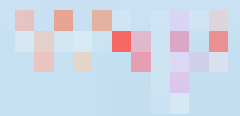


Appendix C

MEETINGS



Appendix C.1

DFFE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING





MEETING NOTES

JOB TITLE	Mura Solar Photovoltaic Development
PROJECT NUMBER	41103930
DFFE PRE-APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER	2022-09-0002
DATE	22 September 2022
TIME	10h00
VENUE	MS Teams
SUBJECT	DFFE Pre-Application Meeting for Mura Solar Photovoltaic Development
CLIENT	Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd
PRESENT	Ashlea Strong (AS) - WSP Megan Govender (MG) - WSP Surina Laurie (SL) - Red Cap Jessica Trytsman (JT) – Red Cap Lerato Mokoena (LM) – DFFE Jay-Jay Mpelane (JM) – DFFE Nyiko Nkosi (NN) - DFFE

MATTERS ARISING

ACTION

NOTE: These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the meeting. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.	<i>Post-meeting notes are formatted in red italic text</i>
1.0 INTRODUCTIONS MG welcomed all attendees and presented the Agenda for the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves.	
2.0 PROJECT PRESENTATION Following the introductions, MG proceeded with the presentation (Appendix A) of the proposed Mura Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Complex located between Loxton and Beaufort West. MG presented the project which covered the following:	

Building C, Knightsbridge
33 Sloane Street
Bryanston, 2191
South Africa

T: +27 11 361 1300
F: +27 11 361 1301

www.wsp.com \\corp.pbwan.net\za\Central_Data\Projects\41100xxx\41103930 - RedCap Nuweveld PV Cluster\41 ES\01-Reports\02-Pre-App\03_Pre-Application Meeting Minutes\41103930_20220928_Redcap Mura Solar_Pre-App Meeting Minutes.docx

MEETING NOTES

- Overview of project;
- Project background;
- Typical infrastructure;
- Key considerations;
- Environmental Authorisation Process;
- Listed Activities;
- DFFE Screening Tool Results;
- Specialist Studies;
- Public Participation Plan;
- Project Timeframes; and
- Clarification Questions and Discussions.

The following key issues were raised during the presentation:

- JM enquired the purpose of the meeting. MG clarified that the meeting is a pre-application meeting for the Mura Solar PV Complex and there is specific clarification required for the environmental authorisation process as there are aspects of the project that do not follow the norm.
- There are four solar PV facilities and two grid connections proposed which will collectively be known as the Mura Solar PV Complex. All projects are located in the same area next to each other.
- Most of the project areas fall within the Western Cape, however Mura 3 Solar Area falls within the Northern Cape.
- The typical infrastructure associated with the project includes:
 - Solar Field
 - Solar Farm Substations
 - Building Infrastructure (O&M buildings, workshops, etc.)
 - Battery Energy Storage Systems
 - Underground cables
 - Gravel roads
 - Fencing
- The Project Area traverses a Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1). Mura 1 Solar PV Facility falls within the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ). Mura 2 falls partially within the Beaufort West REDZ. The entire project falls within the Eastern Corridor Strategic Transmission Corridor.
- Specialists have been to site to undertake a sensitivity verification. The results have been combined into an environmental sensitivity map that highlights all the potential environmentally sensitive areas within the project area as identified by the specialists. The project layout has been designed to avoid the environmentally sensitive areas.
- Mura 2, 3 and 4 will follow a Scoping and EIA (S&EIA) Process, whereas Mura 1 will follow a Basic Assessment Process as the project falls within the Beaufort West REDZ.
- Corridor A will follow a Basic Assessment Process and Corridor B may qualify for Registration in terms of GN 2313.
- The S&EIA and BA Processes will run concurrently.
- There will be one consolidated public participation process for all projects.
- The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) was confirmed as being the competent authority for this project.

Post meeting it was decided that Corridor A and B will be assessed as one project and will follow a single BA Process

3.0 CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

MG noted that the proposed approach for the specialist studies is to have one combined specialist report that will have each area assessed by the specialist in a separate section in the report. MG enquired if this approach would be accepted by the department (DFFE). JM confirmed that the supporting specialist studies for the various applications can be a combined report but the recommendations and mitigation measures must be separate for each project.

The Mura 2 Solar PV Facility falls partially within the Beaufort West REDZ. AS requested clarity on whether Mura 2 can be considered falling within the Beaufort West REDZ and therefore subject to a Basic Assessment? The DFFE Screening Tool states that the development falls within the REDZ. LM

MEETING NOTES

clarified that the project has to completely fall within the REDZ to qualify for the BA Process. Mura 2 therefore does not qualify.

Mura 2, 3 and 4 will all follow a S&EIA Process. These are three separate applications. MG enquired if the department would be open to having one combined Scoping Report and EIA Report for the three applications? Each area will be assessed separately and impacts, mitigation measures and recommendations for each project will be separated in the report. JM advised that it is preferable to submit separate reports to ensure there is no confusion. The applications may not all be allocated to the same case officer therefore each application will require its own report.

SL enquired whether the department would accept a regulation 11 request for a combined application process? If this was accepted, would all the applications therefore not go to the same case officer? JM reiterated that each application should have an accompanying report.

LM enquired if there will be a regulation 11 application submission? SL confirmed that the approach is to combine the applications as per regulation 11, but clarification on this was to be requested from the department. LM suggested that the regulation 11 combined application request is formally submitted. Thereafter the department will submit an official response.

Corridor B falls within the Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridor and specialists have confirmed that the line routing within the Corridor may be able to avoid very high and high sensitive areas. MG noted that this is interpreted as the project qualifying for Registration of a Transmission Line as per Government Notice No. 2313 published in Government Gazette No. 47095 of 27 July 2022. MG enquired if the department has to confirm the applicability of this or if the EAP commence with the registration process. MG also enquired if the EA for the solar farms has to be granted first or can the registration process commence at the beginning of the EA Process of the other projects? LM clarified that the department does not have to confirm the applicability prior to the registration process. Chapter 2 of the guideline must be followed. Once all the requirements have been received as per Chapter 2, the registration of the transmission line can commence by the EAP. This can take place at any point in the timeline.

4.0 CLOSING REMARKS

AS noted that the EAP will liaise with the applicant and proceed with submission of the regulation 11 approval for combined applications. If the department approves the request, the process will follow with a combined application.


MG noted that meeting minutes will be compiled and sent to the attendees for approval.

WSP to submit request for combination of applications as per Regulation 11 of the EIA Regs (*this was submitted on 23 September 2022*).

WSP to compile and submit meeting minutes for approval.

APPENDIX A


PRE-APPLICATION MEETING PRESENTATION



DFFE Pre-Application Meeting

Mura Solar PhotoVoltaic Development

1



Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Overview of Project
- 3 Permitting Processes
- 4 Public Participation Plan
- 5 Timeframes
- 6 Discussion
Specific Clarification
Questions and Comments

2

2

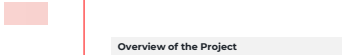


Introductions

Applicant	Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd
EAP	WSD Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Authority	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

3

3



Overview of the Project

Background

Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop four solar facilities and associated grid connections, collectively known as the Mura Solar PV Complex, between Loxton and Beaufort West. The development will be divided into up to four solar and two grid projects, namely:

- o Mura 1 Solar PV Facility (up to 150 MW)
- o Mura 2 Solar PV Facility (up to 450 MW)
- o Mura 3 Solar PV Facility (up to 320 MW)
- o Mura 4 Solar PV Facility (up to 360 MW); and
- o Two grid infrastructure projects (Mura EGI Corridor for Mura Sites 1 and 2 and Mura EGI Corridor for Mura Sites 3 and 4)

4

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Overview of the Project

Background

	Mura 1 Solar PV Facility	Mura 2 Solar PV Facility	Mura 3 Solar PV Facility	Mura 4 Solar PV Facility
Project Extent (full area to be transformed)	160 ha	580 ha	370 ha	420 ha
Generation capacity	150 MW	450 MW	320 MW	360 MW

	Corridor A	Corridor B
Grid Infrastructure Area	Mura EGI Corridor for Mura 3 and 4 Facilities	Mura EGI Corridor for Mura 1 and 2 Facilities

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Overview of the Project

Location

	Mura 1 Solar PV Facility	Mura 2 Solar PV Facility	Mura 3 Solar PV Facility	Mura 4 Solar PV Facility
Province	Western Cape and Northern Cape			
District Municipality	Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Sema District Municipality			
Local Municipality	Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality			
Farms	Portion 4 of Duiker Kranse Farm No. 45	Portion 4 and 45 of Duiker Kranse Farm No. 45	RE of Abrams Kraal Farm No. 206	Portion 11 of Bullfontein Farm No. 387

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Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

Each of the solar facilities will contain the following infrastructure:

- Solar Field
 - Maximum height of 6 m
 - PV Modules that are located on either axis tracking structures or fixed tilt mounting structures or similar
- Solar Farm Substations
 - Maximum height of 12m
 - Two up to 150 m x 75 m substation yards that will include:
 - Substation building
 - High voltage gantry
- Building Infrastructure
 - Maximum height of 8m
 - Offices
 - Operational and maintenance (O&M)/ control centre
 - Warehouse/workshop
 - Ablution facilities
 - Converter/inverter stations

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Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

- Li-ion or similar solid state Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
 - Each solar farm will have up to a 3.5 ha area for a 240 MW BESS
 - BESS substation (same specifications as the solar farm substations)
 - Connected to the solar farm sub/switching stations via an underground high voltage cable
- Other infrastructure
 - Internal underground cables of up to 132 kV
 - Internal gravel roads
 - Fencing (between 2 – 3 m high) around the PV Facilities
 - Panel maintenance and cleaning area
 - Storm water management system
 - Construction work area

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Overview of the Project

Typical Infrastructure

- Associated Infrastructure – outside the solar area footprint:
 - Internal access gravel roads
 - 6m wide driving surface
 - May be up to 12m wide during construction but will be temporary and rehabilitated following construction phase
 - May require side drains on one or both sides
- Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor Components
 - Covered in separate applications to the Solar PV facilities
 - Eskom Switching stations:
 - Located adjacent to the solar farm substations within the solar area footprint
 - Maximum height of 12m
 - Footprint of up to 150 m x 75 m
 - Overhead 132 kV lines supported by monopole pylons with a 38m max height
 - Three additional up to 150 m x 75 m switching stations located within the electricity grid corridors

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Overview of the Project

Key Considerations

- The Project Area traverses **Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA)** (CBA 1)
- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility falls within the Beaufort West **Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ)**
- The entire project falls within the **Strategic Transmission Corridors: Eastern Corridor**

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Permitting Processes

Environmental Authorisation Applications

- o **Combined Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:**
 - Mura 2 Solar PV Facility (up to 450 MW)
 - Mura 3 Solar PV Facility (up to 320 MW)
 - Mura 4 Solar PV Facility (up to 360 MW)
- o **Separate Basic Assessment/Assessment Processes:**
 - Basic Assessment for the Mura 1 Solar PV Facility (up to 150 MW)**
 - Basic Assessment for the Corridor A 132kV Grid Connection
 - Basic Assessment/Registration of the transmission line for the Corridor B 132kV Grid Connection***

** Falls wholly within Beaufort West REDZ
 *** May qualify for Registration in terms of GN 2313

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
Activity 11: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts	All projects will include grid infrastructure of up to 132 kV overhead/underground transmission lines. The transmission lines are outside of the urban edge.
Activity 12: The development of— (i) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse	The powerlines will require the erection of pylons, which may require a total construction area of approximately 100m ² . There is the potential that a pylon or access road will transverse a watercourse (or drainage line).
Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse	Internal access roads and stormwater control infrastructure, as well as electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the Facilities will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m ³ from delineated watercourses on site.
Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for: (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan	The development envelope of these facilities will be wholly transformed either with solar panels or other supporting infrastructure (including the substation, Battery Facility, cables, etc)

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
Activity 1: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs: (a) within an urban area; or (b) on existing infrastructure.	Mura 1 Solar PV Facility will generate up to 150 MW, Mura 2 Solar PV Facility will generate up to 450 MW, Mura 3 Solar PV Facility will generate up to 320 MW, and Mura 4 Solar PV Facility will generate up to 360 MW of electricity output from a renewable resource.
Activity 15: The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	Each of the Mura Solar PV projects will utilise a footprint of more than 150 ha. It is likely that at least 20 ha of indigenous vegetation will be removed.

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Permitting Processes

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 3

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan In i. Western Cape ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;	Each of the Mura Solar PV projects and the supporting grid infrastructure will utilise a footprint of more than 300 m ² and traverses a Critical Biodiversity Area.
Activity 14: The development of— (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a Physical footprint of 10 Square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; In i. Western Cape; ii. Outside urban areas: (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	The powerlines will require the erection pylons, which may require a construction area of approximately 100m ² . There is the potential that a pylon or access road will transverse a watercourse (or drainage line) in a Critical Biodiversity Area.

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Permitting Processes

DFFE Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities – Solar PV Facilities

THEME	VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY	HIGH SENSITIVITY	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY	LOW SENSITIVITY
Agriculture Theme		S2	S1 S3 S4	
Animal Species Theme		S1 S2	S3 S4	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme				S1 S2 S3 S4
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				S1 S2 S3 S4
Avian Theme				S1 S2 S3 S4
Civil Aviation (Solar PV) Theme				S1 S2 S3 S4
Defence Theme				S1 S2 S3 S4
Landscape (Solar) Theme	S1 S2 S3 S4			
Palaeontology Theme	S1 S2 S3 S4			
Plant Species Theme			S2	S1 S3 S4
RFI Theme		S1 S2	S3 S4	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	S2			S1 S3 S4

S1: Mura 1 Solar PV Facility
 S2: Mura 2 Solar PV Facility
 S3: Mura 3 Solar PV Facility
 S4: Mura 4 Solar PV Facility

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Permitting Processes

DFFE Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities – Grid Infrastructure

THEME	VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY	HIGH SENSITIVITY	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY	LOW SENSITIVITY
Agriculture Theme		A	B	
Animal Species Theme		A B		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	A B			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				A B
Civil Aviation Theme				A B
Defence Theme				A B
Paleontology Theme	A B			
Plant Species Theme			A B	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	A B			

A: Corridor A Grid Infrastructure
 B: Corridor B Grid Infrastructure

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Permitting Processes

Specialist Assessments Identified by the DFFE Screening Tool

Specialist Study	Mura 1, 2, 3 and 4 Solar PV Facilities	Corridor A and B Grid Infrastructure
Agricultural Impact Assessment	X	X
Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	X	X
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	X	X
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	X	X
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	X	X
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	X	X
Civil Aviation Assessment	X	X
Defense Assessment	X	X
RFI Assessment	X	X
Geotechnical Assessment	X	X
Socio-Economic Assessment	X	
Plant Species Assessment	X	X
Animal Species Assessment	X	X
Avian Impact Assessment		X

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Permitting Processes

Specialist Studies Commissioned

Specialist Study	Comment
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils and agricultural assessment will be undertaken
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	An archaeological and heritage impact assessment will be undertaken
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	A palaeontological impact assessment will be undertaken
Visual Impact Assessment	A visual impact assessment will therefore be undertaken
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	A terrestrial biodiversity assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	An aquatic biodiversity assessment will be undertaken
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on birds as a result of the projects, an avifauna assessment will be undertaken
Social Impact Assessment	A socio-economic impact assessment will be undertaken
Traffic Assessment	A traffic assessment will be undertaken
Climate Change	A climate change assessment will be undertaken

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Permitting Processes

Specialist Studies NOT Commissioned

Specialist Study	Comment
Geotechnical	A detailed Geotechnical Assessment will not be undertaken as this will be undertaken during the design phase.
RFI	A Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Study will not be undertaken. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) and relevant telecommunications stakeholders will be engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process. As this theme has been identified as either medium or high, a compliance statement will be prepared by the EAP and included in the EIA Reports for the Mura Solar PV Projects.
Civil Aviation	The Civil Aviation Authority will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. An Application for the Approval of Obstacles will also be submitted to SACAA once preferred bidder status is obtained. As this theme has been identified as a low sensitivity, no compliance statement is required.
Defence	The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. As this theme has been identified as a low sensitivity, no compliance statement is required.

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Permitting Processes

Competent Authority

- o **Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA**
 - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations
- o **Section 24C(2)(d)(iii) of NEMA**
 - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity is undertaken by a statutory body, excluding any municipality, performing an exclusive competence of the national sphere of government
- o **GN 779 of 01 July 2016**
 - Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 – 2030
- o **DFFE** is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority

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Public Participation Process

Public Participation Plan

- o A Consolidated Public Participation Process is proposed for all applications
- o Formally announce project via:
 - Adverts (English and Afrikaans in local newspaper)
 - Site notices
 - Utilising existing stakeholder databases
- o Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- o Written notification:
 - Owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site
 - Municipality Ward Councillor
 - District Municipality
 - Relevant State Departments
- o Draft Reports Review for 30 days:
 - Online on the WSP website
 - Online on a data free website
 - Hard copies placed at local libraries
 - An audio presentation of the project (voiced over PowerPoint) in English and Afrikaans will be made available

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Timeframes

Timeframes

- o Authority Timeframes
 - Does fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
 - Does fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
 - Authority decision making timeframe is 107 days for S&EIA
 - Authority decision making timeframe is 54 days for BA
- o Key Milestones
 - Submission of Application Forms – January 2023
 - Draft Scoping Report Public Review – January to February 2023
 - Submission of Final Scoping Reports – March 2023
 - Draft EIA and BA Reports Public Review – June 2023
 - Submission of Final EIA and BA Reports – August 2023

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Discussion

Specific Clarification

- We are proposing that the specialists produced combined reports for the solar projects. However, project specific impacts will be assessed separately (As per Regulation 11 of EIA Regs)
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility falls partially within the REDZ, the DFFE Screening Tool identifies the project falling within the Beaufort West REDZ. Please confirm whether Mura 2 can be considered falling within the REDZ and subject to a BA?
- In the event that Mura 2 is subject to a BA, we would like to submit two BA applications for Mura 1 and 2, but one combined BA Report.
- In the event that Mura 2 is subject to an EIA, we would like to submit three applications but one combined report (Scoping and EIA) for Mura 2, 3 and 4.
- Corridor B falls within a Strategic Transmission Corridor and avoids Very High and High sensitive areas as confirmed by the specialists. In our interpretation the project qualifies for Registration of a Transmission Line as per Government Notice No. 2313 published in Government Gazette No. 47095 of 27 July 2022?
- When should this registration process begin?


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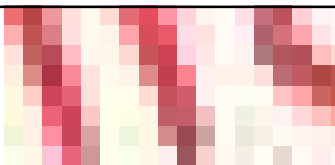
Discussion

- Questions
- Way Forward

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Thank you

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

wsp.com

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APPENDIX B

MS TEAMS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Attendance Report

1. Summary

Meeting title	2022-09-0002: DFFE Pre-Application Meeting – RedCap Mura Solar PhotoVoltaic Development
Attended participants	6
Start time	22/09/22, 09:58:10
End time	22/09/22, 10:47:33
Meeting duration	49m 24s
Average attendance time	46m 46s

2. Participants

Name	First join	Last leave	In-meeting duration	Email	Participant ID (UPN)	Role
Strong, Ashlea	22/09/22, 09:58:27	22/09/22, 10:47:33	49m 6s	Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com	Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com	Presenter
Govender, Megan	22/09/22, 09:58:35	22/09/22, 10:47:16	48m 41s	Megan.Govender@wsp.com	Megan.Govender@wsp.com	Organizer
Surina Laurie (Red Cap) (Guest)	22/09/22, 10:00:14	22/09/22, 10:47:06	46m 52s			Presenter
Jessica Els	22/09/22, 10:00:34	22/09/22, 10:47:06	46m 31s	jessica@red-cap.co.za	jessica@red-cap.co.za	Presenter
Lerato Mokoena	22/09/22, 10:02:19	22/09/22, 10:47:11	44m 51s	LMOKOENA@dffe.gov.za	lmokoena@environment.gov.za	Presenter
Jay-Jay Mpelane	22/09/22, 10:02:36	22/09/22, 10:47:10	44m 33s	JMPELANE@dffe.gov.za	jmpelane@environment.gov.za	Presenter

3. In-Meeting activities

Name	Join time	Leave time	Duration	Email	Role
Strong, Ashlea	22/09/22, 09:58:27	22/09/22, 10:47:33	49m 6s	Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com	Presenter
Govender, Megan	22/09/22, 09:58:35	22/09/22, 10:47:16	48m 41s	Megan.Govender@wsp.com	Organizer
Surina Laurie (Red Cap) (Guest)	22/09/22, 10:00:14	22/09/22, 10:47:06	46m 52s		Presenter
Jessica Els	22/09/22, 10:00:34	22/09/22, 10:47:06	46m 31s	jessica@red-cap.co.za	Presenter
Lerato Mokoena	22/09/22, 10:02:19	22/09/22, 10:47:11	44m 51s	LMOKOENA@dffe.gov.za	Presenter
Jay-Jay Mpelane	22/09/22, 10:02:36	22/09/22, 10:47:10	44m 33s	JMPELANE@dffe.gov.za	Presenter

Govender, Megan

From: Jay-Jay Mpelane <JMPELANE@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 02 November 2022 12:39
To: Govender, Megan; Lerato Mokoena; Ephron Maradwa; Nyiko Nkosi
Cc: jessica@red-cap.co.za; Strong, Ashlea; 'Surina Laurie'
Subject: RE: 2022-09-0002_DFFE Pre-Application Meeting Minutes for Mura Solar PV Development

Dear Govender.

The minutes are indeed adopted, however, these minutes are not exempting you from perform your duties as per require throughout the EIA process. E.g. if you omit anything during EIA process, you are not going to blame this Department for not advising you.

Regards,
Jay.

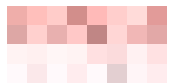
From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: 01 November 2022 01:19 PM
To: Jay-Jay Mpelane <JMPELANE@dffe.gov.za>; Lerato Mokoena <LMOKOENA@dffe.gov.za>; Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>; Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: jessica@red-cap.co.za; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; 'Surina Laurie' <surina@red-cap.co.za>
Subject: FW: 2022-09-0002_DFFE Pre-Application Meeting Minutes for Mura Solar PV Development

Good Day Jay

I hope you are well.

I have tried calling you today. In reference to my email below, please may you approve the pre-application meeting minutes. I have attached it again for ease of reference.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

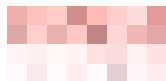
M +27 083 228 5288

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, 28 September 2022 10:25
To: Jay-Jay Mpelane <JMPELANE@dffe.gov.za>; Lerato Mokoena <LMOKOENA@dffe.gov.za>; Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>; Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Jessica Els <jessica@red-cap.co.za>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Surina Laurie <surina@red-cap.co.za>
Subject: 2022-09-0002_DFFE Pre-Application Meeting Minutes for Mura Solar PV Development

Good Day

Please find attached for your approval the pre-application meeting minutes for the Mura Solar PV Development that took place on 22 September 2022.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 083 228 5288
M +27 083 228 5288



WSP in Africa
Building C
Knightsbridge
33 Sloane Street, Bryanston
2191 South Africa

wsp.com

WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Appendix C.2

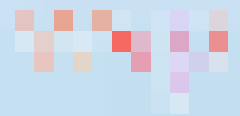
DFFE BIODIVERSITY **CONSERVATION DIRECTORATE SITE** **VISIT MEETING REGISTER**



Redacted as per POPIA Requirements

Appendix D

COMMENTS RECEIVED



Appendix D.1

COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR ALL PROJECTS



Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 09:05
To: Rene Van Tonder
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.
Attachments: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good Morning Rene

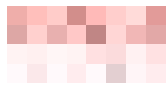
I have shared the folder with your email address. You should have received the attached email.

Please let me know if you still have any issues downloading the reports.

Alternatively, you can also download the reports from the WSP website or a Datafree Website using the links below:

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Rene Van Tonder <rene@skdm.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 15:13
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: Re: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good afternoon Megan

I cannot open the attachment that you send to the manager address

Regards

Rene Van Tonder
Manager: Records - Central
Karoo District Municipality

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

E-mail: manager@skdm.co.za

Web: <https://www.skdm.co.za>

Working Together in Development and Growth

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notify the intended recipient by e-mail and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

From: "Govender, Megan" <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:05:24 PM

Subject: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.



Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.



Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review



This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

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not an authorized or intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message, delete this message and all copies from your e-mail system and destroy any printed copies.

-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 09:11
To: Natalie Uys
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Attachments: Mura Solar 1.kml; Mura Solar 2.kml; Mura Solar 3.kml; Mura Solar 4.kml; Mura EGI Corridor.kml; Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good Morning Natalie

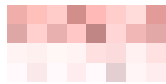
Please see attached .kml files of the development areas as requested. I have also shared the One Drive Folder with your email address. You should have received the attached email.

Please let me know if you still have any issues downloading the reports.

Alternatively, you can also download the reports from the WSP website or a Datafree Website using the links below:

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300
M +27 083 228 5288

From: Natalie Uys Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 15:10

To: Govender, Megan Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Subject: Re: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good day

Could you please send the kml/kmz/shapefile layer for the development .

Please could you send the onedrive link? I cannot get access to the onedrive link.

Best regards
Natalie

On Mon, 6 Mar 2023 at 14:52, Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com> wrote:

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility: BA Process
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process


WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.

Area	Venue	Street Address	
Beaufort West		Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street	
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton	
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	 Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
 Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa
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 2191 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKl

--
Best regards
Natalie Uys *Pr. Sci. Nat.*
Production Scientist Grade A: Botanist
Environmental Research Development
Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform
(former Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC))
Contact info: Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Physical Address: 90 Long street, Albertynshof, Kimberley, Northern Cape
<https://goo.gl/maps/PyBbrDUngaMQsn9u5>

Permit office contact information: - dencpermits@gmail.com / 081 463 4839

Permit forms: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YEmVt4YHNfljnodXqmwTa3O10ilka3fs7PRk0GiZXXs/pub>

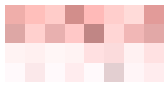
Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 09:32
To: Brandon Layman
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good Morning Brandon

The below is noted. WSP will courier a USB to your offices.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Brandon Layman <Brandon.Layman@westerncape.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 15:39
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: FW: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Hi Ms. Govender

Please note that this office is bound by the government filing system which is currently in physical file format as approved by the Auditor General.

The transition to electronic filing is slow and must be according to government protocols. The provincial department responsible for our electronic storage/filing etc. is in process to develop that.

As solution to the cost of printing hard copies and lack of electronic filing system on our side (as discussed above) we decided the best option is to give you as consultants the option for a CD or USB as alternative to hard copy.

The main difference between a CD or USB is storage. A hard copy, CD or USB is the "store". Email or we-transfer needs to be printed to be stored physically as we do not have an approved filing system available in the cloud or other network.

CD or USB we can still put on a physical file.

With many thanks and kind regards

Brandon Layman

Administrative Assistant to:
Cor Van der Walt : LandUse Manager
Department of Agriculture
Provincial Government of the Western Cape
Private Bag X1
ELSENBURG
7607
GPS koordinate Elsenburg kantoor: 33.845259 S 18.834722 E.


2nd Floor, Main Building, Muldersvlei Road
Telephone: +27 21 808 5093
Fax: +27 865448977
E-mail: Brandon.layman@westerncape.gov.za
Departmental Website: www.elsenburg.com
Provincial Website: www.capegateway.gov.za



From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: 06 March 2023 03:03 PM


Redacted as per POPIA requirements


Subject: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.



Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.

 Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

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Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 09:39
To: Fourie Lizna (ELS)
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

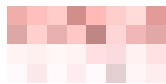
Good Morning Lizna

The total size of the files is 601 MB (with a total of 101 reports) so I am unable to send it via email. Are you perhaps able to download the report from either the WSP website or the Datafree Website using the links below:

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/

If you are unable to download the reports, please let me know if there is an alternative method of sending you the reports?

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

M +27 083 228 5288

From: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 09:15
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: FW: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Morning Megan

SITA does not allow me to open this

Please email me the relevant docs which we need to review

Thanks

Lizna Fourie

From: Fourie Lizna (ELS)
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 08:36
To: Rambani Rachel (ELS) <RambaniR@dws.gov.za>
Subject: FW: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 15:05

To: Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.



Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.



Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review



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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Govender, Megan

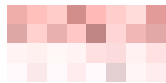
From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 14:25
To: Portia Makitla; Mashudu Mudau
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Kamogelo Mathetja
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW
Attachments: Mura Solar 1.kml; Mura Solar 2.kml; Mura Solar 3.kml; Mura Solar 4.kml; Mura EGI Corridor.kml

Good Day Mrs Makitla and Ms Mudau

Please find attached .kml files related to the project.

Should you have any additional queries, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Kamogelo Mathetja <KMathetja@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 12:53
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Cc: Portia Makitla <PMakitla@dffe.gov.za>; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms M Mudau (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Regards,
Kamogelo

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:51 PM
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility: BA Process
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Beaufort West	Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> _Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn’t seem to come through please check your “spam” folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender

Tel: 011 361 1410
Fax: 011 361 1381
E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
2191 South Africa

wsp.com

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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Govender, Megan

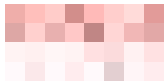
From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 14:34
To: Annette Geertsema
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day Annette

I have uploaded the title deeds, development site and locality maps to this One Drive Folder: [Mura Additional Information](#) as the files are too big to send via email.

Please confirm receipt and download of the files.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Annette Geertsema <AnnetteS@Dalrrd.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 08:35
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good day Megan

Can you please send the title deeds, proposed site development and locality maps to enable the Department to consider the applications?

Regards
Annette

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:51
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated outside of "DALRRD Environment". CAUTION: Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility: BA Process
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
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- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Beaufort West	Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
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WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
2191 South Africa

wsp.com

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa


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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, 08 March 2023 10:16
To: René de Kock (WR)
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good Day Rene

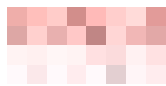
Please see if you can access the files using the following link:  [Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review](https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents)

Alternatively, you can also download the reports from the WSP website or a Datafree Website using the links below:

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/

Please let me know if you have any issues downloading the reports.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: René de Kock (WR) Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Sent: Wednesday, 08 March 2023 08:08
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good day

Thank you for your email, unfortunately I cannot open it.

regards

René de Kock
STATUTORY CONTROLLER
Western Region
1 Havenga Street, Oakdale, Bellville, Western Cape, 7530, South Africa

Redacted as per POPIA requirements





From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:03 PM

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.


Caution: This email originated from an external sender. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.



Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.

 [Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review](#)

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Govender, Megan

From: René de Kock (WR) Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Sent: Wednesday, 08 March 2023 10:56
To: Govender, Megan
Cc: Sinazo Pekula (WR)
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Thank you, Megan.

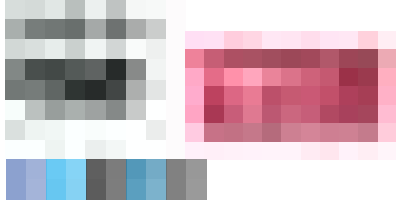
Please forward all EIA related emails to Nicole Abrahams at Redacted as per POPIA requirements for comment.

Kind regards

René de Kock
STATUTORY CONTROLLER
Western Region
1 Havenga Street, Oakdale, Bellville, Western Cape, 7530, South Africa

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Fraud Hotline Number - 0800 204 558



From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:40 AM
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

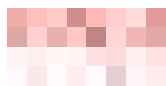
Caution: This email originated from an external sender. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, please contact the ICT Service Desk.

Good Day

Please note that the Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports for the Mura PV Development could unfortunately not be accommodated at the Klein Karoo Agri. The reports have been made alternatively available at the Beaufort West Municipal Offices (25 Church St, Beaufort West).

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Govender, Megan

Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:51

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

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**PowerPoint
Instruction**

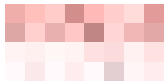
- To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
Tel: 011 361 1410
Fax: 011 361 1381
E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



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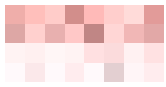
Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 09:52
To: Sinazo Pekula (WR)
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

Good Day Sinazo

Thank you, your comment is noted.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

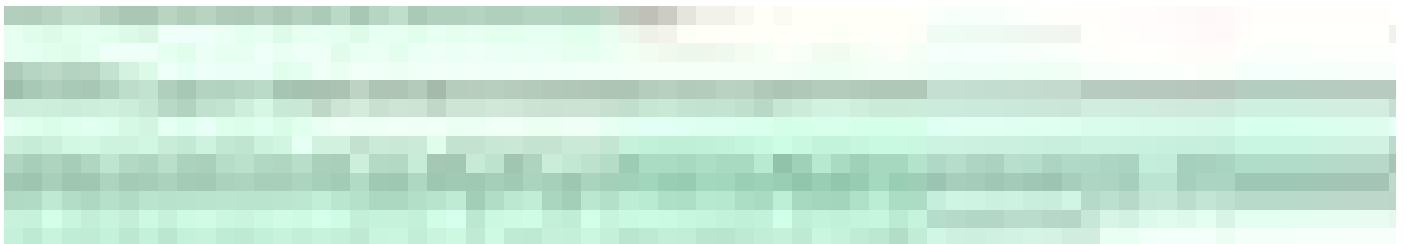
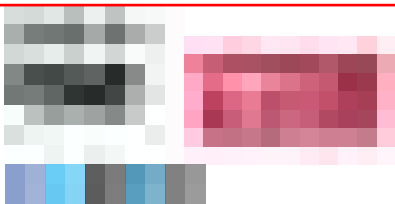
From: Sinazo Pekula (WR) <PekulaS@nra.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2023 13:43
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

Good day Megan

Please find the attached letter for your attention.

Kind Regards
Sinazo Pekula
STATUTORY CONTROL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Western Region
1 Havenqa Street, Oakdale, Bellville, Western Cape, 7530, South Africa

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



Reference: W11/2/1 Fax Number: +27 (0) 21 910 1699
Date: 14 March 2023 Direct Line: +27 (0) 21 957 4600
Email: PekulaS@nra.co.za Website: www.nra.co.za



Megan Govender

Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
Midrand
1685

e-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Dear Megan Govender

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

Thank you for your email dated 6 March 2023.

The South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) has no jurisdiction regarding the above application and therefore, has no comment.

Yours Sincerely

.....

Ms. S Pekula
STATUTORY CONTROL

ID: 20736736

Govender, Megan

From: Vanessa Stoffels
Sent: Monday, 13 March 2023 10:08
To: Govender, Megan
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Hi Megan

Thank you. I gained access.

Kind regards
Vanessa

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:36 AM

To: Vanessa Stoffels

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good Day Vanessa

There are a total of 101 reports with several above the email limit size so I am unable to send it via email. Are you perhaps able to download the report from either the WSP website or the Datafree Website using the links below:

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Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Vanessa Stoffels

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Sent: Monday, 13 March 2023 08:33

To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good day Megan

Thank you for your e-mail.

Unfortunately I could not access your documents. Staff are blocked by our IT department to open links due to Cyber threats.

Please feel free to send documents via multiple e-mails.

Kind Regards

Vanessa Stoffels

Admin Clerk: Road Use Management
Department of Transport and Public Works
Chief Directorate: Road Planning
Western Cape Government

24th Floor, 9 Lower Burg Street, Cape Town

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Website: www.westerncape.gov.za

Be 110% Green. Read from the screen.

From: Evan Burger Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:35 PM

To: Vanessa Stoffels <Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za>

Subject: FW: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Regards | Groete

Evan Burger

Control Engineering Technician
Department: Transport & Public Works
Western Cape Government

3rd Floor, Room 3.36, 9 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

PO Box 2603, Cape Town, 8000

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Website: www.westerncape.gov.za

Road Network Information System: <http://rnis.westerncape.gov.za>



Be 110% Green. Read from the screen.

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:58 PM

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.



[Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review](#)

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Govender, Megan

From: Vanessa Stoffels <Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2023 08:08
To: Govender, Megan
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good day

Received your application, our reference Job 30235.

The matter is receiving attention and further communication will be addressed to you as soon as circumstances permit.

Kind Regards

Vanessa Stoffels

Admin Clerk: Road Use Management
Department of Transport and Public Works
Chief Directorate: Road Planning
Western Cape Government

24th Floor, 9 Lower Burg Street, Cape Town

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Website: www.westerncape.gov.za

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From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Vanessa Stoffels <Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za>
Subject: RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Good Day Vanessa

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Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

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To: Vanessa Stoffels <Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za>

Subject: FW: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.

Regards | Groete

Evan Burger

Control Engineering Technician
Department: Transport & Public Works
Western Cape Government

3rd Floor, Room 3.36, 9 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

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From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:58 PM

To: Zaahir Toefy <Zaahir.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za>; Gavin Benjamin <Gavin.Benjamin@westerncape.gov.za>; DEADP-EIAAdmin George <DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za>; Landuse.Elsenburg@elsenburg.com; Cor Van der Walt <Cor.VanderWalt@westerncape.gov.za>; Phyllis Pienaar <Phyllis.Pienaar@westerncape.gov.za>; ThandoNd@daff.gov.za; Clareen.Collins@drblr.gov.za; Carinne Muller <Carinne.Muller@westerncape.gov.za>; Jacqui Gooch <Jacqui.Gooch@westerncape.gov.za>; Juan.Prodehl@westerncape.gov.za; Llewellyn Truter <Llewellyn.Truter@westerncape.gov.za>; Stephanus J Schoeman <Stephanus.Schoeman@westerncape.gov.za>; Xander Smuts <Xander.Smuts@westerncape.gov.za>; Lyle.Martin@westerncape.gov.za; Evan Burger <Evan.Burger@westerncape.gov.za>; Devlin Fortuin <Devlin.Fortuin@westerncape.gov.za>; nmkontwana@ubuntu.gov.za; ubuntuvw@gmail.com; mayor@ubuntu.gov.za

Subject: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Mura Solar PV Development_For Public Review" with you.



Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.



[Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review](#)



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-LAEmHhHzd.IzBlTWfa4Hgs7pbKl

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If you are not the intended recipient you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone."

Govender, Megan

From: Marian van der Westhuizen
Sent: Wednesday, 08 March 2023 12:26
To: Govender, Megan
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Hi
Please send this information in the future to bestuurder@agrink.co.za and geo@agrink.co.za
Thanks

MARIAN VAN DER WESTHUIZEN
Finansies / Finance

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

www.agrink.co.za



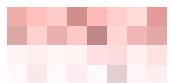
From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 March 2023 10:38
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day

Please note that the Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports for the Mura PV Development could unfortunately not be accommodated at the Klein Karoo Agri. The reports have been made alternatively available at the Beaufort West Municipal Offices (25 Church St, Beaufort West).

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:39
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Stakeholders,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

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- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process

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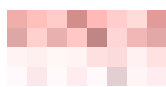
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	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
 Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa

Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
2191 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Thursday, 16 March 2023 13:58
To: Reuben Maroga
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Request: Registration as an Interested and Affected Party
Attachments: Mura Solar 1.kml; Mura Solar 2.kml; Mura Solar 3.kml; Mura Solar 4.kml; Mura EGI Corridor.kml

Good Day Reuben

Please find attached kml files as requested. I can also confirm that you have been added to our stakeholder database.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Reuben Maroga <reuben@solagroup.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 16 March 2023 05:43
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: Request: Registration as an Interested and Affected Party

Hi Megan,

I hope you are well.

We would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the proposed Mura 1 Solar PV facility between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province. For the registration, please capture this email address: iap@solagroup.co.za

Furthermore, could you kindly share the KML files of the proposed development extent and the grid connection corridor route assessed to the nearest ESKOM substation.

Lastly, we would also like to request that WSP registers us as an I&AP for all renewable energy projects. We are continuously developing sites across various Provinces so it would be great to have sight of other projects that we can include in our own stakeholder databases for our projects, as well as take into consideration from a technical perspective.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards

Reuben Maroga

Permitting Specialist

Redacted as per POPIA requirements





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Govender, Megan

From: Bonnie Schumann Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2023 16:22
To: Govender, Megan
Cc: Strong, Ashlea; Johan du Plessis
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Hi Megan

Thank you for the email below. We note the proposed development and at this stage and have no comments.

Kind Regards



Bonnie Schumann
Nama Karoo Coordinator
Drylands Conservation Programme
Redacted as per POPIA requirements



Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment – BBBEE Level 4 Certificate & 95% Civil Society Organisation PBO number: 930 001 777 NPO number: 015-502 NPO IT number: IT 6247

Physical Address: 27 and 28 Austin Road, Glen Austin AH, Midrand, 1685, Gauteng, South Africa
Postal Address: Postnet Suite # 027, Postnet Suite 002, Private Bag X08, Wierda Park 0149, Gauteng, South Africa

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:38 AM
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day

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Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Govender, Megan

Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:39

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

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	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



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-LAEhHhHdzJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Govender, Megan

From: Strong, Ashlea
Sent: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 06:45
To: Shonese Bloy
Cc: Ansoné Esterhuizen; Kathryn Winstanley; Caryn Clarke; Skye Clarke-McLeod; Colette Alisha Stander; Govender, Megan
Subject: RE: I&AP Registration: Mura 1-4 SEF and Mura Grid Infrastructure

Dear Shonese

Thank you for your email.

I can confirm that Caryn has been added to the database as requested and will receive all project related notifications going forward.

Kind regards

Ashlea



Ashlea Strong
Principal Associate

T +27 11 361-1392

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Shonese Bloy Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Sent: Monday, 27 March 2023 11:45

To: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: I&AP Registration: Mura 1-4 SEF and Mura Grid Infrastructure

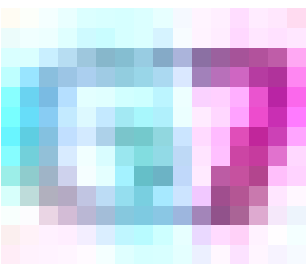
Good day Ashlea,

Could you please register **Caryn Clarke** with email address eia@g7energies.com as an I&AP for the proposed Mura 1-4 Solar Energy Facility and Mura Grid Infrastructure.

Would you kindly send through any relevant documents and reply with confirmation of registration.

Thanks so much.

Kind Regards,



Shonese Bloy
Environmental Intern

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd
5th Floor, 125 Buitengracht Street
Cape Town 8001, South Africa



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Govender, Megan

From: Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 06 April 2023 11:15
To: Strong, Ashlea; Govender, Megan
Cc: Portia Makitla
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES, NAMELY MURA 2, MURA 3, AND MURA 4, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THE CENTRAL

Attachments: Mura 2 3 4 Solar Facilities DSR Comments.pdf

Good day Ashlea and Megan.

Kindly find attached comments for the three scoping reports Mura 2, 3 and 4.

I will be sending out comments for the remaining two DBAR soon.

Regards,
Mashudu Mudau

Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets
PRETORIA
Tel: (012) 399 9945
Cell: 076 166 8307
E-mail: mamudau@dffe.gov.za





Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: Mura 2- 4 Solar Facilities

Enquiries: Ms. Mashudu Mudau/ Ms. Portia Makitla

Telephone: 012 399 9411/9945 **E-mail:** pmakitla@dffe.gov.za

Ms. Ashlea Strong
PO Box 98867,
SLOANE PARK,
2152

Telephone Number: +27 (11) 361 1392
Email Address: Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Strong

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES, NAMELY MURA 2, MURA 3, AND MURA 4, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THE CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports.

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Reports and the Plans of Study, however, the EIA reports must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

In conclusion, the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 06/04/2023



Batho pele- putting people first.

Govender, Megan

From: Adri La Meyer <Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 13:17
To: Govender, Megan; Strong, Ashlea
Cc: Thea Jordan; surina@red-cap.co.za; Megan Simons
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Megan,

Thanks so much for your positive response. I will make sure that Thea has our comments on Tuesday morning for signature.

Just also realised that I am still waiting for 2 sets of comments from Waste Management, so am following up with them on that.

Many thanks again!

Kind regards,
Adri

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 12:58
To: Adri La Meyer <Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Cc: Thea Jordan <Thea.Jordan@westerncape.gov.za>; surina@red-cap.co.za; Megan Simons <msimons@capenature.co.za>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day Adri

Thank you so much for letting us know.

We can still accommodate your comments if you send it on Tuesday morning.

Goodluck!

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300
M +27 083 228 5288

From: Adri La Meyer <Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 12:13
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Megan and Ashlea,

I hope you are well.

The comments on the DSRs and Draft BARs for the MURA PV and EGI development are due tomorrow (06 April 2023). I have received comments from our Waste and Pollution Management Directorates. However, our Development Management Directorate (EIA section) is unable to provide comments as the case officer's laptop has crashed and her comments cannot be retrieved by our IT section.

Unfortunately, I also cannot provide you with the collated comments tomorrow as I am already under so much stress to deliver collated comments on 4 x BARs for solar facilities that are also due tomorrow. (I'm sure Megan from CapeNature feels my pain!). I'm still waiting for our George Office's comments on those 4 BARs.

Whilst I am only supposed to collate comments from our commenting directorates and not review the reports myself, I will now have to review the DSRs and BARs for the Mura development this weekend in the absence of comments from our EIA section. Such comments can however only be provided to you on Tuesday morning. Should you however be unable to accommodate the Department's comments to be submitted on Thursday morning, please go ahead and finalise the reports without our inputs.

Kind regards,
Adri

Adri La Meyer
Directorate: Development Facilitation
Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Western Cape Government

11th Floor, Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8000

Tel: +27 (0)21 483 2887
Email: Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za
Website: www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp



Be 110% Green. Read from the screen.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are still operating on a "work-from-home" basis.
Should you not be able to contact the numbers above, please call +27 (0)21 483 4091
between 07:30-16:00.

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:40

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day

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Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Govender, Megan

Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:51

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority,

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WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

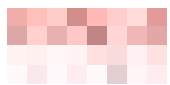
PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
 Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



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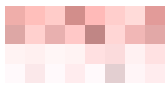
Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 09:54
To: Jeffathon Anthony
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: COMMENTS FOR MURA SOLAR PV FACILITIES

Good Day Anthony

Thank you for your comments. We will include them in the Stakeholder Engagement Report and respond accordingly.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Jeffathon Anthony Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Sent: Friday, 07 April 2023 09:10
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: COMMENTS FOR MURA SOLAR PV FACILITIES

Dear M/s Megan Govender,

Attached comments for the four subject matter applications.

Kindly note it is a day late due to loadshedding interruptions and reviewing and commenting on more than 1.5 applications documents was very time constraining within 30 days.

Kind regards

Anthony

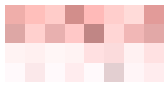
Govender, Megan

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Friday, 14 April 2023 10:48
To: 'Megan Simons'
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Thank you very much Megan.

Cape Nature's comment is noted.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Megan Simons <msimons@capenature.co.za>
Sent: Friday, 14 April 2023 10:10
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good morning, Megan

I hope you are well.

Thank you for following up, we have been battling with internet connectivity since stage 6 loadshedding was implemented. Kindly see attached comments from CapeNature and our apology for the delay. If you require anything else, do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a good day.

Megan Simons
Land Use Scientist – Landscape East
Conservation Operations: Conservation Intelligence



Redacted as per POPIA requirements

www.capenature.co.za

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 April 2023 11:48
To: Megan Simons Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good Day Megan

Just following up on the comments for Mura as per the email below?

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Megan Simons Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 13:24

To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Megan,

I am well thank you. I trust you are too.

Yes, CapeNature would still comment, and we thank you for granting an extension until 11 April 202. It is much appreciated.

Have a good day.

Kind Regards,

Megan Simons
Land Use Scientist – Landscape East
Conservation Operations: Conservation Intelligence



Redacted as per POPIA requirements

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From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 13:02

To: Megan Simons <msimons@capenature.co.za>

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

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Hi Megan

I hope you are well.

Please may you confirm if Cape Nature will be submitting comments as well for the Proposed Mura Solar PV Development? The comments are due tomorrow (06 April 2023) but we can still accommodate your comments if received on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 as we will be doing the same for WC Government.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Adri La Meyer <Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za>

Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 12:13

To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Megan and Ashlea,

I hope you are well.

The comments on the DSRs and Draft BARs for the MURA PV and EGI development are due tomorrow (06 April 2023). I have received comments from our Waste and Pollution Management Directorates. However, our Development Management Directorate (EIA section) is unable to provide comments as the case officer's laptop has crashed and her comments cannot be retrieved by our IT section.

Unfortunately, I also cannot provide you with the collated comments tomorrow as I am already under so much stress to deliver collated comments on 4 x BARs for solar facilities that are also due tomorrow. (I'm sure Megan from CapeNature feels my pain!). I'm still waiting for our George Office's comments on those 4 BARs.

Whilst I am only supposed to collate comments from our commenting directorates and not review the reports myself, I will now have to review the DSRs and BARs for the Mura development this weekend in the absence of comments from our EIA section. Such comments can however only be provided to you on Tuesday morning. Should you however be unable to accommodate the Department's comments to be submitted on Thursday morning, please go ahead and finalise the reports without our inputs.

Kind regards,
Adri

Adri La Meyer

Directorate: Development Facilitation

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Western Cape Government

11th Floor, Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8000

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Website: www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp



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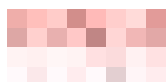
From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:40
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day

Please note that the Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports for the Mura PV Development could unfortunately not be accommodated at the Klein Karoo Agri. The reports have been made alternatively available at the Beaufort West Municipal Offices (25 Church St, Beaufort West).

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA re-
quirements

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:51
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility: BA Process
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Beaufort West	Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
2191 South Africa

wsp.com

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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LANDSCAPE EAST – CONSERVATION
INTELLIGENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

postal Private Bag X6546, George, 6530
physical 4th Floor, York Park Building, York Street, George
6530
website www.capenature.co.za
enquiries **Megan Simons**
telephone
email
reference
West
date 14 April 2023

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

WSP Africa,
P.O Box 98867,
Sloane Park,
2152,

Attention: Ms Megan Govender
By email: Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Dear: Ms Megan Govender

**THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF
THE FOUR MURA SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITIES, BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE**

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above report. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application. CapeNature wishes to make the following comments:

According to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (Pool-Stanvliet *et.al.* 2017)¹ the proposed Mura series of PV developments and infrastructure footprints are within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1: Terrestrial, Aquatic, River; CBA 2: Terrestrial), Ecological Support Areas (ESA 1: Aquatic, ESA 2: restore), and Other Natural Areas over most of the area. The freshwater features include the Krom Rivers, numerous non-perennial drainage lines, and wetlands. The wetlands are classified as National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) are important in achieving biodiversity targets for riverine ecosystems² and have an important role in allowing plant and animal species movement within the landscape.

According to the National Biodiversity Assessment (Skowno et al. 2018)³ the vegetation for the proposed development area is Eastern Upper Karoo which is Least Concerned (SANBI 2022)⁴. The Eastern Upper Karoo has experienced low rates of natural habitat loss and 97% of the original extent remains (SANBI 2022)⁵. Although, the vegetation type is Least Threatened (LT), kindly note that any loss to natural habitat should be avoided. Considering

¹ Pool-Stanvliet, R., Duffell-Canham, A., Pence, G. & Smart, R. 2017. The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbook. Stellenbosch: CapeNature.
² Nel, J.L., Murray, K.M., Maherry, A.M., Petersen, C.P., Roux, D.J., Driver, A., Hill, L., Van Deventer, H., Funke, N., Swartz, E.R., Smith-Adao, L.B., Mbona, N., Downsborough, L. & Nienaber, S. (2011). Technical Report for the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas project. WRC Report No. K5/1801
³ Skowno, A. L., Poole, C. J., Raimondo, D. C., Sink, K. J., Van Deventer, H., Van Niekerk, L., Harris, L. R., Smith-Adao, L. B., Tolley, K. A., Zengeya, T. A., Foden, W. B., Midgley, G. F. and Driver, A. 2019. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report. Pretoria, South Africa. 214 pp.
⁴ Government of South Africa (2022) South African Red List of Terrestrial Ecosystems: assessment details and ecosystem descriptions. Technical Report #7664, SANBI Pretoria, South Africa.
⁵ Government of South Africa (2022) South African Red List of Terrestrial Ecosystems: assessment details and ecosystem descriptions. Technical Report #7664, SANBI Pretoria, South Africa.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Associate Prof Denver Hendricks (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Ms Marguerite Loubser, Mr Mervyn Burton, Dr Colin Johnson, Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis, Mr Paul Slack

that arid habitats could take years to rehabilitate, even from temporary disturbances and we only consider habitat as rehabilitated when comparable level of ecosystem functionality has been proven.

The Department of Environment and Forestry identified geographical areas as renewable energy development zones (REDZ)⁶. Thus, it can be expected that renewable energy developments will increase, and such a monitoring program are essential to inform future renewable energy developments, especially in the Karoo. It is noted that the proposed WEF is situated within a Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) known as the Beaufort West REDZ 11⁷.

The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (Pool-Stanvliet *et.al.* 2017) has specific guidelines regarding CBA and ESA loss and their sensitivity and conservation objectives. Thus, the proposed development must be guided by those objectives to conserve and protect the CBAs and ESAs (Pool-Stanvliet *et al.* 2017). CapeNature maintains minimal habitat loss is acceptable, in line with the WCSBP Land Use Guidelines Handbook, provided the underlying biodiversity objectives and ecological functioning are not compromised. CapeNature notes that not all the Mura PV facilities are located within CBAs and ESAs.

Existing infrastructure (i.e., already disturbed areas) must be used where possible and constructing new infrastructure must avoid watercourse/ sensitive areas and their buffers.

The areas of medium sensitivity areas must not be disturbed by the solar PV development or associated infrastructure. Furthermore, No-Go Areas and 35m aquatic buffer areas must be demarcated with the necessary signage.

The Aquatic Report stated Riverine Rabbit may potentially occur in the area/ landscape associated with the watercourse while the Terrestrial Report stated the habitat is not suitable for the species. CapeNature requires clarity whether the proposed Mura area has habit that supports the Riverine Rabbit.

CapeNature acknowledges that the relevant plant permit for endangered species or protected species listed in Schedules 3 and 4 respectively, in terms of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Laws Amendment Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000) will be obtained from CapeNature.

The compilation of Alien Control Plan, Rehabilitation and Monitoring Plans are supported. However, not all these plans can be developed post-authorisation as alien clearing can be implemented from the onset of the proposed development and must be on-going for the duration of this project and continue beyond the operational phase. Furthermore, the Soil Erosion Management plan must be included in the EMPr as to mitigate for erosion during this project. To reiterate these plans must not be a condition of authorisation and compiled after EA is granted but compiled before the development commences.

Flooding events can change watercourses within a short period, and it must be mitigated in the EMPr.

The Ecological Control Officer must ensure that the mitigation measures and recommendations proposed by the specialists are implemented to protect the remaining ecological services and connectivity. The Aquatic buffers and Riverine Rabbit habitat buffers must be protected and not impacted.

CapeNature supports the development of renewable energy facilities however we remain concerned that the cumulative impacts of energy facilities, if not properly considered and planned for, could be quite significant. There are a few renewable energy developments planned in the broader region of which some were issued with Environmental Authorisation and other applications are still in progress. It is therefore essential to take a precautionary

⁶ National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Government Gazette, , No.114, 16 February 2018

⁷ National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Government Gazette, , No.114, 16 February 2018

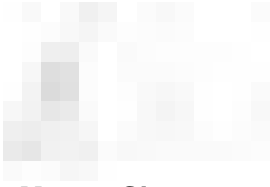
The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Associate Prof Denver Hendricks (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Ms Marguerite Loubser, Mr Mervyn Burton, Dr Colin Johnson, Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis, Mr Paul Slack

approach and to ensure that the infrastructure (i.e., roads, power lines, substations, etc.) be positioned outside ecologically sensitive areas. On-going monitoring throughout the various phases of this project is important to assess the impacts of these developments on different species biodiversity and the impact these facilities will have on habitat fragmentation and associated ecological corridors. It is also vital that a clear monitoring and reporting protocol is established so that lessons learned from newly established facilities can be shared with the wider community.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely,



Megan Simons
For: Manager (Landscape Conservation Intelligence)

Govender, Megan

From: Natasha Higgitt Redacted as per POPIA requirements
Sent: Thursday, 06 April 2023 14:12
To: Govender, Megan; Dumisani Bhambatha
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Importance: High

Good afternoon

SAHRIS Case ID 20670, 20671 and 20673 are located in the Western Cape Province. SAHRA does not have jurisdiction to provide comments on development applications located in the Western Cape. Comments must be sought from Heritage Western Cape in this regard.

I further note that PoP were uploaded to Case ID 20671 and 20673. [@Dumisani Bhambatha](#), please proceed with the refund process for these two cases, as they should have been for HWC and not SAHRA.

Megan, please confirm if payment was made in terms of Case ID 20670 and upload the PoP so that the refund may be made.

Kind regards,

Please note: Due to high meeting and task load, I may not be able to respond to your email immediately. If you do not receive a response within 5 working days, please resend your query.

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:26 PM
To: Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day Natasha

I hope you are well.

Please note I have only received comments from SAHRA for the following cases related to the Mura Solar PV Development applications:

- 20672 (Mura 3 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (up to 320 MW))
- 20674 (Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor)

We are still waiting for comments on the following:

- 20670 (Mura 1 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (up to 150 MW))
- 20671 (Mura 2 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (up to 400 MW))
- 20673 (Mura 4 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (up to 360 MW))

Our Public Review Period closes today. Please may you confirm if you will be sending through the outstanding comments?

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

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1685 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Natasha Higgitt

Manager: Development Applications



T:
M:
E:

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

A: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,
Western Cape, ZA
www.sahra.org.za

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Our Ref: HM/ CENTRAL KAROO/ BEAUFORT WEST/ MURA 1 TO 4
Case No: 22101902AM1019E
Enquiries: Stephanie Barnardt
E-mail: Stephanie.Barnardt@westerncape.gov.za
Tel: 021 483 5959

Jayson Orton

redacted as per POPIA requirements

RESPONSE TO HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: FINAL COMMENT
In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Western Cape Provincial Gazette 6061, Notice 298 of 2003

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED MURA 1-4 PV FACILITIES, BEAUFORT WEST MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(1) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)

The matter above has reference.

This matter was discussed at the Heritage Officer Committee (HOMs) held on 11 April 2023.

FINAL COMMENT

The Committee resolved to endorse the HIA prepared by ASHA Consulting dated 15 December 2022 as meeting the requirements of Section 38 (3) of the NHRA and the following recommendations on page 60;

Mura 1 (Western Cape):

It is recommended that the proposed Mura 1 PV facility should be authorised but subject to the following recommendations which should be included as conditions of authorisation:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Mura 2 (Western Cape):

It is recommended that the proposed Mura 2 PV facility should be authorised but subject to the following recommendations which should be included as conditions of authorisation:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd | Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 61
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Mura 4 (Western Cape):

It is recommended that the proposed Mura 4 PV facility should be authorised but subject to the following recommendations which should be included as conditions of authorisation:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- The site at waypoint 1399 should be avoided if possible but this is not required (if avoided and protected then the buffer can be reduced to 25 m); and
- Any realignment of the DR02317 within 400 m of waypoint 2000 must be checked in the field and approved by an archaeologist;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

HWC reserves the right to request additional information as required.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the official above and quote the case number.

.....
Sneha Jhupsee

Acting Assistant Director: Professional Services



Ref: TPW/CFS/RP/LUD/REZ/SUB-01/42 (Job 30235)

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 98867
SLOANE PARK
2152

Attention: Ms Megan Govender

Dear Madam

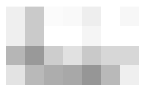
RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

1. Your letter 41103930 dated 6 March 2023 refers.
2. This Branch offers no objection to the issuing of an Environmental Authorisation in favour of the proposed Mura Photovoltaic Facilities, provided that this Branch is offered the opportunity to comment on the land use application, at which stage this Branch will issue its approvals in terms of Act 21 of 1940 (building restrictions, if applicable) and Roads Ordinance 19 of 1976 (accesses and construction activities within the road reserves and adjacent building lines).
3. The proposed facility affects Trunk Road 58, Section 1 (R381), Divisional Road 2317, and Minor Road 8881 of which this Branch is the Road Authority. (Other roads may be affected as well, depending on the final routes taken and accesses used, and the plans will need to be adapted to take this into account).
4. All the abovementioned Provincial Roads' Public accessibility must be retained (if not closed / de-proclaimed to become private or servitude roads) and they must be evaluated for the purposes of construction, operation, and decommissioning.
5. This Branch, for now, will ultimately require the following:
 - a. A geotechnical and geometric design report, including improvement proposals, must be compiled to ensure that all the roads that will be affected by these developments during the construction phase are adequately improved and maintained before any other construction activity may commence on any of the farm portions. This is to ensure that no more than

normal deterioration and additional maintenance costs are experienced by the Road Authority during the construction and operating phases. It will be required that any design affecting any Proclaimed Provincial Road must carry this Branch's Chief Directorate Road Design's (Ms M Hofmeyr – tel: 2721-4833999) approval before implementation thereof may commence.

- b. Confirmation that a similar geotechnical proposal (as per paragraph 5.a) will be compiled, and approval obtained prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase; whenever that may be.
- c. Indication of all the access(es) to each respective farm portion, ownership thereof and application for any changed access to the provincial road network - in line with this Branch's Access Management Guidelines, 2020. It will be required to clearly state which access will serve what purpose (e.g., energy and / or farming).
- d. Construction applications, including wayleaves for third party services, when building restrictions, building lines and road reserves are affected.
- e. Abnormal load transportation implications, which will require a route clearance report and prior application for any geometric and materials designs for approval before construction. It is recommended to commence with planning in this regard once detail of energy infrastructure and transportation equipment are known.
- f. If any accesses are to be upgraded, it must be submitted to this Branch's Chief Directorate Road Design's approval before implementation thereof may commence.

Yours Sincerely



SW CARSTENS

For DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: ROADS

DATE: 25 APRIL 2023

ENDORSEMENTS

1. WSP
Attention: Ms M Govender (e-mail: megan.govender@wsp.com)

2. Central Karoo District Municipality

Attention: Mr A Theron

3. District Roads Engineer
Oudtshoorn

4. Mr E Burger (e-mail)

5. Mr SW Carstens (e-mail)

6. Mr F Fakier (e-mail)

Govender, Megan

From: Visagie Hammond [redacted as per POPIA requirements]
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2023 15:19
To: Govender, Megan
Cc: Mpumela Ntombiyamayirha(PLZ)
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: RAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR REVIEW
Attachments: Comments_ Draft EIA Mura 234 Solar PV Facilities_July 2023.pdf

Good day Ms Govender,

Attached, please find DWS comments for the above-mentioned project.

Regards,

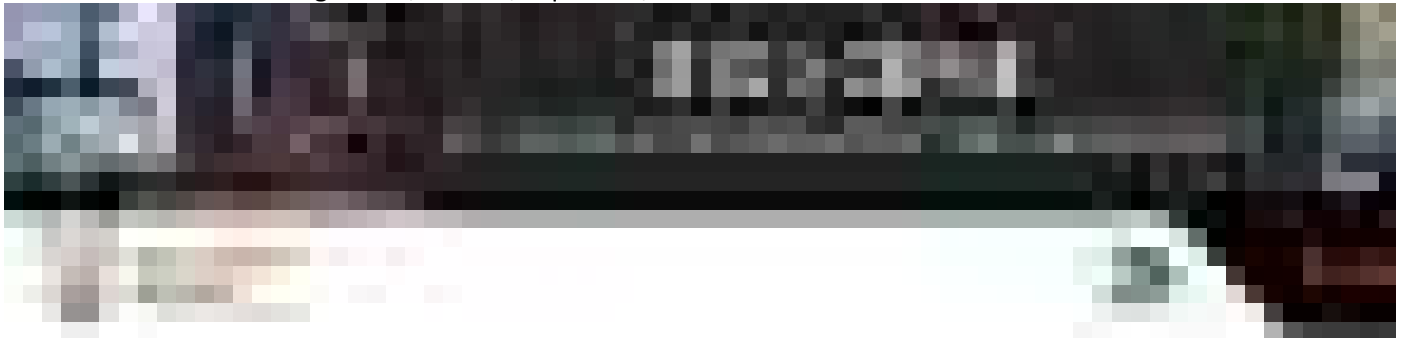
Hammond Visagie

Administrative Officer
Department: Water and Sanitation
Directorate: Proto CMA – Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma
Sub-Directorate: Water Use Authorisation and Licensing

[redacted as per POPIA requirements]

Physical Address: 140 Govan Mbeki Avenue, Starport Building, 6th floor, Gqeberha, 6001

Postal Address: Private Bag X6041, Central, Gqeberha, 6000





Private Bag X6041, Gqeberha, 6000	Tel: 041 501 0700	Enquiries: H.R. Visagie
E-mail: visagieh@dws.gov.za	Fax 041 586 4210	Ref: Red Cap Energy

WSP Group Africa Pty Ltd
PO Box 98867
Sloane Park
2152

Attention Ms. M. Govender

COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (MURA 2, 3, 4) FOR RED CAP ENERGY, IN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gqeberha Office received Draft Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) with **DFFE Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2324; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2325** for the developments of three (3) Solar Photovoltaic Facilities namely Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4 from WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd as appointed consultants responsible for EIA work. The EIAs highlights that the Solar Photovoltaic Facilities situated between Loxton and Beaufort West. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The Mura PV Development falls partially within the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ).

Various activities have been noted to trigger water use(s) in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act. In accordance with water quality related water use activities a Section 21 (g) has been noted in the reports. Additionally, from a water resource management perspective, the associated impacts/risks linked with the establishment of solar photovoltaic facilities includes, erosion, waste pollution, surface water, and groundwater pollution. However, this Office has no objections towards the development of the solar project provided the following will be taken into consideration:

- During the construction phase the contractors must be provided with ablution facilities, such facilities must be provided at a ratio of one (1) facility for every fifteen (15) persons. Subsequently, shall be regularly emptied and their content must be disposed of at an authorised wastewater treatment works. Additionally, ablution facilities shall not be located within highly or moderately sensitive areas;
- A Water Services Authority (WSA) or Water Services Provider (WSP) must be engaged to seek whether there is available capacity in the opted wastewater treatment facility to dispose of extra load of sewage and subsequent treatment;

- It has been identified that dust would be an impact during construction, therefore, dust suppression is likely to be one of the mitigation and management measures. If the project owner intends to use alternative water supply contrary to clean or potable water for such, that must be clearly stated what type or class of water to be used. Additionally, if wastewater re-use becomes an option, a Section 21 (g) would be triggered according to the NWA;
- Precautional measures shall be exercised when undertaking dust suppression on the roads, this is to ensure suspension of sediments or silt is minimised for possible accumulation into stormwater channels, and the latter, receiving environment, (i.e., water courses etc.);
- Clearing of the site for the purpose of construction activity must be confined to such an area, thereafter, a subsequent rehabilitation be ensued to minimise any potential prolonged soils contact with external environments (i.e., runoff, erosion);
- All employees shall receive environmental awareness training prior to the commencement of construction and operational activities. This will inform employees of the environmental risks/impacts associated with the proposed development and will ensure that employees are aware of the environmental legal requirements and obligations, particularly with regards to the conditions and controls linked to the Environmental Authorisation and the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan;
- It is acknowledged and noted, a precautionary approach had been considered in the management of hydrocarbons and oils during the construction phase. The Department is of the opinion that the following proposed mitigation measures to also be effected and professed with the project implementation team:
 - i. All construction materials including fuels and oil should be stored in demarcated areas that are contained within berms/bunds to avoid the spread of any contamination. Washing and cleaning of equipment should also be done in berms or bunds to avoid any prevent spillages or seepages;
 - ii. Specific areas must be designated on-site for the temporary management of various waste streams, i.e., general refuse, construction waste (wood and metal scrap) and liquid waste. Location of such areas must seek to minimise the potential for impact on the surrounding environment, including prevention of contaminated runoff, seepage, or infiltration into groundwater resources;
 - iii. Any spills must receive the necessary clean-up action. If required, bioremediation kits are to be kept on-site and used to remediate any spills that may occur. Appropriate arrangements are to be made for the appropriate collection and disposal of all cleaning materials, absorbents, and contaminated soils (per waste management plan);
 - iv. Routine servicing and maintenance of vehicles are not to take place on-site (except for emergency situations or large cranes which cannot be moved off-site). If repairs of vehicles must take place on-site, an appropriate drip tray must be used to contain any fuel or oils;
 - v. Disposal of waste must be in accordance with relevant legislative requirements, including the use of licensed contractors;
- Corrective action must be undertaken immediately if a complaint is received, or a potential/actual leak or spill of a polluting substance is identified. This includes stopping the

contaminant from further escaping, cleaning up the affected environment as much as practically possible and implementing preventive measures;

- In the event of a major spill or leak of contaminants, the relevant administering authority must be immediately notified as per the notification of emergencies/incidents within 24 hours of such occurrence;
- An emergency response protocol must be developed to ensure that such spillages are immediately attended to and that the contaminated site is properly rehabilitated to prevent any secondary contamination, and that protocol as indicated in Section 19 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) is complied with;
- This Office reserves the right to revise its initial comments and request additional information that may arise from further correspondence.

Please note that any water use (as stipulated under Section 21) without authorisation is a contravention as per Section 151 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

Yours Faithfully



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: WATER USE AUTHORISATION AND LICENSING

Date: 24 July 2023

Govender, Megan

From: Tebego Kgaphola [redacted as per POPIA requirements]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 July 2023 10:11
To: Govender, Megan
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR SITE VISIT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST

Good day Govender.

Your availability is noted and we have decided to conduct the site visit on the 10th August 2023.

Regards,
Tebego

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 July 2023 10:01
To: Tebego Kgaphola [redacted as per POPIA requirements]
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; [redacted as per POPIA requirements]
<MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR SITE VISIT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST

Good Day Tebogo

We do not have availability that week at all. Is there anyway we can do the week before (07 – 11 August) or the week after (21 -25 August 2023)?

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

[redacted as per POPIA requirements]

From: Tebego Kgaphola <tkgaphola1@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Portia Makitla <PMakitla@dffe.gov.za>; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR SITE VISIT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST

Good day Govender.

Unfortunately on those dates we have other work commitments.

We are only available from the 14th to the 18th of August.

Regards,
Tebego Kgaphola

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 26 July 2023 09:32

To: Tebego Kgaphola [redacted as per POPIA requirements]

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; [redacted as per POPIA requirements]
[redacted as per POPIA requirements]

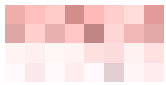
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR SITE VISIT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST

Good Day Tebego

Thank you for your email.

Unfortunately WSP is not available on the dates proposed. Would your Department be available either 21 or 22 August 2023?

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

[redacted as per POPIA requirements]

From: Tebego Kgaphola [redacted as per POPIA requirements]

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 8:57 AM

To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; [redacted as per POPIA requirements]
[redacted as per POPIA requirements]

Subject: REQUEST FOR SITE VISIT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST

Good day Ashlea.

I trust you are well.

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation will like to conduct a site visit for the aforementioned project.

We are available within these dates: 15th and 16th of August. Kindly confirm which date will be suitable for you.

Regards,
Tebego Kgaphola

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 8:38 AM

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: RAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/2323)
- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/2324)
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/2325)


WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the S&EIR processes.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports for Mura 2, Mura 3 and Mura 4 PV Facilities will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **03 July 2023 to 02 August 2023**.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Beaufort West	Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	 Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn’t seem to come through please check your “spam” folder

Please forward all comments to WSP at the details given below:

Name: Megan Govender
 Tel: 011 361 1410
 Fax: 011 361 1381
 E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation is this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
 Senior Consultant
 T +27 011 361 1410



WSP in Africa
 Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
 2191 South Africa

wsp.com

WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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Appendix D.2

MURA 2 SOLAR PV FACILITY COMMENTS



Govender, Megan

From: Salome Mambane <SMAMBANE@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 12:30
To: Strong, Ashlea
Cc: EIAAdmin; Ephron Maradwa; Jay-Jay Mpelane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

Dear Ashlea

14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 400 MW) BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 03 March 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

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@dffe.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

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: 012 399 9385
Cell: 063 684 5431
Email: SMambane@dfef.gov.za



Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

Enquiries: Mr Wayne Hector

Telephone: (012) 399 8529 **E-mail:** Whector@dffe.gov.za

Ms Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Building 1, Golder House
Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
MIDRAND
1685

Cell Number: 011 361 1392
Email Address: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Strong

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 400 MW) BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2023 and received by the Department on 03 March 2023, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:

1. Application form:

- Kindly clarify the reason why this Department is the Competent Authority (CA) in terms of Section 24C of NEMA. State clearly if the applicant intends to bid the project in terms of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the Renewable Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP).
- Please note that the Minister is the competent authority for applications for facilities or infrastructure, that will form part of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Programmes for technologies whose procurement processes have been determined under the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 and / or the Electricity Regulations on New Generation Capacity. If the applicant will not, or does not intend to, participate in any of the IRP programmes, the competent authority will be the MEC responsible for environmental affairs in the respective province. Be advised that this information must be clearly presented in Section 1 –Competent Authority in the application form.
- Reflecting the above, the reasons provided in Section 1 of the application form for this Department being the Competent Authority in terms of S24C of NEMA are incomplete. This must be rectified and expanded on in the application form as well as the report. Please refer to GN 779.
- Ensure that the SG codes, all farm names, and numbers and the EAP's contact details are correct. The farm names and SG codes must be clearly differentiated for the grid infrastructure and the PV facility infrastructure.

- Include the GPS Coordinates for the onsite substation and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility.

2. **Listed Activities**

- It is noted that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones. Although the application form indicates that part of the project is within the Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) as per GN 113, it is noted that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones, as such this application will be considered as a normal EIA application.
- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- You are required to confirm whether systematic biodiversity plans or bioregional plans are adopted by the competent authority. There are certain activities in Listing Notice 3 that requires that Bioregional Plans to be adopted.
- It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the affected Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas are fully assessed in the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.

3. **Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - The proposed location of the PV array and associated infrastructure of the proposed 400MW Mura 2 Solar Photovoltaic Facility
 - The proposed grid infrastructure connecting the PV facility to the existing substation, overlain by the sensitivity map;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed); fence, office buildings, and etc.
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure, as well as the neighbouring PV Solar Clusters.
- Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

4. Public Participation Process

- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za, the provincial authority and the local municipality) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. Take note of the timeframes required for adequate public participation.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments (pre and post submission of the draft SR) 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 which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

5. Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA Phase

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of PV arrays, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- 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.
- You are further required to ensure that all required specialist studies are recommended and assessed for the proposed 400MW Mura 2 Solar Photovoltaic Facility.
- It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on 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. Please note further that the protocols require the specialists' to be registered with SACNASP in their respective field.
- Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.

6. Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA Phase

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

7. Environmental Management Programme

The EMPr must include the following:

- It is drawn to your attention that for the substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme (GEMPr), must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility. This means that a GEMPr must be included for the substation and the powerline. In total, 3 EMPrs should accompany the final report.
- Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

General

Please refrain from creating compounded folders and file names that are too long. This affects the download and saving of documents for review.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a SR which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”.

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of SRs in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).



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



Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Mr Wayne Hector
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 27/03/23

cc:	Lance Blaine	Mura 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email: anthony@atlanticep.com
	Ashley Mitchell	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: buildingcontrol@beaufortwestmun.co.za

Govender, Megan

From: Thea Jordan <Thea.Jordan@westerncape.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 11:59
To: Strong, Ashlea; Govender, Megan; JMpelane@environment.gov.za; EIAAdmin
Cc: Adri La Meyer
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DSR FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 400MW MURA 2 SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR BEAUFORT WEST
Attachments: 2023 April 11 - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 400MW MURA 2 SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR BEAUFORT WEST.pdf

Dear EAP,

Your request for comment refers.

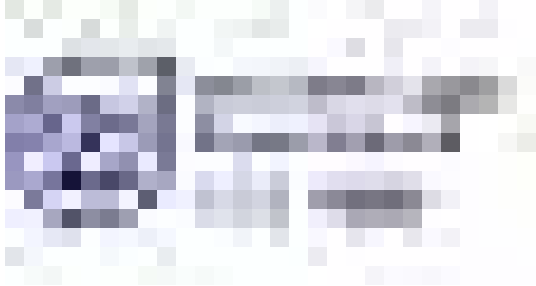
Please find attached this Department's comment in the above regard.

Yours faithfully

Thea Jordan
Pr. Pl. (A/1237/2002)
Director: Development Facilitation
Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Western Cape Government

11th Floor, Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8000

Tel: +27 (0)21 483 4093
Email: Thea.Jordan@westerncape.gov.za
Website: www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp



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Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are still operating on a "work-from-home" basis.
Should you not be able to contact the numbers above, please call +27 (0)21 483 4091
between 07:30-16:00.

From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 14:51
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility: BA Process
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Beaufort West	Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
Tel: 011 361 1410

Fax: 011 361 1381
E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
2191 South Africa

wsp.com

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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References:

18/2/3/2023-2024 (Development Facilitation)

19/2/5/3/C3/2/WL0034/23 (Waste Management)

19/3/2/4/C3/1/DDF0130/22 (Pollution and Chemicals Management)

Attention: Ms Megan Govender

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 98867

Sloane Park

JOHANNESBURG

2151

Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Dear Madam

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 400MW MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRUCTURES (INCLUDING, *INTER ALIA*, A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM AND SUBSTATION, 2 ON-SITE SOLAR FARM SUBSTATIONS, ACCESS ROADS, SITE CAMPS, CABLING, BUILDINGS, ETC.) ON FARM LEEUWKLOOF NO. 43, PORTION 4 OF FARM DUIKER KRANSE NO. 45, AND FARM BULTFONTEIN NO. 13, BEAUFORT WEST

1. The email correspondence of 06 March 2023, informing interested and affected parties of the release of Draft Scoping Report ("DSR") for comments, the email received on the same day, providing an additional link to download the DSR and appendices, and the Department's email of 05 April 2023, informing the environmental assessment practitioner ("EAP") that the Department is unable to meet the deadline of 06 April 2023, refer.
2. The Department extends its appreciation to the EAP for extending the deadline for comments on the DSR. Please find consolidated comments from various directorates within the Department on the DSR and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") dated March 2023 that was available for download from various online platforms provided by the EAP.

3. Directorate: Development Facilitation – Ms Adri La Meyer (Email: Adri.Lameyer@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 2887):
- 3.1. This Directorate requires clarity on the extent of the development footprint and that of the proposed site (indicated as Farm Leeuwkloof No. 43, Portion 4 of Farm Duiker Kranse No. 45, and Farm Bultfontein No. 13). The DSR interchangeably refers to the total project area as 506 ha and 484 ha. On page 26 of the DSR it is indicated that *"The proposed Mura 2 Facility will be developed within a project area of approximately 484 hectares (ha), excluding the access road corridor"*, whereas on page 38 it is indicated that *"The total project area is 506 ha"* and that *"The total development envelope for project installation is approximately 484 ha"*. Assuming that the proposed 400MW solar field will be constructed on 484 ha; the proposed battery energy storage system ("BESS") and BESS substation will be developed on ~ 4 ha; internal gravel access roads will have a development footprint of 17 ha; and up to two 2.2 ha site camps / laydown areas (i.e., 4.4 ha in total) will be developed, then more than 509 ha is required for the proposed Mura 2 solar photovoltaic ("PV") facility and associated structures and infrastructure. The development footprint of the associated buildings (offices, ablution facilities, operational and maintenance centre, etc.) and the two on-site solar substations were not indicated. Please ensure that the Final Scoping Report ("FSR") and the forthcoming Draft EIA Report clearly describe the size of the proposed site, the development footprint, and the individual components of the proposed solar PV development.
- 3.2. Further to the above, section 4.1.1 of the DSR deals with the site selection process. It is noted that the original five potential Mura PV development areas were further reduced to two areas (Areas 2 and 5) that were considered suitable for the Mura 1, 2, 3 and 4 solar PV developments. Area 2 consist of two sites of 176 ha and 484 ha, respectively. The 484-ha area corresponds with the project area for the proposed Mura 2 solar PV facility. It is again reiterated that the 484 ha appears to only be sufficient for the proposed solar field, based on the information provided in the DSR. The FSR and the Draft EIA Report must indicate the size of the development footprint against the size of the proposed site.
- 3.3. It is noted that Activities 12, 14 and 23 of Listing Notice ("LN") 3 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) are applied for. Please be advised that no systematic biodiversity plans or bioregional plans for the Western Cape Province have been adopted by this Department. As such, Activity 12.i.ii, Activity 14(ii)(a) and (c) i.i.(ff) and Activity 23(ii)(a) i.i.(ff) of LN 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) are not applicable to the application for environmental authorisation.
- 3.4. Appendix F and Table 2-1 of the DSR list the specialist studies identified by the Screening Tool, that should be undertaken in the environmental impact reporting ("EIR") phase. The EAP has provided motivation for undertaking or not undertaking the recommended Screening Tool specialist studies, as well as the undertaking of additional specialist studies not identified by the Screening Tool. The Plan of Study for EIA (Section 10.5) lists the specialist studies that have been commissioned for the EIR phase, which are mostly aligned to section 2.2.1 of the DSR. It is however noted that the Plan of Study for EIA does not include the undertaking of a Radio Frequency Interference ("RFI") Assessment. Section 2.2.1 of the DSR notes that *"An RFI Study will not be undertaken... As this theme has been identified as high, a compliance statement will be prepared by the EAP and included in the EIA Report."* Please indicate the following:

- 3.4.1. Whether a RFI Compliance Statement will be undertaken by the EAP in the EIR phase. If so, the Plan of Study for EIA must be amended to include the RFI Compliance Statement.
- 3.4.2. The Plan of Study for EIA must be amended to include an Archaeological Impact Assessment as part of the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- 3.5. Please ensure that the specialist assessments include a cumulative assessment of the same renewable energy projects within a 30km radius of the proposed site. It is noted that the Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement compiled by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions dated November 2022 only refers to the *"three Nuweveld WEFs adjacent to the site have been authorised and there is also the Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 WEFs which have not yet been authorised and lie adjacent and to the north and west of the Nuweveld WEF site"*. Please note that the Hoogland 1 and 2 wind energy facilities ("WEFs") have received environmental authorisations. The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report compiled by Independent Economic Researchers dated January 2023 refers to the *"Assessment of cumulative impacts considered Mura 1, 2, 3 and 4 SEFs; Hoogland 1, 2, 3 and 4 WEFs; Nuweveld North, East and West WEFs, Taaibos WEFs, Soutrivier WEFs, as well as the Mura, Hoogland, Nuweveld and Gamma Grid Corridors."* Other scoping phase specialist assessments also include reference to the Taaibos and Soutrivier WEFs. If within a 30km radius of the proposed site, these WEFs must be included in all the specialist assessments and referenced in the FSR and Draft EIA Report.
- 3.6. Please include reference to the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations promulgated in Provincial Notice 200/2013 of 20 June 2013 in the section dealing with provincial and municipal legal and regulatory framework in the Draft EIA Report.
4. Directorate: Waste Management – Mr Waleed Galvaan (Email: Waleed.Galvaan@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 8788):
- 4.1. This Directorate notes that the proposed project will not require a waste management licence, as stated on page 56 of the DSR, and that the quantity of construction and municipal waste generated by the project is not likely to contribute materially towards the greenhouse gas footprint of the project during the operational phase, as stated on page 20.
- 4.2. The forthcoming Draft EIA Report must address the management of battery waste during the operational phase. Kindly be mindful that the management of waste must under all circumstances, be done in accordance with section 16 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) ("NEM: WA") (general duty in respect of waste management). Section 16(1)(d) of the NEM: WA requires that *"A holder of waste must, within the holder's power, take all reasonable measures to manage waste in such a manner that it does not endanger health or the environment or cause a nuisance through noise, odour or visual impacts"*.
- 4.3. The DSR indicates that the project will affect about 484 ha, excluding the access road areas. This is a substantial size of area that will be covered by solar PV panels. In a rainfall event, the panels will reduce the impact of the rainwater on the ground, causing less infiltration into the ground and more stormwater runoff in the area. This may also lead to more stormwater ponding in the area. However, there may be site specific conditions that will cause the speed of the stormwater to slow down and

be absorbed by the ground and vegetation in the area. This impact must be considered and reported in the Draft EIA Report due to the large area that will be impacted on by the proposed development.

5. Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management – Ms Shehaam Brinkhuis (Email: Shehaam.Brinkhuis@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 8309):

5.1. This Directorate has no comments on the DSR and Plan of Study for EIA and awaits the Draft EIA Report (and accompanying Environmental Management Programme) to provide comment on potential pollution impacts and mitigation measures.

The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any or new information received.

Yours sincerely

Thea Jordan Digitally signed by Thea Jordan
Date: 2023.04.11 11:58:39 +02'00'

pp **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Letter signed by:

Thea Jordan

Director: Development Facilitation

Date: 11 April 2023

CC: Mr Jay-Jay Mpelane (DFFE)

Email: JMpelane@environment.gov.za

Comments on Mura 2 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (Draft Scoping Report)

Name of IA&P:	Anthony Jefferson		
Matter: (Title of Legislation)	NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and Listing Notices of 2017		
Contact details:			
Email:	Redacted as per POPIA requirements		
Telephone:			
Submitted To:	Megan.Govender@wsp.com (WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd.)		

COMMENTS:

Comment	Suggestion
<p>Project Infrastructure:</p> <p>The DSR omitted to include at least one comprehensive site layout plan illustrating all proposed onsite and off-site infrastructures.</p>	<p>It is suggested an updated SR or the EIR to include such a layout plan at an appropriate scale.</p>
<p>Project Infrastructure:</p> <p>Section 3.4.1, indicates that solar Modules will be located on either single axis tracking structures or fixed tilt mounting structures or similar.</p>	<p>It is suggested that an updated SR or the EIR indicate the exact mounting structure technology that will be used to mount the solar PV modules. This is to ensure transparency from the outset to prevent possible 11th hour substandard technology for the Central Karoo.</p>
<p>Project Infrastructure:</p> <p>Section 3.4.3, states that "The BESS will be Lithium-ion or similar solid-state technology."</p>	<p>It is suggested that an updated SR alternatively the EIR indicate the exact BESS technology. This is to ensure transparency of potential health & safety risk and to prevent 11th hour substandard technology be dumped upon the Central Karoo.</p>
<p>PV & MOUNTING SYSTEM:</p> <p>Considering the CKDM is the poorest region in the Western Cape Province and its communities are the most vulnerable in</p>	

<p>the province; but its electricity rates are higher than many if not all areas within the Cape Metro. Further, section 3.2.1, states that this Mura 2 Solar PV Facility is a large-scale system supplying power into the commercial electricity grid and not to local users. Hence, how will this proposed project impact the CKDM communities passively in a direct manner with significant reduced electricity prices? If, any direct positive impact of reduced power prices at community level, what will the expected timeline be from the time of operation?</p> <p>Section 3.2.1, only made reference to sunlight as a source whilst excluding geothermal as a potential source. Hence the two considered mounting systems is limited to single axis tracking and fixed axis mounting structures.</p>	<p>Suggestion...the municipality be subsidised by Eskom to allow it to reduce its electricity prices to communities whilst still being able to make a marginal income profit.</p> <p>It is suggested that the economic viability of geothermal heat/ power be investigated. If, it is viable, then an additional mounting technology be considered such as bifacial axis mounting structures be considered. It is assumed that the last mentioned structure would be cost effective oppose to the current two considered mounting structures.</p>
<p>Section 3.3, omitted to consider potential geothermal heat radiation that can be a viable energy source during non-sunshine days/evening periods.</p>	<p>It is suggested the following sentences be changed as follows, " Since solar and wind technology depend largely on whether the sun is shining or the wind is blowing, respectively, these technologies are more efficient when these sources are available."</p>
<p>Section 3.3.2, only indicates that, "The battery facilities...will not have any</p>	<p>It is suggested that the EMPr indicates</p>

<p>additional office/operation/maintenance infrastructure as those of the substation.</p>	<p>specific scheduled mechanical safety maintenance operations that should be conducted in terms of all applicable SA Health & Safety requirements i.e. the OSHAct and Mechanical and Ventilation Regulations; and other applicable regulatory tools as cited under section 3.3.3, of the DSR.</p>
<p>Location Map: Section 3.1, page 26-32 read together with section 4.1, read together with Appendix E (Maps). These sections basically addressed only the GPS co-ordinates; alternative sites particulars are scattered around in figures with no scales at times; and no credible topographical map but more of a kind of thematic map has been provided.</p>	<p>It is suggested that the following being addressed in an updated scoping report or the EIA report:</p> <p>Provide a colour location map at a larger scale of at least 1:50 000. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • a legend to represent physical/natural landscapes, water features, vegetation features, constructed/cultural/man-made landscape, and transport and administration features on the map. Towns cited under section 6.3.5 should be depicted on the map.; • the prevailing wind direction (during November to April and during May to October); • Date map was printed; and • the already provided GPS Hartbeesthoek 94/WG584 co-ordinate system information.
<p>Site Plan:</p>	

Section 3.1, read together with section 4.1, read together with Appendix E (Maps) should provide an amended Site Plan for the preferred Mura Solar 2 project as well as each alternatives considered. These site plans should conform to the following:

Detailed site plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity and provided in an updated SR or EIAR/EIR. The site plan must contain or conform to the following:

- The detailed site plan must be at a scale preferably at a scale of 1:500 or at an appropriate scale. The scale must be indicated on the plan.
- The property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50m of the site must be indicated on the site plan.
- The current land use (not zoning) as well as the land use zoning of each of the adjoining properties must be indicated on the site plan.
- The position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site must be indicated on the site plan.
- Services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and access roads that will form part of the development must be indicated on the site plan. Servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude must be indicated on the site plan. Sensitive environmental elements within 100m of the site must be included on the site plan, including (but not limited to):
 - Watercourses/Rivers/Wetlands (including non-perennial features).
 - Flood lines (*i.e.* 1:10 year, 1:50 year, and 1:100 year where applicable;
 - Ridges.
 - Cultural and historical features.
 - Areas with indigenous vegetation (even

	<p>if it is degraded or infested with alien species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, then a contour map of the site must be submitted.
Schematic Process/Project Drawing	<p>It is suggested a holistic schematic process drawing (project layout) of the entire solar Mura 2 project be provided. This drawing should include all the different stages with its main technology/infrastructure in a input-process-output manner.</p>
<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Section 2.4 read together with section 2.7, states that descriptions of environmental attributes were by means of combination of desktop reviews i.e. aerial imagery and site investigations done between March and October 2022, to identify sensitive features on site. It further states that "...the latest available aerial imagery for the site."</p>	<p>However a number of important information has been leftout and need to be provided in an updated SR or during the EIA phase document as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colour photographs of the site and its surroundings (taken of the site and from the site) with a description of each photograph. The vantage points from which the photographs were taken must be indicated on the site plan; 2. Recent aerial photograph or at least dates of those aerial photographs (attach as an Appendix). The Appendix should be supplemented with additional dated onsite-photographs taken of relevant features during your stated field trips as cited under section 7.2 of the DSR. Kindly note, the aforementioned requirements must be duplicated for all alternative sites.
	<p>It is suggested a larger A3 size map as an Appendix be provided under section 6.1.3 (geology).</p>

<p>Land use character of surrounding area</p> <p>Section 6.3.5.1 read together with section 6.3.4.3 failed to adequately describe the current land uses on the proposed project site and its immediate surrounding areas. The aforementioned sections also failed to adequately describe the prominent features that occur in the immediate surrounds from the proposed project area.</p>	<p>Hence it is suggested either an updated scoping report or the EIA provides a proper description of the current land uses and/or prominent features that occur within +/- 500m radius of the proposed project area and neighbouring properties if these are located beyond 500m of the site from all directions. Further, a description of any potential impacts the proposed project may pose on the highlighted land uses or features.</p>
<p>Socio-Economic:</p>	<p>It is suggested that the Mitigation and Management Measures under section 6.3.5 relating to regional employment and contracts be included in an updated scoping report or be addressed within the EIA as follows: specifications/requirements/targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% unskilled workers must be local; • 90% semi-skilled workers from local; and • 70% skilled workers must be from local/indigent. • That the concept "local/indigent" shall mean having been born in the CKDM and having lived in the CKDM area for at least more than 10 years and having attended at least either and/or a primary or high school in the CKDM area irrespective whether the candidate is currently residing in the CKDM area or not. If not born in the CKDM area than at least one parent born in the region

	<p>but both parents must have lived in the area for more than 20 years;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a CKDM professionals body shall be consulted for particulars of local/indigent professionals to be considered for skilled jobs and/or be willing to undergo rapid skills upgrading to occupy skilled jobs; • That CKDM Professionals Body shall have representation in all committees/forums established under this proposed project; • That local sub-contractors who did not gain from tenders in the past locally will receive preferential treatment in terms of the equity principle and a skills transfer programme be adopted by the main contractors; • That sub-contractors who previously gained tenders locally equally compete with external contractors to be main contractors; • That the income/wealth status of sub-contractors and skilled workers for all Black contenders / candidates will also be included in the specifications in addition to the standard "black" requirement under the BBBEE and EEA redress umbrella to ensure wealth does not circulate consistently amongst a few individuals.
<p>Section 3.6 " NEED AND DESIRABILITY" have very little to zero direct and possibly indirect relevance to the Central Karoo District Municipal Area. Yes it is a common fact that the district is in dire need of urgent economic development.</p>	

<p>Section 3.6, states that South Africa is the seventh highest coal producer in the world, with approximately 77% of the country's electricity generated from coal.</p> <p>Section 3.6, states also that the SA's large dependence on coal and its use also resulted in a variety of negative impacts on the environment, including the contribution to climate change. SA is also the highest emitter of GHGs in Africa; attributed to the country's energy-intensive economy that largely relies on coal-based electricity generation.</p>	<p>It is suggested a comparable spreadsheet of the aforementioned seven countries and energy mix usages be provided.</p> <p>It is suggested a western cape regional spreadsheet show casing coal dependence amongst WC district and metro municipalities. Also to include comparative WC district municipalities and metro municipality drivers and associated environmental impacts (GHG emissions, Climate Change, Health Impacts, etc.) as a result of direct/indirect coal usages. Also to include comparative data to showcase the status of energy-intensive economies that relies on coal-based electricity generation amongst the WC district municipalities and metro municipality.</p>
<p>Section 3.6 NEED AND DESIRABILITY also omits to include a dedicated subsection of WESTERN CAPE PERSPECTIVE and REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which would have outlined the energy mix in response to the growing electricity demand and the promotion of clean sources of energy within the CKDM in comparison to the province; • it would have outlined the reduction and elimination of poverty in the CKDM is more dire oppose to other regions within the province; • it would also have outlined that power shortages are most probably 	<p>Hence it is strongly suggested that mention be made about the poorest socio-economic status of the region in comparison to the rest of the province. Further it is strongly suggested that factual comparative analysed data and an objective interpretation of electricity prices communities and businesses are subjected to amongst the districts and one metro municipality in the western cape be provided.</p> <p>Further it is strongly suggested the case study of the Frankfort Municipality and Surrounding Towns Pilot/Case Study that uses four (4) Solar Energy Farms operated</p>

<p>the worse in the CKDM oppose to other regions in the province, esp the metro;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it would have outlined the socio-economic benefits available to the local communities and businesses in the CKDM area from this proposed project; and • that the project will And this premise will promote the reaching one of the National Development Plan's aims which is to reduce and eliminate poverty in South Africa by 2030 (see section 3.6.2, page 40 of the dBAR). 	<p>by Rural Maintenance (a private IPPP) that benefits specifically the local communities and businesses be used and cited.</p> <p>This is to empower people of the Central Karoo to negotiate with all IPPP'S and Eskom in the region for electricity price reductions of up to 30% (considering the region might have more than four solar and wind energy farms) and many more other benefits. Benefits to the local communities and businesses of Frankford gains from that pilot study are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity demand from the Eskom grid are reduced whilst the local communities and business still have access to electricity; • The local community and businesses saves a reduced electricity cost of 15% pricing to what they would have paid to Eskom. • Water and Sanitation Facilities operates 24/7 due to electricity flow, even though it is loadshedding; • Cable theft reduced because the local grid remained alive; • Small Power Users like residence and business are exposed to power outages in smaller durations as per their requests; • The Large Power Users are exposed to power outages of a longer duration as per their request; • Low voltages has been reduced resulting in local communities using their equipment more optimally; and • In the event of loadshedding,
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	<p>locals receives more reliable weekly schedules of specific reduced periods of loadshedding.</p>
<p>Alternatives (Location):</p> <p>Section 4.1.1 only referenced that areas were assessed from a technical perspective by considering slope, aspect, undulation, and access, and more detailed environmental perspective. Resulting in the consideration of high level solar design. No consideration was given to geothermal heat reflection capacity from the landscape such as geological structures and soil characteristics. This could have resulted in the consideration of alternative technologies such as the addition of bi-facial panels and the reconsideration of methods of elevating those bi-facial panels. Hence it is suggested the Amended dBAR or FBAR include descriptions, maps and geothermal heat radiation capacities during non-sunshining days/periods.</p>	<p>It is suggested the scoping report be updated or the EIA address all current land uses in the proposed project region, including depicting within the topographical map and a separate thematic map layers of potential future economic development resources such as geological minerals and gas.</p>
<p>Alternatives (Technology):</p>	<p>It is suggested section 4.2.1 provide a detailed consideration of bi-facial solar panels in relation to both sun radiation/heat and geothermal heat.</p>
<p>Alternatives (Operational):</p> <p>Section 4, made no provision for the consideration of Operational Aspect Alternatives.</p> <p>A detailed objective review and assessment of the suggested factors for consideration will equip the people of the</p>	<p>Hence it is strongly suggested that the updated scoping report or the EIA provide a detailed consideration of this aspect by considering the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments made in this Letter of Comments under the section that

<p>Central Karoo as to whether their genuine socio-economic upliftment is equally a priority as the rest of the province, but not limited to it.</p>	<p>dealt with the Frankfort Solar Energy Pilot Study;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operational and technology aspects used in the aforementioned pilot study;• Electricity costs savings Frankfort Pilot Study local community, businesses and agriculture gained as a result of not having used the Eskom grid; and incorporate objective information of other current and/or proposed/intent renewable energy projects the western cape government recently announced to take all provincial municipalities off the Eskom national grid.
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emailed

Signature

Govender, Megan

From: Stephanie Barnardt
Sent: Friday, 14 April 2023 09:54
To: Ayanda Mdludlu; Govender, Megan
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Good day Ms Govender

That is correct, the consultation for the HIA only ended 6 April and the matter was heard at the following HOMs meeting on the 11 April.

The committee endorsed and the final comment has been uploaded for signature, the final comment should be out today or Monday morning.

Apologies for the delay.

However in the meantime, please see the extract from the minutes:

Proposed Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape, S38(8)-HIA Case No.: 22101903AM1019E

Final comment:

The Committee resolved to endorse the HIA prepared by ASHA Consulting dated 15 December 2022 as meeting the requirements of Section 38 (3) of the NHRA and the following recommendations on page 42;

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- Known sites should be avoided by the final layout;
- A pre-construction archaeological survey must be undertaken during the EMPr approval stage;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Proposed Mura 1-4 Pv Facilities, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape, S38(8)-HIA

Case No.: 22101902AM1019E

Final comment:

The Committee resolved to endorse the HIA prepared by ASHA Consulting dated 15 December 2022 as meeting the requirements of Section 38 (3) of the NHRA and the following recommendations on page 60;

Mura 1 (Western Cape):

It is recommended that the proposed Mura 1 PV facility should be authorised but subject to the following recommendations which should be included as conditions of authorisation:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Mura 2 (Western Cape):

It is recommended that the proposed Mura 2 PV facility should be authorised but subject to the following recommendations which should be included as conditions of authorisation:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
 - No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd | Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 61
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Mura 4 (Western Cape):

It is recommended that the proposed Mura 4 PV facility should be authorised but subject to the following recommendations which should be included as conditions of authorisation:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure (as supplied in the palaeontological specialist study) must be included in the project EMPr;
- The site at waypoint 1399 should be avoided if possible but this is not required (if avoided and protected then the buffer can be reduced to 25 m); and
- Any realignment of the DR02317 within 400 m of waypoint 2000 must be checked in the field and approved by an archaeologist;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological site; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Warm regards,

Kindly note: Due to volume of queries I receive I may not be able to respond to you immediately, if you have not received a reply from within ten working days, please resend your query

Any urgent Heritage Western Cape matters, please contact one of the officials:

[HWC staff contact details](#)

Stephanie-Anne Barnardt-Delport
Acting Collection Management Officer, Museological Service
Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport
Western Cape Government

3rd Floor, 48 Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

website: www.westerncape.gov.za



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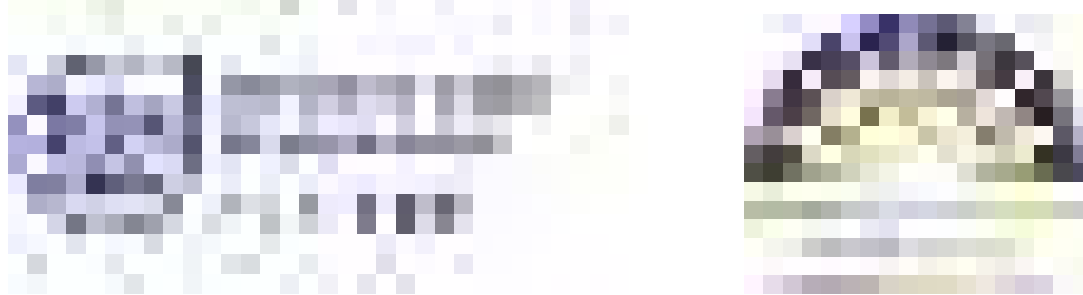
From: Ayanda Mdludlu <Ayanda.Mdludlu@westerncape.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Stephanie Barnardt <Stephanie.Barnardt@westerncape.gov.za>
Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good day Ms Govender,

The below mentioned cases were HIAs that were discussed in HOMs of 11 April. Ms Stephanie Barnardt who is cc'd here presented them. I believe they were endorsed, however, I will give her space to confirm.

Kind regards,
Ayanda Mdludlu
Heritage Officer

Heritage Resource Management Services
Protea Assurance Building Greenmarket Square, Cape Town (currently working remotely)
Website: www.hwc.org.za / www.westerncape.gov.za



From: Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Ayanda Mdludlu <Ayanda.Mdludlu@westerncape.gov.za>

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day

I am following up on my email below. Please may you confirm if Heritage Western Cape will be sending through comments? The review period ended on Thursday 06 April 2023 but we can make an exception for Heritage Western Cape and can include comments sent before COB on 12 April 2023.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Govender, Megan
Sent: Thursday, 06 April 2023 13:32

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

Subject: RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Good Day

Please note the public review period for the Proposed Mura PV Development ends today. Please may you confirm if Heritage Western Cape will be sending through comments?

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements

From: Govender, Megan

Sent: Monday, 06 March 2023 14:51

Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Subject: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority,

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

Red Cap Energy is proposing to develop four solar facilities, namely Mura 1, Mura 2, Mura 3, and Mura 4, and an associated grid connection, collectively known as the Mura PV Development between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces. The proposed Mura PV Development is located in close proximity to the approved Nuweveld Wind Farm Development. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes:

- Mura 1 Solar PV Facility: BA Process
- Mura 2 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 3 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura 4 Solar PV Facility: S&EIR Process
- Mura EGI Corridor: BA Process

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd, to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Basic Assessment and Scoping Reports will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.

Area	Venue	Street Address
Beaufort West	Beaufort West Public Library	Corner of Bird Street and Church Street
	Klein Karoo Agri	80 Donkin Street
Loxton	Loxton Library	Margaretha Prinsloo Street, Loxton
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents	
Datafree Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Mura Solar PV Development For Public Review
One Drive Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

A presentation on the summary of the proposed development has been collated. The presentation has been made available on the WSP website, Datafree website and One Drive Link.

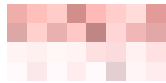
PowerPoint Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To view and listen to the project summary presentation, please open the PowerPoint Presentation and click on the speaker icon on the left on each slide to listen to the accompanying commentary
-------------------------------	--

WSP contact details are:

Name: Megan Govender
Tel: 011 361 1410
Fax: 011 361 1381
E-mail: Megan.Govender@wsp.com
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind Regards,



Megan Govender
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Redacted as per POPIA requirements



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Golder House, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
2191 South Africa

wsp.com

WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

Enquiries: Mr Wayne Hector

Telephone: (012) 310 9410, **E-mail:** Whector@dffe.gov.za

Ms Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Building 1, Golder House
Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
MIDRAND
1685

Cell Number: 011 361 1392
Email Address: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Strong

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 400 MW) BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated April 2023 and received by the Department on 18 April 2023, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the PoSEIA dated April 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The FSR 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.

Please ensure that the following information forms part of the next report:

1. Listed Activities

- a) The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- b) Please continue to ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project



description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.

- c) The listed activities represented in the EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct.
- d) The EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.

2. **Public Participation**

- a) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
- b) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are addressed in the final EIAR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- c) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. 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 Annexure 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.
- d) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- e) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- f) The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final EIAR.

3. **Alternatives**

The EAP is required to provide clear assessment for each identified alternative and further provide clear motivation and reasons as to why the **preferred** alternative **proves** to be the preferred compared to other alternatives.

These alternatives includes:

- Location / Site Alternatives.
- Technology Alternatives.
- Design and Layout Alternatives.
- BESS technology alternatives.
- No-go alternative.

4. **The layout map must indicate the following:**

All supporting onsite infrastructure such as follows:

- All supporting onsite infrastructure that will support the proposed 400MW photovoltaic solar facility e.g., roads (existing and proposed, fencing, BESS area, etc.).
- Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
- All existing infrastructure on the site, including neighbouring villages (if any), etc.
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.

5. **Specialist assessments**

Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of Substation, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.

- a) The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- b) 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. Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
- c) 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.
- d) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on 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.
- e) **The screening tool output:**
 - The screening tool and the gazetted protocols (GN R320 of 20 March 2020 and GN R 1150 of 30 October 2020) require a site sensitivity verification to be completed to either confirm or dispute the findings and sensitivity ratings of the screening tool.
 - It is the **responsibility** of the **EAP** to confirm the list of specialist assessments and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist studies including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation. The site sensitivity verification for each of the recommended studies, as per the protocols, must be compiled and attached.
- f) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
- g) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary should be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study.

General

Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies must be indicated.

Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

A construction and operational phase EMP that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR.

The **comments** issued by this Department on **27/03/2023**, during the draft scoping report are still valid and must be all addressed throughout the EIA process.

Should you use coordinates, please ensure that it is in the format as prescribed in the 2014 EIA NEMA Regulations, as amended.

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



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Signed by: Mr Wayne Hector
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 12/05/2023

cc:	Lance Blaine	Mura 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email: anthony@atlanticep.com
	Gavin Benjamin	DEA&DP	Email: gavin.benjamin@westerncape.gov.za
	Ashley Mitchell	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: buildingcontrol@beaufortwestmun.co.za

Annexure 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

QUESTION

QUESTION

QUESTION

QUESTION

Govender, Megan

From: Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 July 2023 14:05
To: Govender, Megan
Cc: Jay-Jay Mpelane; Salome Mambane; EIAAdmin
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

Dear Megan.

14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 400 MW) BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the abovementioned project on 30 June 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that *“Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in subregulation (1) prior to submission of an application but must be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.”*

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7) of these Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

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.



Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323

Enquiries: Mr Jay-Jay Mpelane

Telephone: (012) 399 9404, **E-mail:** JMpelane@dffe.gov.za

Ms Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Building 1, Golder House
Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
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MIDRAND
1685

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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Strong.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 400MW) BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Application form for Environmental Authorisation and draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 30 June 2023, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

1. Application Form

- a) You are required to confirm whether the competent authority adopts systematic biodiversity plans or bioregional plans? You applied for certain activities in Listing Notice 3 that requires that Bioregional Plans be adopted.
- b) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous activities listed in Listing Notice 3, particularly for activities impacting on areas in the Province's Conservation Plans. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department.
- c) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>
- d) The final EIAR must also provide the technical details for the proposed facility in table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- e) The final EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.



- f) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- g) The listed activities represented in the EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct.
- h) The EAP is required to provide clear assessment for each identified alternative and further provide clear motivation and reasons as to why the preferred alternative proves to be the preferred compared to other alternatives.
- i) Ensure that the SG codes, farm names and numbers are correct and consisted throughout the reports.

2. **Public Participation Process**

- a) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the relevant Provincial Departments, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- b) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. 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. All comments from I&APs must be responded to adequately. A response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.
- c) Comments from each submission must be responded to individually. The dates in which comments were received must be recorded in the C&R. Your responses to the issues raised by the Department must be included in the comments and response (C&R) report, in table format.
- d) The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA). The final EIAR must address all comments received on the SR and the draft EIAR, including this letter.
- e) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

3. **Cumulative Assessment**

Should there be any other similar projects within a 20km to 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed or not.

4. **The layout map must indicate the following:**

- a) The envisioned area for the Development of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (**Mura 2**). (i.e.), location and all associated infrastructure including BESS, should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
- b) Solar Farm Substations area (e.g., two on-site solar substations adjacent to Eskom switching stations that will connect to the approved Nuweveld Collector Substation.

- c) Building Infrastructure (e.g., Offices; Operational and maintenance (O&M)/ control centre; Warehouse/workshop; Ablution facilities; and Converter/inverter stations).
- d) Other Infrastructure located within the solar area footprint (e.g., Internal underground cables, Internal gravel roads; Fencing around the PV Facility; Panel maintenance and cleaning area, Storm water management system; Site camps, and temporary construction laydown area).
- e) BESS and BESS substation (e.g., substation yard).
- f) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure, as indicated above.
- g) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map, if possible, which indicates the following:
 - 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;
 - Buffer areas; and All “no-go” areas.

5. **Specialist assessments**

- a) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).
- b) 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.
- c) Please ensure that, all required specialist studies for the project are recommended and conducted. Finding and recommendations of the specialist studies must incorporate with final report and the EMPr for decision making. As initial recommended in the scoping acceptance.
- d) 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.
- e) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on 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.
- f) Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative.

6. **Environmental Management Programme**

The EMPr must also include the following:

- All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
- An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.
- An alien/invasive plant management report; plant rescue and protection report; and re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation report.
- In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

General

The EIAR 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. Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system as specified in the 2014 NEMA Regulations, as amended .

Please note that, all correspondences issued by this Department for this project are still valid and must be adhered to.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *“The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.”

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *“The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in sub-regulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.*

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

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 & the Environment

Signed by: Mr Wayne Hector

Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Date: 14/07/2023

cc:	Lance Blaine	Mura 2 (Pty) Ltd
	Gavin Benjamin	DEA&DP
	Ashley Mitchell	Beaufort West Local Municipality

redacted as per POPIA requirements



References:

18/2/3/2023-2024 (Development Facilitation)

19/2/5/3/C3/2/WL0034/23 (Waste Management)

19/3/2/4/C3/1/DDF0130/22 (Pollution and Chemicals Management)

Attention: Ms Megan Govender

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 98867

Sloane Park

JOHANNESBURG

2151

Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Dear Madam

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 400MW MURA 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRUCTURES ON FARM LEEUWKLOOF NO. 43, PORTION 4 OF FARM DUIKER KRANSE NO. 45, AND FARM BULTFONTEIN NO. 13, BEAUFORT WEST (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2323)

1. The Draft Scoping Report ("DSR") dated March 2023, the Department's comments thereto dated 11 April 2023, and the email notification of 03 July 2023 regarding the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Report for comments, refer.
2. Thank you for your willingness to extend the deadline for comments on the Draft EIA Report. Please find consolidated comments from various directorates within the Department on the Draft EIA Report dated July 2023 that was available for download from various online platforms.
3. Directorate: Development Facilitation – Ms Adri La Meyer (Email: Adri.Lameyer@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 2887):
 - 3.1. This Directorate is satisfied that its comments on the DSR have been adequately addressed and responded to in the Comments and Responses Report and the Draft EIA Report.

- 3.2. The Animal Species Compliance Statement compiled by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions dated November 2022 noted that the proposed development site has a low sensitivity for both the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise and the Riverine Rabbit based on habitat mapping, active searching, and camera trapping across the site. This Directorate supports the recommendation of the faunal specialist, which has been incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr"), that the developer will contribute towards Riverine Rabbit conservation initiatives occurring in the area.
- 3.3. This Directorate has no further comments on the Draft EIA Report.
4. Directorate: Waste Management – Mr Gary Arendse (Email: Gary.Arendse@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 6307):
- 4.1. The proposed development could potentially generate both general and hazardous waste. Please note that these waste streams must be handled and stored separately. Should these waste streams mix, the entire volume of waste will be classified as hazardous and would have to be dealt with accordingly.
5. Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management – Ms Shehaam Brinkhuis (Email: Shehaam.Brinkhuis@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 8309):
- 5.1. In line with the recommendations of the Aquatic Biodiversity and Species Specialist Assessment compiled by BlueScience (Pty) Ltd dated April 2023 (Appendix H4), surface installations such as solar photovoltaic arrays, substations, battery storage facilities and construction camps, must be located outside of the designated buffer areas, most notably, the sensitive watercourses and their buffers.
- 5.2. It is supported, that as far as possible, construction near sensitive aquatic features be undertaken during the dry season, with the installation of sediment traps downstream.
- 5.3. The utilisation of cleaning chemicals on solar panels poses a risk of contamination and pollution to water resources. Care should be taken to implement mitigation measures to reduce this. It is recommended that all cleaning products used within the site should be environmentally friendly and biodegradable, as per section 9.13 of the Draft EIA Report. It is noted that a panel cleaning and maintenance area is proposed. Drainage in this area must be carefully planned, and contaminated water captured for appropriate disposal to a registered waste facility, and not discharged into the environment, stormwater channels or any water resources nearby. It is preferable that the cleaning and maintenance area is hard surfaced with appropriate collection channels and a drainage system installed.
- 5.4. The following recommendations are provided with respect to the proposed battery energy storage system to prevent and manage potential contamination of water resources, including groundwater, emanating from the site during the construction and operational phases:
- 5.4.1. Compilation and adherence to a procedure for the safe handling of battery cells.
- 5.4.2. Lithium-ion batteries must have battery management systems (containment, automatic alarms and shut-off systems) to monitor and protect cells from overcharging or damaging conditions.

- 5.4.3. Compilation of an emergency response plan for implementation in the event of a spill or leakage.
 - 5.4.4. Provision of spill kits on-site for clean-up of spills and leaks.
 - 5.4.5. Immediate clean-up of spills and disposal of contaminated absorbents and materials or soil at a licensed hazardous waste disposal facility.
 - 5.4.6. Recording and reporting of all electrolyte spills or leaks so that appropriate clean-up measures can be implemented. A copy of these records must be made available to authorities on request throughout the project lifecycle.
 - 5.4.7. Frequent and appropriate disposal of both general and hazardous waste to prevent pollution of soil and groundwater.
 - 5.4.8. On-site battery maintenance should only be undertaken on impermeable surfaces with secondary containment measures. Any resulting hazardous substances must be disposed of appropriately at a registered facility with retention of chain of custody documentation.
 - 5.4.9. Provision of suitable emergency and safety signage on-site, and demarcation of any areas which may pose a safety risk (including hazardous substances). Emergency numbers for the local police, fire department, Eskom and Beaufort West Municipality must be placed in a prominent, clearly visible area on-site.
- 5.5. Reference is made to the storage of diesel in aboveground tanks within concrete bunds. Additional information is required on this aspect, including but not limited to, the following: What is the approximate total volume of fuel to be stored on site? How many aboveground tanks are proposed? Where is their location within the site? Please include the specifications of the bund(s). What mitigation measures are proposed to prevent and manage impacts related to fuel losses?
- 5.6. Generalised descriptions have been provided of "other infrastructure" and service infrastructure for the proposals. With specific reference to the offices, site camps, workshop, warehouse and control centre, how will effluent, liquid waste and sewage be handled and disposed of? A description has been included of Beaufort West Municipality's current services; however, it is not clear how the service infrastructure required on-site links to municipal services. Please clarify and provide confirmation thereof. Should conservancy tanks be proposed, please specify and include confirmation of sludge disposal method and frequency. In the event an on-site package plant/wastewater treatment works is proposed, please clarify the preferred technology and treated effluent disposal method. Please note that this Directorate does not support the installation of septic tanks.
- 5.7. It is requested that the EMPr be amended to include reference to section 30 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") pertaining to the control of incidents. Please note that the statement included under section 8.1 of the EMPr, relating to an Emergency Response Plan, is insufficient. In the event of a significant spill or leak of hazardous substances (e.g., petrol, diesel, etc.) used during the proposed activities, such an incident(s) must be reported to the relevant authorities, including this Department's Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management, in accordance with section 30 of the NEMA, 1998.
- 5.8. The Geohydrological Assessment compiled by GEOSS dated 31 January 2023 (Appendix H13) details recommendations for the proposed development, which are supported. However, these recommendations include specifications around water supply. Similarly, the Aquatic Biodiversity and

Species Specialist Assessment also includes recommendations with respect to a “viable water supply” for the site and use of water within the existing water allocation of the property, unless application has been made for new boreholes. It is noted that the aspect of water supply has not been specifically addressed in the Draft EIA Report. Please clarify water supply for the proposals, in addition to the approximate volume required. It is requested that the necessary approvals from the relevant authority(ies) (depending on whether groundwater or municipal supply) is provided with the Final EIA Report to demonstrate the required approval for abstraction or supply is in place, or that application is underway.

- 5.9. The Geohydrological Assessment also includes the following recommendation, which is strongly supported and should be implemented in accordance with the specialist's specifications: *“Monitoring of groundwater (abstraction volumes, quality and water levels) will be required, this should ideally be implemented one year prior to the start of construction if the project timeframes permit.”*
- 5.10. Further to the above, it is noted that according to the Draft EIA Report, *“the DWS will make the final decision on water uses that are applicable to the project through a pre-application meeting after which a Water Use Authorisation Application (WUA) as determined by the risk assessment will be undertaken in compliance with procedural regulations published by the DWS within General Notice 267 (GN267).”* Given that the application is in the environmental impact reporting phase, has a decision been made and advice obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation on the applicability of section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)?
6. The applicant is reminded of its *“general duty of care towards the environment”* as prescribed in section 28 of the NEMA, 1998 which states that *“Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”*

The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any or new information received.

Yours sincerely

pp **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Letter signed by:

Thea Jordan

Director: Development Facilitation

Date: 4 August 2023