



6 June 2022

Director:
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

To whom it may concern,

RE: 84MW IZIDULI EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF): TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC SPECIALIST COMMENTS RELATED TO THE INCLUSION OF TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FINAL LAYOUT

Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd. received an Environmental Authorisation (DFFE Ref:12/12/20/1754/4) dated 28 August 2012 for the 84MW **Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility** and associated infrastructure. Further amendments to the EA dated 02 July 2015, 18 May 2016, 04 October 2016, 15 November 2018 and the latest 02 June 2021 had been undertaken. The adjacent Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility has been selected as a preferred bidder via a private offtaker. The developer, Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd., therefore intends to construct the Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility together with the Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility. In order meet financial close requirements and comply with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation the developer has undertaken to finalise the layout, EMPr's and commission the final pre-construction walkthroughs for the Wind Energy Facility. The Environmental Authorisation for the WEF lapse on the 28 August 2022 later this year. As part of the financial close requirements and authorisation for the development, a number of specialist activities have been undertaken. These include specialist walkthroughs, with results and recommendations to final layouts in the form of Walkthrough Notes and Walkthrough reports for the WEF. The recommendations of the terrestrial and aquatic specialists were duly considered during the final layouts presented to the team. Their statement on the consideration of their recommendations is as follows:

It is the team's view that the design of the final layout took their recommendations into consideration where practically feasible to do so, and where not in conflict with the recommendation of another specialist. Based on this approach, the team recommends the authorisation of the proposed layout on condition that the proposed recommendation are included in the EMPr and are implemented during all phases of the project, with the following specifications:

- The recommendations in the three Management Plans submitted on 6 June 2022 – Alien Invasives, Revegetation and Rehabilitation, and Plant Rescue and Protection plans - are followed as far as practically possible. Of particular significance would be setting up joint agreements with land owners regarding issues such as joint alien invasives and soil erosion and restoration plans.
- The recommendations and mitigation measures within the walkthrough reports be implemented and incorporated within the Final Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs).

- For future developments, road buffers should be designed with the input of ecologists at the design stage and limitations clarified Road and boundary offsets for roads and WTGs should also be considered at design stage.
- If timing allows in the future, stagger specialist input so that specialist teams can understand the constraints of other components, e.g. the impact of the bat no-go zone on moving Iziduli's WTG1.
- Although it is understood that moving Iziduli's WTG1 will impact on the bat no-go zone, there will be a significant impact on the trees at the location, which will have to be cut down to accommodate the turbine. It is requested that the construction path consider saving as many trees as are possible in this area.

The specialist walkthroughs were undertaken by the following team of specialists managed and subcontracted by Scherman Environmental cc.

Member	Company/organization	Task
Dr Patsy Scherman	Scherman Environmental	Aquatic assessment
Michael Powell	Rhodes Restoration Research Group	Vegetation assessment
Dr Chad Keates	Rhodes University Entomology Dept	Terrestrial fauna
Nicholaus Huchzermeyer	Scherman Environmental Associate	Vegetation assessment, GIS and mapping

Yours sincerely



Dr P-A Scherman (Pr. Sci. Nat. 120112)
DIRECTOR/MEMBER

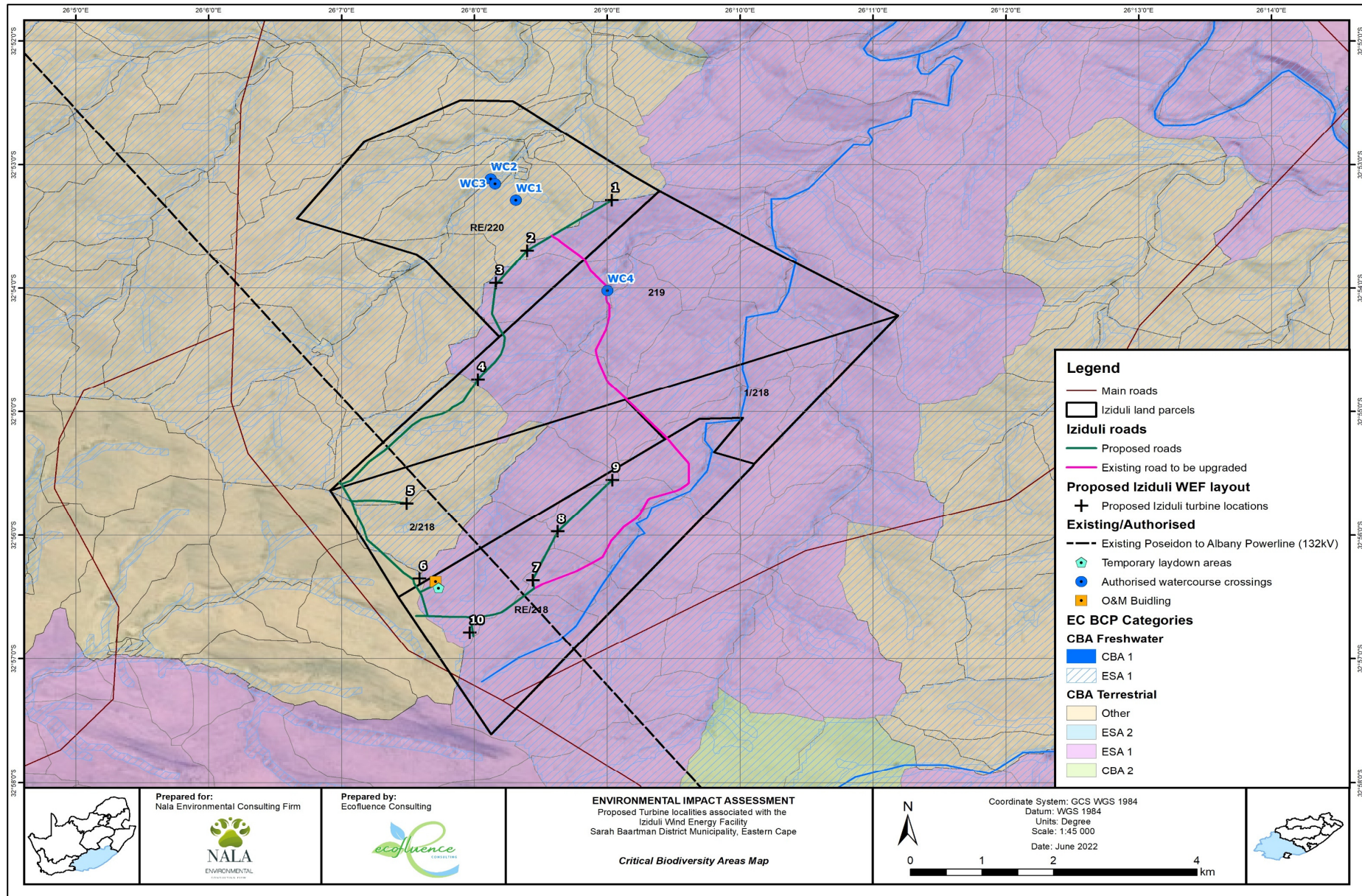


Figure 1. Critical Biodiversity Map of the Iziduli Emoyeni Final Turbine Layout

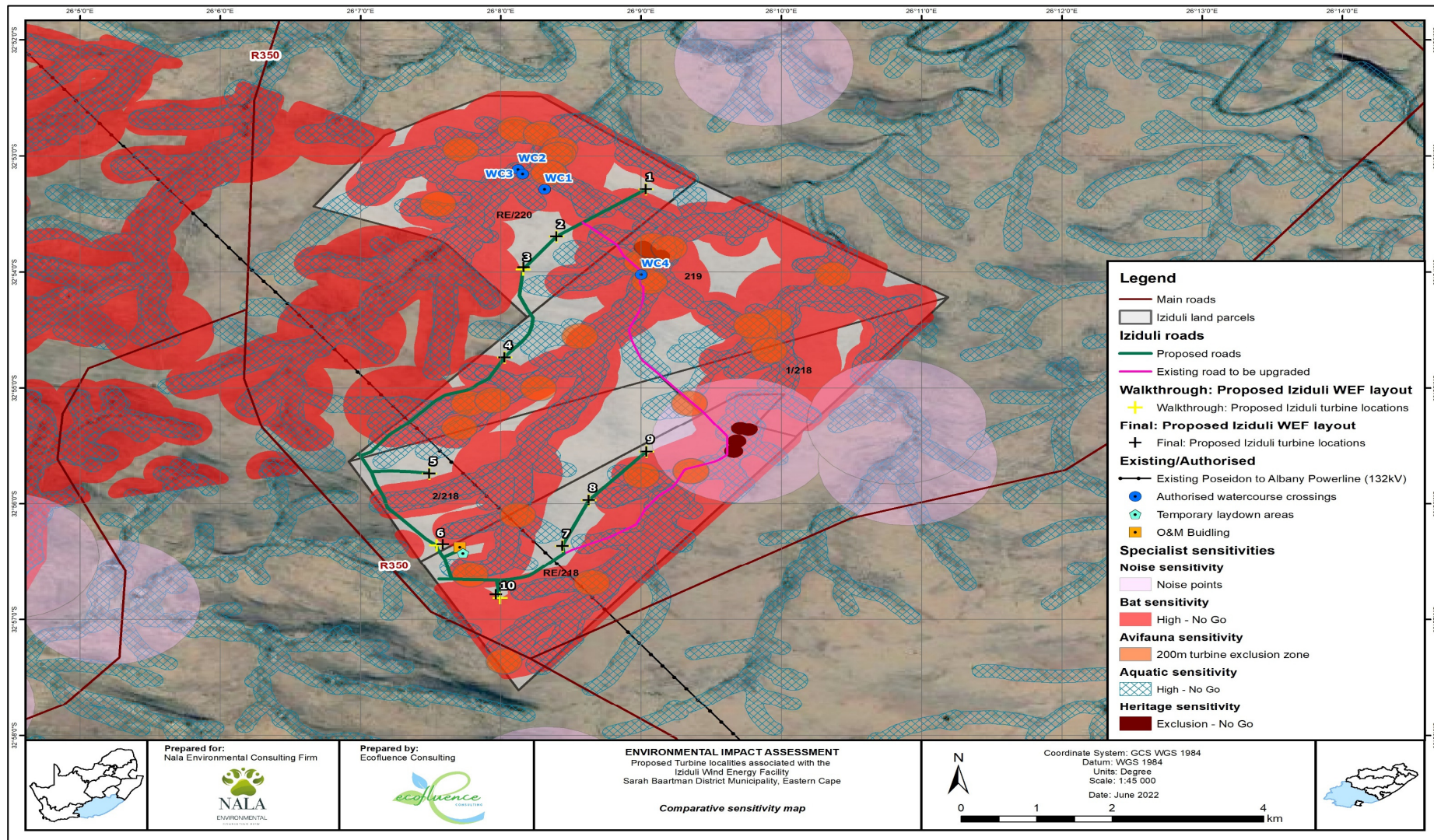


Figure 2. Comparative sensitivity map of the turbine layout used to undertake the walkthrough surveys vs the final turbine layout (the findings of the walkthrough survey were used in micro-siting of the final turbine layout).

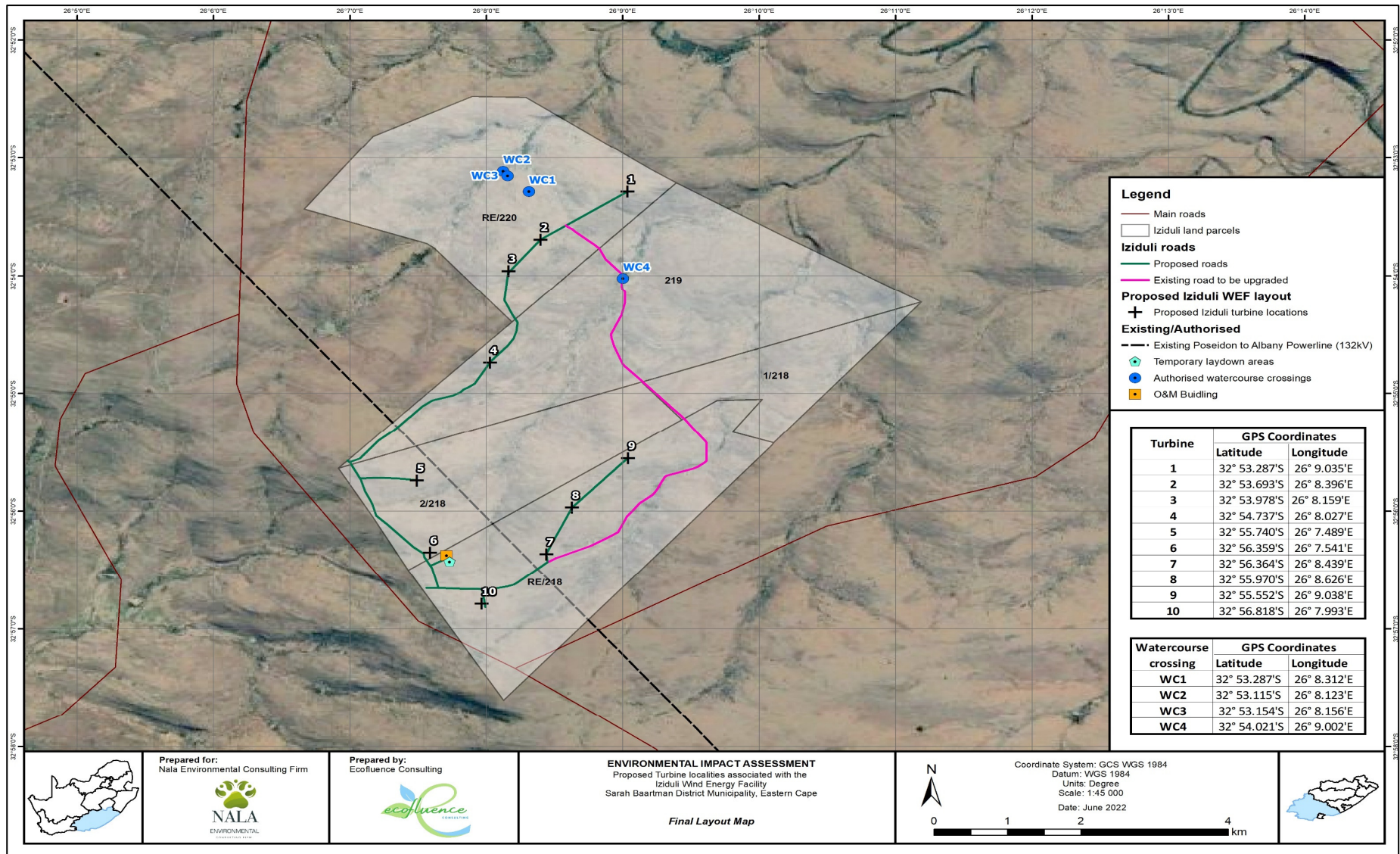


Figure 3. Final turbine layout associated with the Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility

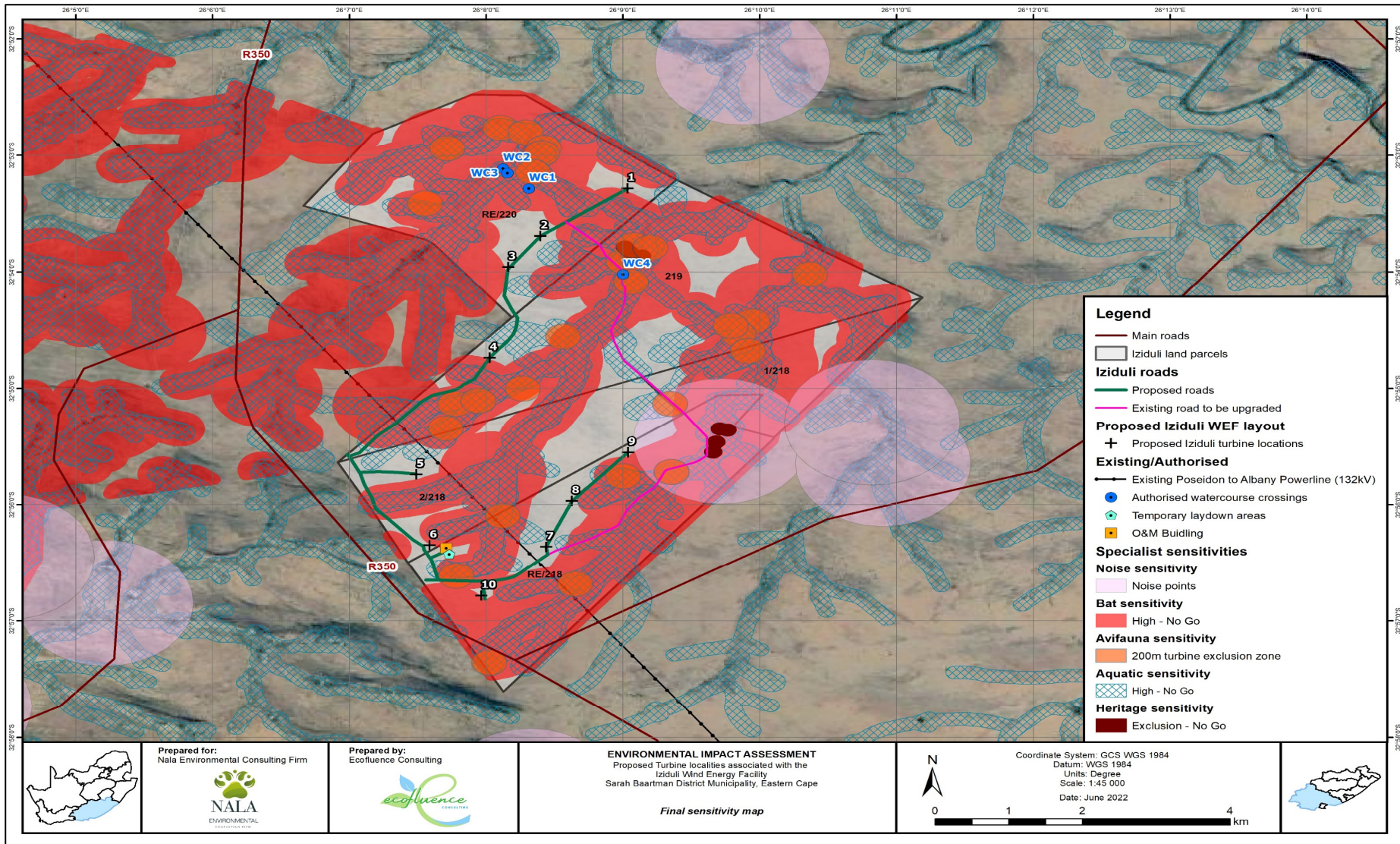


Figure 4. Sensitivity Map for the Final Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Turbine Layout.