



Director:
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

To whom it may concern,

RE: 140MW MSENGE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF): TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC SPECIALIST COMMENTS RELATED TO THE INCLUSION OF TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FINAL LAYOUT

Amakhala Emoyeni Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, received an Environmental Authorisation (DFFE Ref.:12/12/20/1754/2) dated 28 August 2012 for the 140MW **Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility** and associated grid infrastructure. Further amendments to the EA dated 05 August 2013, 14 August 2014, 19 August 2015, 04 October 2016, 07 November 2018 and the latest 02 June 2021 had been undertaken. Following the latest amendment to EA, the Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility had been selected as preferred bidder via a private offtake in February 2022. The developer, Amakhala Emoyeni Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd., therefore in order meet financial close requirements and comply with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation 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 will lapse on the 28 August 2022 later this year. As part of the financial close requirements and authorisations 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 layout presented to the specialist 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.

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

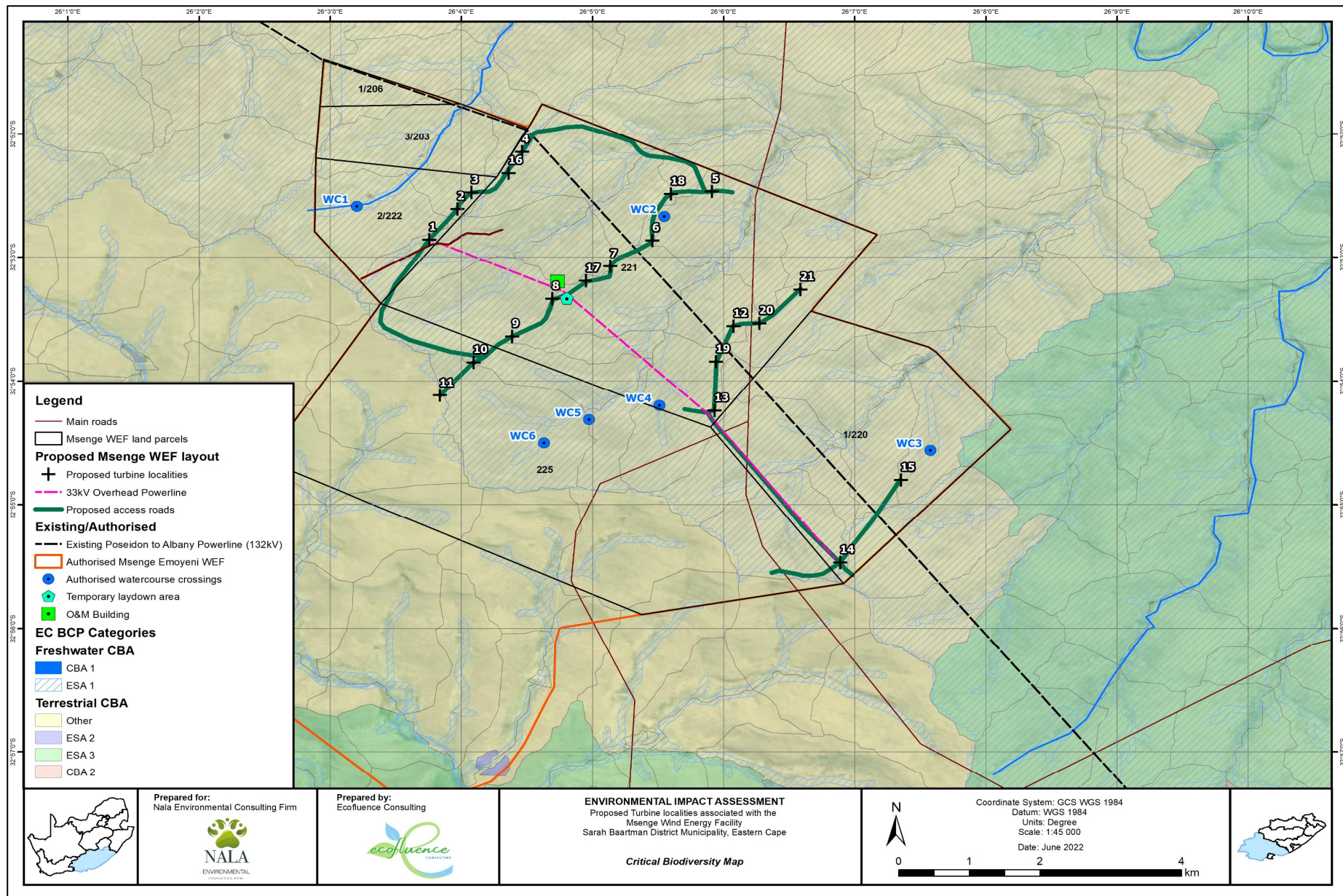


Figure 1. Critical Biodiversity Map of the Final Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Layout

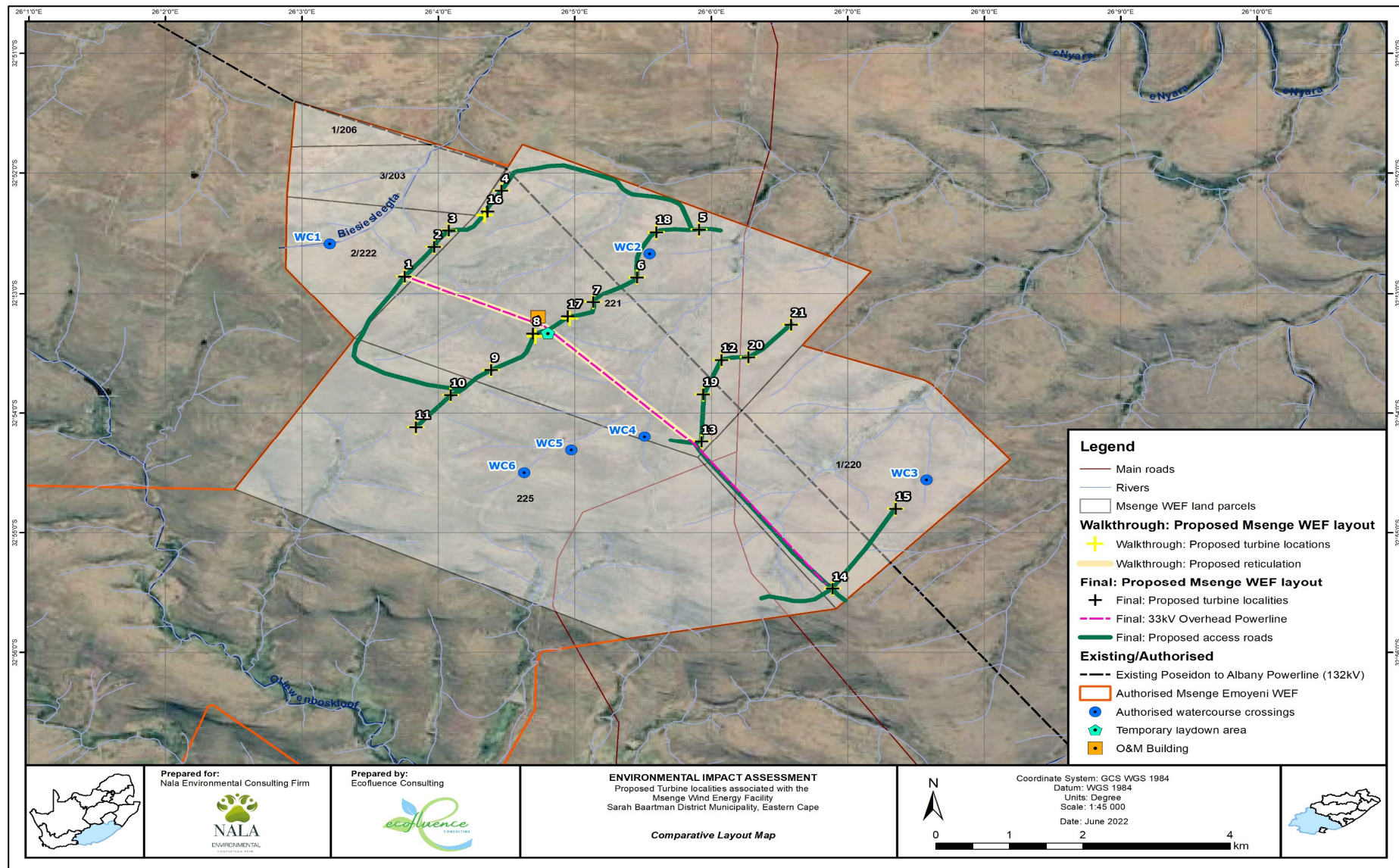


Figure 2. Comparative Map of turbine layout used to undertake the terrestrial and aquatic walkthrough surveys vs the final layout (the turbine layout used for the walkthrough exercise was used to micro-site the final turbine layout)

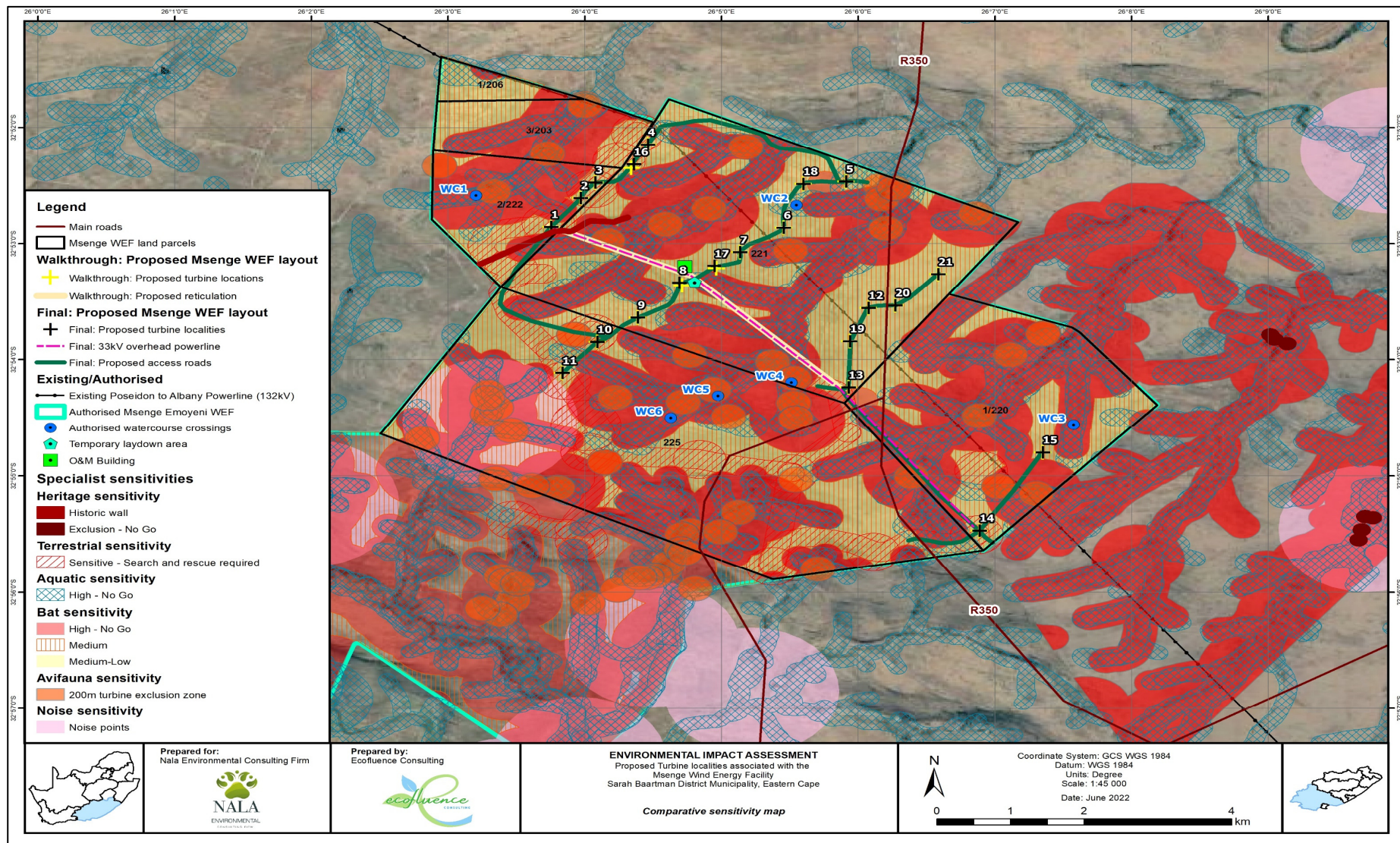


Figure 3. Comparative Sensitivity Map of turbine layout used to undertake the terrestrial and aquatic walkthrough surveys vs the final layout (the turbine layout used for the walkthrough exercise was used to micro-site the final turbine layout)

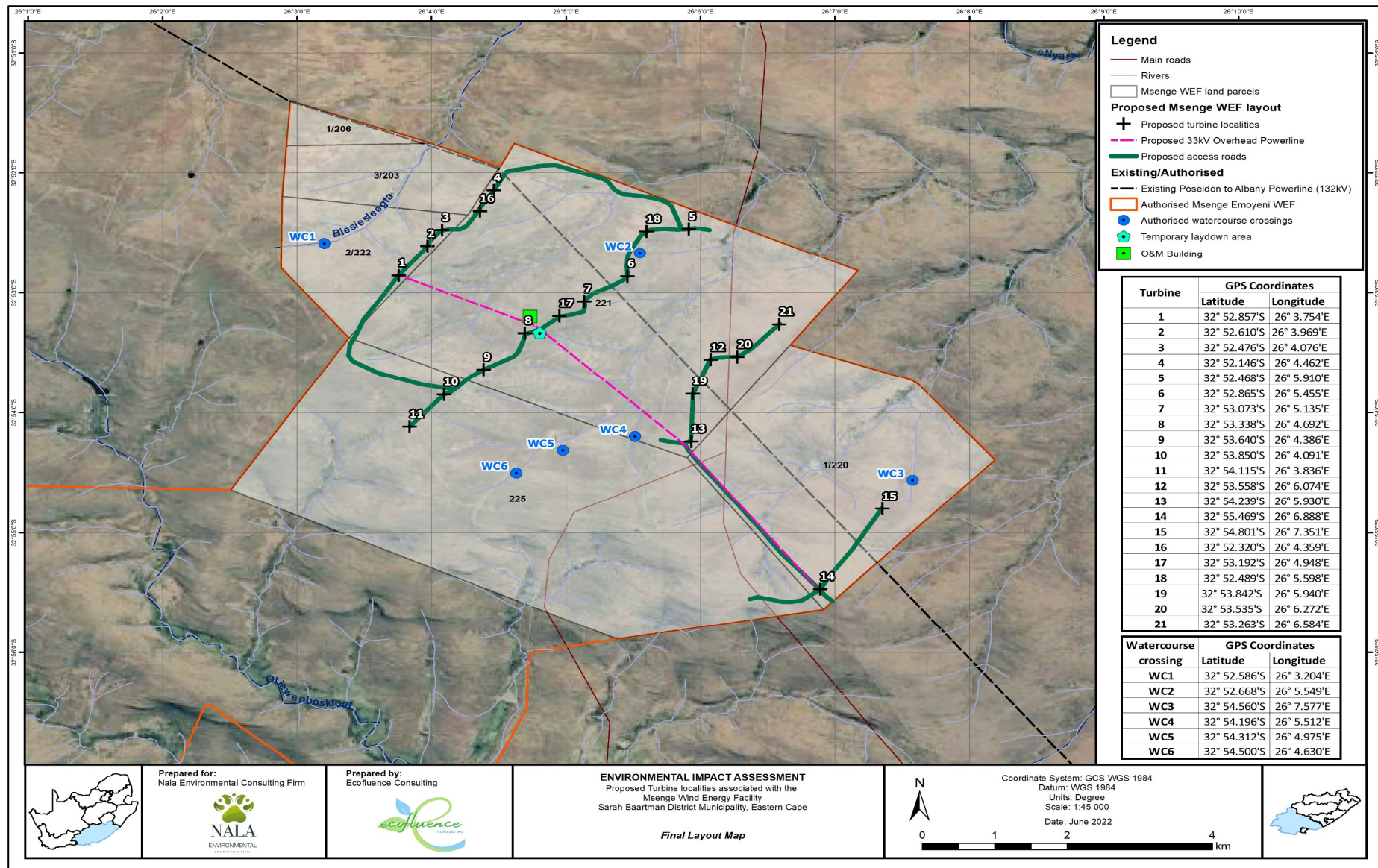


Figure 4. Final Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Layout

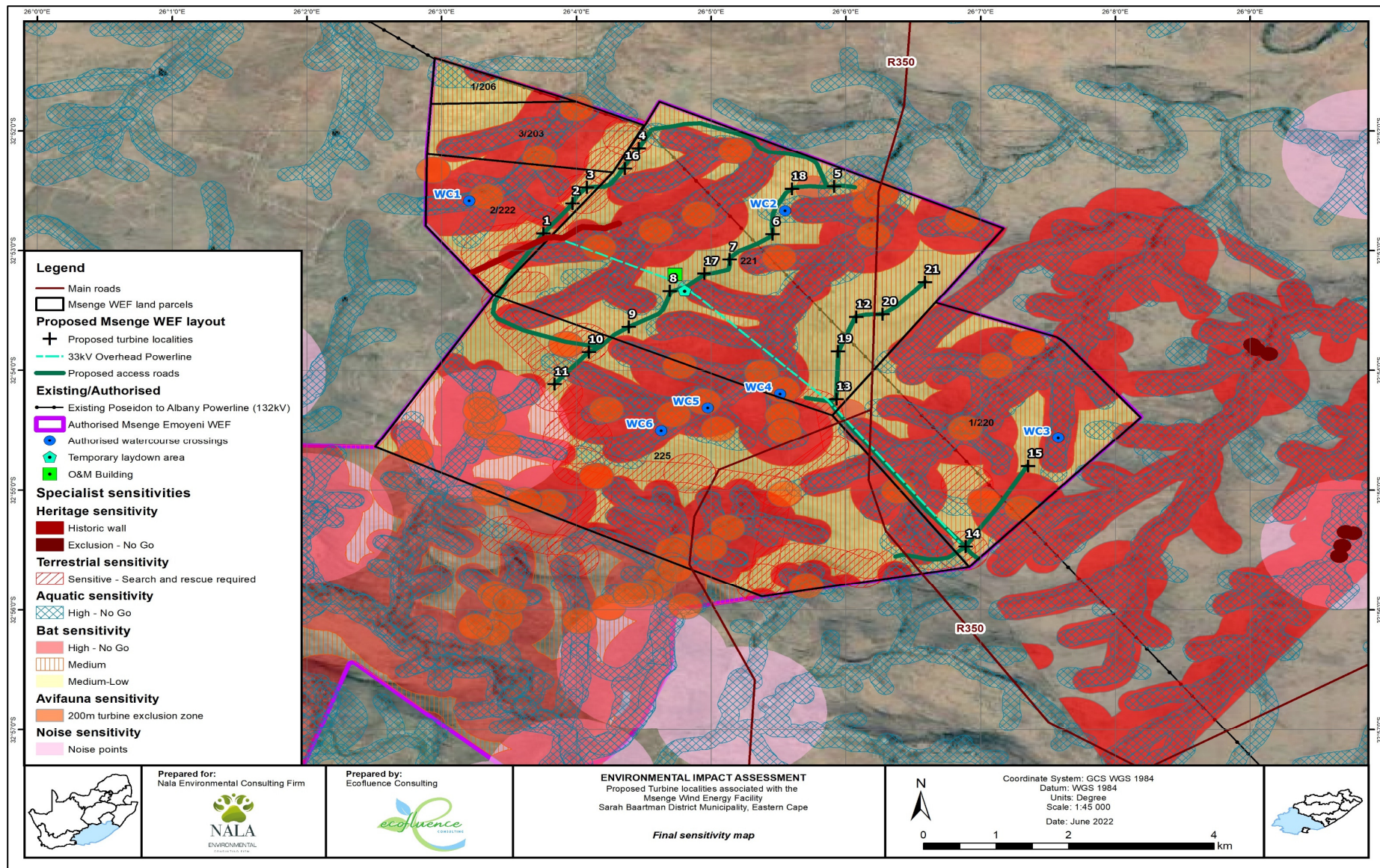


Figure 5. Final Sensitivity Map for the Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Layout (inclusive of all specialist sensitivities)