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**SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT:  
THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF NYALA  
SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY 3 & ASSOCIATED  
INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED WITHIN THE  
THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND  
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN  
THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**Report Date: 05 September 2023**

**Praxos 373 Reference: 220707A**

**Authority Reference: TBC**

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**REVISION HISTORY AND APPROVAL**

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## APPENDIX

Appendix A: RFI Letter From SARAO

## ACRONYMS

<b>BESS</b>	Battery Energy Storage System
<b>BGL</b>	Below Ground Level
<b>CMA</b>	Catchment Management Agency
<b>DFFE</b>	Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Authorisation
<b>EAP</b>	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
<b>EC</b>	Electrical Conductivity
<b>EGI</b>	Electricity Grid Infrastructure
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EIR</b>	Environmental Impact Report
<b>GN</b>	Government Notice
<b>ha</b>	Hectares
<b>I&amp;AP</b>	Interested and Affected Parties
<b>MW</b>	Megawatts
<b>PDA</b>	Primary Drainage Area
<b>PV</b>	Photovoltaic
<b>QDA</b>	Quaternary Drainage Area
<b>REDZ</b>	Renewable Energy Development Zone
<b>RFI</b>	Radio Frequency Interference
<b>S&amp;EIR</b>	Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting
<b>SACAA</b>	South African Civil Aviation Authority
<b>SARAO</b>	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
<b>SG</b>	Surveyor General
<b>SKA</b>	Square Kilometre Array
<b>SSV</b>	Site Sensitivity Verification
<b>STC</b>	Strategic Transmission Corridor
<b>SWSA</b>	Strategic Water Source Area
<b>TLM</b>	Thabazimbi Local Municipality
<b>WDM</b>	Waterberg District Municipality
<b>WMA</b>	Water Management Area

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Praxos was appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (*EAP*) by ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd (*ABO Wind*) on behalf of ABO Nyala Solar Energy Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd (*Applicant*) to undertake the application for Environmental Authorisation (*EA*), subject to a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (*S&EIR*) process, for the proposed ABO Nyala Solar Energy Facility 3 and associated infrastructure (hereafter referred to as the *Proposed Development*). The Proposed Development will be located within the Thabazimbi Local Municipality (*TLM*) and Waterberg District Municipality (*WDM*), of Limpopo Province, South Africa.

Using the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (*DFFE*) National Web-Based Screening Tool, a screening report was generated as part of the EA application process. According to the screening report, the environmental theme sensitivities were indicated as per **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Summary of Environmental Theme Sensitivities as per DFFE Screening Tool**

Theme	Very High	High	Medium	Low
Agriculture	x			
Animal Species			x	
Aquatic				x
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage				x
Avian				x
Civil Aviation			x	
Defence				x
Landscape (Solar)	x			
Palaeontology			x	
Plant Species				x
Radio Frequency Interference ( <i>RFI</i> )			x	
Terrestrial Biodiversity				x

The DFFE Screening Tool also identified the following Specialist Studies to be undertaken as part of the S&EIR process:

1. Agricultural Impact Assessment
2. Animal Species Assessment
3. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
4. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
5. Civil Aviation Assessment
6. Defence Assessment
7. Geotechnical Assessment
8. Landscape/ Visual Impact Assessment
9. Palaeontology Impact Assessment

10. Plant Species Assessment
11. RFI Assessment
12. Socio-Economic Assessment
13. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment

In accordance with GN 320 and GN 1150, '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 National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)', a Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) must be undertaken and report compiled to confirm the current land use of a site under consideration as well as the environmental sensitivity as identified by the DFFE Screening Tool prior to commencing with a Specialist assessment. Therefore, this EAP SSV report has been compiled to address the findings of the DFFE Screening Tool and the rationale behind the identified Specialist Studies.

This report focuses on the themes for Civil Aviation, Defence, and RFI since SSV reports for the various other themes have already been undertaken by qualified Specialists. It should be noted that the Geotechnical, Geohydrological, and Socio-Economic components do not have specific environmental theme protocols that have been prescribed within the DFFE Screening Tool. As such, desktop assessments were undertaken by qualified Specialists for the Geohydrological conditions and the Socio-Economic environment. In terms of the Geotechnical component, detailed Specialist investigations will be undertaken during the EIR phase however, the baseline environment has been described in **Section 4.1** of this report.

Detailed assessments will be undertaken during the EIR phase which must comply with Appendix 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), unless a specific theme protocol has been prescribed. The rationale for undertaking Specialist Studies is detailed in **Chapter 6**.

Please refer to **Table 2** below for a list of Specialist SSV reports/ desktop investigations already undertaken and its location within the Scoping Report (SR).

**Table 2: Specialist SSV Reports**

Specialist SSV Reports	DFFE Screening Sensitivity	Site Sensitivity Verification	Specialist Study (Yes/No)
Agricultural Potential	Very High	High	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F1</b> of the SR
Animal Species Assessment (part of Terrestrial Biodiversity)	Medium	Medium	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F8</b> of the SR
Aquatic Biodiversity	Low	Low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F2</b> of the SR
Avifauna	Low	Medium to low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F3</b> of the SR
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Low	Low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F4</b> of the SR
Landscape and Visual	Very High	Medium to low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F6</b> of the SR

Specialist SSV Reports	DFFE Screening Sensitivity	Site Sensitivity Verification	Specialist Study (Yes/No)
Palaeontology Assessment	Medium	Low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F4</b> of the SR
Plant Species Assessment (part of Terrestrial Biodiversity)	Low	Low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F8</b> of the SR
Terrestrial Biodiversity	Low	Low	<b>Yes</b> , refer to <b>Appendix F8</b> of the SR



## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ABO Nyala Solar Energy Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of Nyala 3, a Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility, of up to 55 MW in capacity, and associated infrastructure near Northam located in the Limpopo Province. The Proposed Development falls within the jurisdiction of the Thabazimbi Local Municipality within the Waterberg District.

The Proposed Development is not located within any Strategic Transmission Corridor (STC) or Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), nor is it classified as Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI). The Proposed Development is a large-scale solar PV facility to generate renewable electricity and is in response to the IRP and the REIPPPP as established by the Department of Energy.

A development footprint has been defined in a manner which has considered the environmental sensitivities present on the affected property and which intentionally remains beyond highly sensitive areas. The affected property has been considered in the S&EIR process (which includes the independent Specialists' Studies undertaken) and assessed in terms of its suitability from an environmental and social perspective.

The Proposed ABO Nyala Solar Energy Facility 3 would comprise the following to be located within the proposed maximum development footprint:

- Solar Field/Solar Arrays [Note that the mounting structures will be either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking or double-axis tracking PV. Module types would be either mono-facial or bi-facial and would be 3.5 m in height.
- One access road (noting that existing farm roads would be used as far as possible, and the road width would be a maximum of 10 m). Two alternative access roads are under assessment.
- Internal service roads (noting that existing farm roads would be used as far as possible a, and that the maximum road width would be 8 m).
- An on-site substation hub and associated infrastructure (such as substation, transformation infrastructure, collector infrastructure, step-up infrastructure, BESS etc.) including auxiliary buildings (such as operation & maintenance buildings, admin buildings, workshops, gatehouse, security building, offices, visitor centre, warehouses, etc.) contained within a 3-ha footprint.
- A communications tower as part of the 3-ha on-site substation hub with a maximum height of 32 m.

Associated infrastructure would include the following to be located within the proposed maximum development footprint:

- Internal electrical reticulation (i.e., low and medium voltage cables) to be placed underground where feasible.
- Perimeter fencing.

A temporary laydown area would be established during the construction period but would be within the development footprint i.e., within the fenced area allocated for development. The laydown area would move as required while construction is underway.

Alternatives being considered are for the access road and BESS technology. The preferred access road which is directly off the R510 and would allow access to the Project Area from the east, and the alternative access road that is approximately 1 km north of the Project Area via an existing intersection with the R510 and would run parallel to the R510. The alternative access road would also allow access to the Project Area from the same point. In terms of the BESS, since the technology is dynamic, the specific type/technology to be developed would be selected based on market demands and technology availability at the time of construction. Therefore, both Lithium-ion and redox-flow will be assessed as technology alternatives, with Lithium-ion being the current preferred technology.

### 3. PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Development will be located on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Leeuwkopje No. 415 and Portion 5 (Bralbin) of the Farm Leeuwkopje No. 415 (access road only) and is known as the Nyala 3 site (Project Area). The Project Area is located adjacent to R510 road and measures approximately 56.41 ha in extent.

The nearest residential areas are Amandelbult Mine Town in the North, the towns of Northam in the South and Swartklip in the West. No residential areas are evident towards the East of the Project Area.

The immediate surroundings of the Project Area are sparsely populated and largely undeveloped, vacant land. The Leeuwkopje Private Nature Reserve is approximately 205 m north of the Project Area, whereas there are several agricultural farms surrounding the Project Area. The Project Area and adjacent properties are zoned as 'Agricultural'. It is envisaged that a change in zoning will be required from agricultural to special use.

The Project Area occurs in Ward 5 of the TLM. The properties are currently made up of two title deeds made out to JCM Farming (Pty) Ltd, with Title Deed numbers: T1280/2018 and T1466/2018.

**Table 3: SG Code and Property Description**

Property Description	SG Code	Extent (Ha)
Remaining Extent of the Farm Leeuwkopje No. 415	TOKQ0000000041500000	386.50
Portion 5 (Bralbin) of the Farm Leeuwkopje No. 415 (access road only)	TOKQ0000000041500005	386.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>773</b>

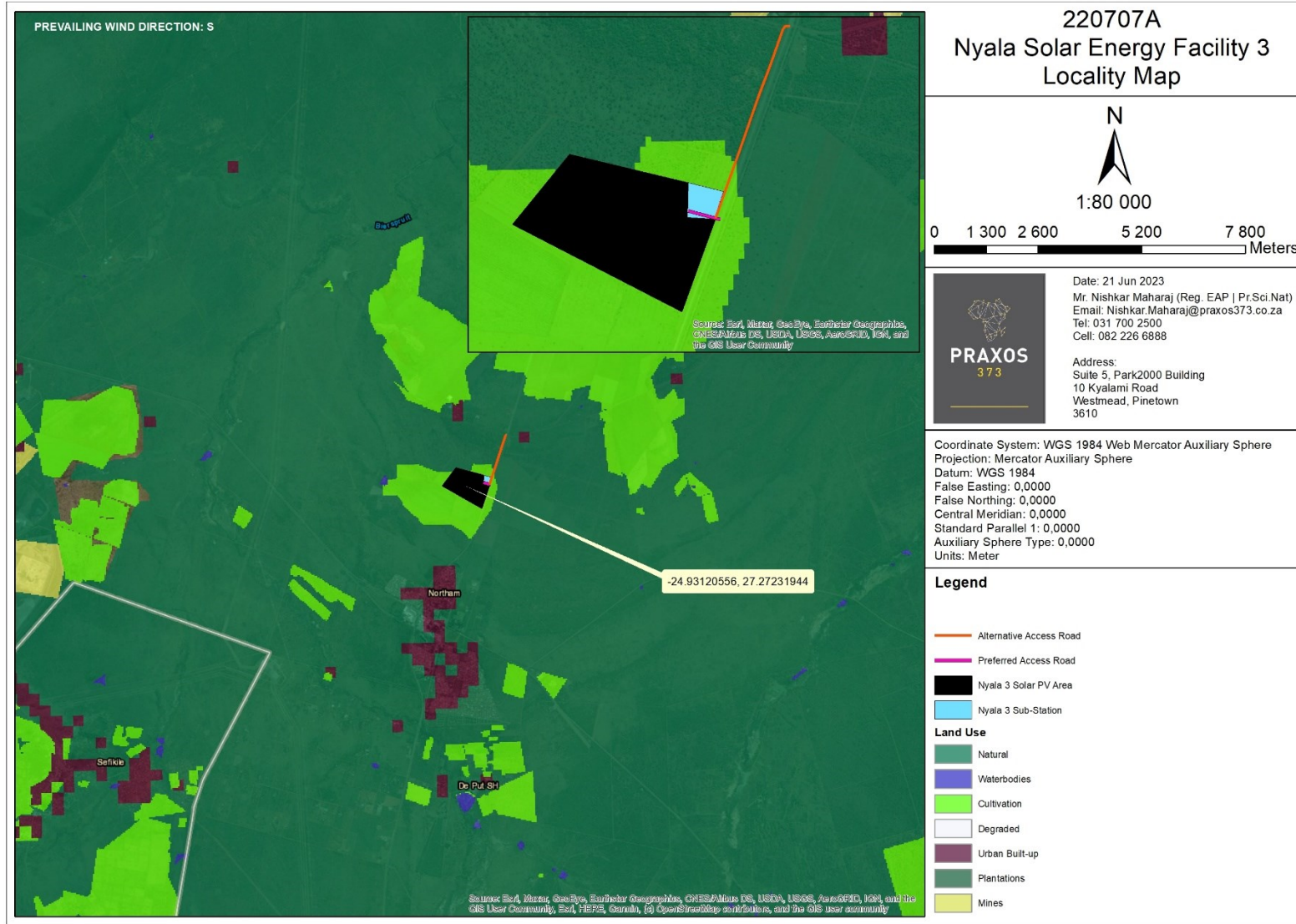
Refer to **Table 4** and Error! Reference source not found. below for the GPS co-ordinates of the corner points of the PV facility and the access roads respectively.

**Table 4: GPS Co-ordinates for the Corner Points of the PV Facility**

Corner Points	Latitude	Longitude
Point 1	24°55'36.76"S	27°16'9.92"E
Point 2	24°55'43.76"S	27°16'38.89"E
Point 3	24°56'6.30"S	27°16'31.09"E
Point 4	24°55'49.90"S	27°15'59.25"E
Central Point	24°55'49.17"S	27°16'20.87"E

**Table 5: GPS Co-ordinates of the Proposed Access Road and Construction Road**

GPS Points	Latitude	Longitude
Preferred Access Road Start	24°55'48.99"S	27°16'38.40"E
Preferred Access Road Middle	24°55'48.82"S	27°16'37.83"E
Preferred Access Road End	24°55'48.68"S	27°16'37.28"E
Alternative Access Road Start	24°55'12.54"S	27°16'51.59"E
Alternative Access Road Middle	24°55'31.14"S	27°16'43.78"E
Alternative Access Road End	24°55'48.68"S	27°16'37.28"E



**Figure 1: Locality Map (Source: Praxos, 2023)**

## 4. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

The baseline environment has been described below from a desktop level.

### 4.1 GEOTECHNICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### a) Topography and Drainage

The topography of the eastern parts of the TLM varies from plains which have a moderate to low relief to more complex lowlands, hills and mountains to closed hills and mountains with relief varying from moderate to high. However, the Project Area is located towards the south of the TLM and consists of a flat topography with an average slope of 0.6%.

In terms of drainage, South Africa is geographically divided up into a number of naturally occurring Primary Drainage Areas (PDAs) and Quaternary Drainage Areas (QDAs). Areas are classified into Water Management Areas (WMAs) and Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs). The Project Area is within PDA 'A' and QDA A24F, and within the Limpopo WMA (1) and CMA (1). The Project Area lies in the Brakspruit Sub-Catchment of the Crocodile Tributary of the Limpopo River.

Drainage is predominately north-westwards via minor drainage features that drain from the Project Area towards the Brakspruit River. The Brakspruit River rises in the Pilanesberg and flows in the north-easterly direction to join the Crocodile River approximately 31 km north of the Project Area. The Brakspruit River passes approximately 6 km to the west of the Project Area.

#### b) Geohydrology

The Project Area is underlain by an intergranular and fractured aquifer system which indicates that the aquifer is poorly productive even though the region is characterised as semi-arid. The area surrounding the Project Area is characterised by a moderate yielding aquifer system.

Since the aquifer within the Project Area has mafic to ultramafic intrusive rocks, in addition to the weathered profile, zones of interest for encountering groundwater are likely to be along the contact zones between the rock units and/or at the contact zone of the various intrusive rocks.

The depth to groundwater within the Project Area ranges from 25 m to 35 m below ground level (*bgl*) and is regarded as moderately deep. This corresponds to the mean annual precipitation of the area and the region's groundwater recharge rate of between 14 mm/year, which indicates that groundwater resources within the Project Area are limited.

#### c) Geology

The underlain geology in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area is mainly composed of mafic and ultramafic intrusive rocks made up of dolerite, diabase, diorite, gabbro, dunite, pyroxenite, norite, anorthosite, hornblendite and carbonatite rocks. Further away from the Project Area, other rock types including argillaceous, carbonaceous and various acidic to alkaline intrusive rock outcrops.



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**4.2 CIVIL AVIATION, DEFENCE, AND RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE**

According to the DFFE Screening Tool, the Project Area was identified as being within 8 km of a civil aviation aerodrome and located between 14 km and 32 km from a Square Kilometre Array (SKA) receptor. No defence sites were recorded in or near the Project Area, as per the findings of the DFFE Screening Tool.

## 5. SITE ASSESSMENT

The EAP, Ms. Suhasini Naik, undertook a site visit of the Proposed Development on 03 May 2023. Photographs were captured around the borders and within the Proposed Development footprint as illustrated in **Table 6** below.

The EAP confirmed that the entire extent of the Proposed Development will be confined to the identified Project Area, and that no obvious fatal flaws were identified. The immediate surrounding land uses were confirmed as predominantly farmland in nature with a fairly flat topography. The Project Area consisted of thornveld, large trees and grasses which extended towards the north, south and east. There were also cultivated lands towards the south. The R510 and road reserve was noted towards the east of the Project Area.

No civil aviation aerodromes and defence sites were noted within or in close proximity to the Project Area.



**Table 6: Nyala 3 Photographic Evidence from Site Inspection**



*Figure 1: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – North View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)*



*Figure 2: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – North East View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)*



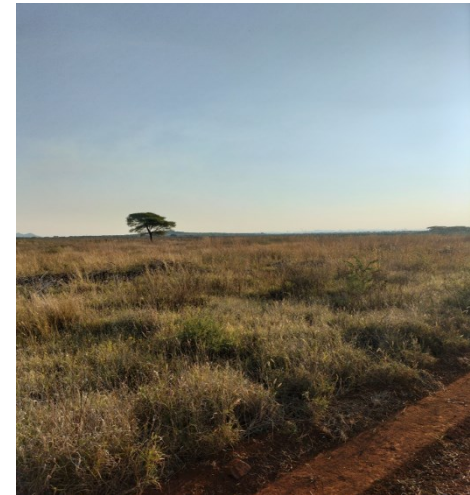
*Figure 3: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – East View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)*



*Figure 4: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – South East View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)*

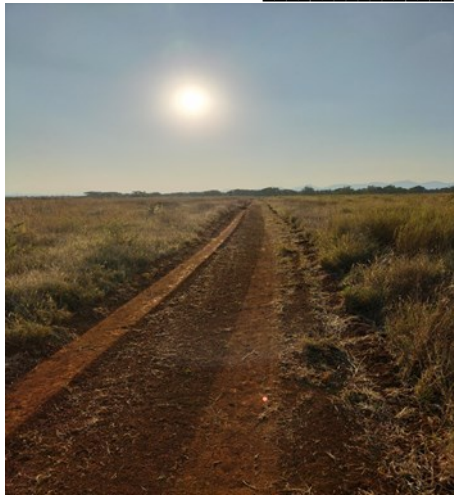


*Figure 5: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – South View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)*



*Figure 6: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – South West View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)*

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**Figure 7: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – West View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)**



**Figure 8: Nyala 3 SEF North East Corner (Proposed Substation Location) – North West View (GPS 24°55'46.02"S 27°16'38.09"E)**



**Figure 9: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – North View (GPS 24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)**



**Figure 10: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – North East View (GPS 24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)**



**Figure 11: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – East View (GPS 24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)**



**Figure 12: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – South East View (GPS 24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E) Entrance to Neighbouring Property.**

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Figure 13: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – South View (GPS  
24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)



Figure 14: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – South West View (GPS  
24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)



Figure 15: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – West View (GPS  
24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)



Figure 16: Nyala 3 SEF South East Corner – North West View (GPS  
24°56'6.32"S 27°16'31.17"E)



Figure 17: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – North View (GPS  
24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)



Figure 18: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – North East View (GPS  
24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)

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*Figure 19: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – East View (GPS 24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)*



*Figure 20: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – South East View (GPS 24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)*



*Figure 21: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – South View (GPS 24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)*



*Figure 22: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – South West View (GPS 24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)*



*Figure 23: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – West View (GPS 24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)*

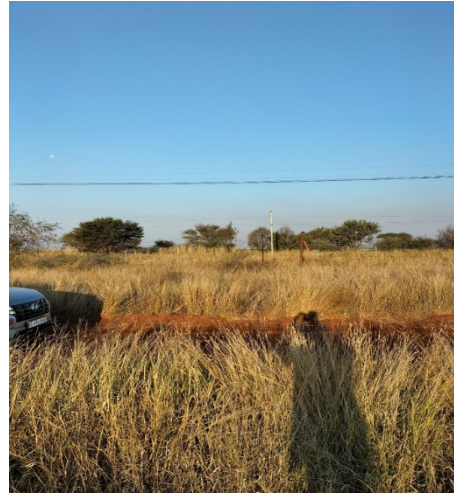


*Figure 24: Nyala 3 SEF South West Corner – North West View (GPS 24°55'50.16"S 27°16'1.35"E)*

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*Figure 25: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – North View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



*Figure 26: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – North East View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



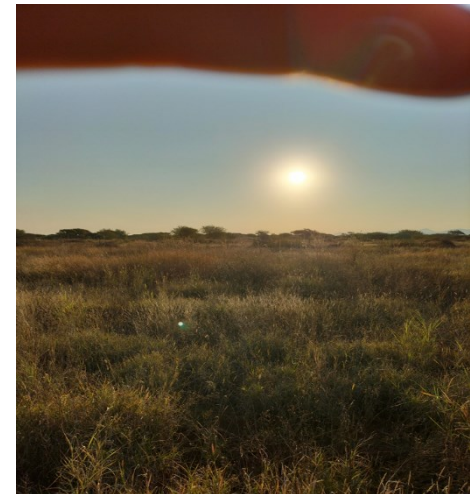
*Figure 27: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – East View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



*Figure 28: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – South East View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



*Figure 29: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – South View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



*Figure 30: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – South West View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*

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*Figure 31: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – West View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



*Figure 32: Nyala 3 SEF West Side – North West View (GPS 24°55'43.43"S 27°16'4.85"E)*



*Figure 33: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – North View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)*



*Figure 34: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – North East View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)*



*Figure 35: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – East View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)*



*Figure 36: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – South East View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)*

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Figure 37: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – South View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)



Figure 38: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – South West View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)



Figure 39: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – West View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)



Figure 40: Nyala 3 SEF Centre Point – North West View (GPS 24°55'47.09"S 27°16'18.54"E)

## 6. RATIONALE FOR SPECIALIST STUDIES AND FINDINGS

The DFFE Screening Tool has identified a number of Specialist Studies that should be incorporated into the S&EIR process as indicated in **Chapter 1**. The rationale behind the decision to proceed with or discontinue further assessment is outlined below, aligning with the specific themes addressed in this report, namely Civil Aviation, Defence, RFI, as well as the geotechnical component.

### 6.1 GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

The foundations for the facility, the drainage characteristics of the Project Area, together with the stability and load bearing capacity of the soil will have to be determined for the Proposed Development by a suitable Specialist. It should be noted that the Geotechnical component does not have specific a theme within the DFFE Screening Tool or a specific Protocol assigned. However, it has been described from a desktop level based on several sources and will have a detailed assessment undertaken by a qualified Specialist during the EIR phase.

### 6.2 DEFENCE ASSESSMENT

There were no military bases/ facilities recorded within or in close proximity to the Proposed Development based on the EAP's site visit and desktop screening. It is the EAP's opinion that this project will not have any significant impact on the national defence infrastructure. The EAP therefore agrees with the low rating for Defence and thus, no further assessment is deemed necessary.

However, the South African National Defence Force (*SANDF*) has been included as a stakeholder on the Interested and Affected Party (*I&AP*) database and will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments during public participation conducted as part of the S&EIR process

### 6.3 CIVIL AVIATION ASSESSMENT

There were no civil aviation aerodromes recorded within or in close proximity to the Proposed Development based in the EAP's site visit and desktop screening. It is the EAP's opinion that the Proposed Development will not have any significant impact on civil aviation. In terms of the DFFE Screening Tool, the Civil Aviation theme for the Proposed Development was a medium sensitivity. However, from the SSV undertaken, it is the EAP's opinion that the Proposed Development will have a low sensitivity rating. Thus, no further assessment is deemed necessary.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (*SACAA*) has been included as a stakeholder on the Interested and Affected Party (*I&AP*) database and will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments during public participation conducted as part of the S&EIR process.

### 6.4 RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE ASSESSMENT

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (*SARAO*) had undertaken an assessment of the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the nearest SKA radio telescope. It was determined





**SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT:  
ABO NYALA SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY 3,  
THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

that the Proposed Development represents a low risk of interference with a compliance surplus of 387.75 dBm/ Hz. As such, SARAQ does not have any objection to the Proposed Development (refer to **Appendix A** of this report).

In terms of the DFFE Screening Tool, the RFI theme for the Proposed Development was a medium sensitivity. However, based on the communication received from SARAQ, it is the EAP's opinion that the Proposed Development will have a low sensitivity rating in terms of RFI, therefore no further assessment is deemed necessary. However, SARAQ has been included as a stakeholder on the I&AP database and will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments during public participation conducted as part of the S&EIR process.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Praxos was appointed as an independent EAP by ABO Wind on behalf of ABO Nyala Solar Energy Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd to undertake the EA application, subject to a S&EIR process, for the Proposed Development of the ABO Nyala Solar Energy Facility 3.

A DFFE Screening Report was generated for the Proposed Development which identified several Specialist Studies to be conducted as part of the S&EIR process. Qualified Specialists have completed SSV reports for multiple identified themes, which have been included in the Scoping Report (**Table 2**). Further investigation will be undertaken during the EIR phase.

This report focused on themes for Civil Aviation, Defence, and RFI as well as the Geotechnical component, the latter of which does not have a specific theme in the DFFE Screening Tool. The site assessments confirmed that the sensitivity of the Civil Aviation and RFI themes was lower than initially identified by the DFFE Screening tool, which categorised them as having 'medium' sensitivity. On the other hand, the Defence theme aligned with the 'low' sensitivity category in the DFFE Screening Tool. A summary of the desktop sensitivity versus the outcome of the SSV is presented in **Table 7** below.

**Table 7: Summary of Desktop vs Site Verification Sensitivities**

Theme	Desktop Sensitivity (DFFE Screening Tool)	Site Sensitivity Verification	Specialist Study (Yes/No)
Civil Aviation Theme	Medium	Low	No
Defence Theme	Low	Low	No
RFI Theme	Medium	Low	No

Based on the low sensitivity rating following the SSV, there is no need for additional assessment in terms of Civil Aviation, Defence, and RFI. However, the Geotechnical aspect has been described from a desktop level, and a more comprehensive evaluation will be conducted during the EIR phase.



## Appendix A: RFI Letter From SARAO

The Directors  
ABO Wind renewable energies (PTY) LTD  
Unit B1, Mayfair Square  
Century Way, Century City  
Cape Town  
7441  
Email: capetown@abo-wind.com  
Date: 31 August 2022

Dear Directors

**RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF NYALA SOLAR FACILITIES, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.**

This letter is in response to the proposed solar energy facilities and their possible impact on the Square Kilometre Array radio telescopes.

SARAO has undertaken a high-level impact assessment based on the information provided for the Nyala Solar energy facilities located at coordinates 24°56'3.31"S 27°18'43.32"E. It was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the nearest SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 387.75 dBm/Hz. As such, we do not have any objection to the proposed development.

Thank you for your correspondence, our office remains open to discuss any matter relating to the above.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Selaelo Matlhane', written in a cursive style.

Mr Selaelo Matlhane

Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Tel: 011 442 2434

Email: [smatlhane@sarao.ac.za](mailto:smatlhane@sarao.ac.za)