

Appendix H.14

RFI COMPLIANCE STATEMENT





RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE (RFI) SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed to conduct the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process for the proposed Mura 3 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality (BWLM) and Ubuntu Local Municipality (ULM) and the Central Karoo District Municipality (CKDM) and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality (PkSDM) in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces.

This report serves as the RFI Site Sensitivity Verification Report for the proposed project. This RFI site sensitivity verification report relates to the Screening Tool Report completed for the site in September 2022.

The table below provides information regarding the outcome of the Screening tool in terms of the RFI theme sensitivity associated with the proposed project and the EAP sensitivity verification.

Table 1: RFI theme sensitivity for the Mura 3 Solar PV Facility

ENVIRONMENTAL THEME	DFFE SCREENING TOOL SENSITIVITY	APPLICABLE PROTOCOL	EAP SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION
RFI Theme	High Sensitivity	<i>Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed</i>	Low Sensitivity

The output of the DFFE Screening Tool for the RFI Theme is illustrated in **Figure** and indicates that the whole of the Mura 3 site falls within an area classified as High Sensitivity. The protection of the KCAAs were developed in terms of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage legislation (AGA Act of 2007). These regulations protect, preserve and properly maintain the KCAAs in respect of radio frequency interference or interference in any other manner. The project is located outside of the eastern boundary the KCAA (**Figure 2**), an area set aside for the purposes of radio Astronomy in 100 MHz to 2,170 MHz range and related scientific endeavours. The advantage area does not extend across the provincial boundary into the Western Cape. The Mura 3 Solar PV Facility is located outside the KCAA and as such, the site is considered low sensitivity for RFI.

Furthermore, The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) has confirmed that the project represents a low risk of interference to the nearest Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 5.91 dBm/Hz; and as such, SARAO do not have any objection to the proposed development (Refer to **Appendix A** for a copy of the confirmation letter). The South African Weather Service (SAWS) has also confirmed that the proposed project will not have a direct impact on the SAWS radar system (Refer to **Appendix B** for a copy of the confirmation letter). The SAWS and relevant telecommunications stakeholders, such as SKA; KCAA; and cellphone providers, have been engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process. Letters of no objection to the Mura Solar PV Development have been obtained from Vodacom, Openserve and Sentech.



Figure 1 - Map of RFI Sensitivity

Source: DFFE Screening Report

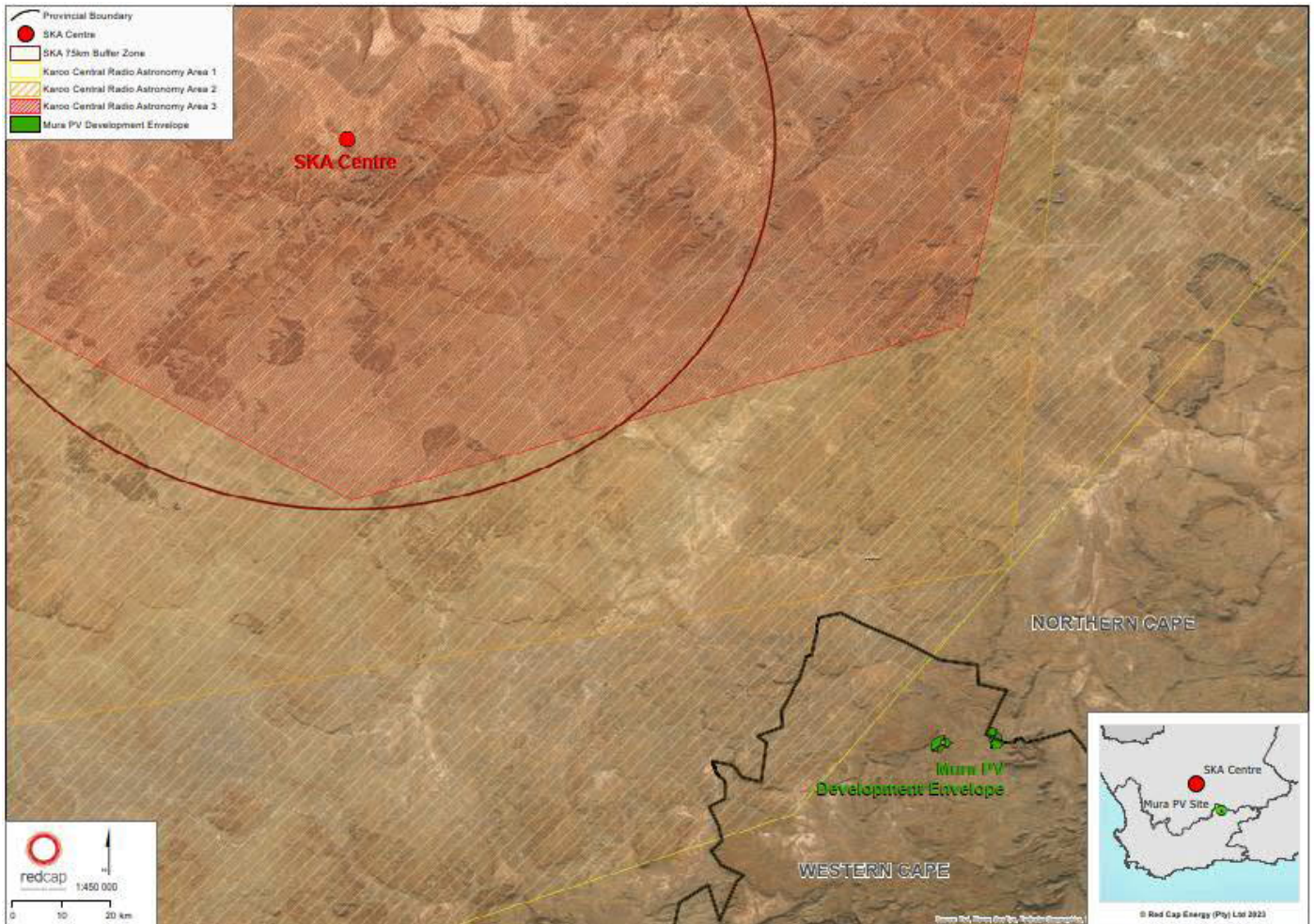


Figure 2 - Map showing Mura 3 Project Boundary in relation to the KCAAA

This site sensitivity verification was undertaken by Ashlea Strong, registered EAP from WSP. The relevant details for the EAP are indicated in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Details of the EAP

EAP	WSP GROUP AFRICA (PTY) LTD
Contact Person:	Ashlea Strong
Physical Address:	Building C, Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street, Bryanston, Johannesburg
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EAP

WSP GROUP AFRICA (PTY) LTD

EAP Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Masters in Environmental Management, University of the Free State■ B Tech, Nature Conservation, Technikon SA■ National Diploma in Nature Conservation, Technikon SA
EAPASA Registration Number:	EAPASA (2019/1005)

Digitally signed by Ashlea Strong
DN: cn=Ashlea Strong, c=ZA,
o=WSP Group Africa, ou=Earth
and Environment,
email=ashlea.strong@wsp.com
Date: 2023.06.27 10:44:09 +02'00'

Ashlea Strong, Registered EAP (EAPASA (2019/1005))



Appendix A: SARA O Confirmation Letter

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP)
PO Box 98867

Sloane Park

2152

Email: Megan.Govender@wsp.com

Date: 10 May 2023

Dear Directors

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

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

SARAO has undertaken a high-level impact assessment based on the information provided for the Mura PV Development located at central coordinates 28°39'41.15"S 25°43'31.81"E. It was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the nearest SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 5.91 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,

PP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Matlhane', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Selaelo Matlhane

Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Tel: 011 442 2434

Email: smatlhane@sarao.ac.za



Appendix B: SAWS Confirmation Letter

Private Bag X097, Pretoria, 0001 • Tel: + 27 (0) 12 367 6000 • www.weathersa.co.za • USSD: *120*7297#

**For attention: The Directors
Mura 3 (Pty) Ltd.
Applicant: Red Cap Mura 3 (Pty) Ltd.**
Unit B2 Mainstream Centre,
Main Road Hout Bay, 7806.

08 February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Impact of the proposed Mura 3 Solar PV Project on the South African Weather Service Radar Infrastructure.

The proposed Mura 3 Solar PV Facilities is located near Beaufort West in the Western Cape and Northern Cape.

Tests conducted by South African Weather Service indicated that the proposed development will not have any direct impact on the South African Weather Service radar station located in Cape Town. Therefore, South African Weather Service supports the development of the Mura 3 Solar PV Project in this proposed location.


Please feel free to contact us should you require any further assistance in this regard.

Recommender



Zamikhaya Magogotya
Chief Radar Specialist: Technical Services

Final Approver



Bernard Petlane
Senior Manager: Technical Services

Bernard Petlane
Senior Manager: Technical Services

**Certified for
Excellence**

Board Members: Ms Nana Magomola (Chairperson), Dr Phillip Dexter (Deputy Chairperson), Adv Derick Block, Mr David Lefutso, Dr Mphekgo Maila, Ms Kelebogile Moroka-Mosia, Ms Sally Mudly-Padayachie, Dr Thuli Khumalo (DFFE Rep), Mr Itani Phaduli, Ms Feziwe Renqe. Mr Ishaam Abader (CEO).
Company Secretary: Ms Thandi Zide

Document Reference: IIS_TS-SOLAR-AND WIND-FARMS-001

