

Rendani Rasivhetshele

From: Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Jo-Anne Thomas
Cc: Muhammad Essop; Coenrad Agenbach; Rendani Rasivhetshele; Mmakoena Mmola
Subject: RE: 2021-09-0001 APPROVAL OF THE PP PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES (GREAT KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY) NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Ms Thomas

The Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities (Great KAROO Renewable Energy) near Richmond, Northern Cape Province, received by this Department on 02 September 2021, refers.

Based on the information provided this Department decided to **approve** the PP Plan for the proposed project.

You may proceed with the PP process in accordance with tasks contemplated in the PP plan. Should you wish to deviate from the submitted PP Plan, the amended PP Plan must be submitted to the Department for approval prior commencement of the PP Process.

Please note that submission of a PP Plan and approval thereof do not negate your responsibility to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

From: Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 September 2021 11:16
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>; Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Rendani Rasivhetshele <rendani@savannahsa.com>; Mmakoena Mmola <Mmakoena@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: 2021-09-0001

Dear Herman,

Please can you revert on the below. As stated in the application form, we do not require a meeting but do need approval of the PP Plan. Please advise if you require a meeting and a suitable date.

Kind regards
Jo-Anne

Jo-Anne Thomas
Director | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Tel: +27 (0)11 656 3237 | Fax: +27 (0)86 684 0547 | Cell: +27 (0)82 775 5628
[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 06 September 2021 13:14
To: Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Jo-Anne

Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>

Subject: 2021-09-0001

Importance: High

Dear Herman.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;

Reference Number: 2021-09-0001;

Date Received: 02/09/2021;

Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set.

*EAP/Applicant: please use this reference number when submitting the application for EA/amendment application (page 1 of the application form), as well as attach the approved PP Plan if the application requires a PP process.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: Jo-Anne Thomas [<mailto:joanne@savannahsa.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 7:23 PM

To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Mmakoena Mmola <Mmakoena@savannahsa.com>; Rendani Rasivhetshela <rendani@savannahsa.com>

Subject: Great Karoo Renewable Energy Facilities - Request for Pre-Application Meeting

Importance: High

Good evening,

Please find attached pre-application meeting request for the proposed Great Karoo Renewable Energy Facilities. Please contact me with any queries in this regard.

Kind regards

Jo-Anne

savannah
environmental

Jo-Anne Thomas

Director

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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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2116

Enquiries: Ms Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 399 9409 **E-mail:** TSangweni@dffe.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number: 011 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MORIRI SOLAR PV FACILITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2022 and received by the Department on 13 January 2022, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2022 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The final SR 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.

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

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- (ii) Ensure that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.
- (iii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the draft EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted.
- (iv) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

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- (v) The EIA must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.

(b) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIA. This includes but is not limited to Northern Cape: DAEARDLR, the provincial Department of Agriculture, SANRAL, the Ubuntu Local Municipality, the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIA from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIA.
- (iii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIA. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIA. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. 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 I&AP's comments.
- (v) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

(c) Alternatives

- (i) Please provide a description of each of the preferred alternative type and provide detailed motivation on why it is preferred.
- (ii) The EAP must ensure that all relevant alternatives and/or alternative combinations are adequately assessed in the EIA.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIA must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIA. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - a) The envisioned area for the solar facility, i.e. placing of solar panels and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc.
 - c) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed BESS, the main substation and internal power lines.
 - d) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure.

- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - b) Buffer areas; and
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

(e) Specialist assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.
 - e) **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 EA.**
 - f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - g) 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 expertise advice.
- (ii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (iii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) If there other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to 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) 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.
 - c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.

- d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(g) Specific comments

- (i) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the EIAR, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the EIAR and its associated layout plans.
- (ii) The EAP must identify and provide a map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area.
- (iii) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the EIAR.
- (iv) When submitting the EIAR and future documents kindly name each of the documents and attachments according to the information it contains. E.g., instead of only naming it Appendix A, it must be Appendix A: Maps, Appendix B: EAP Declaration etc.

(h) General

- (i) The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- (ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all non-linear infrastructure proposed on the farm portions affected by the proposed project.
- (iii) A construction and operational phase EMP that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR.
- (iv) The final EIAR must include a list providing a clear description of the infrastructure associated with the development.
- (v) The EAP must provide an outline of where in the final Report each of this Department's comments are addressed. This must be a separate document and must be submitted as an appendix to the EIAR.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, 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 sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 03 February 2022

cc:	Debere Maphosa	Ubuntu Local Municipality	E-mail: maphosa.d@gmail.com
	Bryan Fisher	NC DAEARDLR	E-mail: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Romaya Dorasamy	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: romaya@greatkaroo.energy
	Tobias Hobbach	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: tobias@greatkaroo.energy

Appendix 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	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



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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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2116

Enquiries: Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 399 9409 E-mail: TSangweni@dfpe.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(7) OF THE EIA REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MORIRI SOLAR PV FACILITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) received on 12 November 2021, the final SR received on 13 January 2022 and accepted on 03 February 2022, and your request for extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended dated 29 March 2022, refer.

This Department is awaiting the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) which must be submitted to this Department on or before 26 May 2022 in terms of Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

This Department received correspondence in the form of a letter from Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd dated 29 March 2022 requesting an extension of the prescribed timeframe within which the final EIAr is to be submitted to the Department.

A number of sensitive features and 'no-go' areas were identified within the development area assessed during the Scoping Phase. In order to ensure that the integrity of the environment is maintained and that all 'no-go' areas identified by each specialist are avoided, an appropriate facility layout which has been informed by the sensitive areas identified during the Scoping Phase was designed by the Applicant. The facility layout had to be revised numerous times in order to ensure that the project remains feasible while avoiding the identified sensitive areas. Due to the above-mentioned unforeseen circumstances, the project schedule has been affected which will influence the release date of the EIA Report for public review, as well as the submission of the Final EIA Report to DFFE for decision-making. The Applicant and specialist consulting team are therefore not in a position to provide the Competent Authority with all the information required to make an informed decision on the project within the prescribed timeframes.

Ms.

Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended states that "in the event where the scope of work must be expanded based on the outcome of an assessment done in accordance with these Regulations, which outcome could not be anticipated prior to the undertaking of the assessment, or in the event where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated, the competent authority may, prior to the lapsing of the relevant prescribed timeframe, in writing, extend the relevant prescribed timeframe and agree with the applicant on the length of such extension."

The EAP requested an extension in the timeframe to submit the EIAR on or before 27 June 2022 instead of 26 May 2022, which the EAP deems to be sufficient time to finalise the EIAR before submitting it to the Department.

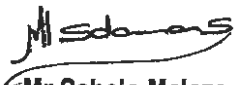
Based on the motivation provided by the EAP, this Department has decided to grant the extension of the timeframes to submit the final EIAR on or before 27 June 2022.

Failure to submit the EIAR on or before 27 June 2022, will result in the applications lapsing in terms of Regulation 45.

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.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the points raised above, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Signed by: Ms Milicent Solomons
Designation: Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 06/04/2022.

cc:	Romaya Dorasamy	Great Karoo Renewable Energy	Email: tobias@greatkaroo.energy
	Tobias Hobbach	Great Karoo Renewable Energy	Email: romaya@greatkaroo.energy
	Bryan Fisher	NC DAEARDLR	Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Debere Maphosa	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email: maphosa.d@gmail.com