APPENDIX C3

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

AGTERGRONDINLIGTINGSDOKUMENT

Februarie 2023

ABERDEEN WINDKRAGAANLEG 1, ABERDEEN WINDKRAGAANLEG 2, ABERDEEN WINDKRAGAANLEG 3 EN VERWANTE INFRASTRUKTUUR NABY ABERDEEN, OOS-KAAPPROVINSIE

Die ontwikkeling van drie (3) aparte windkragaanlegte en verwante infrastruktuur word ongeveer 20 km wes van Aberdeen in die Oos-Kaapprovinsie beoog. Die drie windkragaanlegte is in die Beaufort-Wes Hernubare Kragontwikkelingsone (REDZ) geleë en sal bekend staan as die Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 1, Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 2 en Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 3 (Figuur 1). Die projekterreine is in die Dr. Beyers Naudé Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en in die groter Sarah Baartman Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Die windplaasaanlegte en verwante infrastruktuur is op die volgende eiendomme geleë:

Projeknaam	Geaffekteerde eiendom
Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 1	• Plaas Koppies Kraal 157 • Restant van die plaas Doorn Poort 93 • Gedeelte 1 van die plaas Doorn Poort 93 • Plaas Kraanvogel Kuil 155 • Gedeelte 4 van die plaas Sambokdoorns 92
Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 2	• Restant van die plaas Doorn Poort 93 • Gedeelte 1 van die plaas Doorn Poort 93 • Plaas Kraanvogel Kuil 155 • Gedeelte 4 van die plaas Sambokdoorns 92
Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 3	• Gedeelte 1 van die plaas Doorn Poort 93 • Gedeelte 1 (Good Hope) van Plaas 94 • Gedeelte 3 (Oorblywende Restant) van die plaas Kraai Rivier 149 • Plaas Kraanvogel Kuil 155 • Gedeelte 3 van die plaas Wildebeest Poortje 153 • Gedeelte 1 van die plaas Kraay River Outspan 150 • Restant van die plaas Doorn Poort 93 • Gedeelte 4 van die plaas Sambokdoorns 92

Die aard en omvang van die windkragaanlegte en die verwante infrastruktuur word van naderby in hierdie Agtergrondinligtingsdokument (AID) ondersoek. Elke windkragaanleg sal as 'n aparte, alleenstaande projek opgerig word. Weens die nabyheid van die projekte aan mekaar, sal die openbare deelnameprosesse egter gelyklopend onderneem word, wat die publiek 'n geleentheid bied om al drie projekte te verstaan en daarop kommentaar te lewer. Die besonderhede van die projekte is soos volg:

Projeknaam	Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 1	Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 2	Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 3
Applikant	Aberdeen Wind Facility 1 (Edms.) Bpk.	Aberdeen Wind Facility 2 (Edms.) Bpk.	Aberdeen Wind Facility 3 (Edms.) Bpk.
Grootte van die ontwikkelingsgebied	~9 180 ha	~6 475 ha	~7 225 ha
Gekontrakteerde vermoë	Hoogstens 240 MW per windplaas		
Aantal turbines	Hoogstens 41 turbines per windplaas		
Naafhoogte	Hoogstens 200 m		
Rotor se hoogste punt	Hoogstens 300 m		

Die kleiner ontwikkelingsvoetspoor vir elke aanleg sal in die toegewese ontwikkelingsgebied geleë wees en die uitleg vir elke aanleg sal ontwerp wees om sensitiewe omgewingsgebiede en landmerke te vermy.

Kopiereg: Savannah Environmental (Edms.) Bpk.

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Infrastruktuur vir elke windkragaanleg sal die volgende insluit:

» Hoogstens 41 turbines;
» fondasies en vaste blaaie vir turbines;
» 'n interne aanlegsubstasie;
» 'n batterykragbergingstelsel (BESS);
» hoof- en interne toegangspaaie;
» kabels tussen die turbines (hoogstens 33 kV), wat ondergronds en langs interne toegangspaaie gelê moet word waar dit prakties moontlik is;
» stoorplek, stapelwerfgebied en terreinkampgebied wat voorsiening maak vir bergings- en monteergebiede asook 'n betonlotaanleg; en
» bedryfs- en instandhoudings- (B&I-) geboue.

'n Hooftoegangspad oor 'n afstand van hoogstens 10 km met 'n breedte van hoogstens 10 m, sal toegang tot die drie terreine bied (gedeelde toegangsroete). Toegang tot die aanlegte sal via 'n bestaande (naamlose) grondpad van die R61 tussen Beaufort-Wes en Aberdeen af geskied. Gedeeltes van hierdie pad opgegradeer moet word om voorsiening te maak vir die beweging van swaar voertuie.

Die projekte sal help met die diversifikasie en stabilisering van die land se elektrisiteitsvoorsiening, met die drie beoogde windplaasaanlegte wat hoogstens 720 MW by die nasionale kragnet sal invoer. Elke windkragaanleg sal via 'n roosterkonneksie-oplossing, wat bestaan uit 'n Eskomskakelsubstasie en 'n kraglyn, wat onderhewig sal wees aan 'n aparte aansoek om Omgewingsmagtiging, met die kragnet verbind.

Aangesien die geïdentifiseerde projekterreine in die Beaufort-Wes REDZ geleë is, is die projekte onderhewig aan 'n Basiese Evalueringsproses (BE), asook 'n verkorte tydsraamwerk van 57 dae vir die verwerking van 'n Aansoek om Omgewingsmagtiging (OM).

DOEL VAN HIERDIE AGTERGRONDINLIGTINGSDOKUMENT

Hierdie dokument stel dit ten doel om u, as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP), te voorsien van:

» 'n oorsig van die beoogde windplaas en verwante infrastruktuur;
» 'n oorsig van die BE-proses en die studies wat onderneem word om die omgewingsimpakte te evalueer wat verband hou met die beoogde projekte; en
» besonderhede van hoe u by die BE-prosesse betrokke kan raak, inligting kan ontvang of vraagstukke met betrekking tot die beoogde projekte kan opper wat u dalk kan raak en/of vir u van belang kan wees.

MEER OOR WINDTURBINES

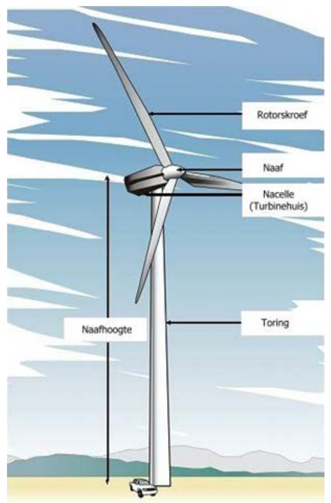
Windturbines maak gebruik van windkrag om elektrisiteit op te wek. 'n Windturbine bestaan uit vier hoofonderdele, naamlik die (Figuur 2):

» rotor;
» nacelle (turbinehuis);
» toring; en
» fondasie-eenheid.

Die meganiese krag wat deur die draai van die skroewe opgewek word, word via 'n ratkas en dryfwerk aan die generator binne-in die nacelle (turbinehuis) oorgedra. Die wind draai die skroewe wat op hul beurt 'n as draai wat aan 'n generator gekoppel is wat elektrisiteit opwek. Die gebruik van wind vir die opwekking van elektrisiteit is in wese 'n nie-verbruikende benutting van 'n natuurlike hulpbron en stel geen kweekhuisgasse vry nie.

Turbines kan teen verskillende snelhede funksioneer. Die hoeveelheid energie wat 'n turbine kan inspan, hang af van beide die windsnelheid en die lengte van die rotorskroewe. Die turbines wat vir hierdie drie windplase oorweeg word, sal tot hoogstens 8 MW in vermoë wissel.

Die projekontwikkelaar oorweeg verskeie windturbine-ontwerpe en -uitlegte op die projekterreine om die opwekkingsvermoë van die terreine te maksimaliseer terwyl die omgewingsimpakte geminimaliseer word. Die finale uitleg van die aanlegte, turbinevermoëns en -modelle sal afhang van wat geag word as geskik vir die projekterreine in verhouding met, onder andere, verdere studies van die windregime, terrein en omgewingsbeperkings en dinge wat maatskaplik sensitief is.



Figuur 2: Hoofonderdele van 'n windturbine

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Die tydsduur van die konstruksietydperk vir elke windplaas word op sowat twee jaar beraam. 'n Turbine is ontwerp om ononderbroke en met min instandhouding vir 20 tot 25 jaar in bedryf te staan.

BASIESE EVALUERINGSPROSESSE

Ingevolge die OIE-regulasies, 2014, (soos gewysig) wat ingevolge die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) gepubliseer is, sal die applikante omgewingsmagtiging moet kry om die projekte te onderneem. Ingevolge Artikel 24(5) van NEMA, die OIE-regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig, (Staatskennisgewing R326), Staatskennisgewing R114 en Lyskennisgewings (Staatskennisgewing R327, R325 en R324), sowel as Staatskennisgewing R114 (die terrein is in die Beaufort-Wes REDZ geleë), is die drie aansoeke onderhewig aan die afhandeling van 'n Basiese Assesseringsproses (BE) op grond van die ligging van die projekterreine in 'n REDZ. Elke aansoek moet gerugsteun word deur omvattende, onafhanklike omgewingstudies wat ingevolge die OIE-regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig) en ander tersaaklike protokolle en riglyne onderneem word.

'n Basiese Evaluering is 'n doeltreffende beplannings- en besluitnemingswerktuig. Dit bring mee dat potensiële omgewingsverwante gevolge wat voortspruit uit 'n beoogde aktiwiteit, geïdentifiseer en na behore tydens die oprigtings-, bedryfs- en uitbedryfstellingsfase van ontwikkeling bestuur word. Dit bied ook 'n geleentheid vir die projekapplikant om vooraf gewaarsku te wees teen potensiële omgewingskwessies en maak voorsiening vir die oplossing van die kwessie(s) wat geïdentifiseer en as deel van die BE-proses oor verslag gedoen word, en bied ook die geleentheid vir dialoog met sleutelbelanghebbers en belangstellende en geaffekteerde partye (B&GP's).

Savannah Environmental is aangestel as die onafhanklike omgewingskonsultant wat verantwoordelik is vir die bestuur van die aparte aansoeke om OM en om die stawende BE-proses te onderneem wat vereis word om potensiële omgewingsimpakte wat met elke projek verband hou, te identifiseer en te evalueer, en om gepaste versagtings- en bestuursmaatreëls aan die hand te doen wat in die Omgewingsbestuursprogramme (OBPr'e) vervat moet word. Deur die openbare deelnameproses, sal B&GP's aktief betrokke wees in die BE-prosesse.

WAT IS DIE POTENSIËLE OMGEWINGSIMPAKTE WAT VERBAND HOU MET DIE BEOOGDE PROJEKTE?

Studies eie aan die terrein en evaluerings sal deur die BE-prosesse onderneem word ten einde potensieel sensitiewe gebiede in die omliggende gebiede en in die geïdentifiseerde projekterreine af te baken. Sodra beperkende faktore bepaal is, kan die uitleg van die windkragaanlegte beplan word om maatskaplike en omgewingsimpakte tot die minimum te beperk. Onafhanklike spesialisstudies wat as deel van die BE-prosesse beoog word, sluit die volgende in:

» Biodiversiteit – wat insluit ekologie, vleilande, fauna en flora en die potensiële impak en gepaardgaande versteuring van plantegroei op die ekologie en biodiversiteit (met insluiting van kritiese biodiversiteitsgebiede en breëskaalprosesse) evalueer.

» Avifauna – wat insluit monitering voor oprigting ingevolge die tersaaklike riglyne en wat die impak op avifauna se habitats en sensitiewe spesies evalueer.
» Vlermuise – wat insluit monitering vóór oprigting ingevolge die tersaaklike riglyne en wat die impak op vlermuise se habitats en sensitiewe spesies evalueer.
» Grond, landboupotensiaal en grondgebruik – wat insluit oorweging van geaffekteerde grondsoorte en wat die wesenlikheid van verlies aan landbougrond en gronddegradasie en/of erosie evalueer.
» Erfenis – wat insluit erfenis, kultuur-argeologiese, paleontologiese en kultuurlandskaphulpbronne en wat die potensiële versteuring of vernietiging van erfenishulpbronne tydens die konstruksiefase weens opgrawingsbedrywighede evalueer.
» Visueel – wat insluit die visuele gehalte van die gebied, en wat die impak van 'n windkragaanleg op die estetika in 'n gebied evalueer.
» Maatskaplike en sosio-ekonomiese omgewing – wat die positiewe en negatiewe sosio-ekonomiese impakte evalueer.
» Geraas – wat die identifisering van die sensitiewe reseptors in die gebied insluit, en wat die wesenlikheid van die versteuring evalueer.
» Verkeer – wat die impak van die ontwikkelings op die verkeer en padnetwerke in die gebied evalueer.
» Kumulatiewe impakte – wat die vorige, huidige en redelik-voorsienbare toekomstige impak van 'n aktiwiteit evalueer, met inagneming van die impak van bedrywighede wat verband hou met daardie aktiwiteit, wat dalk nie op sigself beduidend is nie, maar beduidend kan raak wanneer dit by bestaande en redelik-voorsienbare impakte gevoeg word wat uit eenderse of uiteenlopende bedrywighede gevoeg word.

Die onafhanklike spesialisstudies word onderneem waarin die potensieel-wesenlike impakte geëvalueer en ter plaatse getoets sal word. Waar dit nie moontlik is om impakte te vermy nie, sal praktiese en uitvoerbare versagtingsmaatreëls aanbeveel word ten einde die wesenlikheid van die potensiële impakte wat geïdentifiseer is, te minimaliseer. Hierdie aanbevelings sal vervat word in 'n terreinspesifieke Omgewingsbestuursprogram (OBPr) wat vir elke projek opgestel sal word.

Spesialisstudies sal toegelig word deur bestaande inligting, vorige ervaring in die gebied, veldwaarnemings en insette wat uit die openbare deelnameproses voortspruit. As 'n B&GP word u insette as 'n belangrike deel van die proses geag, en ons moedig u aan om betrokke te raak.

OPENBARE BETROKKENHEIDSPROSES

Die deel van inligting vorm die grondslag van die openbare deelnameproses en bied B&GP's die geleentheid om aktief by die BE-prosesse, wat vir die onderskeidelike projekte onderneem word, betrokke te raak. Kommentaar en insette van B&GP's word aangemoedig ten einde te verseker dat potensiële impakte deurentyd oorweging geniet.

Die openbare deelnameproses poog om te verseker dat:
» inligting wat al die tersaaklike feite met betrekking tot die aansoeke bevat, aan B&GP's beskikbaar gestel word vir insae;
» deelname deur B&GP's op so 'n wyse gefasiliteer word dat hulle 'n redelike geleentheid gegun word om kommentaar te lewer op die beoogde projekte; en
» voldoende insaetydperke aan B&GP's gebied word om kommentaar te lewer op die bevindinge van die BE-verslae.

Ten einde doeltreffende deelname te verseker, sluit die openbare deelnameprosesse in:
» die identifisering van B&GP's, insluitende geaffekteerde en naburige grondeienaars en -bewoners en tersaaklike staatsinstellings en die boekstawing van besonderhede in 'n databasis;
» die verwittiging van geregistreerde B&GP's van die aanvang van die BE-prosesse en die verspreiding van die Agtergrondinligtingsdokument (AID);
» die voorsiening van toegang aan geregistreerde partye tot 'n aanlyn skakelingsplatform vir belanghebbers, wat projekinligting en insette van belanghebbers in 'n enkele digitale platform sentraliseer;
» om B&GP's 'n geleentheid te bied om met die OIE-projekspan te skakel;
» die plasing van terreinkennisgewings by die geaffekteerde eiendom(me);
» die plasing van 'n advertensie in 'n plaaslike koerant;
» die verwittiging van B&GP's van die vrystelling van die BE-verslae vir 'n 30-dae insae- en kommentaartydperk;

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U VERANTWOORDELIKHEDE AS 'N B&GP

Kragtens die 2014 OIE-regulasies, (Staatskennisgewing R326, soos gewysig), word u aandag gevestig op u verantwoordelikhede as 'n B&GP:

- Om aan die BE-prosesse deel te neem, moet u uself op die B&GP-databasis registreer.
- U moet toesien dat enige kommentaar met betrekking tot die beoogde projekte binne die gestipuleerde tydsraamwerke ingedien word.
- U móét enige regstreekse sake-, finansiële-, persoonlike- of ander belang wat u dalk in die goedkeuring of weiering van die aansoeke kan hê, bekend maak.

HOE OM BETROKKE TE RAAK

1. Deur telefonies, per faks of per e-pos te reageer op die uitnodiging vir u betrokkenheid.

2. Deur die Antwoordvorm aan die tersaaklike kontakpersoon terug te besorg.

3. Deur vergaderings by te woon wat gedurende die verloop van die BE-prosesse gehou sal word.

4. Deur die omgewingskonsultante met navrae of kommentaar te kontak.

5. Deur insae in en kommentaar op die BE-verslae, binne die gestipuleerde 30-dae openbare insaetydperke. Geregistreerde B&GP's sal outomaties in kennis gestel word van die vrystelling van die BE-verslae vir kommentaar, asook van die sluitingsdatums waarteen kommentaar ontvang moet word.

As u uself as 'n B&GP vir die beoogde projekte ag, moedig ons u aan om gebruik te maak van die geleenthede wat deur die openbare deelnameproses geskep word om kommentaar te lewer of daardie kwessies en knelpunte te opper wat u raak en/of vir u van belang is of waaroor u meer inligting versoek. U inset vorm 'n belangrike deel van die BE-prosesse.

Deur u kontakbesonderhede in te dien, registreer u uself outomaties as 'n B&GP vir die projek, en verseker u dat kennis geneem sal word van die kommentaar wat u geopper het. Let asseblief daarop dat alle kommentaar wat ontvang word, in die projek se dokumentasie vervat sal word en dat dit persoonlike inligting kan insluit.

Ingevolge Artikel 18(2) van die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (Popi-wet), registreer u uself outomaties as 'n B&GP vir die beoogde projekte deur die meegaande antwoordvorm in te vul en in te dien, en alle kommentaar wat ontvang word sal ingesluit word by die projekdokumentasie, wat persoonlike inligting vir sekere doeleindes sal insluit, insluitende vir doeleindes van die appèlprosesse. As u as 'n B&GP registreer, moet u asseblief kennis dra dat die gevolge van u registrasie is dat u kontakinligting ingesluit sal word in dokumente en verslae wat in die openbare domein beskikbaar sal wees.

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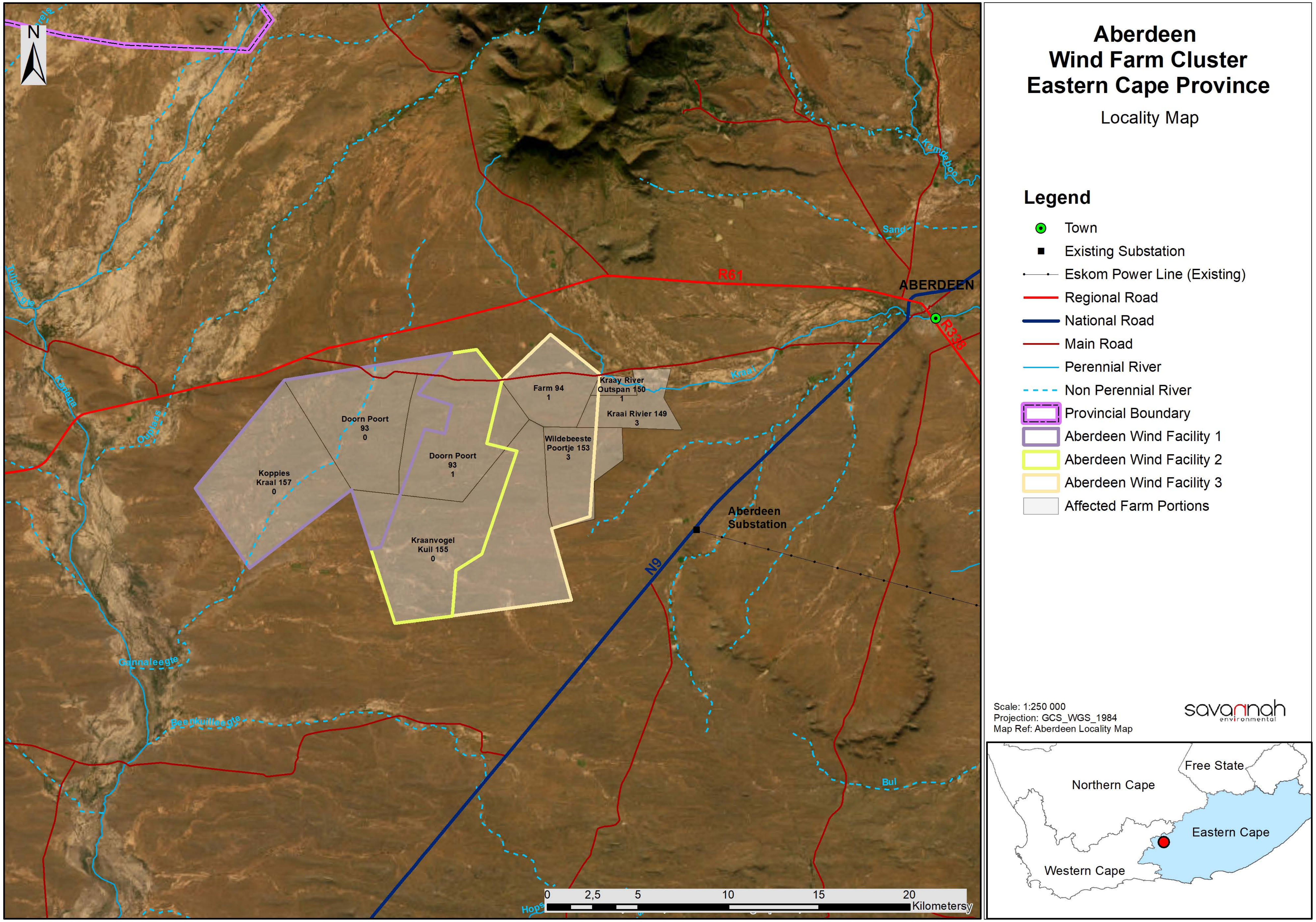
Figuur 1: Ontwikkelingsgebied vir die Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 1, Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 2 en Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 3



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KOMMENTAAR EN NAVRAE

Rig alle kommentaar, navrae of antwoorde aan Bregardia Rabbie by:

Savannah Environmental (Edms.) Bpk.
Posadres: Posbus 148, Sunninghill, Johannesburg, 2157
Tel: 011 656 3237
Faks: 086 684 0547
E-pos: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Kopiereg: Savannah Environmental (Edms.) Bpk.

BASIESE EVALUERINGS- EN OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES

ABERDEEN WINDKRAGAANLEG 1, ABERDEEN WINDKRAGAANLEG 2, ABERDEEN WINDKRAGAANLEG 3 EN VERWANTE INFRASTRUKTUUR NABY ABERDEEN, OOS-KAAPPROVINSIE

Registrasie- & Kommentaarvorm

Februarie 2023

Stuur voltooide registrasie- en kommentaarvorm aan: ***Nicolene Venter*** *van* ***Savannah Environmental***

Foon: *011 656 3237* / ***Selfoon (ook 'please call me'):*** *060 978 8396* / ***Faks:*** *086 684 0547*

E-pos: ***publicprocess@savannahsa.com*** *Posadres:* ***Posbus 148, Sunninghill, 2157***

U registrasie as 'n belanghebbende en/of geaffekteerde party is slegs van toepassing tot hierdie projekte en die voorsiening van u kontakinligting is beskermd deur die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting Wet van 2013 (PoPI Act, 2013)

Verskaf asseblief u persoonlike kontak besonderhede:

Naam & Van:			
Organisasie			
Amp- of Postitel			
Posadres:			
Telefoon:		Faks	
Selfoon			
E-pos:			

Stel u belang om te registreer as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP) op die volgende projekte se databases (merk asseblief toepaslike boks met 'n X)

Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 1		Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 2		Aberdeen Windkragaanleg 3	

In terme van die OIE Regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig, Regulasie 43(1), moet u as 'n B&BP registreer om verdere inligting rakende hierdie twee Basiese Evalueringsprojekte te ontvang en u moet ook u direkte besigheid, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat u mag hê rakende in die goedkeuring of afkeuring van die aansoek, vermeld (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig)**:**

Lys u kommentaar rakende die projek per u keuse bo (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig)**:**

<u>**Verskaf bykomende kontak besonderhede van addisionele persoon/e wie u beskou as potensiële belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde partye**</u>

Naam & Van:	
Posadres:	
Telefoon:	
Selfoon:	
E-pos:	

DANKIE VIR U REGISTRASIE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

February 2023

ABERDEEN WIND FACILITY 1, ABERDEEN WIND FACILITY 2, ABERDEEN WIND FACILITY 3
AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR ABERDEEN, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The development of three (3) separate wind energy facilities and associated infrastructure is proposed approximately 20 km west of Aberdeen in the Eastern Cape Province. The three wind energy facilities are located within the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and are to be known as Aberdeen Wind Facility 1, Aberdeen Wind Facility 2 and Aberdeen Wind Facility 3 (Figure 1). The project sites are located within the Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality and the greater Sarah Baartman District Municipality.

The wind farm facilities and associated infrastructure are located on the following properties:

Project name	Affected Property
Aberdeen Wind Facility 1	• Farm Koppieskraal 157 • Remainder of Farm Doorn Poort 93 • Portion 1 of Farm Doorn Poort 93 • Farm Kraanvogel Kuil 155 • Portion 4 of Farm Sambokdoorns 92
Aberdeen Wind Facility 2	• Remainder of Farm Doorn Poort 93 • Portion 1 of Farm Doorn Poort 93 • Farm Kraanvogel Kuil 155 • Portion 4 of Farm Sambokdoorns 92
Aberdeen Wind Facility 3	• Portion 1 of Farm Doorn Poort 93 • Portion 1 (Good Hope) of Farm 94 • Portion 3 (Remaining Extent) of Farm Kraai Rivier 149 • Farm Kraanvogel Kuil 155 • Portion 3 of Farm Wildebeest Poortje 153 • Portion 1 of Farm Kraay River Outspan 150 • Remainder of Farm Doorn Poort 93 • Portion 4 of Farm Sambokdoorns 92

The nature and extent of the wind energy facilities and the associated infrastructure are explored in more detail in this Background Information Document (BID). Each wind energy facility will be constructed as a separate stand-alone project. However, due to the proximity of the projects to one another, the public participation processes will be undertaken concurrently, providing the public with an opportunity to understand and comment on all three projects. The details of the projects are as follows:

Project name	Aberdeen Wind Facility 1	Aberdeen Wind Facility 2	Aberdeen Wind Facility 3
Applicant	Aberdeen Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Aberdeen Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd	Aberdeen Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd
Size of the development area	~9180 ha	~6475 ha	~7225 ha
Contracted capacity	up to 240MW per wind farm		
Number of turbines	up to 41 turbines per wind farm		
Hub height	Up to 200m		
Rotor top tip height	Up to 300m		

The smaller development footprint for each facility will be located within the designated development area, and the layout for each facility will be designed to avoid sensitive environmental areas and features.

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Infrastructure for each wind energy facility will include:

- Up to 41 turbines
- Turbine foundations and turbine hardstands
- On-site facility substation
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Main and internal access roads
- Cabling between the turbines (up to 33kV), to be laid underground and adjacent to internal access roads where practical
- Warehouse, laydown area and site camp hub, accommodating storage and assembly areas and concrete batching plant; and
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) buildings.

A main access road up to 10km in length and up to 10m in width will provide access to the three sites (shared access route). Access to the facilities will be via an existing (unnamed) gravel road off the R61 between Beaufort West and Aberdeen. Portions of this road will require upgrading to accommodate the movement of heavy vehicles.

The projects will aid in the diversification and stabilisation of the country's electricity supply, with the three proposed wind farm facilities set to inject up to 720MW into the national grid. Each wind energy facility will connect to the grid via a grid connection solution consisting of an Eskom switching substation and a power line, and which will be subject to a separate application of Environmental Authorisation.

As the identified project sites are located within the Beaufort West REDZ, the projects are subject to a Basic Assessment (BA) process, as well as shortened timeframe of 57 days for the processing of an Application for Environmental Authorisation (EA).

AIM OF THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This document aims to provide you, as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), with:

- An overview of the proposed wind farm and associated infrastructure.
- An overview of the BA process and the studies being undertaken to assess the environmental impacts associated with the proposed projects.
- Details of how you can become involved in the BA processes, receive information, or raise issues regarding the proposed projects which may concern and/or interest you.

MORE ABOUT WIND TURBINES

Wind turbines use the energy from the wind to generate electricity. A wind turbine consists of four large main components (Figure 2):

- The rotor
- The nacelle
- The tower
- The foundation unit

The mechanical power generated by the rotation of the blades is transmitted to the generator within the nacelle via a gearbox and drive train. The wind turns the blades, which in turn spin a shaft which connects to a generator and generates electricity. The use of wind for electricity generation is essentially a non-consumptive use of a natural resource and produces zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Turbines are able to operate at varying speeds. The amount of energy a turbine can harness depends on both the wind velocity and the length of the rotor blades. The turbines being considered for use at the three wind farms will range up to 8MW in capacity.

Various wind turbine designs and layouts on the project sites are being considered by the project developer in order to maximise the generating capacity of the sites while minimising environmental impacts. The final facility layouts, turbine capacities and models will be dependent on what is deemed suitable for the project sites in relation to, among other things, further studies of the wind regime, terrain, and environmental constraints and social sensitivities.

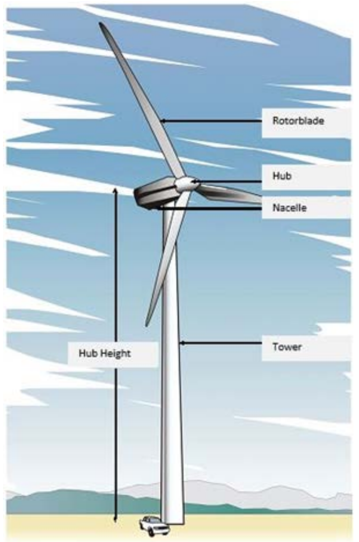

Figure 2: Main components of a wind turbine

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The length of the construction period for each of the wind farms is estimated to be approximately two years. A turbine is designed to operate continuously, with low maintenance for 20 to 25 years.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the applicants will require environmental authorisation for the undertaking of the projects. In terms of Section 24(5) of NEMA, the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326), GNR 114 and Listing Notices (GNR 327, GNR 325, and GNR 324), as well as GNR 114 (the site is located within the Beaufort West REDZ), the three applications are subject to the completion of a Basic Assessment (BA) process based on the location of the project sites within a REDZ. Each application is required to be supported by comprehensive, independent environmental studies undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and other relevant protocols and guidelines.

A Basic Assessment is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows for potential environmental consequences resulting from a proposed activity to be identified and appropriately managed during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of development. It also provides an opportunity for the project applicant to be forewarned of potential environmental issues and allows for the resolution of issue(s) identified and reported on as part of the BA process, as well as provides opportunity for dialogue with key stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Savannah Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant responsible for managing the separate applications for EA and undertaking the supporting BA process required to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with each project, as well as propose appropriate mitigation and management measures to be contained within the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs). I&APs will be actively involved in the BA processes through the public participation process.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECTS?

Site-specific studies and assessments will be undertaken through the BA processes in order to delineate areas of potential sensitivity within the surrounding areas, and the identified project sites. Once constraining factors have been determined, the layout of the wind energy facilities can be planned to minimise social and environmental impacts. Independent specialist studies that are proposed as part of the BA processes include the following:

- Biodiversity – which includes ecology, wetlands, fauna and flora and assesses the potential impact and the associated disturbance of vegetation on the ecology and biodiversity (including critical biodiversity areas and broad-scale processes).

- Avifauna – which includes pre-construction monitoring in terms of the relevant guidelines and assesses the impact on avifaunal habitats and sensitive species.
- Bats – which include pre-construction monitoring in terms of the relevant guidelines and assesses the impact on bat habitats and sensitive species.
- Soils, agricultural potential and land use – which includes consideration of affected land types and assesses the significance of loss of agricultural land and soil degradation and/or erosion.
- Heritage - which includes heritage, cultural archaeological, palaeontological and cultural landscape resources, and assesses the potential of disturbance to or destruction of heritage resources during the construction phase through excavation activities.
- Visual – which include the visual quality of the area and assesses the impact of a wind energy facility on the aesthetics within the area.
- Social and socio-economic environment – which assesses the positive and negative socio-economic impacts.
- Noise – which includes identification of the sensitive receptors within the area and assesses the significance of the disturbance.
- Traffic – which assesses the impact of the developments on the traffic and road networks in the area.
- Cumulative impacts – which assess the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may become significant when added to existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities.

The independent specialist studies are being undertaken wherein the potentially significant impacts will be assessed and ground-truthed. Where avoidance of impacts is not possible, practical and achievable mitigation measures will be recommended in order to minimise the significance of the potential impacts identified. These recommendations will be included within a site-specific Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) compiled for each project.

Specialist studies will be informed by existing information, previous experience in the area, field observations and input from the public participation process. As an I&AP, your input is considered as an important part of the process, and we urge you to become involved.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers I&APs the opportunity to become actively involved in the BA processes being undertaken for the respective projects. Comments and inputs from I&APs are encouraged in order to ensure that potential impacts are considered throughout. The public participation process aims to ensure that:

- Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the applications are made available to I&APs for review.
- I&AP participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed projects.
- Adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the BA Reports.

In order to ensure effective participation, the public participation processes include the following:

- Identifying I&APs, including affected and adjacent landowners and occupiers of land, and relevant Organs of State, and recording details within a database.
- Notifying registered I&APs of the commencement of the BA processes and distributing the Background Information Document (BID).
- Providing access to registered parties to an online stakeholder engagement platform, which centralises project information and stakeholder input in a single digital platform.
- Providing an opportunity for I&APs to engage with the EIA project team.
- Placing site notices at the affected property/ies.
- Placing an advertisement in a local newspaper.
- Notifying I&APs of the release of the BA Reports for a 30-day review and comment period.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

In terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations (GNR 326, as amended), your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in the BA processes, you must register yourself on the I&AP database.
- You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed projects are submitted within the stipulated timeframes.
- You are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest that you may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.

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HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

1. By responding by phone, fax, or e-mail, to the invitation for your involvement.

2. By returning the reply form to the relevant contact person.

3. By attending meetings to be held during the course of the BA processes.

4. By contacting the environmental consultants with queries or comments.

5. By reviewing and commenting on the BA Reports within the stipulated 30-day public review periods. Registered I&APs will automatically be notified of the release of the BA Reports for comment, and the closing dates by which comments must be received.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for the proposed projects, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment, raise issues and concerns which affect and / or interest you, or request further information. Your input forms a key element of the BA processes.

By submitting your contact details, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for the project, and are ensured that your comments raised will be noted. Please note that all comments received will be included in the project documentation, and this may include personal information.

In terms of Section 18(2) of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), by completing and submitting the accompanying reply form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for the proposed projects, and that all comments received will be included in the project documentation, and this will include personal information for certain purposes, including for purposes of the appeal processes. If you register as an I&AP please be informed that the consequences are of your registration is that your contact information will be included in documents and reports that will be available in the public domain.

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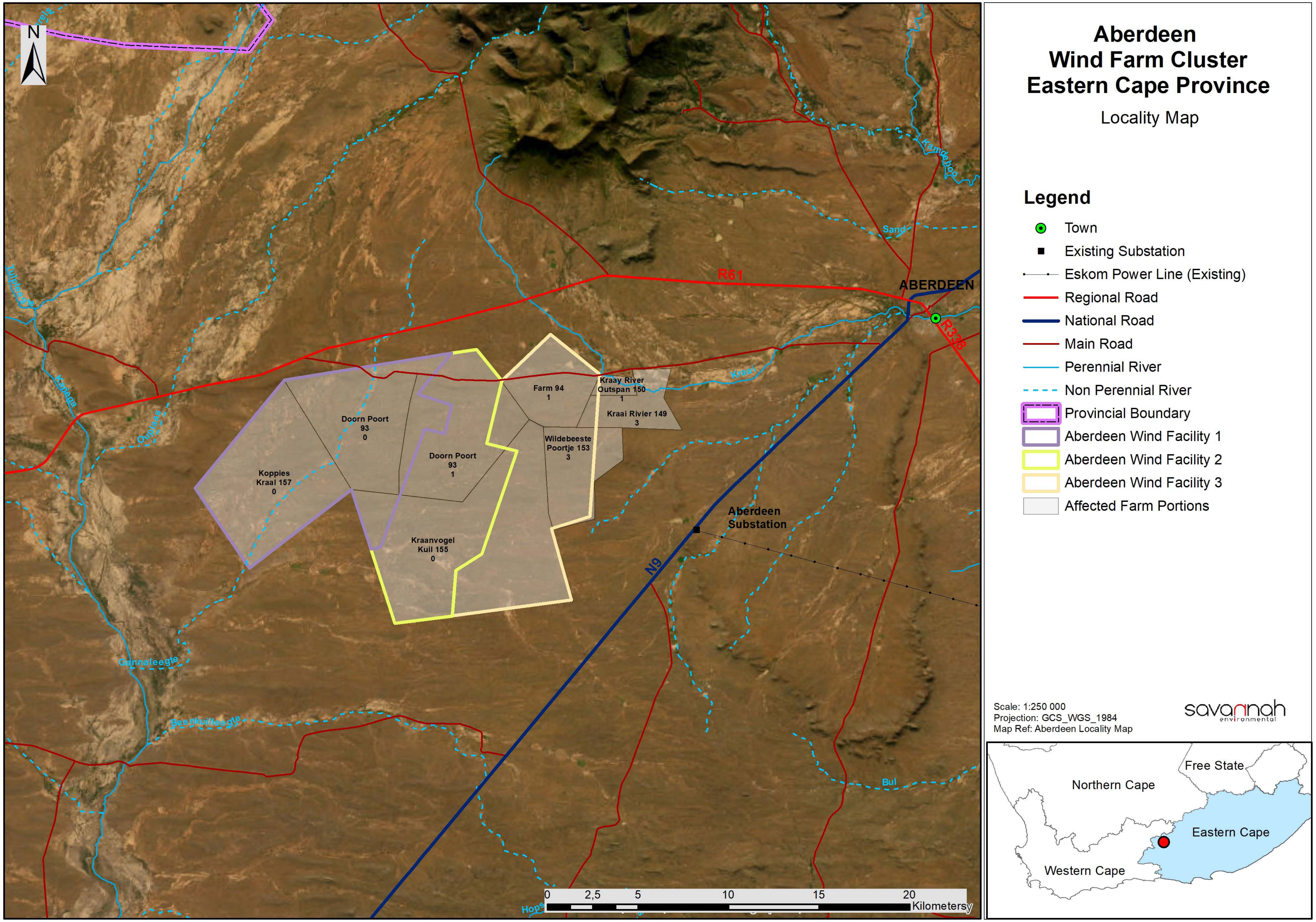
Figure 1: Development area for the Aberdeen Wind Facility 1, Aberdeen Wind Facility 2 and Aberdeen Wind Facility 3



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COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Direct all comments, queries or responses to:

Savannah Environmental
Nicolene Venter
P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157
Mobile: 060 978 8396
Tel: 011 656 3237
Fax: 086 684 0547
Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

To visit the online stakeholder engagement platform and view project documentation, visit www.savannahSA.com

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BASIC ASSESSMENTS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

ABERDEEN WIND FACILITY 1, AERDEEN WIND FACILITY 2, ABERDEEN WIND FACILITY 3 AND GRID ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR ABERDEEN, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Registration & Comment Form

February 2023

Return completed registration and comment form to: ***Nicolene Vente*** *of* ***Savannah Environmental***

Phone: *011 656 3237* **/** ***Mobile (incl. 'please call me'):*** *060 978 8396* / ***Fax:*** *086 684 0547*

E-mail: *publicprocess@savannahsa.com* ***Postal Address:*** *PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157*

Your registration as an interested and/or affected party will be applicable for this project only and your contact details provided are protected by the POPI Act of 2013

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:			
Organisation:			
Designation:			
Postal Address:			
Telephone:		Fax:	
Mobile:			
E-mail:			

I would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) on the following projects' database (please tick the relevant box)

Aberdeen Wind Facility 1		Aberdeen Wind Facility 2		Aberdeen Wind Facility 3	

In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP t<u>o receive further correspondence regarding the BA process for the projects and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application</u> (add additional pages if necessary)**:**

Please list your comments regarding your project selection above (add additional pages if necessary)**:**

<u>Please provide contact details of any other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:</u>

Name & Surname:	
Postal Address:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
E-mail:	

Thank you for your registration