

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESSES
FOR THE PROPOSED ROUTE DEVIATION OF THE
AUTHORISED 88KV POWERLINE FOR THE WAAIHOEK
WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EMADLANGENI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY (AMAJUBA DISTRICT), KWA-ZULU NATAL
PROVINCE**

AUGUST 2022



Waaiohoek Wind Farm (Pty) Limited, is proposing a powerline deviation route from the authorised 88kV powerline for the Waaiohoek Wind Energy Facility (WEF).

The 25.5km power line infrastructure for the authorised Waaiohoek Wind Energy Facility had previously been authorised (DEA Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/654), however following consultation with Eskom and landowners, the powerline routing is proposed to be deviated outside of the previously assessed servitude in order to optimize the routing for associated with the final layout of the Waaiohoek Wind Energy Facility. The proponent now proposes a deviation from this authorised route along the entire length of the powerline for approximately 25,2km.

The authorised WEF is located south-east of Utrecht in the eMadlangeni Local Municipality, Amajuba District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province approximately 25km south west of the town of Vryheid.

The developer bid the wind energy facility and associated infrastructure into the Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) Bid Window 5 for the procurement of up to 1 600MW of onshore wind energy technologies. On the 28th October 2021, the Minister of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe, announced the Preferred Bidders of the Fifth Bid Submission of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme, of which Waaiohoek Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd has received Preferred Bidder Status.

The deviation of the grid connection infrastructure is proposed in order to meet the requirements of the Bid Window 5 and meet financial close as the project has been selected as a preferred bidder.





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 grid infrastructure deviation route from the previously authorised powerline for the Waaihoek WEF (DEA Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/654) in 2015.
- An overview of the BA processes and specialist studies being undertaken to assess the proposed powerline route deviation.
- Details of how you can become involved in the BA processes, receive information, or raise issues, which may concern and/or interest you.

Overview of the proposed route deviation of the authorised 88kV powerline for the Waaihoek Wind Energy Facility.

The infrastructure and key components associated with the Basic Assessment includes:

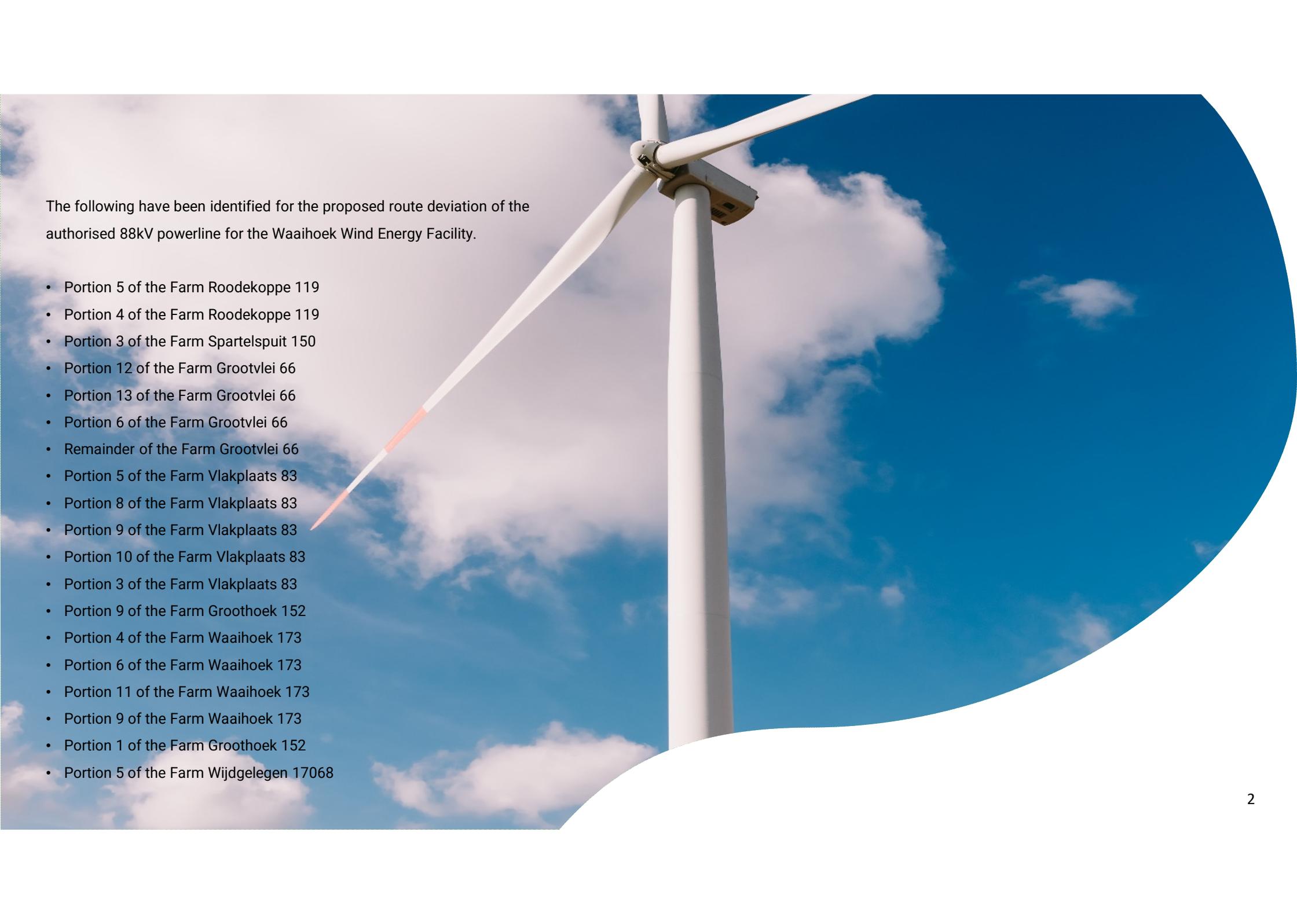
- Deviation of the authorized powerline; the deviation will occur along the length of the authorised route as portions of this new optimized routing falls outside of the previously authorised and assessed 50-70m servitude.
- The length of the powerline will be approximately 25,4km
- Jeep tracks of up to 4m wide and water crossing will be constructed along the powerline route to allow for construction and maintenance activities and will be assessed within a 400m grid corridor along the length of the powerline route for approximately 25,2km phase of the project.



Overview of the proposed route deviation of the authorised 88kV powerline for the Waaihoek Wind Energy Facility. (continued)...

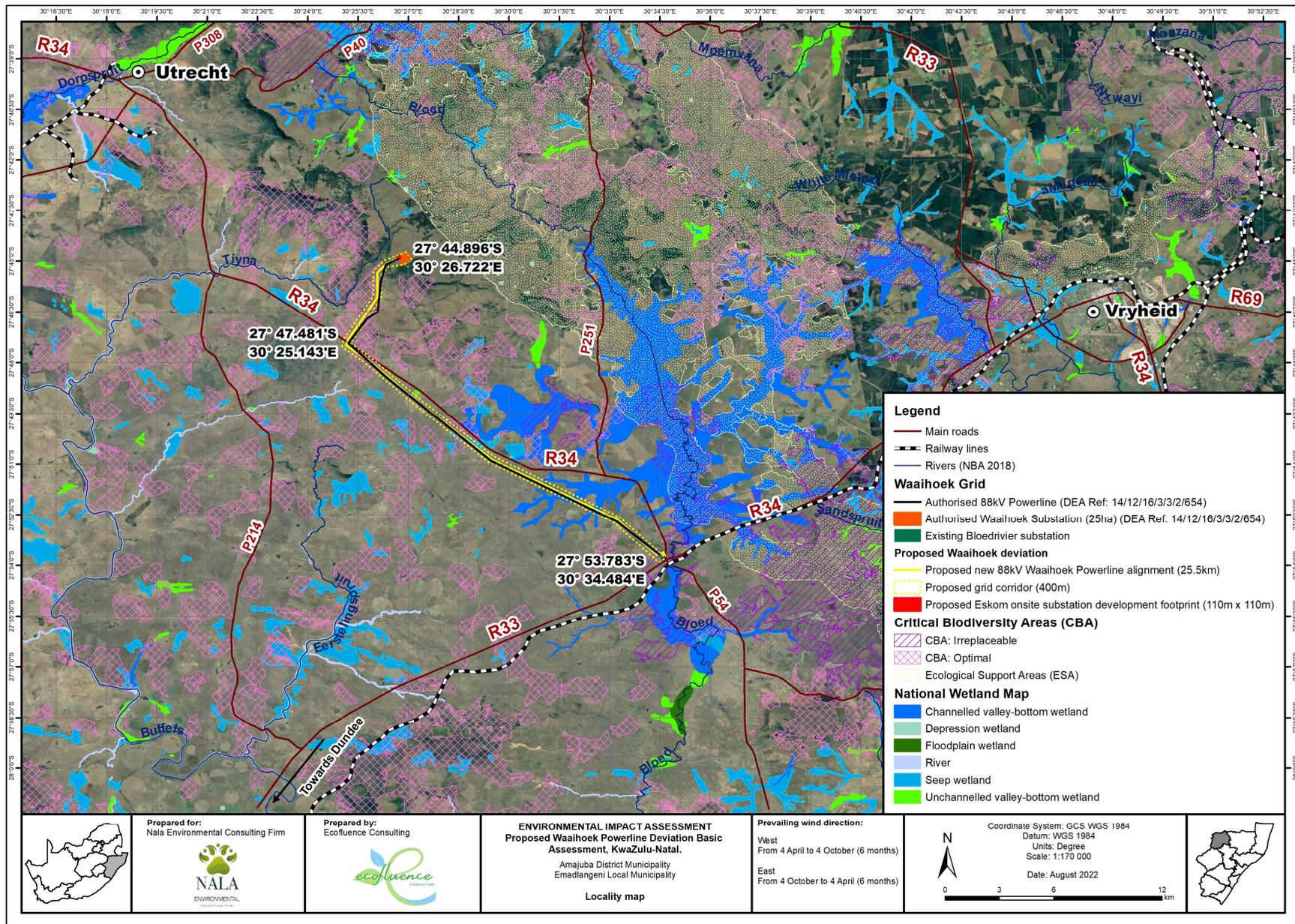
The infrastructure and key components associated with the Basic Assessment includes:

- A grid corridor of approximately 400m (200m on either side) will be assessed for the length of the powerline route.
- The Eskom portion of the 88kV switching station with a footprint of (60m x 60m) within an assessed footprint of 110m x 110m. The on-site substation has been authorised for the Waaihoek Wind Energy Facility, however it must be noted that should the Environmental Authorisation for this powerline deviation and Eskom switching be granted, it will be ceded over Eskom during the operation phase of the project.



The following have been identified for the proposed route deviation of the authorised 88kV powerline for the Waaihoek Wind Energy Facility.

- Portion 5 of the Farm Roodekoppe 119
- Portion 4 of the Farm Roodekoppe 119
- Portion 3 of the Farm Spartelspuit 150
- Portion 12 of the Farm Grootvlei 66
- Portion 13 of the Farm Grootvlei 66
- Portion 6 of the Farm Grootvlei 66
- Remainder of the Farm Grootvlei 66
- Portion 5 of the Farm Vlakplaats 83
- Portion 8 of the Farm Vlakplaats 83
- Portion 9 of the Farm Vlakplaats 83
- Portion 10 of the Farm Vlakplaats 83
- Portion 3 of the Farm Vlakplaats 83
- Portion 9 of the Farm Groothoek 152
- Portion 4 of the Farm Waaihoek 173
- Portion 6 of the Farm Waaihoek 173
- Portion 11 of the Farm Waaihoek 173
- Portion 9 of the Farm Waaihoek 173
- Portion 1 of the Farm Groothoek 152
- Portion 5 of the Farm Wijdgelegen 17068



Prepared for:
Nala Environmental Consulting Firm



Prepared by:
Ecofluence Consulting

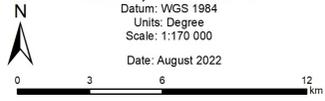


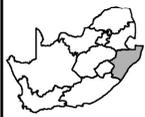
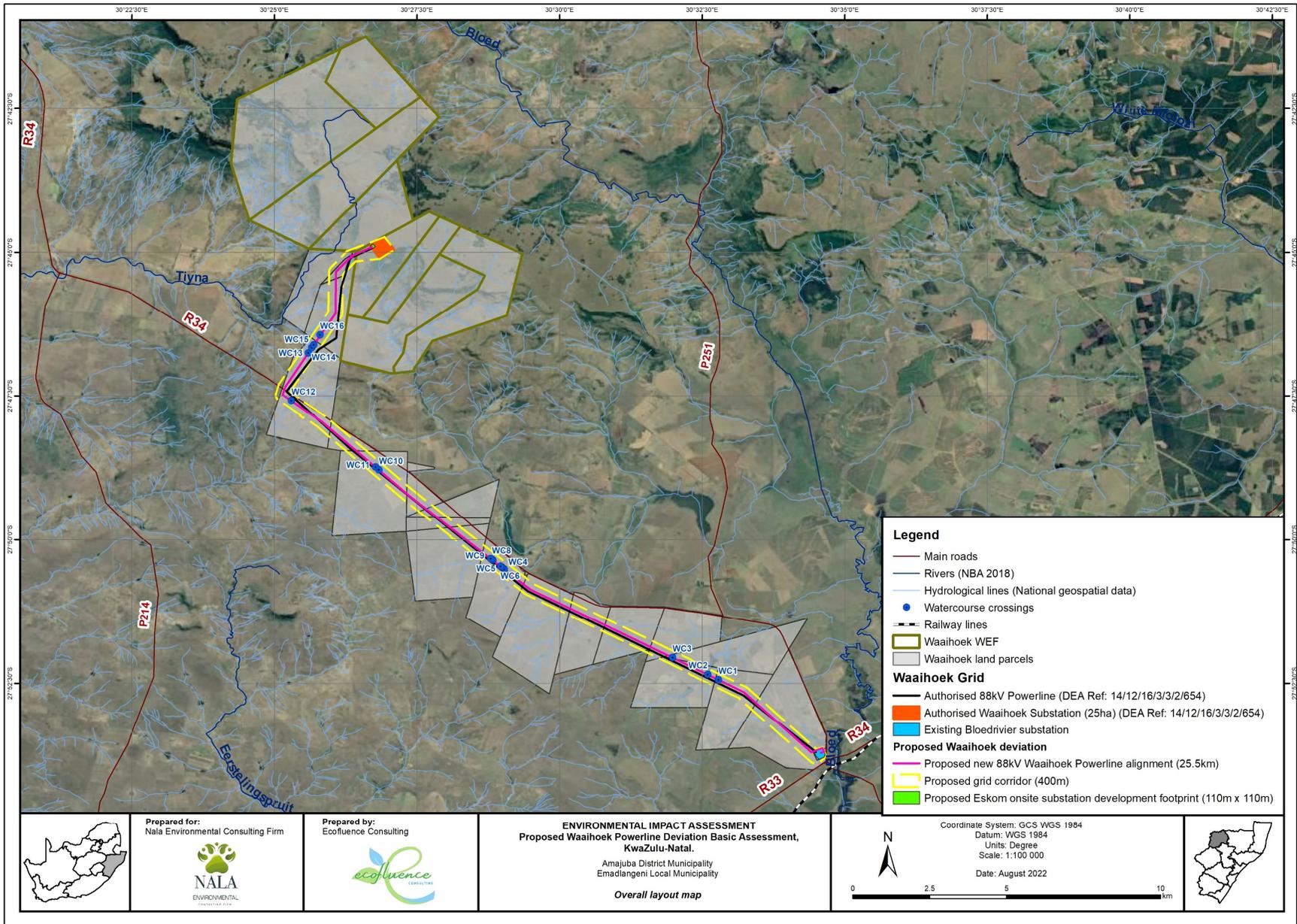
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Proposed Waaihoek Powerline Deviation Basic Assessment, KwaZulu-Natal.
Amajuba District Municipality
Emadlangeni Local Municipality

Locality map

Prevailing wind direction:
West
From 4 April to 4 October (6 months)
East
From 4 October to 4 April (6 months)

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree
Scale: 1:170 000
Date: August 2022



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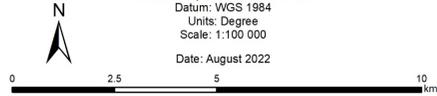


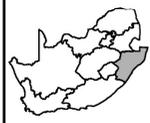
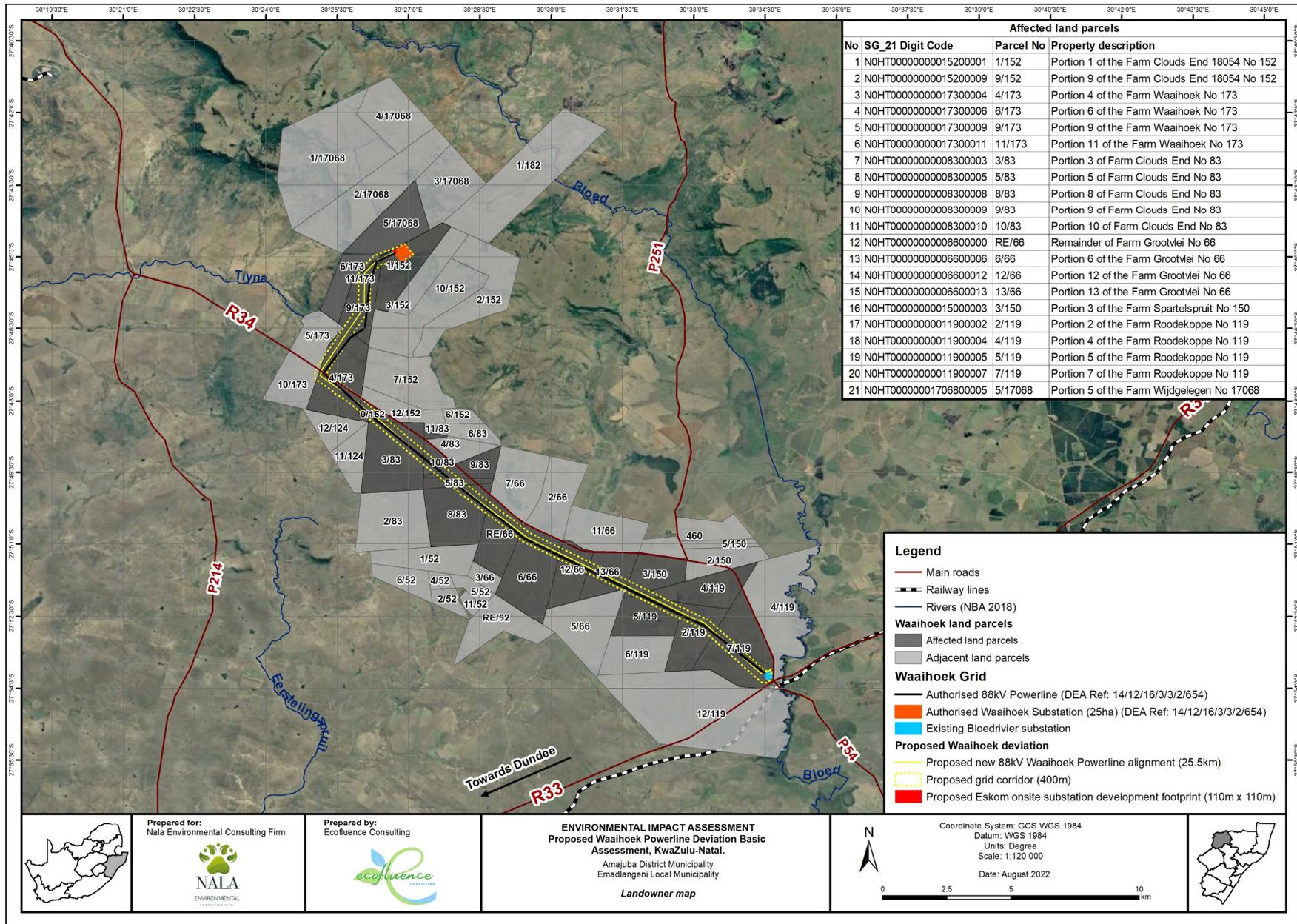
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Ecofluence Consulting



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Proposed Waihoek Powerline Deviation Basic Assessment,
KwaZulu-Natal.
 Amajuba District Municipality
 Emadlangeni Local Municipality
Overall layout map

Coordinates System: GCS WGS 1984
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Units: Degree
 Scale: 1:100 000
 Date: August 2022



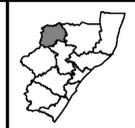
Prepared for:
Nala Environmental Consulting Firm

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Ecofluence Consulting

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Proposed Waihoek Powerline Deviation Basic
Assessment, KwaZulu-Natal.
Amajuba District Municipality
Emadlangeni Local Municipality

Landowner map

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree
Scale: 1:120 000
Date: August 2022



BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

As per the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No 107 of 1998), the deviation of the proposed 88kV powerline and associated infrastructure from the authorised Waaihoek WEF requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, (DFFE) (in consultation with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs for the development of the project (EDTEA). In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GNR 324 - 327), a Basic Assessment (BA) process is required to support the applications for authorisation. The application for authorisation is required to be supported by comprehensive, independent environmental studies undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, and relevant specialist protocols.

The BA is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows the environmental consequences resulting from the construction and operation of a project to be identified early in the planning process and appropriately managed. It provides the opportunity for the developer to be fore warned of potential environmental issues and allows for the resolution of the issue(s) reported on in the BA reports, as well as opening a dialogue with interested and affected parties.

Nala Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant to undertake the required Basic Assessment processes, in order to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed deviation route from the authorised 88kV powerline for the Waaihoek Wind WEF. This also includes the recommendation of appropriate mitigation measures in the Generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPRs). As part of these environmental studies, I&APs will be actively involved through the public participation process being undertaken by Nala Environmental.



What are the potential environmental impacts associated with the project?

Based on the nature and extent of the proposed project, the nature of the affected area, and experience of the consultants on similar projects, a number of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project have been identified at this stage. Site-specific environmental specialist studies will be undertaken for the identified development areas in order to delineate areas of potential sensitivity, assess impacts associated with the project and make recommendations regarding avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts. Specialist studies will include the following:

- » Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- » Avifauna Impact Assessment
- » Aquatic Impact Assessment
- » Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment
- » Heritage & Palaeontological Assessment
- » Social Impact Assessment
- » Visual Impact Assessment

The specialist studies will be informed by existing information, 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 your involvement.



Public Participation Process

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the BA processes from the outset. Comments and inputs from I&APs during the BA processes are encouraged in order to ensure that all potential impacts are considered within the ambit of the study.

The public involvement process aims to ensure that:

- » Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the applications are made available to I&APs for review.
- » Participation by potential I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the applications.
- » Adequate review period is provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the BA reports.

Your responsibilities as an I&AP

In terms of Section 24J of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 and the Department of Environmental Affairs Public Participation Guideline 2017, as part of the BA process, an I&AP has the responsibility to:

- » Provide comment regarding the proposed project within the specified timeframes;
- » Submit written comment directly to the public participation team;
- » Disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that I&AP may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.



Comments and queries

Direct all comments, queries or responses to:

Nala Environmental

Arlene Singh

Waterfall, Johannesburg, 2090

Cell: 072 700 7048

Fax: 086 471 4190

Email: publicparticipation@nalaenvironmental.co.za

Post: Private Bag X26

Suite 548

Sunninghill, 2157

To view project documentation, visit

<https://nalaenvironmental.co.za/projects/>



How to become involved

1. By responding (by phone, fax or email) to our invitation for your involvement which has been advertised in local newspapers and on site.
2. By returning the attached Reply Form to the relevant contact person.
3. By contacting the consultants with queries or comments.
4. By reviewing and commenting on the BA reports within the stipulated 30-day review period.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for the proposed deviation of the powerline route from the authorised 88kV powerline and development of the Eskom portion of the on-site substation for the Waaihoek Wind Energy Facility (WEF), we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, and about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key element of the BA processes.



BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PROPOSED NEW 88KV POWERLINE AND ESKOM PORTION OF THE ON-SITE SUBSTATION WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE AUTHORISED WAAIHDEK WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EMADLANGENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (AMAJUBA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY), KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE

August 2022

Return completed registration and comment form to: Arlene Singh of Nala Environmental

Phone:	084 2777 074
Mobile (incl. 'please call me', WhatsApp, Telegram):	072 700 7048
Fax:	086 471 4190
E-mail:	publicparticipation@nalaenvironmental.co.za
Postal Address:	Private Bag X26, Suite #548, 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:			
Mobile:		Fax:	
E-mail:			
E-mail:			

Please register me as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on the project's database (<u>please indicate your preference by the applicable box</u>):	YES	NO		
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In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the Basic Assessment processes and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application (add additional pages if necessary):

Please list your comments regarding the proposed project and the Basic Assessment Process (add additional pages if necessary):

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

Name & Surname:

Postal Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

E-mail:
