comment was received from the DFFE, other authority and I&APs. Responses to comments received is provided in Section 6, Table 6.1 below, with EAP / specialist / applicant responses, and the original comment and responses has been appended to the PP report (Appendix 6). It must also be noted that a focus group meeting was held via MS Teams with the DAEARL prior to the submission of the EIA report. The meeting concluded that the undertaking of further biodiversity studies was required for the Loxton WEF 3, and not applicable / required for the Loxton WEF 2 (see Appendix 7 for copy of the meeting minutes).

6 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TRAIL

This comments and responses table has been updated throughout the duration of the scoping process and comments has been collated by thread and not by date.

Table 6-1: Comments and Response Table

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
1	John Geeringh Eskom	15 November 2022 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: John Geeringh Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:41 AM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province</p> <p>Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments. Please send me KMZ files of the individual projects indicating properties and proposed layouts as well as proposed grid connection.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA) Senior Consultant Environmental Management Grid Planning: Land and Rights Eskom Transmission Division</p>	<p>From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:57 PM To: John Geeringh Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province</p> <p>Dear John</p> <p>Thank you for your e-mail. Please note that the Application to connect the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 to the national grid has not been submitted to the Department and or been made available for public comment and review. Please find attached a KMZ file of each Loxton WEF 1 – 3.</p> <p>Thank You Kind Regards Ashlin Bodasing Registered EAP and Technical Director</p> <p><i>The Eskom specification requirements attached to the email from John Geeringh were sent to the Project Developer for consideration and will be adhered to by the Project Developer during the relevant project stages.</i></p>
2	Ashleigh von der Heyden Genesis Eco-Energy Developments	15 November 2022 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? Competitor Project</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster? None</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges the stakeholder's interest in the projects and has registered the I&AP on the database.</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
-	Ashleigh von der Heyden Genesis Eco-Energy Developments	06 February 2023 Aida Form	Final Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? Developer within the region</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster? None</p>	The EAP acknowledges the stakeholder's interest in the projects and has registered the I&AP on the database.
3	Ingrid Schöfmann Karoo Development Foundation	15 November 2022 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? Making sure socio-economic development of the area falls within sustainable parameters</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster? We would like more info on the water usage / requirements for the project as well as the where the construction team will be housed during construction. Loxton currently has serious water and sewerage infrastructure challenges as well as a housing shortage. The influx of construction teams will challenge the local environment and we do not want for Loxton what happened in Sutherland: increase in drug abuse, increase in crime, increase in prostitution.</p>	<p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the I&AP interest in the project with regard to the socio-economic impacts of the development on the area.</p> <p>The socio-economic impact assessment has been commissioned and terms of reference include the assessment of impacts that the Loxton WEF Cluster will have on the community as well as the more detail on the mitigation measures to reduce the negative, if any, and enhance the positive impacts of the Loxton WEF Cluster. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase of the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments will commence following receipt of approval of the Scoping Phase from the competent authority and the reporting will be made available to I&APs for review and comment. The EAP has included the I&AP on the database so all reporting which will be made available for public review and / or comment will be disclosed to the I&AP.</p> <p>Reference is made to Section 7.2 of the Scoping Report which advises that water will be sourced from either the Local Municipality, supplied from a contractor and trucked in, from existing boreholes located within the application site or from a new borehole if none of these options are available. Note, however, that should municipal water supply not be confirmed, the Developer is investigating other water sources considering any necessary and relevant legal requirements, and the ultimate solution would need to be subject to a formal service level agreement, either with the local municipality or a private service provider. More information on the water usage and requirements will also be provided</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
					<p>during the EIA Phase of the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments.</p> <p>The EIA report(s) will include measures regarding the construction workers. The socio economic and traffic specialist will assess the number of construction workers required and will provide strict measures which must be implemented. It is envisaged that construction workers will be accommodated in the nearby towns, and transported daily to site (by bus). Suitable accommodation will be investigated in more detail as the Project progresses. For the benefit of the area within which the development falls, it is likely to be recommended that the Developer (Applicant) should liaise with the local municipality and the community to employ a percentage of local workers during the construction phase to minimise the impacts of the influx of workers.</p> <p>The socio-economic assessment will address the issues raised and aim to identify appropriate mitigation measures. The study will also investigate how to create opportunities for local communities and businesses</p>
4	Lydia Kutu Integrated Environmental Authorisations : Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support	16 November 2022 Per e-mail	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:04 AM To: Ashlin Bodasing Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges the acknowledgment of receipt of the Loxton WEF 2 Application including the Draft Scoping Report from the competent authority (the Department) and confirms that the applicable Regulations are being complied with.</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 14 November 2022. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence</p>	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p>prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support</p>	
-	<p>Ms Bathandwa Ncube</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>14 December 2022</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: Bathandwa Ncube Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 5:22 PM To: Ashlin Bodasing; LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; unai.bravo.; bfisher; thzingange Cc: Lydia Kutu; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane <; Ephron Maradwa; Masina Morudu Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Kind regards Ms Bathandwa Ncube Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>EAP acknowledges receipt of the comment from the Department on the Draft Scoping Report for the Loxton 2 WEF. Responses to comments are presented below and reference to where the comments are addressed is also provided.</p> <p>The C&R below is also included in the FSR - Section 1, Table 1.3.</p>
<p><i>e-mail attachment:</i> 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</p>			<p>DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</p> <p>Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube</p>		

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response												
				<p>EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238 Telephone: 012 399 9368 E-mail: BNcube@dfpe.oov.za Ms Ashlin Bodasing Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd 240 Main Road 1st Floor Great Westerford RONDEBOSCH Cape Town 7700 Telephone Number: 0214121529 Email Address: Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za PER MAIL/ E-MAIL Dear Ms Bodasing COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2022 and received by the Department on 14 November 2022, refer. <u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</u></p> <table><tr><th colspan="4">Application Form</th></tr><tr><th>No.</th><th>Comment from DFFE</th><th>EAP Response</th><th>Section in Report</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended): The description of project activity for this activity refers to a powerline, which is not part of this application. Activities applied for in the application form and the SR, as well as their descriptions, must be the same and correct.</td><td>The relevant listed activities as applied for are specific and will be required for the development activity and infrastructure. LN 1 Activity 11 has been kept in the Application Form and Final Scoping Report (FSR). The proposed Loxton WEF 2 will entail the construction of a 33 kV / 132 kV on-site substation hub incorporating the facility substation,</td><td>Refer to the Revised Application Form and Section 3 – Table 3.1 of the Final</td></tr></table>		Application Form				No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report	1.	Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended): The description of project activity for this activity refers to a powerline, which is not part of this application. Activities applied for in the application form and the SR, as well as their descriptions, must be the same and correct.	The relevant listed activities as applied for are specific and will be required for the development activity and infrastructure. LN 1 Activity 11 has been kept in the Application Form and Final Scoping Report (FSR). The proposed Loxton WEF 2 will entail the construction of a 33 kV / 132 kV on-site substation hub incorporating the facility substation,	Refer to the Revised Application Form and Section 3 – Table 3.1 of the Final
Application Form																	
No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report														
1.	Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended): The description of project activity for this activity refers to a powerline, which is not part of this application. Activities applied for in the application form and the SR, as well as their descriptions, must be the same and correct.	The relevant listed activities as applied for are specific and will be required for the development activity and infrastructure. LN 1 Activity 11 has been kept in the Application Form and Final Scoping Report (FSR). The proposed Loxton WEF 2 will entail the construction of a 33 kV / 132 kV on-site substation hub incorporating the facility substation,	Refer to the Revised Application Form and Section 3 – Table 3.1 of the Final														

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
					switchyard and collector infrastructure with a footprint of up to 2 ha. All internal cables have a capacity of 33 kV. A separate application will be submitted to the Department for the <i>development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity</i> from the Wind Farm to the national grid.	Scoping Report.
			2.	Written landowner consent from Wildra Trust has not been included for Portion 4 of them Farm Rietfontein No 572.	The written landowner consent form has been included in the Revised Application Form.	Refer to the Revised Application Form.
			3.	If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.	The activities which have been applied for in the Application Form are the same as what has been included in the FSR.	Refer to the Revised Application Form and Section 3 – Table 3.1 of the Final Scoping Report.
			Specialist Assessments			
			No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
			4.	Page 4 of the meeting minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 26 October 2022 refers to the undertaking of a Wake Effect Analysis, however this study is not included in the Specialist Plan of Study (PoS).	The PoS for the Wake Effect Analysis has been included in Section 12.5 of the FSR.	Refer to Section 12 of the Final Scoping Report.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
			5.	Page 29 of the draft SR indicates that a Geotechnical Assessment is required but will not be undertaken as part of the EIA process. All required specialist studies must be conducted as part of the EIA process. Due to the development design constraints indicated, a desktop Geotechnical Assessment must be included as part of the Specialist PoS.	The EAP is of the opinion that a Geotechnical Assessment for the development can only be undertaken once the final development design is confirmed, prior to the commencement of the construction phase. A desktop Geotechnical Assessment has been included as part of the Specialist PoS for the EIA phase.	Refer to Section 12 of the Final Scoping Report.
			6.	You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for <u>all</u> specialist studies conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department template).	Signed copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for <u>all</u> specialist studies conducted has been included for submission with the FSR.	Refer to Volume II of the Final Scoping Report.
			7.	Please note that in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), it is a requirement for specialists to be registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in their respective fields.	Specialists reports have been undertaken in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species) proof of the SACNASP registration in the respective fields are appended to the assessment report.	Refer to Volume II of the Final Scoping Report.
			8.	The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which have been included as part of this SR, must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).	Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which have been included as part of this SR were submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). No comment was	n/a

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
					received prior to the submission of the Final Scoping Report. Should comment be received following submission of the FSR, the comment will be sent to the Department for consideration.	
			Public Participation Process			
			No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
			9.	The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The public participation process for the Loxton WEF 2 has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	Refer to Section 9 of the FSR and Volume III – Public Participation Report.
			10.	Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. The contact details are as follows: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota Email: BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za	The Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate was sent a request for comment. No comment was received prior to the submission of the Final Scoping Report. Should comment be received following submission of the FSR, the comment will be sent to the Department for consideration.	n/a
			11.	Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR has been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
					The Project Details of the FSR - Volume I, reflects the changes made from DSR to FSR.	
			12.	Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the Final SR.	Copies of all original comments received during and up until submission of the FSR has been provided for in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) of the FBAR.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			13.	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	This has been provided for in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) of the FSR. Any correspondence with relevant organs of state and stakeholders has been included in the comments and response table. Where no correspondence has been received, the proof of attempts to retrieve a comment has been provided.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			14.	All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).	A comments and response trail has been produced and is included in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) of the FSR. The comments received from DFFE is also included in the comments and response trail. The C&R trail presents responses to comments and sections of the FSR which addresses the comments.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			15.	The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in <i>Annexure 1</i> of this comments letter.	The C&R report is included in the PP Report (Volume III) of the FSR and is therefore separate from the main report.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			16.	Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	Comments have not been split and / or arranged into categories and are all responded to individually.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
			17.	Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied <i>verbatim</i> and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.	Comments received have been adequately addressed and have not been summarised in the C&R report.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			18.	The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.	No focus group / meetings were held during the public review period of the DSR/	n/a
			19.	Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.	Proof of site notices, including the GPS co-ordinates of their location placements has been included in the PP report in the FSR.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			20.	Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.	The tearsheet of the advertisement in the respective local and provincial newspapers has been included in the PP report of the FSR.	Refer to the PP Report - Volume III.
			General			
			No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
				<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"</i></p>		

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
				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.	A table is included in the Scoping Report which presents compliance with the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	Refer to FSR Section 2 – Table 2.1.
				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).	Timeframes stipulated are being adhered to in this application.	n/a
				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.	The Applicant / EAP takes note of this and confirms that no activity has / will commence without a positive environmental authorisation.	n/a
				Yours Sincerely Ms Milicent Solomons Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Signed by: Mr. Vusi Skosana Designation: Director: National Integrated Authorisations EAPASA Registration Ref: 2019/92 Date: 13 December 2022	-	-
-	Lydia Kutu Integrated Environmental	19 January 2023 Per e-mail	Final Scoping Phase	From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 9:39 AM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing	The EAP acknowledges the acknowledgment of receipt of the Loxton WEF 2 Final Scoping Report from the competent authority (the Department) and confirms no activity will commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
	Authorisations : Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support			<p>Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 17 January 2023. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>	
-	Ms Bathandwa Ncube Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	01 March 2023 Per email	Final Scoping Phase	<p>From: Bathandwa Ncube Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:13 PM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing Cc: unai.bravo; bfisher@ncpg.gov.za; thzingange; Masina Morudu; Lydia Kutu; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; EIAAdmin Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</p> <p>Good day</p>	<p>EAP acknowledges receipt of the comment from the Department on the Final Scoping Report for the Loxton 2 WEF. Responses to comments are presented below and reference to where the comments are addressed is also provided.</p> <p>The C&R below is also included in the Draft EIAR - Section 1, Table 1.3.</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
				<p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Kind regards Ms Bathandwa Ncube Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>			
<i>e-mail attachment: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237</i>			No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report	
			DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237 Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE				
			The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 14 January 2023, refers. This letter serves to inform you, that the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:				
			(a)	Application form			
			1.	It is noted that the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) does not fall within any strategic corridors or development zones, therefore the application will be considered as a normal EIA Application.	The EAP confirms that the Development does not fall within any strategic corridors or development zones. The application is following a full Scoping and EIA process in accordance with the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Volume I: Section 3	
			2.	If the EIAR contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the	The listed activities in the Application form and in the EIAR is the same. A revised Application	n/a	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
				application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAr.	Form has been submitted with the EIAr considering the updated Development specifications following the scoping phase.	
			(b)	Alternatives		
			3.	Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The EIAr includes a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, which includes the activity alternatives, site alternatives, location alternatives and the "No Development" alternative.	Volume I: Section 7
			4.	Design/Layout alternatives, as illustrated in the preliminary site development plan of the final SR, must be included in the Alternatives Assessment section of the EIAr. This includes discussing the 3 laydown area alternatives and the 3 substation alternatives.	The design evolution of the WEF is included in the EIAr. The WEF layout change was based on the further studies for the EIA phase of the development and includes the preferred location of alternatives, including the laydown and substation locations.	Volume I: Section 7
			5.	Where applicable, each specialist study must indicate a preferred laydown and substation alternative.	The layout assessed during the scoping phase has been adjusted based on the initial scoping assessment and specialists' findings. Due to the design evolution of the Loxton WEF 2 turbine positions, the placements of the laydown area and on-site substation have both been revisited and is considered the preferred alternative in the EIAr.	Volume I: Section 7

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
			6.	BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.	An explanation of the preferred and alternative battery technologies has been included in the alternative section of the EIAR.	Volume I: Section 7
			(c)	Public Participation		
			7.	Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.	The Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate will be requested to review and submit comment on the EIAR. This comment will be addressed and incorporated into the Final EIAR. The Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate provided comment during the PPP for the scoping phase and addressed in the comment and response report.	Volume III: PP Report
			8.	Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.	Comments from all relevant stakeholders which were received and addressed prior to submission the draft EIAR will be submitted to the Department. The PP report (volume III) will be updated following the PP period of the draft EIAR and submitted to the Department with the final EIAR	Volume III: PP Report
			9.	All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR). This includes comments received from the distribution of the draft SR, which have not been incorporated into the CRR in the FSR.	The comments and response report included in the PP report (Volume III) includes all issues raised and comments received prior to submission the draft EIAR will be submitted to the Department.	Volume III: PP Report

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
					The PP report (volume III) will be updated following the PP period of the draft EIAr and submitted to the Department with the final EIAr	
			10.	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	This has been provided for in the PP Report (Volume III) of the EIAr. Any correspondence with relevant organs of state and stakeholders has been included in the comments and response table. Where no correspondence has been received, the proof of attempts to retrieve a comment has been provided.	Volume III: PP Report
			11.	Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	The comments and response report has been collated by thread and have not been split.	Volume III: PP Report
			12.	Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.	The comments and response report includes verbatim 'copy and paste' of comments received. Responses provided are adequate and addresses comments raised.	Volume III: PP Report
			(d)	Layout & Sensitivity Maps		
			13.	The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of Turbine 101 is proposed within a CBA 1 and multiple turbines are within a CBA 2. Please provide motivation for the placement of these wind turbines.	Under the layout assessed, there are 12 turbines within the CBA 2 located on the south of the site, which would have an overall footprint of approximately 20 ha. This is considered unlikely to significantly impact the underlying biodiversity features as these have	Volume I; Volume II

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
					been mapped in detail in the sensitivity mapping provided to the project. A large proportion of the site and development footprint lies within an NFEPA Priority Subcatchment. The development would potentially have negative impacts on the subcatchment and associated riparian environments through disturbance and changes to water quality downstream of the site as a result of erosion, pollution and other forms of disturbance and associated degradation of the freshwater ecosystems of the site. However, these negative impacts can be well-mitigated. With the effective implementation of the suggested mitigation and avoidance, it is unlikely that the development of the Loxton Wind Facility 2 would significantly compromise the long-term ecological integrity and associated ecosystem services of the affected FEPA Subcatchment.		
			14.	<p>Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure; Permanent laydown area footprint; Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other 	Figure 3 of the EIA report includes a layout map which indicates the preferred location and the associated infrastructure of the Loxton WEF 2 development.	Volume I: Figure 3	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
				<p>site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);</p> <p>d. The location of any 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;</p> <p>e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;</p> <p>f. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</p> <p>g. Buildings, including accommodation if any;</p> <p>h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint if any; and</p> <p>i. Buffer areas;</p> <p>j. All "no-go" areas.</p>			
			15.	An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process must be submitted in the EIAR.	Figure 7 of the EIAR report includes an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.	Volume I: Figure 7	
			16.	A map combining the layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must be submitted in the EIAR.	Figure 10 of the EIAR report includes a map combining the layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.	Volume I: Figure 10	
			(e)	Specialist assessments			
			17.	In addition to the preliminary specialist studies contained in the final SR, it is noted that a desktop Wake Impact Analysis and desktop Geotechnical	The desktop Wake Impact Analysis and desktop Geotechnical Impact Assessment is included in the EIAR.	Volume I; Volume II.	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
				Impact Assessment will be included in the EIAR, as per Section 12.5 of the final SR.			
			18.	Comments from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist dated 13 December 2022, state that the cumulative impacts of the 3 proposed Loxton WEFs on CBAs, is significant and an offset needs analysis is required to assess whether the cumulative impact is acceptable. Please include a Biodiversity Offset Assessment in the Specialist Plan of Study, which must be conducted in terms of the National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline. Should the assessment not be included in the EIAR, a detailed motivation must be provided for its exclusion. The list of required specialist studies proposed on page 5 of the comments letter must be addressed in the CRR.	The footprint of the Loxton 2 WEF within CBAs are ~35 ha. Following a meeting with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL), undertaking a further biodiversity study was required for the Loxton WEF 3 and not applicable / required for the Loxton WEF 2 (see Volume III: PP Report for minutes of the meeting). A Plant Compliance Statement, Karoo Dwarf Tortoise Species Assessment and Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment was undertaken for the EIA phase and is discussed and included in this EIAR.	Volume I; Volume II.	
			19.	A Risk Assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAR.	Where impacts have been identified by specialists regarding the operation of the BESS, this has been included in the EIAR. The EMPr includes a risk assessment of the BESS.	Volume I; Appendix B: EMPr.	
			20.	The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which will be included in the EIAR, must address the interim comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) dated 20 January 2023.	The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, included in the EIAR addresses the interim comments from the SAHRA. Final comment from the SAHRA will be requested during the EIA PPP.	Volume II: Specialist Reports Volume III: PP Report	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
			21.	Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).	Specialist assessments identified by the screening report generated for the proposed development was used as the basis for each specialist study. If an assessment was not conducted according to the said procedures, reason for this has been provided.	Volume I: Section 4
			22.	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.	The EAP acknowledges that the departments definition of a 'no-go' area is for any infrastructure, including the associated infrastructure such as access roads. The proposed development, including the associated infrastructure is not proposed within no-go areas.	Volume I: Figure 10
			23.	Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.	Except for avifauna and bats the specialist definition of 'no-go' is the same as that of the department. Buffers for any 'no-go' area provided by the specialist is indicated. The avifauna and bat specialist has identified areas of no-go for turbines, and permits associated infrastructure such as access roads and the development of associated infrastructure and underground cabling within these buffers. These areas are clearly defined and marked in the maps.	Volume I: Figure 10

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
			24.	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 environmental authorisation.	All specialist studies are final and provide detailed / practical mitigation measures. Further studies are only provided for post construction of the proposed development.	Volume II: Specialist Reports
			25.	Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAr.	Project activity descriptions and thresholds are the same in all documents related to the application and assessment of the Loxton WEF 2.	Application Form and Volume I – Volume II
			26.	Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.	Specific mitigation measures as recommended by specialists are clearly indicated the EIAr and EMPr.	Volume I; Appendix B: EMPr
			27.	Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	No contradicting recommendations were provided by specialists. Specialists' recommendations have been considered and included Section 13 of the EIAr to be included in EA and / or in the EMPr for implementation.	Volume I: Section 13; Appendix B: EMPr
			28.	You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.	Each specialist study undertaken includes a copy of a specialist declaration of interest forms (witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths).	Volume II: Specialist Reports.
			(f)	Cumulative Assessments		
			29.	Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30 km radius of the proposed development site, the	An assessment of cumulative impacts, including significance	Volume I: Section 4 and Section 11

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
				<p>cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land. b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process. c. Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 	<p>ratings, has been included in Section 4.3.3 and Section 11 of the EIAr. The actual development footprint of the nearby Renewable Energy developments could not be easily quantified or accessed spatially. For example, the National Renewable Energy EIA Application Database contains the land parcels, and not the footprint. Nonetheless, it is believed that the assessment of cumulative impacts has been adequately captured in this EIAr.</p> <p>Detailed process flow and proof of the assessments have been included in the individual independent specialist reports.</p> <p>The need and desirability of the proposed project takes into account the cumulative impacts of surrounding developments of the area.</p> <p>A statement of the cumulative impacts of the proposed development has been included in the report.</p>		
			(g)	WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)			
			30.	A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAr.	A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures has been drafted and will be submitted with the EIAr.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
			31.	<p>The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan; b. Weed and invader plant management plan; c. Traffic management plan; d. Emergency response plan; e. Fire management plan; f. Stormwater management plan; g. Noise management; h. Erosion management; i. Dust management; j. Waste management; k. All recommendations and mitigation measures, plans and procedures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted. l. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems. m. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility; n. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment; 	The content of the EMPr produced for the proposed development is in compliance in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and includes, where relevant the plans and measures recommended by the Department.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	
			32.	The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the	The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr contains	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response		
				handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.	information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.		
			33.	The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.	The EMPr impact management outcomes and impact management actions are separated in the respective tables the EMPr.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	
			34.	The EMPr must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr and specialist studies conducted.	Specific recommendations and mitigation measures identified in the EIAr, specialist reports and based on comments received are incorporated into the EMPr.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	
			35.	The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".	The EMPr has been drafted to include management actions which 'must' take place. Should changes be required, the EMPr will be amended and submitted for approval as it is seen as a live and dynamic document.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	
			(h)	Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)			
			36.	The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAr, over and above the EMPr for the WEF: <i>a. Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.</i>	The generic EMPr for the development of a substation has been appended to the EMPr submitted with the EIAr.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMPr	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response	
			37.	Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMP must be submitted with the EIA. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMP must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIA. An unsigned Generic EMP is regarded as incomplete.	The generic EMP for the development of a substation will include Applicant details and project information as it is included in the Application Form and EIA and will be signed prior to submission.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMP
			38.	If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMP template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMP.	Specific environmental sensitivities/attributes applicable to the development of the substation which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMP template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions is included in Part C of the generic EMP.	Volume I: Appendix B: EMP
			(i)	General		
			39.	The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMP.	All requirements in the Department comment have been considered for in the respective EMP(s). No motivation for exclusion in the EMP is required.	n/a
			40.	Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas, which will result in significant negative impacts prior to mitigation measures, is prohibited.	Negative impacts identified during the EIA includes mitigation measures which reduces the impact of the development, especially in the identified high sensitive areas.	Volume I: Section 12

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
5	Michael Interested and Affected Party	29 November 2022 Per e-mail	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Michael Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 6:41 AM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Subject: Register</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>Register me as interested and affected party.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind regards, Michael</p>	The EAP acknowledges request and has included the I&AP on the database.
6	Christo and Caren Venter Interested and Affected Party	29 November 2022 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? Concerned resident</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster Concerned about influx of people on this small Karoo town; underground water levels being affected; noise pollution; roads being affected. All of this could also influence the tourism industry and the character of the town and region.</p>	<p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the I&AP concern with regard to the proposed development in the Loxton area.</p> <p>The socio-economic impact assessment has been commissioned and terms of reference include the assessment of impacts that the Loxton WEF Cluster will have on the community as well as the more detail on the mitigation measures to reduce the negative, if any, and enhance the positive impacts of the Loxton WEF Cluster. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase of the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments will commence following receipt of approval of the Scoping Phase from the competent authority and the reporting will be made available to I&APs for review and comment. The EAP has included the I&AP on the database so all reporting which will be made available for public review and / or comment will be disclosed to the I&AP.</p> <p>Section 7.2 of the Scoping Report advises that water will be sourced from either the Local Municipality, supplied from a contractor and trucked in, from existing boreholes located within the application site or from a new borehole if none of these options are available. Note, however, that should municipal water supply not be confirmed, the</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
					<p>Developer is investigating other water sources considering any necessary and relevant legal requirements, and the ultimate solution would need to be subject to a formal service level agreement, either with the local municipality or a private service provider. More information on the water usage and requirements will also be provided during the EIA Phase of the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments.</p> <p>The EIA report(s) will include measures regarding the influx of people (workers), water usages, noise and road impacts.</p> <p>The socio-economic assessment will address the issues raised and aim to identify appropriate mitigation measures. The study will also investigate how to create opportunities for local communities and businesses.</p>
7	Chris Stuart Stuart on Nature Director	29 November 2022 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? We live in Loxton, and are zoologists/ecologists and are aware of the negative impacts of windfarms on environment and natural resources</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster We have experience with wind farms in North America and Australia. There are many negative impacts of these developments. Not least the expected lifespan of these wind farms is some 20 years - there is no recycling value to these wind turbines and they are generally left to rot at the sites, creating pollution issues in the long term.</p> <p>We also object to wind farms because of the impact on bats and birds.</p>	<p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the I&AP concern with regard to the proposed development in the Loxton area and included the I&AP on the database so all reporting which will be made available for public review and / or comment will be disclosed to the I&AP.</p> <p>The Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) which will require approval from the Department before any activity can commence will include measures which must be adhered to from the design through to decommission and rehabilitation phase of the proposed developments. Recommendations for removal to landfill sites of components of the turbines which cannot be re-used / recycled will be included in the EMPr. A separate scoping & EIA process will be undertaken in terms of EIA Regulations 2014 to assess the impacts associated with the decommissioning phase of the proposed WEF. As part of the REIPPPP programme the project company has legal obligation regarding the rehabilitation and decommissions costs and associated financial guarantees which is issued in favour of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p>Then there are issues during construction: vast amounts of water are needed for the development crews and mixing of tons of concrete at the sites. Loxton is a water-deprived area, the village and surrounds already suffer from insufficient water supply.</p> <p>On top of that the heavy equipment used in the construction of the wind turbines will negatively impact the already poor road infrastructure in the area. From past experience in other parts of the world, the companies that construct these wind farms leave the district with damaged roads and have no intention of fixing them. That is a fact.</p>	<p>A detailed nest survey and screening exercise was undertaken as part of the site selection and feasibility process for the wind farm. A further 12 months of bird and bat monitoring was undertaken for each of the proposed Loxton WEFs and various no-go buffers for the placement of turbines were delineated to reduce the risk of collisions. The EIA phase of the developments will include measures based on the species and flight activity identified within the boundaries of the development site. Protection of all species are important to consider, and Developers must comply with the measures which will be included in the EMP for each Loxton WEF.</p> <p>The Developer has been in consultation with relevant parties regarding the water for construction activities of the proposed Loxton WEFs. Reference is made to Section 7.2 of the Scoping Report which advises that water will be sourced from either the Local Municipality, supplied from a contractor and trucked in, from existing boreholes located within the application site or from a new borehole if none of these options are available. Note, however, that should municipal water supply not be confirmed, the Developer is investigating other water sources considering any necessary and relevant legal requirements, and the ultimate solution would need to be subject to a formal service level agreement, either with the local municipality or a private service provider. More information on the water usage and requirements will also be provided during the EIA Phase of the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments.</p> <p>A traffic and transport impact assessment will identify any negative impacts the development may have on the existing infrastructure within the development area. If roads or other infrastructure will be negatively impacted</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
					<p>during any phase of the development, measures to mitigate the negative impacts will be identified and included in the EMP for implementation.</p> <p>The EIA reports of each Loxton WEF will present further detail on the impacts identified and the measures recommended to reduce any negative impact and enhance positive impacts identified.</p>
8	Dinah Groenewald Interested and Affected Party	29 November 2022 Per e-mail	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? nothing at all BUT it is BAD BAD BAD</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster Bad for our countryside and wildlife, birds, rabbits and water shortage in the KAROO</p>	<p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the I&AP concern with regard to the proposed development in the Loxton area and included the I&AP on the database so all reporting which will be made available for public review and / or comment will be disclosed to the I&AP.</p> <p>During the EIA phase the results of the specialist assessments with regard to the impact of the development on the wildlife, birds, rabbits and water shortage will be presented in more detail, including measures to reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.</p>
9	Tania Heurtaux Interested and Affected Party	29 November 2022 Per e-mail	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>What is your interest in the projects? Interest & Affected Party</p> <p>Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster Long term negative effects this project will have on the town's social and environmental structures .</p>	<p>The EAP and Applicant acknowledges the I&AP concern with regard to the proposed development in the Loxton area and included the I&AP on the database so all reporting which will be made available for public review and / or comment will be disclosed to the I&AP.</p> <p>The socio-economic impact assessment has been commissioned and terms of reference include the assessment of impacts that the Loxton WEF Cluster will have on the community as well as the more detail on the mitigation measures to reduce the negative, if any, and enhance the positive impacts of the Loxton WEF Cluster. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase of the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments will commence following receipt of approval of the Scoping Phase from the competent authority and the reporting will be made available to I&APs for review and comment. The EIA report(s) will include measures regarding the influx of</p>

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					people (workers), rehabilitation of the development area, visual and landscape impacts etc.
10	Zakiyah Abrahams <i>Project Developer</i> WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd	30 November 2022 Per e-mail	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Abrahams, Zakiya Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 9:42 AM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Aneesah Alwie Subject: Loxton WEFs</p> <p>Hi Aneesah,</p> <p>Please could you register myself as an I&AP for the Loxton projects and their associated infrastructure projects? Thank you.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Zakiya Abrahams <i>Project Developer</i> WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd</p>	The EAP acknowledges the request and has included the I&AP on the database.
11	Peter Cloete	13 December 2022 Per e-mail	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Peter Cloete Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 12:09 PM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Subject: Loxton WEF (Farm Boundaries)</p> <p>Dear Ashlin</p> <p>My name is Peter Cloete. I am the District Ecologist responsible for providing comments on Renewable Energy Developments EIA's in the Northern Cape. Herewith I would like to request Kml/kmz files of the farm boundaries for the Proposed Loxton WEF 3-development that is currently out for comments.</p> <p>I hope you can assist me in this matter</p> <p>Kind regards Mr. Peter Cloete (Pr. Sci. Nat.) Production Scientist: Grade A: District Ecologist</p>	<p>From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:12 PM To: Peter Cloete Subject: RE: Loxton WEF (Farm Boundaries)</p> <p>Dear Peter,</p> <p>Thank you for your e-mail and interest in the project. As per your request, please find attached a KMZ which includes the boundaries of the proposed Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments.</p> <p>Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The Draft Scoping Reports are</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				Northern Cape Department Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	available for a 30 day comment period from 14 November 2002 until 14 December 22 (both days inclusive) . Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report. Thank You Kind Regards Ashlin Bodasing Registered EAP and Technical Director
-	Elsabe Swart SCIENTIFIC MANAGER GR B: ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	14 December 2022 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Elsabe Swart Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:33 AM To: LKutu; SDlamini; Bryan Fisher; Bryan Fischer Cc: TMakaudi; LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Pieter Cloete Subject:</p> <p>Dear Kutu / Dlamini</p> <p>Attached herewith, please find comments and recommendations from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact Peter Cloete if you need any further information and/or clarifications.</p> <p>Festive Greetings and safe travels to you. Regards Elsabè</p>	EAP acknowledges comment received from the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform on the Loxton WEF 1 - 3. Responses by the EAP / Applicant and respective specialists are presented in the table below.
e-mail attachment: PC – Loxton WEF 3_ES			No.	Comment from Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	EAP / Applicant / Specialist Response
			Date:	13/012/2022	Reference:
			To:	Mrs. Lydia Kutu and Ms. Samkelisiwe Dlamini	DFEE Reference to be confirmed P. Cloete

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				Comments on the Draft Scoping Report for the Loxton WEFs, within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province	
				<p>Attention: Mrs. Lydia Kutu / Ms. Samkelisiwe Dlamini (cc the EAP, Ashlin Bodasing as part of ARCUS ERM)</p> <p>Dear Ms. Dlamini / Mrs. Kutu</p> <p>The applicant, Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a commercial Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure on a ca. 11 700 ha site located approximately 10 km east of Loxton within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. Two additional WEFs are concurrently being considered on the surrounding properties and are assessed by way of separate impact Assessments. These projects are known as Loxton WEF 1 and Loxton WEF 2. Loxton WEF 3 will comprise of up to 41 turbines, with a contracted capacity of up to 240MW with a permanent footprint of up to 65 ha.</p>	EAP confirms that the details presented here are correct.
			1.	The applicant is reminded of its general duty of care and the remediation of environmental damage in terms of section 28(1) of the NEMA which specifically states that: <i>"...Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment..."</i>	An Environmental Management Programme will be drafted with the EIA phase of the Loxton WEF 2 application process. The EMP includes strict measures with regard to ensuring that the Developer complies with the measures as provided by the assessment team to reduce any negative impact the development may have on the receiving environment. Any noncompliance with the EMP will be fined by the Department.
			2.	The development of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility is likely to result in a variety of impacts, associated	With reference to the ecological specialist scoping assessment which has been included in the Draft Scoping

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				largely with the disturbance, loss and transformation of intact vegetation and fauna habitat during construction.	Report it is acknowledged that the specialists have identified potential impacts. Section 10.3 of the Final Scoping Report provides a list of impacts which were identified as the major impacts that are likely to be associated with the development of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2. These impacts including the measures to mitigate the impacts, will be discussed, and assessed further in the EIA phase.
			3.	The development also falls within a CBA 1 and CBA 2. The footprint of the Loxton 1 WEF within CBAs would be less than 5 ha and is not considered significant, while the Loxton 2 WEF would have a footprint within CBAs of approximately 35 ha. The footprint of the Loxton WEF 3 within CBAs would be as much as 65 ha. Thus, the cumulative impact of the three Loxton WEFs on CBAs would be approximately 105 ha, which is regarded significant.	Although the combined size of the development(s) footprint which falls within a CBA may be considered high, the broader area is still largely intact with no existing renewable energy facilities present thus far, with that, cumulative impacts associated with the current approved and planned projects are considered acceptable to progress to the EIA phase for further assessment and consideration. This is applicable to the proposed Loxton WEF 1 - 3 developments. An ecological set aside report will be included in the EIA phase of the Loxton WEF 3 and will address the cumulative impact of the development on CBAs, broad scale ecological processes and the ability to meet future conservation targets in the area.
			4.	The presence of drainage lines, dolerite hills and localised habitats of the Riverine Rabbit and Karoo Dwarf Tortoise are important features which appears the selection of these areas as CBA`s. In terms of specific cumulative impacts, impacts on the Riverine Rabbit and Karoo Dwarf Tortoise is a concern. Species impacts (specifically rabbits and hares) must be assessed through compounding impacts of the development and the current Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) breakout in the area. Further to the above, if the proposed WEF is likely to have an unacceptable Medium – High negative impact on broad-scale ecological processes and habitat quality	Agreed, an ecological set aside report will be included in the EIA phase for Loxton WEF 3 and should that study conclude that there are moderate or high residual impacts on biodiversity after mitigation, then a full offset study will be initiated.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				for sensitive species, prior to mitigation the need for a biodiversity offset assessment will be a requirement. It is clear that the Loxton WEF 3 would generate a significantly higher impact on CBAs and given that the affected area within the Loxton WEF 3 is considered more sensitive than the habitats within either the Loxton 1 WEF or Loxton 2 WEF, the Loxton WEF 3 seem to trigger an offset needs-analysis towards assessing whether the cumulative impact is acceptable (all three developments on CBAs). The potential of a biodiversity offset must be guided by the recent published National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline, CBA map and Provincial Protected Area expansion strategy. Thus, quantifying impacts to base expected impacts on species vs the distance over which turbine noise and other disturbances effects are crucial for the assessment process.	
			5.	It is likely that the turbine foundations and some roads would require blasting which would generate dust and debris fallout at or near sensitive sites. It is a concern that dust fall out predictions was not factored in the EMPr. Monitoring and implementation of dust control measures are essential and should be ongoing for the duration of construction activities. The EMPr must provide more information on what the dust abatement measures alluded to will entail. The generation of dust must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (GN No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004).	An EMPr was not produced for the scoping phase of the development. An EMPr will be drafted and made available for comment during the EIA phase of the development. The EMPr will consider dust and debris fallout and the monitoring and measures to control the impact during the construction and throughout the life cycle of the development. Recommendations will be included in the EMPr that the generation of dust must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (GN No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004).
			6.	There are however no turbines from any of the Loxton WEFs that lie within NPAES Focus Areas, with the result that direct impacts on future conservation expansion in the area would be low. A point to	Yes, the ecological set aside report for the Loxton WEF 3 would address this concern and provide an indication of the extent and nature of the required offset and the implications this for the current CBA matrix and future

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				consider is, that if a biodiversity offset is triggered through this development, the like-for-like principle would apply. Therefore, this would influence the NPAES Focus Areas in the landscape as more land will be proclaimed as protected areas in the landscape.	design of the Protected Area Expansion Strategy (PAES) Focus Areas.
			7.	Although the proposed wind turbines will result in several negative impacts, based on the information provided, it is apparent that significant impacts on the receiving environment can also be attributed to the associated infrastructure, especially the access roads and power lines. As such, it is essential that all mitigation measures proposed by the various specialists relating to the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, are carried through into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and implemented accordingly. Further to the above, with respect to roads specifically, existing roads should be utilised as far as possible, and new roads that require construction, should be kept to a minimum. Please note that due consideration should be given to re-routing the preferred access road route to avoid impacting on heritage and freshwater features. The preferred location alternatives of the mentioned components of the proposed development must be aligned in accordance with the recommendations and mitigation measures of all specialists.	The mitigation measures proposed by the various specialists relating to the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, will be carried through into the EMPr and recommended to be implemented accordingly. Recommendations to utilize existing roads where possible will be considered to avoid the development of new roads. Due consideration during the EIA phase will be given to possibly re-routing the preferred access road if feasible.
			8.	The proposed buffer zones and “no-go” areas, as detailed in the Draft Scoping Report and delineated by the specialists, must always be respected. The proposed construction camp and concrete-batching plant must be located outside areas and buffers identified as highly sensitive as recommended in the specialist reports.	The no-go areas delineated by the respective specialist will be respected and all turbines and associated infrastructure including the site camp and concrete batching plant will avoid these areas in accordance with the specialists’ recommendations.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
			9.	It is noted that there are confirmed bat roosts within the proposed Loxton WEF. DAERL supports the recommendation in the Draft Scoping Report that no wind turbines, electrical infrastructure, substations or new roads may be permanently placed within a 500 m buffer of the confirmed roosts. The environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) is reminded to include all documentation relating to the public participation process, as well as all representations and comments received and any responses by the EAP to those representations and comments.	<p>Agreed and recommendation for implementation.</p> <p>Throughout the application process the EAP will provide all registered I&APs notice when any documentation relating to the public participation process is available for public review and / or comment.</p>
			10.	In addition to bird and bat mortality monitoring, the EMPr must provide remedial measures to be implemented in the event of bird and bat mortalities, as these may be vectors for the spread of avian disease and contamination of the affected environment. The potential impacts of the WEFs' development on agriculture production require further investigation. A further complication is that since the landowner is not the applicant, some of the mitigation measures require agreement from the landowner. For example, some birds are attracted to feed bins that the farmer place in the field for sheep and this could cause increased risk of bird mortalities due to collision/strikes. Should this become a problem, the landowner may be required to cease this activity and may need to be compensated for any loss required as a result. Agreements will need to be put in place prior to final impact documentation submission and EA consideration.	<p>The EMPr will specify the required mitigation measures to reduce bird mortality to acceptable levels.</p> <p>If bird mortalities do occur, these will be detected and removed within a few days by the wind farm bird and bat carcass searching team, which will search every turbine at least weekly, possibly twice per week. This rapid removal of carcasses will reduce the spread of disease. These details will be further outlined and detailed in the EIA phase and in the EMPr.</p> <p>Landowners will be made aware of any operational implications of mitigation measures identified by the EMPr.</p>
			11.	The following suggested additional technology alternatives are provided. Please indicate through technical comparisons whether these suggestions are feasible and implementable:	These additional technology options will be explored more in the EIA phase in consultation with the Bird Life South Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and other stakeholders.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The use of blade illumination (brightly coloured blades) to deter birds; o The use of radar technology to detect birds within proximity of the wind turbines; and o The use of ultrasonic acoustics to deter birds from coming within proximity of the wind turbines. 	
			12.	<p>The following aspects must form part of the EMPr and negotiations with the farm owner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Restricted grazing of the specified area(s); none in the early years in the spring flowering season. o Annual management of alien vegetation. o Removal of sheep feed bins locally, to avoid attracting Red Larks etc too near to turbines. o Detailed survey and botanical assessment of the area(s) to be managed. 	<p>The area does not lie within the spring flowering season and occurs in an area with a mixed flowering season that may occur at any time of year. Typically, winter or late summer area wet seasons in the Loxton area.</p> <p>The sheep feeding bins will be removed from areas surrounding turbines to prevent the influx red larks and other passerine species.</p>
			13.	<p><u>In terms of the Site Sensitivity Verification, the following outcomes are required to inform the EIA phase of the development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Biodiversity Offset Assessment o Plant Compliance Statement o Riverine Rabbit Species Assessment o Karoo Dwarf Tortoise Species Assessment o Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 	<p>The following assessments has been commissioned and will form part of the EIA phase as applicable of the application process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Biodiversity Offset Assessment o Plant Compliance Statement o Riverine Rabbit Species Assessment o Karoo Dwarf Tortoise Species Assessment o Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment
				<p>We trust you will find these recommendations in order. Please do not hesitate to contact Peter Cloete should you have any questions or need clarity on any aspect.</p> <p><u>Signed P Cloete</u> District Ecologist: Research and Development</p>	Thank You

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p><u>Signed E Swart</u></p> <p>SCIENTIFIC MANAGER GR B: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT</p> <p>14/12/2022</p>	
12	<p>Natasha Higgitt</p> <p>South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)</p>	<p>20 January 2023</p> <p>via SAHRIS portal</p>	<p>Final Scoping Phase</p>	<p>Date: 20 January 2023 CaseID: 20112</p> <p>Interim Comment In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p>Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 480 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. Development Location: The proposed Loxton WEF 2 is located ~ 17 km north-east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges and confirms the detail included in the introduction of the SAHRA comment pertaining to the Loxton WEF 2.</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p>as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).</p> <p>Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.</p> <p>A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 63 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 100 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 110 ha.</p> <p>Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p><i>Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance</i></p>	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p><i>Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.</i></p> <p>*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 2 will be discussed below.</p> <p>The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.</p> <p><i>Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape</i></p> <p>A total of 23 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 2 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and a dam wall of low heritage significance, scatters of historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, stone walled structures of medium significance, a burial ground consisting of 5 graves, the Aarfontein farmstead, the Yzerverkpoort farmstead and corbelled houses of high heritage significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road design must take account of the sensitive areas; • Existing roads should be reused where possible; 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas; If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping numbers 101, 100 and/or 99 in that order due to their proximity to the R63 and their potential to be seen as outliers; No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites; A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; and If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution. <p>Interim Comment</p>	
				The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e., clear discussions on each WEF application.	A project specific palaeontological compliance statement has been produced for inclusion in the EIA phase of the Loxton WEF 2. The statement includes the methodology and results of the field survey relevant to the project area.
				The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.	The HIA produced for inclusion in the EIA phase of the Loxton WEF 2 includes maps with the site numbers in relation to the location of nearby development components. Furthermore, the map (Figure 4 in the HIA), has been revised to show the survey track relative to all project components.

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				Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.	The palaeontological compliance statement and the HIA will be uploaded to the SAHRIS portal for further comment during the public consultation period of the Draft EIAr.
				Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header. Yours faithfully Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer South African Heritage Resources Agency	Thank You.
13	Willem Muller Representative of the De Cypher Boerdery Trust	30 January 2023 Aida Form	Final Scoping Phase	What is your interest in the projects? Our family farm is bordering the northern border of the current design of the Loxton WEF 1 wind farm. Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster? We would like to be included in the project.	The EAP acknowledges the I&AP's interest in the project and has registered the I&AP on the database.
14	Portia Makitla CBO: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	01 February 2023 Via e-mail	Final Scoping Phase	From: Portia Makitla Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 2:25 PM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Cc: Mashudu Mudau < Subject: Final Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province Good day Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned projects. Ms. Mashienyane Portia Makitla CBO: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	The EAP acknowledges receipt of comment from the Departments Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA directorate. Responses to comment is provided below.
e-mail attachment: FSR Loxton WEF 2 comments				Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2236/7/8 Enquiries: Ms. Mashudu Mudau	

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p>Ms Ashlin Bodasing Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd 240 Main Road Great Westerford Building 1st Floor, Rondebosch CAPE TOWN 7700 Telephone Number: 010 596 3502 Email Address: loxtonwef@arcusconsulting.co.za</p> <p>Dear Ms Bodasing</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR LOXTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</p>	
				<p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the Scoping Report and the Plan of Study, however, must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</p>	<p>The no objection by the Directorate is acknowledged. The procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 is being complied with. The themes have been considered by the specialists as well as the EAP for the reporting on the environmental impact of the proposed development on the built environment. Please refer to Section 4: Methodology of the Volume I: EIA report.</p>
				<p>The final 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 & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p>	<p>The EIA is compliant with all requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and Best Practice Guideline for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind-energy facilities on birds in southern Africa. Third Edition, 2015, as well as the Best Practice Guidelines for Verreux's Eagle and Wind Energy (BirdLife South Africa, 2017), and the more recent draft update of these: Verreux's Eagles and Wind Farms (BirdLife South Africa, 2021). Please refer to Section 3: Environmental Legislative Framework of the Volume I: EIA report.</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				The Directorate has noted that the specialist disputes the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme very high sensitivity and the specialists' results of the site screening is high sensitivity. Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas that will result in significant negative impacts prior mitigation measures is prohibited.	The specialist assessment for the Loxton WEF (1 – 3) developments has considered the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme and consulted with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL) to confirm the proposed scope for the assessment of the respective Loxton WEF (1 – 3) developments. There are no turbines located in areas mapped as very high or high sensitivity. As such, the turbine layout is considered acceptable from a sensitivity mapping perspective and there are no ecological conflicts that appear to represent fatal flaws or which cannot be avoided. Please refer to Section 10 – 12 of the Volume I: EIA report, for the impact assessments and summary of findings of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment.
				NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota. Yours faithfully Mr. Seoka Lekota. Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment Letter signed by: Ms. MP Makitla Designation: Control Biodiversity Officer Grade A Date: 31/01/2023	Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.
15	Colette Stander Market Analyst G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	06 February 2023 Via e-mail	Final Scoping Phase	From: Colette Alisha Stander Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:27 PM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Cc: Caryn Clarke; Kathryn Winstanley Subject: Registration as I&AP: Loxton WEF 1-3 Good afternoon, I hope that this mail finds you well?	The EAP acknowledges the stakeholder's interest in the projects and has registered the I&AP on the database.

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
				<p>Please register Caryn Clarke with email address eia@g7energies.com as an I&AP in the Loxton WEF 1, Loxton WEF 2 and Loxton WEF 3 EIA processes going forward. Please reply with confirmation of registration.</p> <p>Many thanks, with kind regards Colette Stander Market Analyst G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd</p>	
16	Kirsten Jones Project Manager RedCap	29 March 2023 Via e-mail	Final Scoping Phase	<p>From: Kirsten jones Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:37 AM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Cc: Gerald Ehlers; Lance Blaine Subject: Loxton WEF - Registration as I&AP & Wake effect</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>Please could you register me as an I&AP for the three Loxton WEFs.</p>	The EAP acknowledges the stakeholder's interest in the projects and has registered the I&AP on the database.
				<p>Red Cap and their subsidiaries have received environmental authorisations for the four nearby Hoogland Wind Farms and their grid connections (granted between November and February 2023). Hoogland 1 and 2 are the Northern Cluster closest to the Loxton Wind Farms and I have attached the site boundaries for your reference.</p>	<p>The Hoogland Wind Farms closest to the Loxton WEF (1 – 3) developments have been considered in the cumulative impact assessment during the EIA phase. Please refer to Section 11: Cumulative Impacts of the Volume I: EIA report.</p> <p>The combination of the Loxton WEFs 1, 2 and 3, as well as other similar renewable energy projects, either existing or proposed, was considered to assess cumulative visual impacts within a 35 km radius of the proposed project. 12 wind energy applications were identified in the broader area to the south of the Loxton project. Not all of these are within 35 km, but were considered as they are part of the same landscape. The proposed Hoogland North WEF, and Nuweveld WEF by Redcap fall within this radius, however, only parts of the</p>

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response				
					<p>Hoogland North WEF would potentially be seen in combination with the Loxton 1 WEF. Other developments are outside of the 35 km radii, however were still considered during the assessment, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hoogeland North WEF 1• Hoogeland North WEF 2• Hoogeland South WEF 3• Hoogeland South WEF 4• Nuweveld North WEF• Nuweveld East WEF• Nuweveld West WEF• Taaibos North WEF• Taaibos South WEF• Soutrivier North WEF• Soutrivier Central WEF• Soutrivier South WEF				
				<p>We would like to ensure that the developer enters into a wakeloss agreement with us to ensure that if there are any wake issues, that the Hoogland development which has already received environmental authorisation, is not prejudiced by the Loxton development. We would like to have a meeting with the developer to discuss this so we can finalise such an agreement before the draft EIR is published.</p> <p>Please acknowledge receipt of this email.</p> <p>Kind regards Kirsten</p>	<p>A wake effect analysis was undertaken by the Developer. The results of external wake efficiency produced by the operation of the Loxton WEF (1 – 3) over the Hoogeland North Wind Farm (closest to the proposed Loxton WEF (1-3) is shown in the table below. The wake losses are considered to be negligible for the Hoogeland North Wind Farm as the analysed wake impact has no influence over the wind farm.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Loxton WEF (1-3) effect on the Hoogland North WEF</th></tr><tr><td>1,000</td><td>0,0 %</td></tr></table> <p>The project applicant concurs that a discussion via e-mail has taken place with RedCap, due to the POPI Act 4 of 2013 this e-mail trail is not included as part of the PPP and took place outside of the public consultation period. The concluding statement by the Project Applicant to RedCap is provided below.</p> <p><i>"I can confirm that our closest turbine within WEF 3 is circa 13km's from your Hoogeland North property boundary. If you apply a buffer of 12km from your property boundary I confirm that we currently do not</i></p>	Loxton WEF (1-3) effect on the Hoogland North WEF		1,000	0,0 %
Loxton WEF (1-3) effect on the Hoogland North WEF									
1,000	0,0 %								

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
					<p><i>have and nor do, we plan to place any turbines within this buffer.</i></p> <p><i>I further confirm if we ever plan to do an amendment or new application for turbines within the 12km buffer of your Hoogeland North property, then we will contact you immediately and prior to the commencement of the regulatory process so that we can review if there is any wake impact. To the extent that there is a wake impact we support the process to enter into a wake loss agreement. We also support the plan that if a wake loss agreement is required we should have this agreement in place as soon as possible. We acknowledge and are aware of your interest and rights to submit comments or appeals to a project that has a wake impact without sufficient mitigations in place (i.e. the wake loss agreement)."</i></p>
17	Nwabisa Ndaku RedCap	03 April 2023 Via email	Final Scoping Phase	<p>From: Nwabisa Ndaku Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 11:34 AM To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za Subject: Request for Register as I & PAs</p> <p>Good Day Ashlin Bodasing</p> <p>I hope you are well.</p> <p>Please register me as I & PA for Loxton WEF 1, Loxton WEF 2 and Loxton WEF 3.</p> <p>Thank you Best regards, Nwabisa</p>	The EAP acknowledges the stakeholder's interest in the projects and has registered the I&AP on the database.

APPENDIX 1: I&AP DATABASE

**I&AP DATABASE FOR THE LOXTON WEF DEVELOPMENT
DRAFT EIA REPORT**

AFFILIATION TO PROJECT	FARM / DEPARTMENT / ORGANISATION NAME	NAME	SURNAME	OTHER
1. Directly Affected Landowner				
WEF landowner	Portion 12 of the Farm Rietfontein 572	Carlo	Nolte	Wildra Trust
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of Farm 582	Koos	Voster	Vorster Sarre Holdings (Pty) Ltd
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of the Farm Saaidam No. 574	Niel	Viljoen	Saaidam Trust
WEF landowner	Portion 4 of the Farm Rietfontein No. 572	Carlo	Nolte	Wildra Trust
WEF landowner	Portion 12 of the Farm Rietfontein No. 572	Carlo	Nolte	Wildra Trust
WEF landowner	Portion 11 of the Farm Rietfontein No.572	Jan	Human	Jan Human in his capacity as the executor of the estate late of Christina Margaretha Human
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of Farm Rietfontein No.572	Willem	Voster	Alwil Boerdery Pty Ltd
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of the Farm Saaidam No. 574	Niel	Viljoen	Saaidam Trust
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of the Farm Yzervarkspoort No. 139	Jacoba Johanne	Wiese	Biesiespoort Trust
WEF landowner	Portion 2 of the Farm Yzervarkspoort No. 139	Jacoba Johanne	Wiese	Biesiespoort Trust
WEF landowner	Portion 2 of the Farm Yzervarkspoort No. 139	Jacoba Johanne	Wiese	Biesiespoort Trust
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of Farm 273	Willem	Van der Berg	DIE VAN DER BERG FAMILIE TRUST
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of the Farm No. 262	Jacoba Johanne	Wiese	Biesiespoort Trust
WEF landowner	Remaining Extent of the Farm Erasmuskraal No. 269	Nicolai	Van der Westhuizen	JAKNIC TRUST
WEF landowner	Remainder Portion 5 Farm Rietfontein No 572	Koos	Voster	Vorster Sarre Holdings (Pty) Ltd
WEF landowner	Portion 13 (Portion of Portion 5) of Farm Rietfontein No 570	Koos	Voster	Vorster Sarre Holdings (Pty) Ltd
WEF landowner	Remainder of Farm No 582	Koos	Voster	Vorster Sarre Holdings (Pty) Ltd

WEF landowner	YZERVARKSPOORT, being Portion 3 of the Farm No 139	Jacoba Johanne	Wiese	Biesiespoort Trust
WEF landowner	Farm 262, Remaining Extent, of Farm No 262	Jacoba Johanne	Wiese	YSTERKLIP TRUST
2. Surrounding Landowners				
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 91	Michael Muller		De Cypher Boerdery Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 92	Jan Hendrik Nolte		Wilcor Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 94	Carlo Nolte		Elizabeth Isabella Nolte
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 131	Jan Wiese		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 133 - Ptn 7	Janneman Human		JJ Human Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 134 - Ptn 3	Johan Aspeiling		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 134 - Ptn 1	Pieter Aspeiling		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 139 - Ptn 1	Jan Wiese		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 142			Mun Ubuntu
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 143	Nicolai Van der Westhuizen		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 145 - Ptn 1	Dr Neil Potgieter		Altona Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 145 - Ptn 3	Nicola v d Westhuizen		Jaknic Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 145 - Ptn 4	Alida du Toit		Francois Jacobus Du Toit Trustees
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 146 - Ptn 2	Nicolai Van der Westhuizen		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 147	Dr Neil Potgieter		Altona Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 148	Dr Neil Potgieter		Altona Trust
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 261	John Bekker Smith		

Surrounding Landowner	Farm 538 - Ptn 1	Arnold /Maritha		Arnoldus van der Merwe
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 539 - Ptn 5	Arnold /Maritha		Arnoldus van der Merwe
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 539 - Ptn 7	Stegman / Natasha		Daniel Johannes Stegmann Lubbe
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 539 - Ptn 4	Stegman / Natasha		Daniel Johannes Stegmann Lubbe
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 540	Stegman / Natasha		Daniel Johannes Stegmann Lubbe
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 540 - Ptn 1	Stegman / Natasha		Daniel Johannes Stegmann Lubbe
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 570 - Ptn 2	Henk Cloete /Janette		Hendrik Cornelis Gerhardus Cloete
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 571 - Ptn 1	Henk Cloete /Janette		Hendrik Cornelis Gerhardus Cloete
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 572 - Ptn 12	Carlo Nolte		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 572 - Ptn 10	Jan Hendrick Nolte		
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 582 - Ptn 1	Henk Cloete /Janette		Hendrik Cornelis Gerhardus Cloete
Surrounding Landowner	Farm 582	Koos Vorster		Vorster Sarre Holdings Pty Ltd
3. National / Provincial / Local Government Departments				
National Government	National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)	Masina	Morudu	DFFE Case Officer Line Manager
National Government	National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)	Bathandwa	Ncube	Environmental Case Officer
National Government	National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)	Lunga	Dlova	Environmental Case Officer
National Government	National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)	Ms Ernest	Mokgane	Chief Directorate: Protected Areas Expansion Unit
National Government	DFFE: BDC	Seoka	Lekota	BDC Department
National Government	DFFE: BDC	Portia	Makitla	BDC Department
National Government	DFFE: BDC	Mashudu	Mudau	BDC Department

National Government	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	Mashudu	Marubini	National Government
National Government	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	Andile	Hawes	National Government
National Government	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	Anneliza	Collet	National Government
National Government	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	Thandeka	Gwala	Assistant Director: Forestry Regulations and Support Directorate: Forestry Management Other Regions (Western Cape)
National Government	National Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS)	Nelisa	Ndobeni	Environmental Control Officer
National Government	National Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS)	Phila	Mayisela	Acting Head of Department
National Government	National Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS)	Nelly	Letsholonyane	National Government Cooperate Services
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Pieter	Swart	Provincial Government
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Busisiwe	Magazi	Provincial Government
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Nwabisa	Qwanyashe	National Government
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Thabo	Mokoena	Director General
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Ethel	Sinthumule	National Government
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Molefe	Morokane	National Government
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Keneilwe	Ratshomo	Energy Economics and Statistics
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Ramaano	Nembahe	Energy Economics and Statistics
National Government	National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Duduzile	Kunene	Department of Mineral Resources (Western Cape): Regional Manager
National Government	National Department of Communications and Digital Technologies	Nozipho N	Mndaweni	National Government
National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Aphiwe	Fayindlala	National Government
National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Katshaba	Goaffhiwe	National Government
National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Mduduzi	Shabane	National Government

National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Dr N	Makgalemele	National Government
National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Malebo	Baloi	National Government
National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Pule	Salia	National Government
National Government	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Zongezile	Bongo	National Government
National Government	National Department of Energy (DoE)	Mpho	Mabaso	Director: Renewable Energies
	National Department of Energy (DoE)	Pheladi Masipa		
National Government	National Department of Public Works	Basson	Geldenhuys	National Government
National Government	National Department of Social Development	Office	Office	National Government
National Government	National Department of Transport	Pule Godfrey	Selepe	National Government
National Government	National Department of Transport	R.C	Barlow	National Government
National Government	National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Collen	Malatji	National Government
National Government	National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Legadima	Leso	National Government
National Government	National Department of Government Communication and Information System	Chrispin	Phiri	National Government
National Government	National Department of Energy IPP	Pervelan	Govender	National Government
National Government	National Commission on Restitution of Land Rights	Ryan	Oliver	National Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation (DENC)	Elsabe Swart		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation (DENC)	Mr Brian Fisher		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation (DENC)	Mr Thulani Mthombeni		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation (DENC)	Mrs Judy Scholtz		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation (DENC)(kimberley)	nuys.denc@gmail.com		

Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	Mr Dineo Moleko		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation			
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison			
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works	Jaco Roelofse		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works	Menelisi Sithole		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works			
Provincial Government	Department of Energy (DoE) (Northern Cape): Regional Energy Director	Mrs SP Mokuele		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison	Ms Martha Bartlett		
Provincial Government	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Rodney	Pieterse	Municipal Manager
Provincial Government	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Miriam	Kibi	Speaker
Provincial Government	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Humbulani Muhangane		
Local Government	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Debere	Maphosa	Municipal Manager
Local Government	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Thembinkosi	Zingange	
Local Government	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Martin	Fillis	
Local Government	Ubuntu Local Municipality	B	van Staden	
4. Key Stakeholders, Organs of State and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)				
Key Stakeholder	National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Andile	Gxasheka	National Government
Key Stakeholder	National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Pieter	Buyis	National Government
Key Stakeholder	National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Office	Office	National Government
Key Stakeholder	WESSA Northern Cape Region	Suzanne	Erasmus	

Key Stakeholder	Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	Adrian	Tiplady	Head: Strategy and Business Processes
Key Stakeholder	Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	Tshegofatso	Monama	
Key Stakeholder	Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	Musa	Baloye	Project Coordinator
Key Stakeholder	Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	Selaelo	Mathlane	Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager
Key Stakeholder	South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Lizelle	Stroh	Obstacle Specialist
Key Stakeholder	South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Evelyn	Shogole	Environmental Specialist
Key Stakeholder	South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Gawie	Bestbier	
Key Stakeholder	South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Chinga	Mazhetese	
Key Stakeholder	Air Traffic and Navigation Services SOC Limited (ATNS)	Makaya	Mamogale	Senior Projects Manager
Key Stakeholder	Air Traffic and Navigation Services SOC Limited (ATNS)	Phillip	De Lange	Manager Western and Northern Cape
Key Stakeholder	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)	Praneel	Ruplal	
Key Stakeholder	Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)	Office	Office	SALT
Key Stakeholder	South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Warren	Joubert	
Key Stakeholder	South African Weather Services (SAWS)	Mlungisi	Ngwenya	
Key Stakeholder	Eskom SOC Ltd (ESKOM)	John	Geeringh	Senior Environmental Advisor Eskom GC - Land Development
Key Stakeholder	Eskom SOC Ltd (ESKOM)	Henk	Wydeman	
Key Stakeholder	Eskom SOC Ltd (ESKOM)	Krishna	Naidoo	Eskom Transmission
Key Stakeholder	Eskom SOC Ltd (ESKOM)	Lazola	Ndonodo	Eskom Senior IPP Advisor
Key Stakeholder	ESKOM: Renewable Energy	Mpilo	Masondo	
Key Stakeholder	ESKOM: Renewable Energy	Pumza	Jizana	

Key Stakeholder	ESKOM: Renewable Energy	Martina	Phiri	
Key Stakeholder	ESKOM: Renewable Energy	Khululwa	Gaongalelwe	National Government
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Thandeka	Nohoyeka	Chief Property Technician, Transet Property
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Ezekiel	Monyamane	Transnet Freight Rail, the Senior Manager : Environmental Sustainability,
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Annelize	Harmse	
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Danie	Kotzee	
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Herman	Coetzee	Transnet: Radio Communication Department
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Fabian	Damons	Transnet Freight Rail, KBY
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Burton	Siljeur	Transnet Freight Rail, CPT
Key Stakeholder	Transnet SOC Ltd	Zanele	Manyathi	Transnet Freight Rail, JB
Key Stakeholder	South African National Road Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL)	Rene	De Kock	National Roads Authority (Western Region)
Key Stakeholder	South African National Road Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL)	Amanda	Mboniswa	National Roads Authority (Western Region)
Key Stakeholder	South African National Road Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL)	Nicole	Abrahams	National Roads Authority (Western Region)
Key Stakeholder	South African Bat Assessment Advisory Panel (SABAAP)	Kate	Richardson	Chairperson
Key Stakeholder	BirdLife SA	Samantha	Ralston	Birds and Renewable Energy Manager
Key Stakeholder	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Yolan	Friedman	CEO
Key Stakeholder	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Bonnie	Schumann	Field Officer
Key Stakeholder	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Constant	Hoogstad	Wildlife and Energy Programme
Key Stakeholder	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)			NPAES
Key Stakeholder	Southern African Alternative Energy Association (SAAEA)	Alwyn	Smith	Administrator

Key Stakeholder	Sustainable Energy Society of Southern Africa (SESSA)	Adriana	Chickesh	Knowledge Management Information Officer
Key Stakeholder	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) South Africa	Morne	Du Plessis	
Key Stakeholder	Victoria agricultural organisation	Johan		Chairperson
Key Stakeholder	Central Karoo Agri Union	Carlo	Nolte	Chairperson
Key Stakeholder	Loxton agricultural organisation	John	Meintjies	Chairperson
Key Stakeholder	Agri SA	Thea	Liebenberg	Media Liaison Officer
Key Stakeholder	Agri SA	Janse	Rabie	Head of AgriSA Natural Resources
Key Stakeholder	Agricultural Research Council	Shadrack	Moephuli	CEO
Key Stakeholder	SanParks (Karoo National Park)	Nico Van Der Walt		Park Manager Karoo National Park
Key Stakeholder	SanParks	Lucius	Moolman	Manager: Karoo NP & SKA core protected area
Key Stakeholder	SanParks	Howard	Hendricks	Snr GM: Policy & Governance Conservation Services Division
Key Stakeholder	SAEON Arid Lands Node	Joh R	Henschel	
Key Stakeholder	SAEON Arid Lands Node	Helga	van der Merwe	
Key Stakeholder	Sentech	Motlhake	Serame	Manager: Radio Frequency Network Planning
Key Stakeholder	Sentech	Alishea	Viljoen	
Key Stakeholder	Altech Fleetcall	Johan	Schoeman	
Key Stakeholder	Cell C Tele Communications	Vivien	Kiewitz	
Key Stakeholder	Cell C Tele Communications	Brian	Joubert	
Key Stakeholder	MTN Tele Communications	Charles	van Reenen	Innovation Centre Engineering
Key Stakeholder	MTN Tele Communications	Renier	Nel	

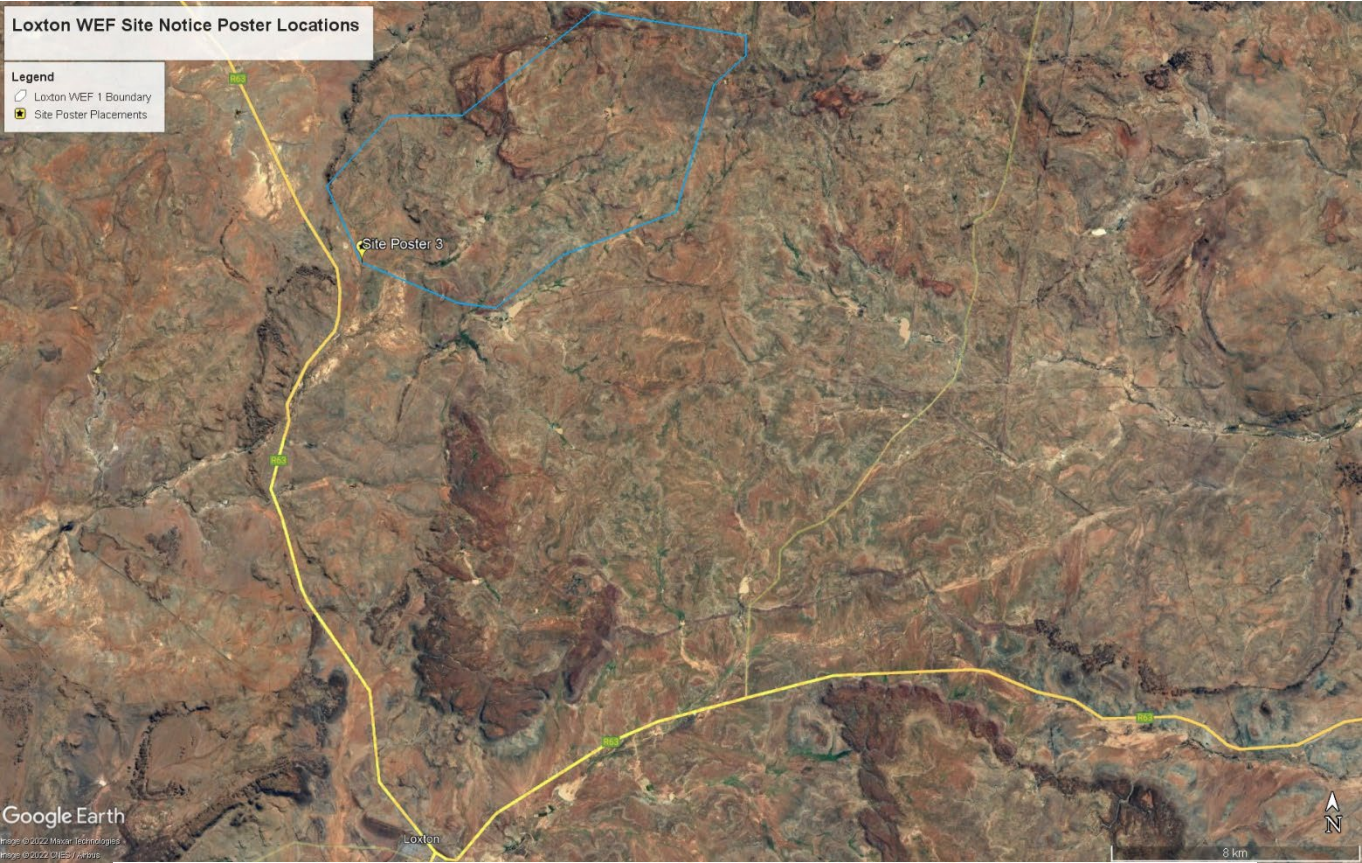
Key Stakeholder	Neotell Tele Communications	Brian	Dryer	
Key Stakeholder	Telkom SA Limited	Leonard	Shaw	Wireless Planning Development & Support, Telkom HQ
Key Stakeholder	Vodacom South Africa Tele Communications	Craig	Barnes	
Key Stakeholder	Vodacom South Africa Tele Communications	Nico	Fourie	
Key Stakeholder	Northern Cape Heritage Resources Agency	Andrew Timothy		
Key Stakeholder	Northern Cape Heritage Resources Agency	A Hall		
Key Stakeholder	Northern Cape Heritage Resources Agency	Ms R K Cwangae		
Key Stakeholder	South African Heritage Resources Agency	Natasha Higgitt		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Economic Development Agency	Babalwa Mbobo		
Provincial Government	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)	Nozizwe Makgalemele		
Provincial Government	South African Department of Defence	Lt. Col. Kebasenosi Zondi		
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Sharon	Steyn	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture	Lerato	Modse	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture	Zanele	Mogorosi	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture			Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development	Ali	Ditame	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development	Wonders Dimakatso	Mothibi	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development	Dewald	Badenhorst	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Env Affairs, Rural Dev & Land Reform	Bryan	Fisher	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Env Affairs, Rural Dev & Land Reform	Dineo	Moleko	Provincial Government

Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Argiculture, Env Affairs, Rural Dev & Land Reform	Elsabe	Swart	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works	Jaco	Roelofse	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works	Menelisi	Sithole	Provincial Government
Provincial Government	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Rhoode	Itumeleng	Executive Mayor
5. General Stakeholders and I&Aps				
I&AP - from Brett Site Register		D	Ahmed	I&AP
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton Liqour Store	Nadia	Davids	In-store
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton Store	Hester	Esterhuizen	In-store
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton SAPS	Mlenzana	NE	SAPS Officer
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Annaline	Janes	Ubuntu Local Municipality - Loxton Office
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton Public Library	Voghan	Davids	Loxton Public Library
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton Public Clinic	Siyabonga	Roman	Loxton Public Clinic
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton E-Learning Centre	Ingrid	Schöfmann	Karoo Development Foundation Trustee
I&AP - from Brett Site Register	Loxton Karoo Vleisboere	Ronel Liversage	Andre Koorsten	In-store
I&AP	Genesis Eco-Energy Developments	Ashleigh	von der Heyden	
I&AP	Resident of Loxton Town	Michael		
I&AP	Residents of Loxton Town	Christo & Caren	Venter	
I&AP	Resident of Loxton Town	Chris	Stuart	
I&AP	Resident of Loxton Town	Dinah	Groenewald	
I&AP	Resident of Loxton Town	Tania	Heurtaux	

I&AP	WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd	Zakiya	Abrahams	
I&AP	Northern Cape Department Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	Peter	Cloete	Production Scientist: Grade A: District Ecologist
I&AP	Resident of Loxton Town	Willem	Muller	
I&AP	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	Caryn	Clarke	Market Analyst
I&AP	RedCap	Kirsten	Jones	I&A Developer
I&AP	RedCap	Nwabisa	Ndaku	I&A Developer

APPENDIX 2: SITE NOTICES AND POSTER PLACEMENT PROOF

Loxton WEF 1 Site Notices



Site Poster Location 3: 31°18.1928'S, 22°19.5473'E



Placed 07 December 2022

Loxton WEF 2 Site Notices



Site Poster Location 2: 31°24.5047'S, 22°27.3946'E



Placed 07 December 2022

Loxton WEF 2 Site Notices

Site Poster Location 4: $31^{\circ}21.5466'S$, $22^{\circ}30.0265'E$



Placed 07 December 2022

Loxton WEF 3 Site Notices



Site Poster Location 1: 31°30.9119'S, 22°26.1850'E



Placed 07 December 2022

Loxton WEF 3 Site Notices

Site Poster Location 5: $31^{\circ}25.8697'S$, $22^{\circ}34.1724'E$



Placed 07 December 2022

Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton and Beaufort West Town

Location in Town(s)
Loxton SAPS
Loxton Kruideniers
Loxton Clinic
Loxton Karoo Vleisboere Kooperatief
Loxton Public Library
Loxton Municipal Office
Loxton Transformation Hub and E-Learning Centre
Loxton Lekker Coffee Shop
Loxton Paljas Shop
Beaufort West Municipal Office and Library
Beaufort West SAPS

Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

SA Police Station Loxton



Loxton Kruideniers



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Clinic Loxton



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Loxton Karoo Vleisboere Kooperatief



Loxton Public Library



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Loxton Municipal Office



Loxton Transformation Hub and E-Learning Centre



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Loxton Municipal Office



Loxton Transformation Hub and E-Learning Centre



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Loxton Lekker Coffee Shop



Loxton Paljas Shop



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Loxton Lekker Coffee Shop



Loxton Paljas Shop



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Loxton Poster Proofs

Loxton Liquor Store



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Beaufort West Poster Proofs

Beaufort West Municipal / Public Library



Loxton WEF (1-3) Posters

Beaufort West Poster Proofs

Beaufort West SAPS



APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT PROOFS

PRESTEERDER

JORDAN MARLOW met die Generaal Gous-trofee wat hy saam met 'n kontantprys verower het by Hoërskool Calvinia se prysuitdeling vir die beste akademiese presteerder in Graad 12 vir 2022.



25 Jaar gelede

NOORDWESTER: 19 Desember 1997. Saterdag 13 Desember het lede van die VGK, Carnarvon se kerkraad en gemeente vir ds. Sakkie Potgieter wat in die Rynse Kerk bevestig is op die Loxton-pad gaan verwelkom.



NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESSES

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 - NEMA), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Development Title: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility (WEF) Cluster and Associated Infrastructure

Nature and Location of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd and Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd ("the Project Applicants") are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF) and their associated grid connections, between Loxton and Carnarvon in the Northern Cape Province. The potential generation capacity of Loxton WEF 1 & WEF 3 is up to 240 MW and Loxton WEF 2 is up to 480 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. The Project Applicants appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required Application processes.

Development Location: The proposed Loxton WEF's Cluster are located between 14 - 20 km northeast and east of the town of Loxton in the Northern Cape Province and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality.

Application Process: Three separate Scoping and EIA (S&EIA) processes will be undertaken for each of the three Loxton WEF's as the generation capacity will be more than 20 MW and the associated grid connection will be subject to a separate Basic Assessment or full Scoping and EIA (S&EIA) process depending on the procedure to follow according to the NEMA, 1998, as amended.

Anticipated NEMA Listing Notice Activities for the respective Loxton WEF Cluster and Grid Connection Application:

Listing Notice	Activities
LN 1 GN R327	11(i), 12(ii)(a)(c), 14, 19 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e), 24(ii), 27(i)(ii), 28(ii), 48, 56(ii)
LN 2 GN 325	1, 4, 9, 15
LN 3 GN R324	4 (g)(ii)(bb)(ee), 12(g)(ii), 14 (ii)(a)(b)(c)(g)(i)(ff), 18 (g) (ii) (bb)(ee)

In terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) (36 of 1998), as amended, the developments may potentially require water use license. If required, an application for Water Use License will be submitted to the Department of Human Settlement and Water and Sanitation for authorisation.

The EA Applications and respective Reports will be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), for a decision. Notification of submission of the Draft and Final Reports, and any other correspondence required to be included as part of the Public Participation Process (PPP), will be sent to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). The Draft reports will also be made available for public review and comment once completed (exact date and location of availability to be confirmed in notification to all registered I&APs). Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP, please submit your name, interest in the project, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Arcus Reference / Verwysing: 4462 Loxton Cluster Development
E-mail / E-pos: loxton@arcusconsulting.co.za
Post / Pos: 240 Main Road, 1st Floor Great Westerford, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700
Contact Person / Kontak Persoon: Ashlin Bodasing
Telephone / Telefoon: +2710 596 3502

Online Registration / Aanlyn Registrasie: <https://loxton.wef.aiaform.com/stakeholder-registration>

Correspondence throughout the Application Processes will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Processes.

Notice regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended)

If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to the Competent Authority and an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

JAPIE SE OPE BRIEF AAN DIE PRESIDENT OOR MORALITEIT

Swart bemagtiging soos die goudstandaard van 1930's

Geagte President,

Ek dink u het nie 'n maklike taak nie. Dit moet moeilik wees om 'n balans te vind tussen soveel belangegroepes sodat daar vir almal voordeel is, dat almal baat vind by die beleid van die regering.

Nou onlangs het u weer die beleid van die afgelope 30 jaar bevestig. Die motivering vir die beleid word op mora-

listiese wyse aangebied: Armoede en rykdom word van geslag tot geslag oorgedra. Die bevoorregting van die verlede moet reggestel word. Met hierdie benadering stel u 'n klomp mense tevrede. Het dit nie tyd geraak dat ons na die telbord moet gaan kyk nie? Het u al oorweging gegee aan wat u siening vir die meerderheid

Suid-Afrikaners inhou? U moet erken dat na 30 jaar die meeste Suid-Afrikaners se situasie op ekonomiese vlak nie eintlik verbeter het nie. Baie is werkloos. Hoe vind hulle baat by u beleid? Miskien moet ons die vraag anders stel: Ten spyte van u morele argumente, tot hoe 'n mate is hierdie beleid die oorsaak van armoede? In die kompetende wêreld waarin ons vandag leef, kan 'n kar nie vier silinders hê maar slegs drie daarvan werk nie. Dit is tog logies dat so 'n kar sal agterby op die pad van die lewe. U bedoeling mag dalk goed wees, maar die telbord vertel 'n heel ander verhaal.

Ek weet dat u dit nie sal doen nie, maar ek dink u sal baat vind om terug te gaan in die geskiedenis van ons land. Dan sal u sien hoe ekonomiese wette politieke doelwitte laat sneuwel het. In die blanke Afrikaner se geheue is die gebeure rondom die depressie van die dertigerjare ingebrand. Die regering met genl. Hertzog aan bewind, wou nie doen wat die ekonomie vereis het nie. Die regering wou nie afstap van die goudstandaard nie. Daarmee het sy doelwit om die blanke Afrikaner uit armoede op te hef, misluk en het juis sy teikengroep teen 'n ongeloflike tempo verarm.

Meneer die President, wat ons nodig het is nie net 'n morele standpunt nie, maar 'n standpunt wat sal rekening hou met die werklikheid van die ekonomiese dryfver.

Daar is nie meer plek vir ondoeltreffendheid nie. Indien u almal wil laat baat vind, bring meriete op 'n manier terug. Bring meriete terug ter wille van hulle wat u nou tevrede moet hou met R350 per maand.

U moet onthou dat daar 'n dag sal kom, wat mense sal sê: "President, los die mooi praatjies en die belofes. Gee vir ons werk dat ons self ons brood kan koop."

Groete, Japie.



DAVEL DIENSPRYS

EWAN VALENTEIN was die ontvanger van die Davel Diensprys by Hoërskool Calvinia se prysuitdeling. Hy ontvang dit vir sy bydrae tot alle bedrywighede by die skool.

APPENDIX 4: DRAFT SCOPING PHASE NOTIFICATION

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2022 18:46
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province
Attachments: 4462_Loxton WEF_DSR_I&AP_AFR_v1-0_AAL_20221111.pdf; 4462_Loxton WEF_DSR_I&AP_ENG_v1-0_AAL_20221111.pdf

SUBMISSION OF A SCOPING AND EIA PROCESS FOR THE LOXTON 1, LOXTON 2 AND LOXTON 3 WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Environmental Application and Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

Please note that three separate applications with their respective scoping reports have been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from **14 November 2022 until 14 December 22 (both days inclusive)**. Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ashlin Bodasing
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

KENNISGEWING VAN OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING PROSES EN WATERGEBRUIK-LISENSIE AANSOEKPROSESSE

14 November 2022

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staatsorgaan

Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n Openbare Deelname Proses (PPP) wat onderneem moet word ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (NEMA) (Wet Nr. 107 van 1998), soos gewysig.

DFFE Verwysing(s): Moet nog bevestig word

RE: KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP OMVANGBEPALINGVERSLAE VIR PUBLIEKE OORSIG EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE LOXTON WINDENERGIE FASILITEIT (1 – 3) GROEPERING, NOORD-KAAP PROVINSIE

Aard van Aktiwiteit: Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Edms) Bpk, Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Edms) Bpk en Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Edms) Bpk ('die Projek Aansoekers') stel die konstruksie en bedryf voor drie (3) Windenergiefasiliteite (WEF). Die potensiele opwekkingskapasiteit van Loxton WEF 1 & WEF 3 is tot 240 MW en Loxton WEF 2 is tot 480 MW. Elke WEF sal verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energie-bergingstelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie-spilpunt met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerkinfrastruktuur bevat, soos maar nie beperk nie tot 'n 132kV / 400 kV oorhoofse transmissiekraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerknetwerk.

Ontwikkelingsligging: Die voorgestelde Loxton WEF se groep is geleë tussen 14 - 20 km noordoos en oos van die dorp Loxton en val binne die Ubuntu Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Pixley ka Seme Distriksmunisipaliteit, in die Noord-Kaap Provinsie.

Aansoekproses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewingsimpakbepaling (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek Aansoekers Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Edms) Bpk (Arcus), om as die projekbestuurder op te tree en om die Omvang- en Omgewingsimpakbepaling (S&EIA)-prosesse as die onafhanklike omgewingsimpakbepalingspraktisyn (EAP) te onderneem.

Ingevolge Artikel 21 van die Nasionale Waterwet (NWA) (Wet 36 van 1998), soos gewysig, kan die ontwikkeling moontlik 'n lisensie vir watergebruik vereis. Indien nodig, sal 'n aansoek om lisensie vir watergebruik aan die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) ingedien word.

Arcus het drie Omgewingsaansoekers, insluitend 'n Konsep Omvangbepaling Verslae by die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DFFE) ingedien.

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word genooi om kommentaar te lewer op die Konsep Omvangbepaling Verslae wat beskikbaar is vir publieke hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Maandag, 14 November 2022 tot Woensdag, 14 Desember 2022 (beide dae ingesluit)**, soos in Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Publieke Hersiening en Kommentaar Ligging

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopieer-ligging	
Arcus webwerf (beskikbaar vir aflaai)	https://arcusconsulting.co.za/projects/
Via One Drive	B&GP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een Drive-gedeelde gids gestuur word.
Hardekopieë ligging	
Loxton Biblioteek	Geleë in die Ubuntu Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, Loxton Magrieta Prinsloo St, Loxton, 8405
Openingsure	Maandag – Donderdag: 07h30 – 16h15 Vrydag: 07h30 – 15h00
CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.	

Met verwysing na hierdie openbare deelnameproses, stuur asseblief U kommentaar / navrae / vrae oor die Konsep Omvangbepaling Verslae skriftelik **voor of op 14 Desember 2022** na die onderstaande adres. Dui asseblief ook die kontakbesonderhede van enige ander potensiële B&GPe aan wat gekontak en geregistreer moet word.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Arcus Verwysing : 4462 Loxton WEF Cluster
E-pos : LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Aanlyn portaal : <https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>
Pos Adres : 240 Main Road, 1st Floor Great Westerford, Rondebosch, 7700
Telefoon : +2710 596 3502 / +27 (0) 72 595 0104
Kontak Persoon : Ashlin Bodasing

Na die 30-dae openbare deelname, sal die kommentaar aangespreek word en in die Finale Omvangbepaling Verslae geïnkorporeer word, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Neem asseblief kennis, aangaande die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien U versoek om as 'n B&GP te registreer word, sal U persoonlike inligting beskikbaar gestel word aan 'n appellant in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n applikant/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag.

**Korrespondensie deur die hele Aansoekproses sal slegs aan Geregistreerde B&GPe versprei word.
Registrasie is moontlik deur die hele Aansoekproses.**

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Ashlin Bodasing
Director and Registered EAP
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESSES

14 November 2022

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY (1 – 3) CLUSTER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd and Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Loxton WEF 1 & WEF 3 is up to 240 MW and Loxton WEF 2 is up to 480MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Loxton WEF's Cluster are located between 14 - 20 km northeast and east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

In terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) (36 of 1998), as amended, the development may potentially require water use license. If required, an application for Water Use License will be submitted to the Department of Human Settlement and Water and Sanitation for authorisation.

Arcus has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Monday, 14 November 2022 until the 14 December 2022 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

Location	Physical Address
Electronic Copy Locations	
Arcus Website (available for download)	https://arcusconsulting.co.za/projects/
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	
Loxton Public Library	Located within the Ubuntu Local Municipality, Loxton Magrieta Prinsloo St, Loxton, 8405
Trading Hours	Monday – Thursday: 07h30 – 16h15 Friday: 07h30 – 15h00
CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.	

With reference to this public participation process, please send your comments / queries / questions on the Draft Scoping Reports in writing **on or before the 14 December 2022** to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Arcus Reference : 4462 Loxton WEF Cluster
Via Email : LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Online Portal : <https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>
Via Post : 240 Main Road, 1st Floor Great Westerford, Rondebosch, 7700
Via Telephone : +2710 596 3502 / +27 (0) 72 595 0104
Contact Person : Ashlin Bodasing

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

**Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs.
Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.**

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Ashlin Bodasing
Director and Registered EAP
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

RAM ONLINE - CASH SALES ACCOUNT

SHIPPER WAYBILL

FROM:

ANEESAH ALWIE

240 MAIN ROAD Great Westerford Building .

CAPE TOWN, 7945

TEL:

CELL:

EMAIL:

RECEIVER'S EMAIL ADDRESS:

CONSIGNMENT DETAILS:

PARCELS 1 WEIGHT 3.000 KG VOLUME 3.864 KG

PARCEL DETAILS:

Should the Shipper pay the incorrect Service Costs as a result of failure to disclose or incorrect disclosure of Volumetric Weight, Actual Weight and/or Chargeable Weight, then RAM is hereby authorised to -

- complete the correct Weight for billing purposes after the Shipper has submitted the Waybill;
- hold or suspend the Shipment pending payment / adjustment of the correct Service Costs

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS:

This Shipment may be carried by air and will be subject to aviation security and clearing procedures. The Shipper declares that

- the Shipment does not contain any Prohibited Items; or
- the Shipper has obtained RAM's prior written consent, to tender the Shipment containing any Restricted Items



Consignment: RL001181055

On behalf of the Shipper / Consignor / Customer, the User, who warrants that he/she is duly authorised to use the service, exchange communications, generate this Waybill and provide the instructions contained herein, hereby warrants and agrees that the Shipper / Consignor / Customer -

- has read and understood RAM's Standard Terms and Conditions and Legal Documentation ("ST&C"), which ST&C's have been made available on RAM's Website www.ram.co.za;
- agrees to be bound by RAM's ST&C's
- has provided RAM with a true, accurate and complete description of the Parcel/s and contents
- hereby requests RAM to arrange for the Delivery of the Shipment described in this Waybill in accordance with the instructions and information herein and subject to RAM's ST&C's.

A false declaration is a criminal offence.



CUSTOMER CARE
0861 726 726

SHUB: CPT

EN: ERAM01

300
BFW
ES

CONSIGNMENT ID: SN:

RL001181055

FROM: ANEESAH ALWIE

REF: RAM-WEBSITE_22112411312759

TO:

VOGHAN DAVIDS

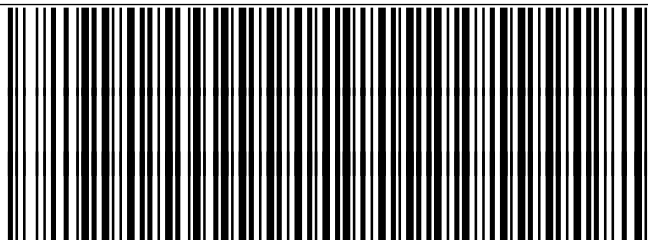
228 MARGARETHA PRINSLOO STREET .

LOXTON, 6985

TEL:

CELL:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:



RL001181055.001

PARCEL

1

OF

1

S

U

R

P 24-11-2022 11:47:05

W 3.864 KG (30x23x28)

V 3.000 KG

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Receiver / Consignee's Details

On behalf of the Receiver / Consignee, by my signature hereto, who warrants that he/she is duly authorised to sign this Waybill ("POD"), hereby acknowledge receipt of the Parcel/s described in this Waybill ("POD") in good order and condition and subject to RAM's ST&C's available on RAM's Website www.ram.co.za

NAME OF RECEIVER

SIGNED

20YY-MM-DD HH:MM

APPENDIX 5: FINAL SCOPONG PHASE NOTIFICATION

Aneesah Alwie

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Sent: Thursday, 02 February 2023 15:27
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Notification of Submission of the Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Loxton WEF 1, WEF 2 and WEF 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL BASIC SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, AND THE LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237, and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton WEF 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from Monday, 14 November 2022 until Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (both days inclusive), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Report has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the Arcus website.

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Arcus Reference : 4462 Loxton WEF Cluster
Via Email : LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Via Online AidaForm : <https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>
Via Telephone : +27105963502 / +27 (0) 72 595 0104
Contact Person : Ashlin Bodasing

***Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended):** If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.*

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards

Ashlin Bodasing
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)

Tel: +27105963502
Email: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

APPENDIX 6: CORRESPONDENCE – ORIGINAL COMMENTS & RESPONSES

(i) Initial Notification Correspondence

NO CORRESPONDENCE / COMMENT WAS RECEIVED DURING THIS PHASE.

(ii) Draft Scoping Phase Notification Correspondence

Aneesah Alwie

From: John Geeringh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 16:14
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

You don't often get email from geerinh@eskom.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks
John

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 15:57
To: John Geeringh [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

Dear John

Thank you for your e-mail. Please note that the Application to connect the Loxton WEF 1 – 3 to the national grid has not been submitted to the Department and or been made available for public comment and review. Please find attached a KMZ file of each Loxton WEF 1 – 3.

Thank You

Kind Regards

Ashlin Bodasing
Registered EAP and Technical Director

Tel: +27 10 596 3495
Email: loxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
www.arcusconsulting.co.za

From: John Geeringh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:41 AM
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments. Please send me KMZ files of the individual projects indicating properties and proposed layouts as well as proposed grid connection.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
Eskom Transmission Division

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>

Sent: Monday, 14 November 2022 18:46

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

SUBMISSION OF A SCOPING AND EIA PROCESS FOR THE LOXTON 1, LOXTON 2 AND LOXTON 3 WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Environmental Application and Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

Please note that three separate applications with their respective scoping reports have been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from **14 November 2022 until 14 December 22 (both days inclusive)**. Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ashlin Bodasing
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.


1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where an electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Eskom Transmission Division: Land & Rights

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

 Eskom	SCOT	Technology
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Title: **Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure** Unique Identifier: **240-65559775**

Alternative Reference Number: **N/A**

Area of Applicability: **Power Line Engineering**



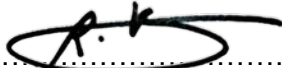
Documentation Type: **Guideline**

Revision: **2**

Total Pages: **9**

Next Review Date: **N/A**

Disclosure Classification: **CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE**

Compiled by	Approved by	Authorised by
		
J W Chetty Mechanical Engineer	B Ntshuntsha Chief Engineer (Lines)	R A Vajeth Snr Manager (Lines) and SCOT/SC/ Chairperson
Date: 15 / 09 / 2020	Date: 30/10/2020	Date: 30/10/2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent decades, the use of wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants have been on the increase as it serves as an abundant source of energy. This document specifies proposed setbacks for wind turbines and the reasons for these setbacks from infrastructure as well as setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants. Setbacks for wind turbines employed in other countries were compared and a general setback to be used by Eskom was suggested for use with wind turbines and other renewable energy generation plants.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last few decades, a large amount of wind turbines have been installed in wind farms to accommodate for the large demand of energy and depleting fossil fuels. Wind is one of the most abundant sources of renewable energy. Wind turbines harness the energy of this renewable resource for integration in electricity networks. The extraction of wind energy is its primary function and thus the aerodynamics of the wind turbine is important. There are many different types of wind turbines which will all exhibit different wind flow characteristics. The most common wind turbine used commercially is the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine. Wind flow characteristics of this turbine are important to analyse as it may have an effect on surrounding infrastructure.

Wind turbines also cause large turbulence downwind that may affect existing infrastructure. Debris or parts of the turbine blade, in the case of a failure, may be tossed behind the turbine and may lead to damage of infrastructure in the wake path.

This document outlines the minimum distances that need to be introduced between a wind turbine and Eskom infrastructure to ensure that debris and / or turbulence would not negatively impact on the infrastructure and future expansion of infrastructure (lines and substation) as per the long term planning scenario.

Safety distances of wind turbines from other structures as implemented by other countries were also considered and the reasons for their selection were noted. All renewable energy developments are approved by The Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in terms of NEMA. The DEFF is aware of the setbacks guideline, however they cannot use it in terms of decision making since the setbacks document has no legal standing in SA and it would be outside of their mandate who have been advised to follow the guidelines herein.

Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setbacks away from substations were also to be considered to prevent restricting possible power line access routes to the substation and possible expansion of substations.

2. SUPPORTING CLAUSES

2.1 SCOPE

This document provides guidance on the safe distance that a wind turbine should be located from any Eskom power line or substation. Although it is not based on any legislative requirement, it is deemed important that Eskom's infrastructure and future network expansion planning is not impeded. The document specifies proposed setback distances for transmission lines (220 kV to 765 kV), distribution lines

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(66 kV to 132 kV) and all Eskom substations. Proposed setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants are also specified away from substations.

2.1.1 Purpose

Setbacks for wind turbines and power lines / substations are required for various reasons. These include possible catastrophic failure of the turbine blade that may release fragments and which may be thrown onto nearby power lines that may result in damage with associated unplanned outages. Turbulence behind the turbine may affect helicopter flight during routine Eskom live line maintenance and inspections that may lead to safety risk of the aircraft / personnel. Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setback away from substations were required to prevent substations from being boxed in by these renewable generation plants limiting line route access to the substations and possible future substation expansion.

2.1.2 Applicability

This document is applicable to the siting of all new and existing wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines and substations and in line of site between Eskom telecommunication infrastructure, including future Eskom renewable energy development.

2.2 NORMATIVE/INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

2.2.1 Normative

1. <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1170403/Hiiumaa+turbulence+impact+EMD.pdf>.
2. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-184/CEC-500-2005-184.PDF>
3. <http://www.adamscountywind.com/Revised%20Site/Windmills/Adams%20County%20Ordinance/Adams%20County%20Wind%20Ord.htm>
4. http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=PA11R&RE=1&EE=1
5. <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/european-setbacks-minimum-distance-between-wind-turbines-and-habitations/>
6. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/017/11017.1-i.html>
7. http://www.caw.ca/assets/pdf/Turbine_Safety_Report.pdf
8. Rogers J, Slegers N, Costello M. (2011) A method for defining wind turbine setback standards. Wind energy 10.1002/we.468

2.2.2 Informative

None

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2.3 DEFINITIONS

Definition	Description
Setback	The minimum distance between a wind turbine and boundary line/dwelling/road/infrastructure/servitude etc.
Flicker	Effect caused when rotating wind turbine blades periodically cast shadows
Tip Height	The total height of the wind turbine ie. Hub height plus half rotor diameter (see Figure1)

2.3.1 Disclosure Classification

Controlled disclosure: controlled disclosure to external parties (either enforced by law, or discretionary).

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
None	

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All parties involved in the positioning wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines/substations should endeavour to follow the setbacks outlined in this guideline.

2.6 PROCESS FOR MONITORING

Agreement by Eskom in writing on any encroachment of the setbacks distance should be requested via the Grid Access Unit. Eskom should ensure that every application for renewable energy (RE) developments are informed about the existence of the setbacks document early in the RE planning process to ensure maximum effect. This includes Eskom RE development.

2.7 RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

3. DOCUMENT CONTENT

3.1 INTERNATIONAL SETBACK COMPARISON

Wind Turbine setbacks employed by various countries were considered. It was found that setbacks were determined for various reasons that include noise, flicker, turbine blade failure and wind effects as well as

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future network expansion planning. The distances (setbacks) varied based on these factors and were influenced by the type of infrastructure

Wind turbine setbacks varied for roads, power lines, dwellings, buildings and property and it was noted that the largest setbacks were employed for reasons of noise and flicker related issues [1-7]. Very few countries specified setbacks for power lines.

The literature survey [1-7], yielded information about studies and experiments were conducted to determine the distance that a broken fragment from a wind turbine might be thrown. Even though of low probability of hitting a power line [5.0×10^{-5} ^[8]], the distances recorded were significant [750m ^[8]]

Wind turbines may also cause changes in wind patterns with turbulent effects behind the hub. These factors influence the wind turbine setbacks specified in this document.

Setbacks were thus introduced to prevent any damage to Eskom infrastructure and impedence to operation and future network expansion planning.

Renewable energy plant can also limit access into substations for power lines of all voltages. A setback distance should therefore be employed to prevent substations from being boxed in by these generation plants and preventing future network expansion. These setback distances are specified in this document.

3.2 ESKOM RECOMMENDED SETBACKS

Any renewable energy applicant should engage with Eskom to determine if their plant layout or positioning of turbines, CSP or PV infrastructure would encroach on the proposed setbacks provided for in this guideline and to ensure that their planning and Eskom's future expansion planning is taken into account. Eskom must inform all renewable energy developers, including Eskom RE, of the existence of the setbacks guideline early in the development process. Should there be an encroachment, a formal request should be sent to and accepted by Eskom in writing if any of the below mentioned setback distances are infringed upon:

- Eskom requests a setback distance of 3 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for transmission lines (220kV to 765kV) and Substations.
- Eskom requests a setback distance of 1 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for distribution lines (66 kV to 132 kV) and Substations.

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- A written request should be sent to Eskom via the Grid Access Unit regarding any proposed wind turbine, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic activity within a 5 km radius of a substation for Eskom to comment on.
- Where concentrated solar plants, photovoltaic structures, battery storage systems (BESS) and other renewable generation plants fall within a 2 km radius of the closest point of a transmission or distribution substation (66kV to 765kV), a written agreement with Eskom is recommended during the planning phase of such plant or structures to ensure Eskom's future planning is not impeded.
- Applicants should not position any wind turbine in the line of site between and two Eskom Radio Telecommunication masts. It should be proven that Eskom radio telecommunication systems (mainly microwave systems) will not be affected in any way by wind turbines due to the criticality of this infrastructure in terms of network operation. Eskom Telecommunications should be engaged on this matter.
- If the position or size of any turbine changes and subsequently infringes on any of the above stated setbacks, a request for relaxation must be sent through to Eskom as per the point mentioned above.

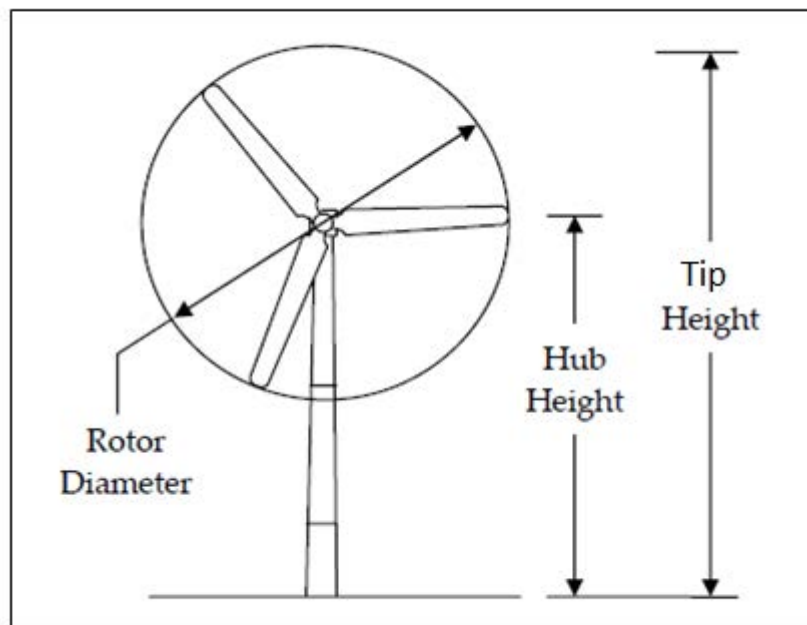


Figure 1: Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine [2]

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4. AUTHORISATION

This document has been seen and accepted by:

Name & Surname	Designation
V Naidoo	Chief Engineer
Dr P Pretorius	Electrical Specialist
J Geeringh	Snr Consultant Environ Mngt
B Haridass	Snr Consultant Engineer
B Ntshuntsha	Chief Engineer
R Vajeth	Snr Manager (Lines)
D A Tunnicliff	Snr Manager L&R (Acting)
B Branfield	Snr Consultant Engineer

5. REVISIONS

Date	Rev.	Compiler	Remarks
November 2013	0	J W Chetty	First Publication - No renewable energy generation plant setback specification in existence.
October 2018	1	JW Chetty	Modification to sub-section 3.2 to provide more clarity for application procedure.
June 2020	2	JW Chetty	Content within the guideline was re-worded to explain the benefits of mutual agreements between the applicants and ESKOM rather than the application being a legal obligation.

6. DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The following people were involved in the development of this document:

Jonathan Chetty (Mechanical Engineer)

Vivendhra Naidoo (Chief Engineer)

Dr Pieter Pretorius (Electrical Specialist)

John Geeringh (Snr Consultant Environ Mngt)

Bharat Haridass (Snr Consultant Engineer)

Riaz Vajeth (Snr Manager (Lines))

Bruce Ntshuntsha (Chief Engineer)

David Tunnicliff (Snr Manager L&R Acting)

CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE

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Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 07:00 UTC

What's your name?

Ashleigh

von der Heyden

Who do you represent?

Genesis Eco-Energy Developments

Project Management

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Competitor Project

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

None

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 18:01 UTC

What's your name?

Ingrid

Schöfmann

Who do you represent?

Karoo Development Foundation

Trustee

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Making sure socio-economic development of the area falls within sustainable parameters

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

We would like more info on the water usage/requirements for the project as well as the where the construction team will be housed during construction. Loxton currently has serious water and sewerage infrastructure challenges as well as a housing shortage. The influx of construction teams will challenge the local environment and we do not want for Loxton what happened in Sutherland: increase in drug abuse, increase in crime, increase in prostitution.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

From: Lydia Kutu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 10:06
To: Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 14 November 2022. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but **must** be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

Aneesah Alwie

From: Bathandwa Ncube [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2022 17:24
To: Ashlin Bodasing; LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; [REDACTED]
Cc: Lydia Kutu; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane; Ephron Maradwa; Masina Morudu
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238
Attachments: 14-12-16-3-3-2-2238.pdf; Closure 2022-2023.pdf

You don't often get email from bncube@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.

Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.

I hope you find all in order.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447- PRETORIA 0001- Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED] / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2022 and received by the Department on 14 November 2022, refer.

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

Application form

1. Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended): The description of project activity for this activity refers to a powerline, which is not part of this application. Activities applied for in the application form and the SR, as well as their descriptions, must be the same and correct.
2. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.

Specialist Assessments

3. Page 4 of the meeting minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 26 October 2022 refers to the undertaking of a Wake Effect Analysis, however this study is not included in the Specialist Plan of Study (PoS).
4. Page 29 of the draft SR indicates that a Geotechnical Assessment is required but will not be undertaken as part of the EIA process. All required specialist studies must be conducted as part of the EIA process. Due to the development design constraints indicated, a desktop Geotechnical Assessment must be included as part of the Specialist PoS.

6

5. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for all specialist studies conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department template).
6. Please note that in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), it is a requirement for specialists to be registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in their respective fields.
7. The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which have been included as part of this SR, must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

Public Participation Process

8. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
9. Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. The contact details are as follows:
 - i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate
Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota
Email: BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za
10. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.
11. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the Final SR.
12. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
13. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).
14. The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in *Annexure 1* of this comments letter.
15. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
16. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied *verbatim* and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.
17. The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.
18. Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.
19. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.

5

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



Ms Milicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Mr. Vusi Skosana

Designation: Director: National Integrated Authorisations

EAPASA Registration Ref: 2019/92

Date: 13 December 2022

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd	Email [REDACTED]
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email [REDACTED]
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email [REDACTED]

Annexure 1

1. Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form



Aneesah Alwie

From: Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 06:41
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Register

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Register me as interested and affected party.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Michael

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 18:29 UTC

What's your name?

Christo & Caren

Venter

Who do you represent?

Ourselves

Resident in Loxton

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Concerned resident

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

Concerned about influx of people on this small Karoo town; underground water levels being affected; noise pollution; roads being affected. All of this could also influence the tourism industry and the character of the town and region.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 18:42 UTC

What's your name?

Chris

Stuart

Who do you represent?

Stuart on Nature

Director

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

We live in Loxton, and are zoologists/ecologists and are aware of the negative impacts of windfarms on environment and natural resources

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

We have experience with wind farms in North America and Australia. There are many negative impacts of these developments. Not least the expected lifespan of these wind farms is some 20 years - there is no recycling value to these wind turbines and they are generally left to rot at the sites, creating pollution issues in the long term. We also object to wind farms because of the impact on bats and birds. Then there are issues during construction: vast amounts of water are needed for the development crews and mixing of tons of concrete at the sites. Loxton is a water-deprived area, the village and surrounds already suffer from insufficient water supply. On top of that the heavy equipment used in the construction of the wind turbines will negatively impact the already poor road infrastructure in the area. From past experience in other parts of the world, the companies that construct these wind farms leave the district with damaged roads and have no intention of fixing them. That is a fact.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 18:47 UTC

What's your name?

Dinah

Groenewald

Who do you represent?

Loxton Northern Cape RSA

pensioner

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

nothing at all BUT it is BAD BAD BAD

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

Bad for our countryside and wildlife, birds, rabbits and water shortage in the KAROO

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 20:14 UTC

What's your name?

Tania

Heurtaux

Who do you represent?

Loxton

Resident

Your Email

taniaheurtaux@gmail.com

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Interest & Affected Party

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

Long term negative effects this project will have on the town's social and environmental structures .

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Aneesah Alwie

From: Abrahams, Zakiya <abrahams@wkn-windcurrent.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 November 2022 09:42
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Aneesah Alwie
Subject: Loxton WEFs

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Aneesah,

Please could you register myself as an I&AP for the Loxton projects and their associated infrastructure projects?
Thank you.

Kind regards,

Zakiya Abrahams
Project Developer

WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd
Reg nr: 2010/022616/07
VAT nr: 4850258239

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

www.wkn-windcurrent.co.za



The information contained in this email (including any attachments) is confidential. It is for sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, reliance or distribution by others or forwarding without express permission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.

Aneesah Alwie

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 15:12
To: Peter Cloete
Subject: RE: Loxton WEF (Farm Boundaries)
Attachments: Loxton WEF Cluster.kmz

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your e-mail and interest in the project. As per your request, please find attached a KMZ which includes the boundaries of the proposed Loxton WEF 1 – 3 developments.

Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The [Draft Scoping Reports](#) are available for a 30 day comment period from **14 November 2022 until 14 December 22 (both days inclusive)**. Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

Thank You

Kind Regards

Ashlin Bodasing
Registered EAP and Technical Director

Tel: +27 10 596 3495
Email: loxtonwef@arcusconsulting.co.za

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
www.arcusconsulting.co.za

From: Peter Cloete [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 12:09 PM
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Loxton WEF (Farm Boundaries)

You don't often get email from peter.denc87@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Ashlin

My name is Peter Cloete. I am the District Ecologist responsible for providing comments on Renewable Energy Developments EIA's in the Northern Cape. Herewith I would like to request Kml/kmz files of the farm boundaries for the Proposed Loxton WEF 3- development that is currently out for comments.

I hope you can assist me in this matter

Kind regards

Mr. Peter Cloete (Pr. Sci. Nat.)
Production Scientist: Grade A: District Ecologist
Northern Cape Department Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform
C/O Voortrekker and Magasyn Street

Aneesah Alwie

From: Elsabe Swart [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2022 11:33
To: [REDACTED] Bryan Fisher; Bryan Fischer
Cc: TMakaudi; LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Pieter Cloete
Attachments: PC- Loxton WEF 3_ES.pdf

You don't often get email from elsabe.dtec@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Kutu / Dlamini

Attached herewith, please find comments and recommendations from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist.

Please do not hesitate to contact Peter Cloete if you need any further information and/or clarifications.

Festive Greetings and safe travels to you.

--

Regards
Elsabè

E SWART
SCIENTIFIC MANAGER GR B: ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Pr.Sci.Nat.

Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform

Private Bag X6102

Kimberley

8300

Permit office, Kimberley: - dencpermits@gmail.com / 053 807 7300/ 081 463 4839 Permit forms:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YEmVt4YHNfljnodXqmwTa3O10iIka3fs7PRk0GiZXXs/pub>

<http://daerl.ncpg.gov.za/intranet>

Tel. 053 - 807 7300

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date:	13/012/2022	Reference:	DFEE Reference to be confirmed
To:	Mrs. Lydia Kutu at LKutu@dfef.gov.za and Ms. Samkelisiwe Dlamini at SDlamini@dfef.gov.za	From:	P. Cloete
Comments on the Draft Scoping Report for the Loxton WEFs, within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province			

Attention: Mrs. Lydia Kutu / Ms. Samkelisiwe Dlamini

(cc the EAP, Ashlin Bodasing as part of ARCUS ERM at LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za)

Dear Ms. Dlamini / Mrs. Kutu

The applicant, Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a commercial Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure on a ca. 11 700 ha site located approximately 10 km east of Loxton within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. Two additional WEFs are concurrently being considered on the surrounding properties and are assessed by way of separate impact Assessments. These projects are known as Loxton WEF 1 and Loxton WEF 2. Loxton WEF 3 will comprise of up to 41 turbines, with a contracted capacity of up to 240MW with a permanent footprint of up to 65 ha.

1. The applicant is reminded of its general duty of care and the remediation of environmental damage in terms of section 28(1) of the NEMA which specifically states that: “...**Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment...**”
2. The development of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility is likely to result in a variety of impacts, associated largely with the disturbance, loss and transformation of intact vegetation and fauna habitat during construction.
3. The development also falls within a CBA 1 and CBA 2. The footprint of the Loxton 1 WEF within CBAs would be less than 5 ha and is not considered significant, while the Loxton 2 WEF would have a footprint within CBAs of approximately 35 ha. The footprint of the Loxton WEF 3 within CBAs would be as much as 65 ha. Thus, the cumulative impact of the three Loxton WEFs on CBAs would be approximately 105 ha, which is regarded significant.



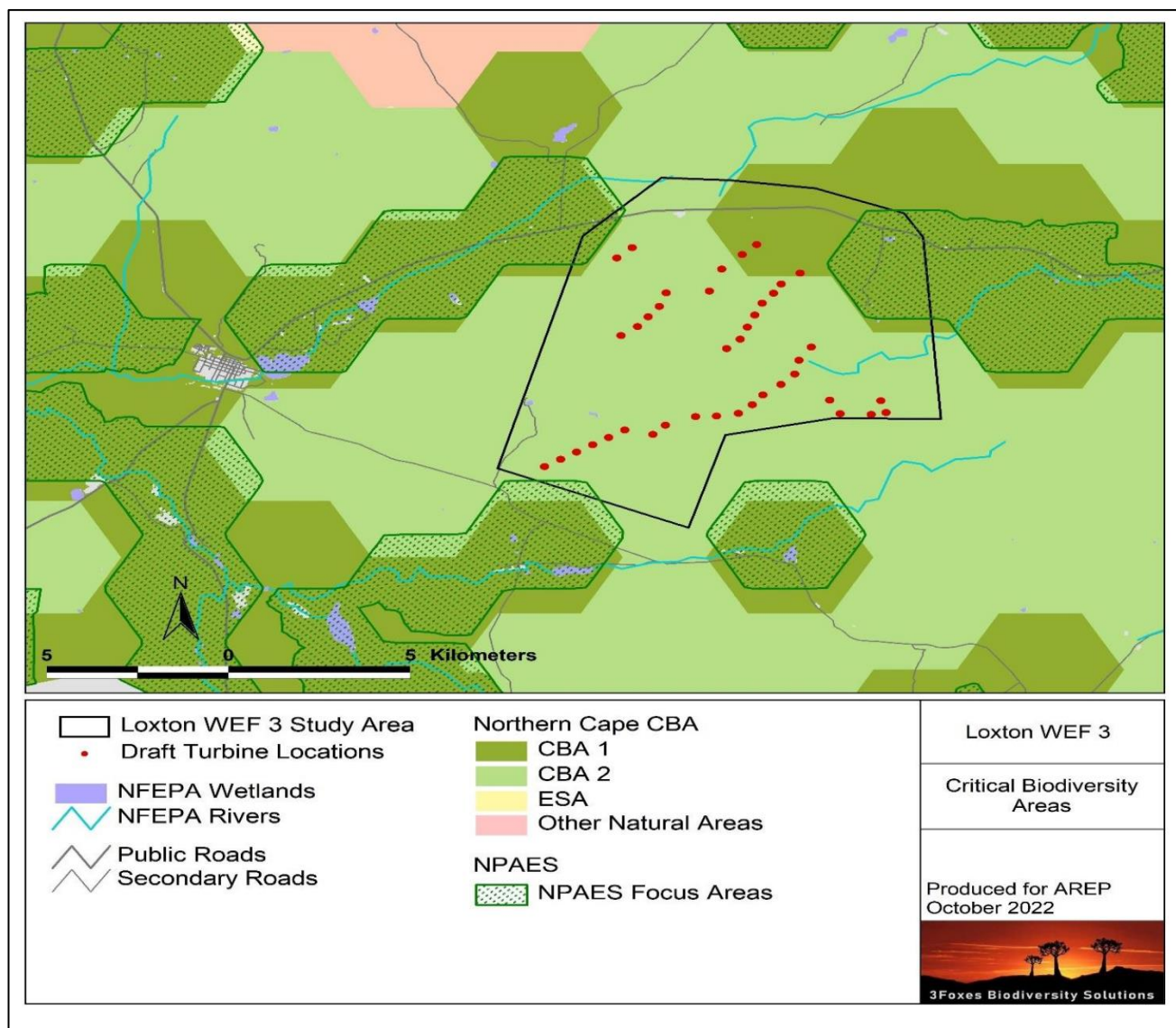


Figure 1. Extract of the Northern Cape CBA map for the study area, showing that the whole of the site falls within a CBA.

4. The presence of drainage lines, dolerite hills and localised habitats of the Riverine Rabbit and Karoo Dwarf Tortoise are important features which appears the selection of these areas as CBA's. In terms of specific cumulative impacts, impacts on the Riverine Rabbit and Karoo Dwarf Tortoise is a concern. Species impacts (specifically rabbits and hares) must be assessed through compounding impacts of the development and the current Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) breakout in the area.

Further to the above, if the proposed WEF is likely to have an unacceptable Medium – High negative impact on broad-scale ecological processes and habitat quality for sensitive species, prior to mitigation the need for a biodiversity offset assessment will be a requirement. It is clear that the Loxton WEF 3 would generate a significantly higher impact on CBAs and given that the affected area within the Loxton WEF 3 is considered more sensitive than the habitats within either the Loxton 1 WEF or Loxton 2 WEF, the Loxton WEF 3 seem

to trigger an offset needs-analysis towards assessing whether the cumulative impact is acceptable (all three developments on CBAs). The potential of a biodiversity offset must be guided by the recent published National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline, CBA map and Provincial Protected Area expansion strategy. Thus, quantifying impacts to base expected impacts on species vs the distance over which turbine noise and other disturbances effects are crucial for the assessment process.

5. It is likely that the turbine foundations and some roads would require blasting which would generate dust and debris fallout at or near sensitive sites. It is a concern that dust fall out predictions was not factored in the EMPr. Monitoring and implementation of dust control measures are essential and should be ongoing for the duration of construction activities. The EMPr must provide more information on what the dust abatement measures alluded to will entail. The generation of dust must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (GN No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004).
6. There are however no turbines from any of the Loxton WEFs that lie within NPAES Focus Areas, with the result that direct impacts on future conservation expansion in the area would be low. A point to consider is, that if a biodiversity offset is triggered through this development, the like-for-like principle would apply. Therefore, this would influence the NPAES Focus Areas in the landscape as more land will be proclaimed as protected areas in the landscape.
7. Although the proposed wind turbines will result in several negative impacts, based on the information provided, it is apparent that significant impacts on the receiving environment can also be attributed to the associated infrastructure, especially the access roads and power lines. As such, it is essential that all mitigation measures proposed by the various specialists relating to the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, are carried through into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and implemented accordingly. Further to the above, with respect to roads specifically, existing roads should be utilised as far as possible, and new roads that require construction, should be kept to a minimum. Please note that due consideration should be given to re-routing the preferred access road route to avoid impacting on heritage and freshwater features. The preferred location alternatives of the mentioned components of the proposed development must be aligned in accordance with the recommendations and mitigation measures of all specialists.

8. The proposed buffer zones and “no-go” areas, as detailed in the Draft Scoping Report and delineated by the specialists, must always be respected. The proposed construction camp and concrete-batching plant must be located outside areas and buffers identified as highly sensitive as recommended in the specialist reports.
9. It is noted that there are confirmed bat roosts within the proposed Loxton WEF. DAERL supports the recommendation in the Draft Scoping Report that no wind turbines, electrical infrastructure, substations or new roads may be permanently placed within a 500 m buffer of the confirmed roosts. The environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) is reminded to include all documentation relating to the public participation process, as well as all representations and comments received and any responses by the EAP to those representations and comments.

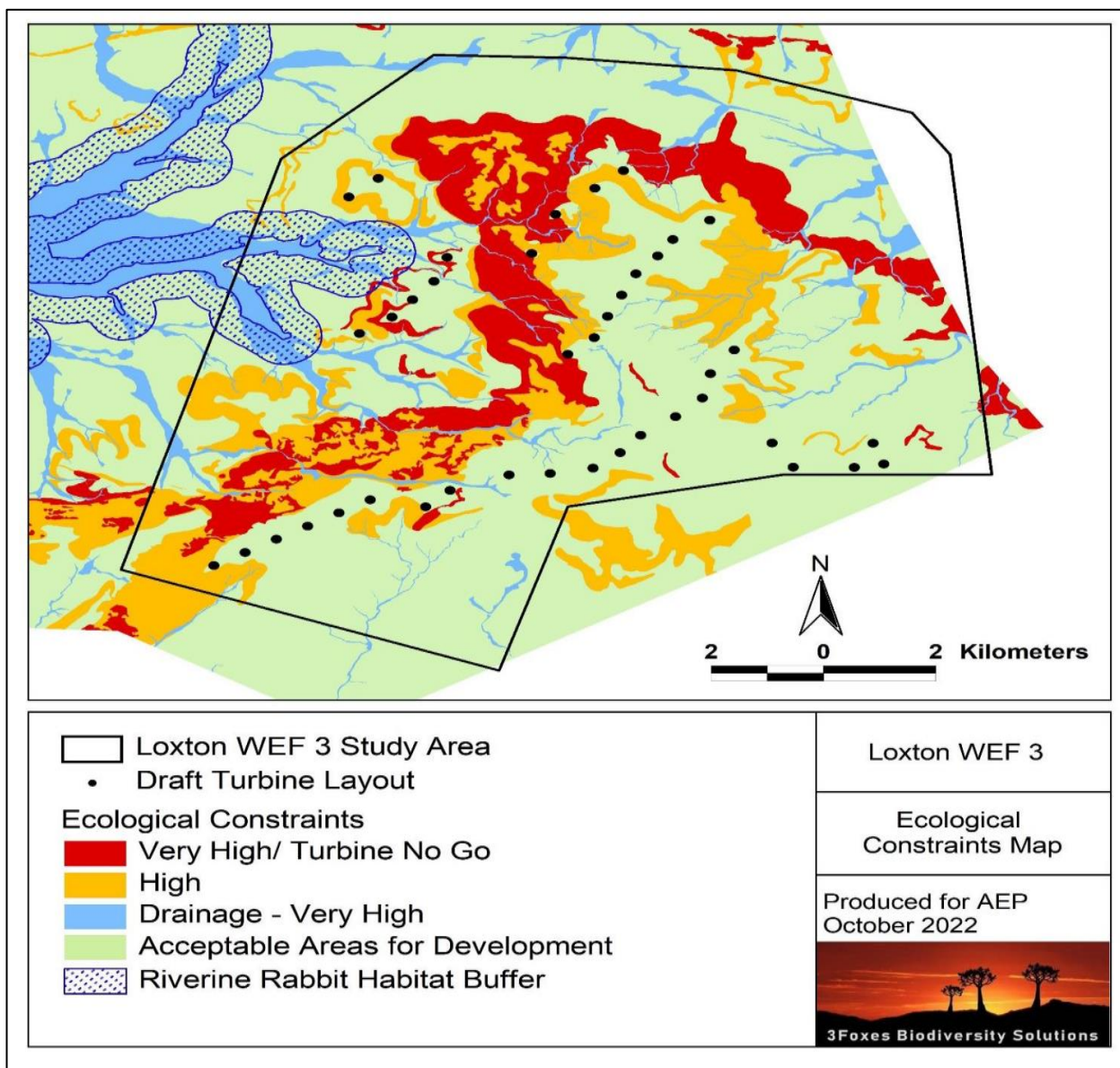


Figure 2. Ecological constraints map for the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3 project area.

10. In addition to bird and bat mortality monitoring, the EMPr must provide remedial measures to be implemented in the event of bird and bat mortalities, as these may be vectors for the spread of avian disease and contamination of the affected environment. The potential impacts of the WEFs' development on agriculture production require further investigation. A further complication is that since the landowner is not the applicant, some of the mitigation measures require agreement from the landowner. For example, some birds are attracted to feed bins that the farmer place in the field for sheep and this could cause increased risk of bird mortalities due to collision/strikes. Should this become a problem, the landowner may be required to cease this activity and may need to be compensated for any loss required as a result. Agreements will need to be put in place prior to final impact documentation submission and EA consideration.
11. The following suggested additional technology alternatives are provided. Please indicate through technical comparisons whether these suggestions are feasible and implementable:
- The use of blade illumination (brightly coloured blades) to deter birds;
 - The use of radar technology to detect birds within proximity of the wind turbines; and
 - The use of ultrasonic acoustics to deter birds from coming within proximity of the wind turbines.
12. The following aspects must form part of the EMPr and negotiations with the farm owner:
- Restricted grazing of the specified area(s); none in the early years in the spring flowering season.
 - Annual management of alien vegetation.
 - Removal of sheep feed bins locally, to avoid attracting Red Larks etc too near to turbines.
 - Detailed survey and botanical assessment of the area(s) to be managed.
13. In terms of the Site Sensitivity Verification, the following outcomes are required to inform the EIA phase of the development:
- Biodiversity Offset Assessment
 - Plant Compliance Statement
 - Riverine Rabbit Species Assessment
 - Karoo Dwarf Tortoise Species Assessment

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment

We trust you will find these recommendations in order.

Please do not hesitate to contact Peter Cloete should you have any questions or need clarity on any aspect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Cloete'.

District Ecologist: Research and Development

E SWART

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Swart'.

SCIENTIFIC MANAGER GR B: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
14/12/2022

(iii) Final Scoping Phase Notification Correspondence

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Monday, February 06, 2023 07:16 UTC

What's your name?

Ashleigh

von der Heyden

Who do you represent?

Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd

Head of Project Management

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

+0

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Developer within the region

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

None

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Aneesah Alwie

From: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 09:36
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236

You don't often get email from lkutu@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 17 January 2023. 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,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

Aneesah Alwie

From: Bathandwa Ncube [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 01 March 2023 16:13
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: unai.bravo [REDACTED] bfisher [REDACTED] thzingange [REDACTED]
Masina Morudu; Lydia Kutu; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; ElAadmin
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236
Attachments: 14-12-16-3-3-2-2236.pdf; Acting letter.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.

I hope you find all in order.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

(T) [REDACTED]

(E) [REDACTED]



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number : 021 412 1529

Email Address : [REDACTED] / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 14 January 2023, refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 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. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

Application form

1. It is noted that the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) does not fall within any strategic corridors or development zones, therefore the application will be considered as a normal EIA Application.
2. If the EIAR contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

MEM

Alternatives

3. Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
4. Design/Layout alternatives, as illustrated in the preliminary site development plan of the final SR, must be included in the Alternatives Assessment section of the EIAR. This includes discussing the 2 laydown area alternatives and the 2 substation alternatives.
5. Where applicable, each specialist study must indicate a preferred laydown and substation alternative.
6. BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.

Public Participation

7. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this **Department's Biodiversity** Conservation Directorate. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
8. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
9. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR). This includes comments received from the distribution of the draft SR, which have not been incorporated into the CRR in the FSR.
10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
11. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
12. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied **verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.**

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

13. The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of Turbine 35-38 is proposed within a CBA 1 and NPAES focus area. Please provide motivation for the placement of these wind turbines.
14. Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - b. Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c. 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);
 - d. The location of any 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;
 - e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - f. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - g. Buildings, including accommodation if any;
 - h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint if any; and
 - i. Buffer areas;
 - j. **All "no-go" areas.**
15. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process must be submitted in the EIAR.

16. A map combining the layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must be submitted in the EIAR.

Specialist assessments

17. In addition to the preliminary specialist studies contained in the final SR, it is noted that a desktop Wake Impact Analysis and desktop Geotechnical Impact Assessment will be included in the EIAR, as per Section 12.5 of the final SR.
18. Comments from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist dated 13 December 2022, state that the cumulative impacts of the 3 proposed Loxton WEFs on CBAs, is significant and an offset needs analysis is required to assess whether the cumulative impact is acceptable. Please include a Biodiversity Offset Assessment in the Specialist Plan of Study, which must be conducted in terms of the National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline. Should the assessment not be included in the EIAR, a detailed motivation must be provided for its exclusion. The list of required specialist studies proposed on page 5 of the comments letter must be addressed in the CRR.
19. A Risk Assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAR.
20. The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which will be included in the EIAR, must address the interim comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) dated 27 January 2023.
21. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
22. **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.**
23. **Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.**
24. 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 environmental authorisation.
25. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
26. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
27. 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.
28. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.

Cumulative Assessments

29. Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:
 - a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - c. **Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken**

- into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 30. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
- 31. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
 - a. Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan;
 - b. Weed and invader plant management plan;
 - c. Traffic management plan;
 - d. Emergency response plan;
 - e. Fire management plan;
 - f. Stormwater management plan;
 - g. Noise management;
 - h. Erosion management;
 - i. Dust management;
 - j. Waste management;
 - k. All recommendations and mitigation measures, plans and procedures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - l. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
 - m. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - n. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
- 32. The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
- 33. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
- 34. The EMPr must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
- 35. **The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word “should” or “may” are to be amended to “must”.**

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF:
 - a. *Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.*
- 37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPrs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.
- 38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic

EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

General

39. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.
40. Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas, which will result in significant negative impacts prior to mitigation measures, is prohibited.

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

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



Ms Masina Morudu
Acting Director: National Integrated Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: **01/03/2023**.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email: [REDACTED]

Aneesah Alwie

From: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 09:39
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237

You don't often get email from lkutu@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 17 January 2023. 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,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

Aneesah Alwie

From: Bathandwa Ncube <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 01 March 2023 16:13
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: unai.bravo [REDACTED] bfisher [REDACTED] thzingange [REDACTED]
Masina Morudu; Lydia Kutu; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; ElAadmin
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237
Attachments: 14-12-16-3-3-2-2237.pdf; Acting letter.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.

I hope you find all in order.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

(T) [REDACTED]

(E) [REDACTED]



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number : 021 412 1529

Email Address : [REDACTED] / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 14 January 2023, refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 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. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

Application form

1. It is noted that the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) does not fall within any strategic corridors or development zones, therefore the application will be considered as a normal EIA Application.
2. If the EIAR contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

MEM

Alternatives

3. Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
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6. BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.

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7. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this **Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate**. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
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Layout & Sensitivity Maps

13. The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of Turbine 101 is proposed within a CBA 1 and multiple turbines are within a CBA 2. Please provide motivation for the placement of these wind turbines.
14. Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:
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 - c. 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);
 - d. The location of any 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;
 - e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
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25. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
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 - b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.

- c. **Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.**
- d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 30. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
- 31. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
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 - f. Stormwater management plan;
 - g. Noise management;
 - h. Erosion management;
 - i. Dust management;
 - j. Waste management;
 - k. All recommendations and mitigation measures, plans and procedures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - l. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
 - m. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - n. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
- 32. The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
- 33. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
- 34. The EMPr must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
- 35. **The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".**

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF:
 - a. *Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.*
- 37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPrs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.

38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

General

39. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.
40. Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas, which will result in significant negative impacts prior to mitigation measures, is prohibited.

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

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



Ms Masina Morudu
Acting Director: National Integrated Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: **01/03/2023**.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email: [REDACTED]

Aneesah Alwie

From: Lydia Kutu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 09:41
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

You don't often get email from lkutu@dfe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 17 January 2023. 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,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

Aneesah Alwie

From: Bathandwa Ncube [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 01 March 2023 16:13
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: unai.bravo [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thzingange [REDACTED]
Masina Morudu; Lydia Kutu; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; ElAadmin
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238
Attachments: 14-12-16-3-3-2-2238.pdf; Acting letter.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

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I hope you find all in order.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

(T) [REDACTED]

(E) [REDACTED]



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number : 021 412 1529

Email Address [REDACTED] / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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6. BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.

Public Participation

7. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this **Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate**. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
8. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
9. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR). This includes comments received from the distribution of the draft SR, which have not been incorporated into the CRR in the FSR.
10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
11. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
12. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied **verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.**

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

13. The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of all 41 turbines associated with Loxton WEF 3, is proposed within a CBA 1 and CBA 2. Please provide motivation for locating this WEF in a highly sensitive ecological area. Take note that any development within highly sensitive areas, which will result in significant negative impacts prior to mitigation measures, is prohibited.
14. Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - b. Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c. 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);
 - d. The location of any 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;
 - e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - f. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - g. Buildings, including accommodation if any;
 - h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint if any; and
 - i. Buffer areas;
 - j. **All "no-go" areas.**

15. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process must be submitted in the EIAR.
16. A map combining the layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must be submitted in the EIAR.

Specialist assessments

17. In addition to the preliminary specialist studies contained in the final SR, it is noted that a desktop Wake Impact Analysis and desktop Geotechnical Impact Assessment will be included in the EIAR, as per Section 12.5 of the final SR.
18. Comments from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist dated 13 December 2022, state that the cumulative impacts of the 3 proposed Loxton WEFs on CBAs, is significant and an offset needs analysis is required to assess whether the cumulative impact is acceptable. Please include a Biodiversity Offset Assessment in the Specialist Plan of Study, which must be conducted in terms of the National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline. Should the assessment not be included in the EIAR, a detailed motivation must be provided for its exclusion. The list of required specialist studies proposed on page 5 of the comments letter must be addressed in the CRR.
19. A Risk Assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAR.
20. The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which will be included in the EIAR, must address the interim comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) dated 20 January 2023.
21. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
22. **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.**
23. **Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.**
24. 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 environmental authorisation.
25. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
26. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
27. 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.
28. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.

Cumulative Assessments

29. Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:
 - a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.

- c. **Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations,** mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 30. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
- 31. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
 - a. Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan;
 - b. Weed and invader plant management plan;
 - c. Traffic management plan;
 - d. Emergency response plan;
 - e. Fire management plan;
 - f. Stormwater management plan;
 - g. Noise management;
 - h. Erosion management;
 - i. Dust management;
 - j. Waste management;
 - k. All recommendations and mitigation measures, plans and procedures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - l. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
 - m. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - n. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
- 32. The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
- 33. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
- 34. The EMPr must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
- 35. **The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".**

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF:
 - a. *Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.*
- 37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPrs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.

38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

General

39. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.

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

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 .



Ms Masina Morudu
Acting Director: National Integrated Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: **01/03/2023**.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email: [REDACTED]

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd

Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 240 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. The proposed Loxton WEF 1 is located ~ 20 km north of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 38 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 50 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 65 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

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CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

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*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 1 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 30 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 1 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, stone walled features/structures and dam wall of low heritage significance, surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, stone walled features of very low heritage significance, Stone Age lithics scatters, stone walled structures and historical midden of medium significance, well preserved stone walled kraals and farmsteads of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping number 20 due to its proximity to a farmstead;
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Interim Comment

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CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

Page No: 3

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609017>

Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

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CaseID: 20118

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 480 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. **Development Location:** The proposed Loxton WEF 2 is located ~ 17 km north-east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. **Application Process:** In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 63 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 100 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 110 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act,



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Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 2 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 23 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 2 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and a dam wall of low heritage significance, scatters of historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, stone walled structures of medium significance, a burial ground consisting of 5 graves, the Aarfontein farmstead, the Yzerverkpoort farmstead and corbelled houses of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping numbers 101, 100 and/or 99 in that order due to their proximity to the R63 and their potential to be seen as outliers;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites;

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CaseID: 20118

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

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- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

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Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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CaseID: 20118

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

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Phillip Hine

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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609024>
(DEA, Ref: TBC)

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CaseID: 20119

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 3(Pty) Ltd

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 240 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. **Development Location:** The proposed Loxton WEF 1 is located ~ 15 km east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. **Application Process:** In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 41 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), one on-site substation, access roads (up to 50 km), a temporary site camp and concrete batching plants, an operation and maintenance building within an application area of 65 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act,



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*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 3 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 24 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 2 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, rock engravings and stone walled structures of low heritage significance, scatters of Stone Age lithics and historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, a stone walled enclosure and stone walled features, rock engravings and surface scatters of Stone Age lithics with ostrich eggshell fragments of medium significance, a surface scatter of Stone Age lithics and pottery of moderate density, the Taaiboschfontein farmstead and the Vaalhoek corbelled house of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites;
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be

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CaseID: 20119

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

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undertaken; and

- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Date: Friday January 20, 2023

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Phillip Hine

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609028>
(DEA, Ref: TBC)

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Monday, January 30, 2023 14:12 UTC

What's your name?

Willem

Muller

Who do you represent?

De Cypher Boerdery Trust

Representative of the Trust

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Our family farm is bordering the northern border of the current design of the Loxton WEF 1 wind farm.

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

We would like to be included in the project.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Aneesah Alwie

From: Portia Makitla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 01 February 2023 14:25
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Mashudu Mudau
Subject: Final Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province
Attachments: FSR Loxton WEF 1 comments.pdf

You don't often get email from pmakitla@dfpe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned projects.

Thanks & Regards 

Ms. Mashienyane Portia Makitla
CBO: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets
PRETORIA
Tel: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Call Centre: 086 111 2468



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

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 12:54
To: BC Admin <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Request for Comment: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

Dear DFFE: BDC Directorate

This notification is being distributed following receipt of automatic replies or undelivered receipts following the original e-mail sent to on 14 November 2022 as per the attached.

Arcus submitted three Environmental Applications, including Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders were invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which were available for public review and comment, from **Monday, 14 November 2022 to Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (both days inclusive). Please ensure that you have submitted your comment by 11 January 2022 should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.**

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is included in the attached documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment is in respect of.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ashlin Bodasing
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 6:46 PM

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

SUBMISSION OF A SCOPING AND EIA PROCESS FOR THE LOXTON 1, LOXTON 2 AND LOXTON 3 WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Environmental Application and Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

Please note that three separate applications with their respective scoping reports have been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from **14 November 2022 until 14 December 22 (both days inclusive)**. Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ashlin Bodasing
Environmental Assessment Practitioner



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236/7/8

Enquiries: Ms. Mashudu Mudau

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Great Westerford Building
1st Floor, Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7700

Telephone Number: 010 596 3502
Email Address: loxtonwef@arcusconsuting.co.za

Dear Ms Bodasing

COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR LOXTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the Scoping Report and the Plan of Study, however, must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

The final 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 & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.

The Directorate has noted that the specialist disputes the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme very high sensitivity and the **specialists'** results of the site screening is high sensitivity. Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas that will result in significant negative impacts prior mitigation measures is prohibited.



Batho pele- putting people first

COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR LOXTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Letter signed by: Ms. MP Makitla
Designation: Control Biodiversity Officer Grade A
Date: 31/01/2023



Batho pele- putting people first

Aneesah Alwie

From: Kamogelo Mathetja <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 17 February 2023 14:34
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Portia Makitla; Mashudu Mudau
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of the Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Loxton WEF 1, WEF 2 and WEF 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

You don't often get email from kmathetja@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms M Mudau (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Regards,
Kamogelo

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 3:27 PM
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Notification of Submission of the Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Loxton WEF 1, WEF 2 and WEF 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL BASIC SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, AND THE LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237, and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton WEF 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from Monday, 14 November 2022 until Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (**both days inclusive**), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Report has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the [Arcus website](#).

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Arcus Reference : 4462 Loxton WEF Cluster
Via Email : LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Via Online AidaForm : <https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>
Via Telephone : +27105963502 / +27 (0) 72 595 0104
Contact Person : Ashlin Bodasing

***Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended):** If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.*

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards

Ashlin Bodasing
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)

Tel: +27105963502
Email: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
www.arcusconsulting.co.za

Aneesah Alwie

From: Colette Alisha Stander <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 06 February 2023 12:27
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Caryn Clarke; Kathryn Winstanley
Subject: Registration as I&AP: Loxton WEF 1-3

You don't often get email from colette@g7energies.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,

I hope that this mail finds you well?

Please register **Caryn Clarke with email address [REDACTED]** as an I&AP in the Loxton WEF 1, Loxton WEF 2 and Loxton WEF 3 EIA processes going forward. Please reply with confirmation of registration.

Many thanks, with kind regards



Colette Stander
Market Analyst

G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd
5th Floor, 125 Buitengracht Street
Cape Town 8001, South Africa

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.g7energies.com

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Aneesah Alwie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 March 2023 08:37
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: 'Gerald Ehlers'; 'Lance Blaine'
Subject: Loxton WEF - Registration as I&AP & Wake effect
Attachments: Hoogland WF Boundaries_Northern Cluster.kmz

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Please could you register me as an I&AP for the three Loxton WEFs.

Red Cap and their subsidiaries have received environmental authorisations for the four nearby Hoogland Wind Farms and their grid connections (granted between November and February 2023). Hoogland 1 and 2 are the Northern Cluster closest to the Loxton Wind Farms and I have attached the site boundaries for your reference.

We would like to ensure that the developer enters into a wakeloss agreement with us to ensure that if there are any wake issues, that the Hoogland development which has already received environmental authorisation, is not prejudiced by the Loxton development. We would like to have a meeting with the developer to discuss this so we can finalise such an agreement before the draft EIR is published.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards
Kirsten

KIRSTEN JONES | PROJECT MANAGER
[REDACTED]

www.red-cap.co.za



Aneesah Alwie

From: Nwabisa Ndaku <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 April 2023 11:34
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Request for Register as I & PAs

You don't often get email from nwabisa@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good Day Ashlin Bodasing

I hope you are well.

Please register me as I & PA for Loxton WEF 1, Loxton WEF 2 and Loxton WEF 3.

Thank you

Best regards,
Nwabisa

APPENDIX 7: DAERL NORTHERN CAPE MEETING MINUTES

25 April 2023

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2238

LOXTON 3 WIND ENERGY FACILITY: BIODIVERSITY OFFSET NEEDS ANALYSIS DISCUSSION

<p>Attendees: Ashlin Bodasing (AB) – Arcus/ERM Aneesah Alwie (AAL) – Arcus/ERM Stephen Burton (SB) - Arcus/ERM Peter Smith (PS) – Atlantic Energy Partners (AEP) David Peinke (DP) – AEP Simon Todd (ST)– Three Foxes Biodiversity Peter Cloete (PC)- Northern Cape DAERL: Biodiversity Natalie Uys (NU) – NC DAERL: Biodiversity Samantha Dela Fontaine (SDF) - NC DAERL: Biodiversity Zanele Machiman (ZM)– NC DAERL: Biodiversity Elsabe Swart (ES) - NC DAERL: Biodiversity</p> <p>Apologies: None</p> <p>Meeting commenced at 09.30am and ended at 10.30am.</p>			
No.	Item	Responses	Actions required
1	PS went through the agenda of the meeting and proceeded with his presentation of the following: Project Introduction Project overview Project status Results of the off-set needs analysis report Layout evolution		

	Question and answer session		
2	NU requested that they discuss the layout of the facility and the location of the infrastructures.	PS presented the layout and indicated that the layout will be presented in the draft EIA report. Due to the scale of the map it may not be possible to view the finer details of the layout. The layout presented included features and levels of avoidance, turbine, BESS and substation; rocky outcrop locations illustrated. PS indicated that the Loxton 3 WEF infrastructure is located outside of areas of high sensitivities.	The kmz file of the facility layout will be provided to the NC DAERL during the draft EIA public review process.
3	NU noted that the access roads will be located in the same areas but what about the power lines and the location of the fencing.	PS indicated that the project site will not be fenced off. The project boundary was just included from a mapping perspective and to provide the reader and the competent authority with the extent of the footprint. The project will be approximately 65 ha but the boundary will not be fenced off. The 132kV power line routing will be assessed in a separate scoping and EIA Process. The route of the powerline is yet to be determined. The power line will run from the WEF substation which will be near turbine 131 and it will run within a northerly direction which will run to the collector substation for the project.	N/A
	NU asked in addition to her question if electronic fencing requirements per other solar projects.	PS confirmed that there will not be, but the substation and the O&M Building for safety purposes that will be fenced off. The footprint of ~3ha in extent for those features will be fenced off. Other infrastructure will remain open.	N/A
4	PC inquired if the associated infrastructure was part of the Biodiversity Off-set Analysis?	PS noted that the assessment took the entire layout into consideration, including all infrastructure.	N/A
5	PC: With regards to the Riverine Rabbits, can you provide more information on the type of data that was collected.	ST: Indicated that he conducted camera trappings (~40) across all three WEFs in the riparian areas and a few other areas and various habitats basically focusing on whether Riverine Rabbits might occur. No Riverine Rabbits were found in WEF 1 and 2. Based on the current layout for WEF 3 they were not identified, however, in the original footprint around the R53 from the drainage line which goes along the existing road that ends up in Loxton, Riverine Rabbits were identified but the areas fall outside the development area. Based on the sensitivity mapping, it should be noted that a 500m buffer was included to the drainage lines which will reduce the impacts on the Riverine Rabbits. It should be noted that the turbines are located far away from the drainage lines and even the buffers and that are within the wind farms the Riverine Rabbits were not identified.	N/A
6	PS indicated it is also worth mentioning that additional mitigation measures were included in the reporting in terms of monitoring for the Riverine Rabbits and providing a framework agreement and providing additional funding		N/A

	for the monitoring for the lifespan of the wind farm. He indicated that he knows that there is a Method Statement within the report that talks to additional conservation measures specifically to understand the habitats better.		
	ST indicated that on other projects that have been authorized now like the Nuweveld series of projects and the RedCap projects they committed to various types of mitigations to deal with the Riverine Rabbits, however it is important to understand what the impacts really are because there are various specialists working on the various projects in the area. Therefore, as part of the measures it is important to do a follow-up, the recommendations for these projects should feed into a similar monitoring and evaluation type of framework as the other wind farm have committed to so there is a more holistic approach to the conservation approach across the region. The main core habitat or known areas of the Riverine Rabbits, while similar projects in the area have low impact has been identified. So long term monitoring will address the inconsistencies and mitigation.		N/A
7	SDF had a query regarding the buffers included for the Riverine Rabbits, was there a specific reason why it was decided to go with the 500m buffer.	ST indicated that he took into consideration the turbine noise which drops off about 200m from the turbine and the noise from 500m is significantly lower. The 500m buffer was instituted when considering the studies that have been conducted so far on animals and wind farms in other parts of the world, but nothing has been done here and that is why he wanted to include it as part of the mitigation. The sensitivity of animals to wind farms, and especially the Riverine Rabbits, is not clear. The 500m is a pragmatic way of looking at it. In general he also takes into consideration what the landscape looks like and if there is a big ridge in between where the turbine is and where the Rabbits are then that ridge can effectively buffer the noise disturbance impact. But if the landscape is open and flat then he tends to increase the buffer to cater more for the Riverine Rabbit than for the wind farm.	N/A
8	NU indicated that comments were made on the Eastern Karoo vegetation and wanted to confirm if it was in context to the of the vegetation type or the protected area because the Northern Cape has protected areas expansion strategies in which this development falls which is also called the vegetation type, but it is not synonymous with the vegetation type in the area.	ST confirmed that he was referring specifically to the vegetation type.	N/A
10	NU enquires if the powerline was excluded in the off-set consideration because it will form part of a separate application.	ST confirmed that it was not considered.	N/A

11	NU indicated that the site still falls within the Protected Area Expansion Strategy and is still considered sensitive based on the landscape because it breaks up the landscape connectivity. She has noted from other wind farms that there is a constant change in the number of turbines, she is of the opinion that the northeast area can be looked at as a set aside area where a Stewardship agreement could be implemented. However, she noted that great work that has been done for this project.	ST indicated that it is understood that the Department needs to cater for protected areas and keep it safe. He indicated that the Team would need to look into the types of processes and what the wind farm can do to address those concerns. NU indicated that the main triggers were site sensitivities was addressed but it's still within the major broadscale patterns affected.	N/A
12	PS, when NU mentioned the Stewardship process, what type of thinking is behind that process, what would it initially include from an applicant point of view?	NU indicated that she is not in the Stewardship unit but some of the sites were set as set-aside areas but there are two ways of doing it depending on the area you are in. One is the Nature Reserve and the Protected Environments but going into a formal process where no one else can develop in that area. The Loxton 3 is still seen as sensitive.	N/A
13	PS enquired on the types of outcomes the department would be looking for.	NU indicated not expanding into those areas, managing it for the purpose of no land use changes.	N/A
14	PS asked what type of restrictions would be there for the landowner?	NU indicated that they negotiate, and some can continue with the farming and operating pivot's, activities that don't result in land changes. Some land practices will be allowed but it would depend on the activities.	N/A
15	NU, for clarity is this area mapped natural areas?	ST confirmed the areas within the wind farm are natural areas, in the areas where the Riverine Rabbits occur which is outside the development area there is quite a bit of agriculture. PS confirmed its mainly grazing.	N/A
16	PS, if the options provided are considered, what are the timelines. The project is in the EIA Phase and in the process of submitted the DEIR in the next week and considering the findings of the report. Further internal discussions would be required.	SB agreed that internal discussions regarding Stewardship or offsets is required. Offsets have various requirements and based on the Department the set-aside would need to be considered and that would come with time constraints so there is a concern on how the Department would take it on board as a set aside.	N/A
17	SDF requested clarity from NU regarding the Stewardship	ST indicated that the types of agreements entered with the landowner, the environment versus a Stewardship agreement.	N/A
	PC indicated that the process of a Stewardship and an off-set differ, however the protected area expansion strategy is a key feature of the off-set analysis so it is now an opportunity to agree on the option of an off-set according to the off-set policy you would need to declare it as a nature reserve or a set-aside under Stewardship which is a different type of a mechanism that can be exercised.	ST, based on the habitat loss in this area, less than a 100ha in the Karoo, is anti-development, however he would agree with the Stewardship option for this type of development. NU agrees with the Stewardship option to get protection of the Riverine Rabbit habitats, that would be a good initiative.	N/A
	PC indicated that they have a Stewardship Division in their department, he will forward the details for further	PC to provide contact details for the Stewardship Division.	To be received during the public participation process

	discussions. They provide guidance and ensure that all processes are in place.		
	SB_recommended provision should be made in the reporting for discussions to be held and potentially for the Department to make recommendation to include the need for a set-aside process, which will form part of the authorization, under guidance from the provincial Department to avoid delays on the EIA process. The DFFE can include a condition regarding the set-aside.		N/A
	PS would the process suffice for the EIAr from the commenting authority perspective.	NU confirmed that they would come back to the applicant in terms of the process.	To be received during public participation process
	PS thanked everyone for availing themselves to attending the meeting and providing input. He indicated that the Draft EIAr would be available for review from the first week in May 2023.		

LOXTON WIND FARM CLUSTER

PROJECT OVERVIEW

AGENDA

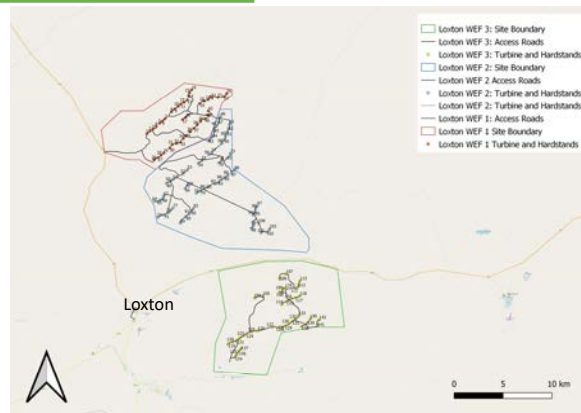
1. Project Introduction
2. Project Overview
3. Project Status
4. Results of the Offset Needs Analysis Report
5. Layout Evolution
6. Questions

Introduction

The Developer is proposing the development of 3 Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) and associated infrastructure, within a preferred development area of approx. 52,000 ha, located north and east of Loxton in the Northern Cape.

The permanent development footprint for each WEF is as follows:

- Loxton WEF 1: up to 65 ha
- Loxton WEF 2: up to 110 ha
- Loxton WEF 3: up to 65 ha



3

Project Overview

EIA Timelines

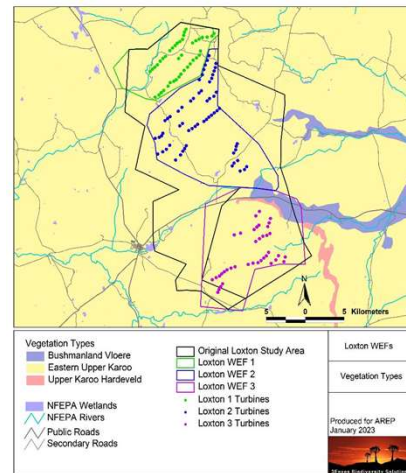
- The Final Scoping Reports have been accepted for each of the 3 Loxton WEF's.
- The outcome of the Scoping Phase is that an offset needs analysis is required to inform the development application.
- The DEIR 30-day comments period is scheduled to run from 8 May – 7 June 2023.
- Submission of the FEIR to DFFE on the 18 June 2023.

4

Loxton WEF: Biodiversity Baseline

Vegetation Types of the Study Area:

- **Eastern Upper Karoo:** The majority of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1-3 project area is mapped under the VegMap as falling within the Eastern Upper Karoo vegetation type. This is considered to be a generally low sensitivity vegetation type.
- **Upper Karoo Hardeveld:** This vegetation has been under-mapped within the study area and occurs within all three project areas. The majority of the dolerite outcrops and hills associated with this vegetation type have been mapped as high sensitivity and have been avoided as much as possible by the WEF layouts.
- **Southern Karoo Riviere:** Associated with larger drainage systems within the original Loxton WEF study area, these areas have been excluded from the EIA-Phase layouts. Extensive camera trapping was conducted in these areas in order to check for the presence of the Riverine Rabbit.

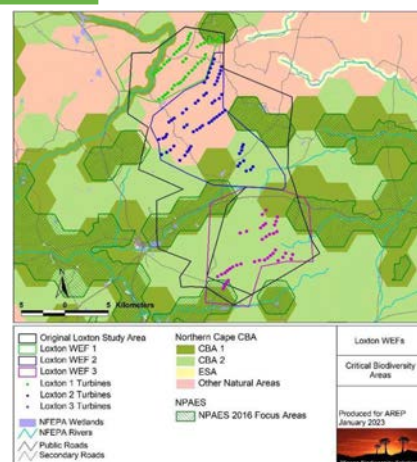


5

Loxton WEF: Biodiversity Baseline

Loxton WEF 3 is located within a Critical Biodiversity Area 2 & Northern Cape National Protected Expansion Strategy Area (NPAES):

- There are small sections of CBA 1 located within Loxton WEF 1 and WEF 3 which have largely been avoided;
- The impact of the development on CBA 2 and NPAES Focus Areas have all been assessed as low. Although there would be some negative impact on the CBAs of the area, when considered at a broader scale, there are no specific features of concern or with demonstrated biodiversity features of high value that would be impacted by the development. (The irreplaceability and uniqueness of the affected area is considered to be relatively low)

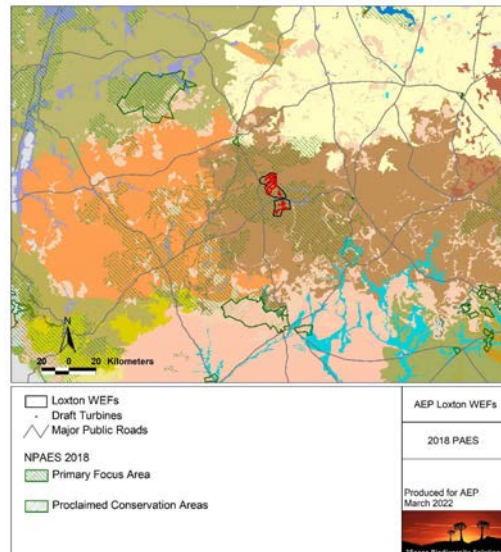


6

Loxton WEF: Biodiversity Baseline

At a broad scale, the site lies between the Karoo National Park and the SKA. However, there are no existing formal conservation areas in close proximity to the site.

The affected Eastern Upper Karoo and Upper Karoo Hardeveld vegetation types are both classified as Least Concern and have been little-impacted by transformation to date. In addition, these are extensive vegetation types that occupy large tracts of the Northern Cape.



7

Ecological Screening: Sensitivity Mapping & Assessment

A fine-scaled ecological sensitivity map of the project area was developed based on the results of the site surveys, camera trapping other available biodiversity information. The sensitivity was rated according to the following scale:

- **Low** – Areas of natural or transformed habitat with a low sensitivity where there is likely to be a negligible impact on ecological processes and terrestrial biodiversity.
- **Medium** - Areas of natural or previously transformed land where the impacts are likely to be largely local and the risk of secondary impact such as erosion low.
- **High** – Areas of natural or transformed land where a high potential impact is anticipated due to the high biodiversity value, sensitivity or important ecological role of the area.
- **Very High/No-Go** – Critical and unique habitats that serve as habitat for rare/endangered species or perform critical ecological roles.

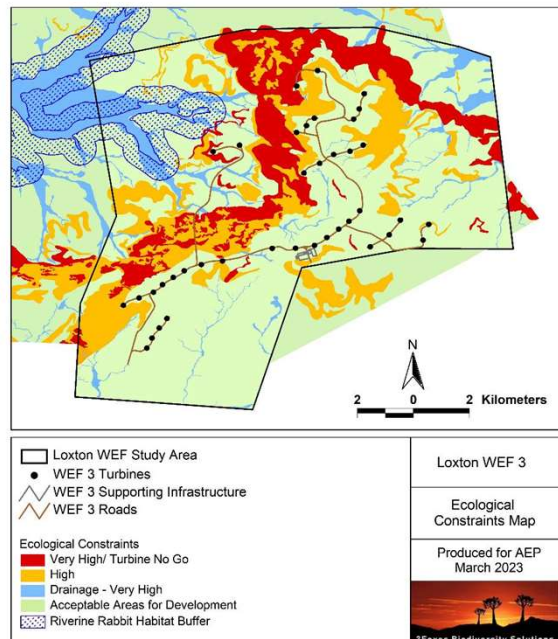
8

Ecological Screening: Sensitivity Mapping & Assessment (Cont.)

There are a variety of constraints operating across the WEF 3 site, with the dominant ecological features being:

- Riverine rabbit habitat and their associated drainage features.
- Steep slopes and dolerite outcrops which represent potential Karoo Dwarf Tortoise habitat but which are considered important for fauna more generally as well.

The fine-scale mapping has been used to inform the layout and ensure avoidance of the Very High and High sensitivity features of the site.

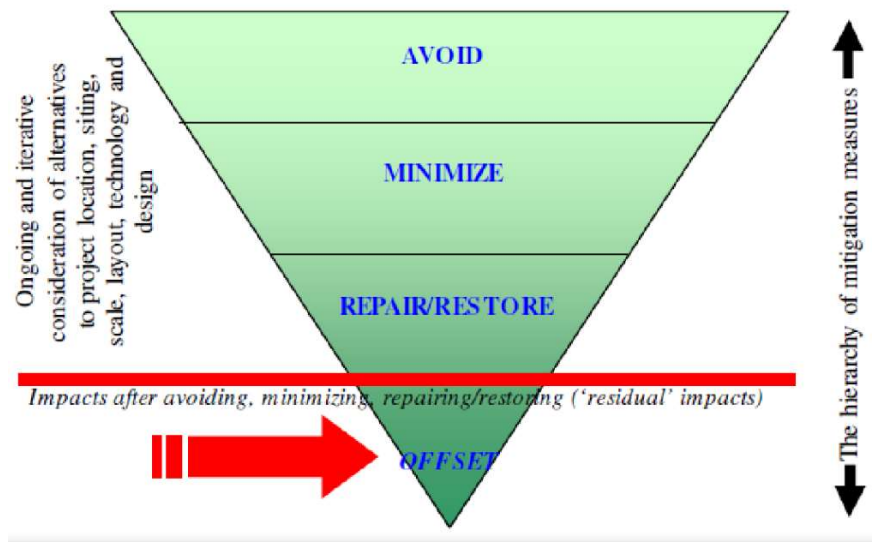


Biodiversity Offset Needs Analysis Report

The Ecological Offset Needs Analysis has the following broad aims:

- Summarize and outline of the current framework for biodiversity offsets. A summary of the most relevant sections of the Draft National Biodiversity Offset Guideline is provided, highlighting the relevant sections as they pertain to the current development.
- Provide a summary of the biodiversity features present within the Loxton Wind Energy Facility cluster, highlighting unique, threatened or otherwise significant species, ecosystems and processes within the area that may be negatively impacted by the development.
- Provide an analysis of the residual and cumulative impacts of the development on specific species of concern, ecosystems and general biodiversity patterns and processes, as well as the impact of the development of the ability to meet conservation targets for the affected ecosystems.
- If relevant, explore potential offset areas in terms of the draft national offset guidelines and the regional conservation context to ensure that identified offset areas meet the like for like offset criterion, but also occur in an area where their long-term sustainability can be ensured.
- Identify any further actions and priorities required for taking the offset process forward.

Biodiversity Offset Needs Analysis Report (Cont.)



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Biodiversity Offset Needs Analysis Report

In terms of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy, the project has focused very strongly on the avoidance of sensitive biodiversity features. This has been instrumental in reducing potential impacts on biodiversity to acceptable levels.

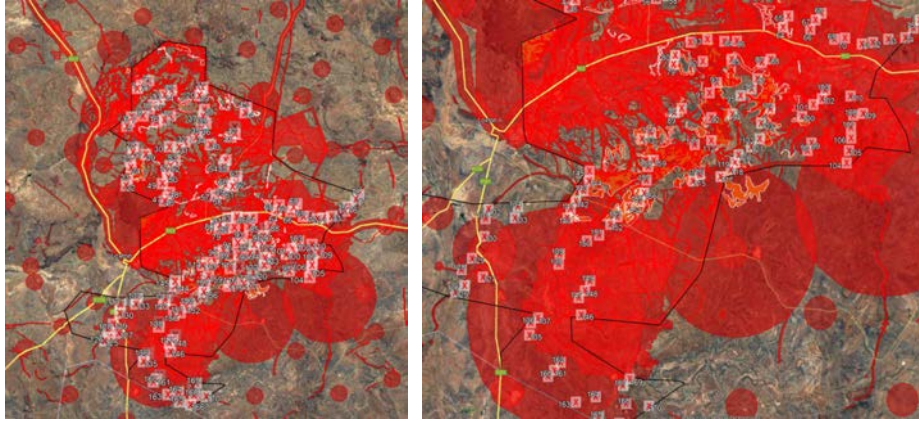
Sensitive Biodiversity Features within WEF 3:

- Avifauna:
 - Verreaux Eagle Nest 5.2Km No-Go Buffer;
 - Martial Eagle Nest 6km No-Go Buffer.
- Bats:
 - Important bat features such as riparian vegetation, rocky crevices, buildings, farm dams and large trees have all been suitably buffered and avoided.
- Terrestrial Ecology:
 - Riverine Rabbit Habitat buffered and avoided;
 - Steep Slopes and important Dolerite Outcrops;
 - CBA 1.
- Aquatic Ecology:
 - Valley Bottom & Depression Wetlands;
 - Ephemeral watercourses - alluvial systems with or without riparian vegetation;
 - Minor Drainage Lines.

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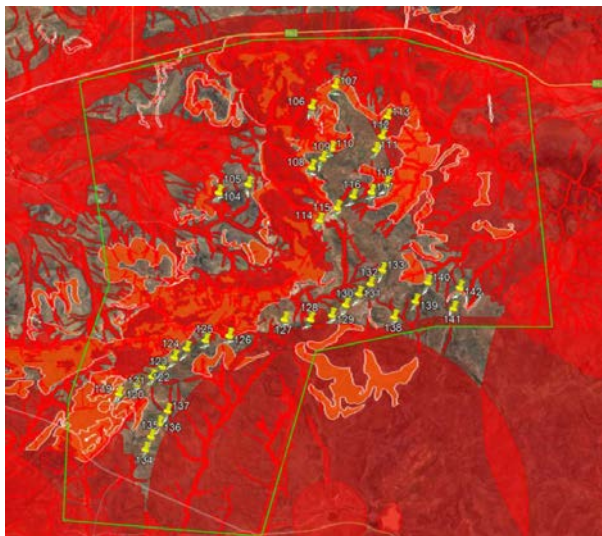
Site Layout Evolution

Since project inception, a number of layout iterations have been refined based to avoid the environmental constraints identified.



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Site Layout Evolution (Cont.)



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Biodiversity Offset Needs Analysis Report: Results

- No fatal flaws or offset-type mitigation triggered by the findings of the specialist.
- The analysis finds that the consequence of residual and cumulative impacts associated with the current suite of projects are likely to be low for vegetation and plant species, aquatic ecosystems, terrestrial fauna, bats and CBAs. This can be ascribed largely to the fine-scale feature mapping that has been done in service of the current project and the resultant stringent avoidance of important biodiversity features that has been implemented by the developer in response.
- The study finds that there are insufficient grounds to warrant an offset for the development of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1 and Wind Energy Facility 2, either singly or in combination. This can be ascribed to the low footprint within CBAs and the avoidance of important biodiversity features within the sites. As well the recommended mitigation measures proposed by the respective specialists.
- Although the footprint of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3 within CBA 2 areas is relatively high and is estimated at 65ha of direct habitat loss, the fine-scale biodiversity feature mapping that has been used to inform the layout of the development ensures that important biodiversity features within the site will be largely avoided. The primary concern regarding the WEF 3 development would be its' impact on broad-scale connectivity and landscape functionality.
- However, should the Loxton WEF 3 go ahead, there are some uncertainties associated with the development that warrant specific additional mitigation and avoidance measures. As a result the report recommends a Fauna Monitoring Programme be implemented at the site to evaluate the post-construction impact of the development on fauna including the Riverine Rabbit as well as other key species at the site.