

# Open Space Management Plan

## Objectives:

The purpose of the Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) is to provide a plan for the integrated management of the areas containing natural vegetation within the wind energy facility (WEF). This involves managing and maintaining the ecosystems on site in a near-natural state and/or undertaking rehabilitation where required.

The overall objective of the OSMP is to maintain and/or restore the ecological functioning found on site.

## Outline of the Project:

The De Aar 2 South WEF consists of up to 26 turbines, with the WEF having a total generation capacity of 140 MW. The total wind farm footprint (approximately 60 ha) is spread over an area of 10, 000 hectares (ha) accounting for approximately 0.6% of the total area. The majority of the property will remain undeveloped, with low intensity grazing of livestock continuing to occur on the site. The presence of the WEF is expected to introduce unique effects to the area that should be managed (as per the EMPr for the project), to maintain the biodiversity and ecological functioning of the natural systems, and minimise potential negative impacts to the natural environment.

## The Open Space Management Plan and Other plans:

As the goal of the OSMP is to ensure appropriate management of the ecosystems within the area of the facility, it cannot be considered independently of the other environmental management plans for the site. In particular, the Stormwater Management Plan, Erosion Management Plan, Revegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation Plan, Plant Rescue and Protection Plan, and Alien and Invasive Plant Management Plan for the project should align closely with the OSMP.

## Ecologically sensitive areas:

Ecologically sensitive areas, such as aquatic features and sensitive vegetation, were identified by the ecological and aquatic specialists (refer to Environmental Sensitivity Map in Figure 2). The Ecological specialist indicated that the site-specific sensitivities identified during the ecological walk-through survey (see Figure 66 of Appendix E1 of the EMPr) are not "no-go" areas, but they are areas with elevated biodiversity value relative to the "common" condition or are more sensitive for other physical reasons. Construction of infrastructure within these areas therefore needs to proceed with more caution than in other general areas. These areas must accordingly be adequately protected and must not be disturbed, wherever possible.

Identified aquatic features and their associated buffers (as per the Freshwater Specialist's input) must be avoided during all phases of the project, i.e. a buffer of at least 32m (from centre of stream for smaller drainage lines and from top of bank for larger tributaries) should be maintained adjacent to the identified freshwater features, as well as from the edge of the pans and wetlands areas), as far as possible. Refer to the Environmental Sensitivity Map in Figure 2 illustrating the aquatic buffers.

To ensure the protection of ecologically sensitive areas, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- All works undertaken shall be within the boundary of the site. All areas outside of the site must not be disturbed.

- No construction equipment must be allowed outside of the working area and defined access and construction roads nor within designated “no-go” areas, unless expressly permitted by the Environmental Control Officer / Engineer.

**Fire risk management:**

It is important to manage the risk of fires on site. Sources of potential fire ignition at the site include:

- Lightning strikes;
- Staff working within the facility; and
- Faults in the infrastructure, such as transmission lines.

No fires should be allowed on site.

In accordance with Section 5.17 of the Generic EMPr for Substations, the Contractor must ensure that there is basic fire-fighting equipment available at all hazardous storage areas on site. The Contractor must also ensure that all employees are aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire.

**Grazing management:**

The development of the WEF will not prevent the site from being used for its current land use as grazing for livestock. As the facility’s infrastructure will only disturb a small area of the total farm, grazing may continue as normal, in the areas unaffected by the infrastructure. The basic principles of sustainable grazing management should be adhered to.

**Alien plant control:**

Alien and invasive plants must be controlled according to the Alien and Invasive Plant Management Plan for the project.

**Erosion Management:**

Erosion management must be undertaken as per the Erosion Management Plan for the project.

**Adaptive management:**

Ecosystems are dynamic and complex systems. It is important that adaptive management is adopted to ensure the objectives of this plan are met. The OSMP should be reviewed annually for the first three years after the completion of construction. The review must evaluate the efficacy of the current management actions and, if required, adapt actions to ensure appropriate management.

The OSMP is intended to be a simple management tool that can be understood and easily implemented.

