

**COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT (C&RR) AS PART OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
FOR THE HOOGLAND WIND FARMS AND GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS:**

DFFE Reference numbers: Hoogland 1 Wind Farm - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 (Scoping & EIA process)

Hoogland 2 Wind Farm - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146 (Scoping & EIA process)

****Note: the other Hoogland applications are all subject to a BA process and any comments specific to these projects are included
in their respective C&RRs.***

**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES / CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY INTERESTED AND/OR
AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS) AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS ORGANS OF STATE (OoS) / AUTHORITIES ETC.**

APRIL 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2022

Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders, such as stakeholders and Organs of State (OoS) / Authorities, who contributed issues ranging across all sectors of society are recorded in this Comments and Response Report (C&RR). I&APs that registered and did not provide comments have been added to the stakeholder databased and not recorded in the C&RR.

The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are indicated. All comments in the C&RR are verbatim as received. Comments addressed via email are indicated in the “*Response*” column. Contact details have been omitted in compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act 04 of 2013) (POPIA).

GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment	KML	Keyhole Markup Language
AQIA	Air Quality Impact Assessment	KMZ	Keyhole Markup Language Zipped
BA	Basic Assessment	kV	Kilovolt(s)
BAR	Basic Assessment Report	LN	Listing Notice
BID	Background Information Document	MW	Megawatts
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
CLA	Cultural Landscape Assessment	NHRA	National heritage Resource Act
C&RR	Comments and Response Report	NID	Notice of Intent to Develop
DBAR	Draft Basic Assessment Report	OoS	Organs of State
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment
DSR	Draft Scoping Report	PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
EA	Environmental Authorisation	PPP	Public Participation Period
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	REDZ	Renewable Energy Development Zone
ECO	Environmental Control Officer	REIPPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	REM	Remainder
EIAr	Environmental Impact Assessment Report	SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme	SR	Scoping Report
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust	SSVR	Site Sensitivity Verification Report
FSR	Final Scoping Report	SWMP	Storm Water Management Plan
GA	General Authorisation	TOPs	Threatened or Protected Species
Ha	Hectares	VE	Verreaux's Eagle
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment	VERA	Verreaux's Eagle Risk Assessment
HWC	Heritage Western Cape	VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
I&AP	Interested and/or Affected Parties	WEF	Wind Energy Facility

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FOR DRAFT EIA REPORT (HOOGLAND 1 AND HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARMS)

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
1.	Taaiboschfontein farm Rick Haw Email 15/08/2022	<p>From: Rick Haw Sent: Monday, 15 August 2022 To: Hoogland Cc: Andy Miszewski; Liandra Scott-Shaw Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Please can you send me a plan of the proposed layout of the wind turbines and the positioning of the main feeder lines to the Eskom substation</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 17:23 To: Rick Haw; Hoogland Cc: Andy Miszewski; Kirsten Jones Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Dear Mr Haw</p> <p>Please find attached the following maps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview map of all Hoogland projects 2. Cadastral Map of Hoogland 1 & 2 (Northern Cluster) 3. Layout for Hoogland 1 Wind Farm 4. Layout for Hoogland 2 Wind Farm <p>Note that your property (RE/8 – Prins Kloof) is directly adjacent to Hoogland 1 Wind Farm to the east. Your property Taai Bosch Fontein (2/24) is located approx. 7km further to the east of the Hoogland 1 boundary. Also for information, your farmstead on Taai Bosch Fontein is approximately 16km to the east of the closest turbine/s on Hoogland 1 (Turbine 101 and 102 as shown on the layout map).</p> <p>We hope this provides some context, please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>
2.	Western Cape Government Department of Agriculture Brandon Layman Email 15/08/2022	<p>From: Brandon Layman Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 To: Hoogland Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Hi Liandra Scott-Shaw</p> <p>Please note that this office is bound by the government filing system which is currently in physical fileformat as approved by the Auditor General.</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: 16 August 2022 To: Brandon Layman; Hoogland Cc: Candice Sadan; Stephan Jacobs Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Dear Brandon</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CD or USB we can still put on a physical file.</p> <p>With many thanks and kind regards</p>	<p>We have loaded everything on to a USB for you which is on its way to you as we speak and will be with you within the week.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>
3.	Northern Cape Provincial Government (NCPG) Roads Department L Fredericks Phone call 17/08/2022	EAP: Ms. Fredericks called SLR following the issuing of Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects - Notification of PPP requesting the Water Course Crossing Upgrades for the-Northern Cape Province.	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 To: lfedericks@ncpg.gov.za Cc: Hoogland Subject: Red Cap Hoogland Water Course Crossing Upgrades -Northern Cape Province Attachments: Hoogland_NC Watercourse Crossing Upgrades.docx; Hoogland NC Watercourse Crossing Upgrades.kmz</p> <p>Dear Ms. Fredericks</p> <p>Thank you for your call this morning, as discussed- please see the table below containing the information for the watercourse crossing upgrades in the Northern Cape Province:</p> <p>I have also included a word version of the below table and a KMZ of the crossings for your ease of reference.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further clarity.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p> <p><u>EAP: Refer to the email in Appendix D3 for the table embedded in the email above.</u></p>

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4.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment - Lydia Kutu - EIAAdmin - Email - 17/08/2022</p>	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 To: Stephan Jacobs; Liandra Scott-Shaw Cc: Thabile Sangweni; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND REVISED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 1 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Revised Application Form for the abovementioned project on 15 August 2022. 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.</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 To: Stephan Jacobs; Lydia Kutu Cc: Thabile Sangweni; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147</p> <p>Dear Lydia</p> <p>Thank you for confirming receipt.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Liandra</p> <p>EAP & Applicant: SLR (as the independent EAP) as well as the Applicant acknowledges the Department’s comment regarding Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and will ensure that it is adhered to. Potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, are being provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Please refer to Section 6.2 of the project report for information regarding the public participation process being undertaken for the proposed Hoogland projects.</p> <p>The Department’s comment regarding Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is also duly noted and acknowledged. SLR and the Applicant will ensure that the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations are met / adhered to, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>Lastly, SLR and the Applicant have taken note about the department’s comment regarding Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Applicant can confirm that no activity will commence prior to an EA being granted by the Department.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		Kind Regards,	
5.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lydia Kutu - EIAAdmin - Email - 17/08/2022 	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 To: Stephan Jacobs; Liandra Scott-Shaw Cc: Thabile Sangweni; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND REVISED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Revised Application Form for the abovementioned project on 15 August 2022. 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.</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 To: Stephan Jacobs; Lydia Kutu Cc: Thabile Sangweni; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146</p> <p>Dear Lydia</p> <p>Thank you for confirming receipt.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Liandra</p> <p>EAP & Applicant: SLR (as the independent EAP) as well as the Applicant acknowledges the Department’s comment regarding Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and will ensure that it is adhered to. Potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, are being provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Please refer to Section 6.2 of the project report for information regarding the public participation process being undertaken for the proposed Hoogland projects.</p> <p>The Department’s comment regarding Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is also duly noted and acknowledged. SLR and the Applicant will ensure that the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations are met / adhered to, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>Lastly, SLR and the Applicant have taken note about the department’s comment regarding Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Applicant can confirm that no activity will commence prior to an EA being granted by the Department.</p>

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6.	Western Cape Government Road Planning Vanessa Stoffels on behalf of - SW Carstens - Letter via email - 30/08/2022	<p>From: Vanessa Stoffels Sent: Thursday, 01 September 2022 To: Hoogland Subject: HOOGLAND WIND FARMS, BEAUFORT WEST</p> <p>Dear Madam</p> <p>RED CAP HOOGLAND SOUTHERN WIND FARM CLUSTER DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) REPORT RED CAP HOOGLAND SOUTHERN GRID CONNECTION DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) REPORT RED CAP HOOGLAND NORTHERN WIND FARM CLUSTER DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT RED CAP HOOGLAND NORTHERN GRID CONNECTION DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) REPORT</p> <p>1. The following refer:</p> <p>1.1 SLR Consulting's document with Project No.: 720180620000] Report No.: 1 Revision No.: 2 dated August 2022. 1.2 SLR Consulting's document with Project No.: 720180620000] Report No.: 1 Revision No.: 01 dated August 2022. 1.3 SLR Consulting's document with Project No.: 720.18062.00001 Report No.: 1 Revision No.: 03 dated August 2022. 1.4 SLR Consulting's document with Project No.: 720180620000] Report No.: 2 Revision No.: 01 dated August 2022.</p> <p>2. This Branch offers no objection to the issuing of on Environmental Authorisation in favour of any of the four wind farm areas (Hoogland 1, Hoogland 2, Hoogland 3 and Hoogland 4), wind farm shared infrastructure areas (Hoogland 1 & 2 and Hoogland 3 & 4) or their grid connection areas (Hoogland Southern Grid Connection & Hoogland Northern Grid Connection), provided that this Branch is offered the opportunity to comment on the land use application, of 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 ordinance building lines).</p>	<p>EAP: following the issuing of Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects - Notification of PPP (see Appendix D3 of EIAR)</p> <p>The Western Cape Government Road Planning Branch (WCRPB) will be offered the opportunity to comment on the land use application, so that 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 ordinance building lines) can be issued.</p>

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		<p>3. The following (Public) Provincial Roads (but not limited to the only roads that might be used during the construction and / or operational phases), all for which this Branch is the Road Authority, are either in the immediate vicinity or traversing the affected wind farm areas, wind farm shared infrastructure areas and the grid connection areas:</p> <p>3.1 Trunk Road 58 section I (TR05801) — Affected by Hoogland 1 wind farm area Hoogland 2 wind farm area, Hoogland I & 2 shared infrastructure area, Hoogland northern grid connection area and Hoogland southern grid connection area:</p> <p>3.2 Divisional Road 2312 (DR02312) - Affected by Hoogland 3 wind farm area, Hoogland 4 wind farm area, Hoogland 3 & 4 shared infrastructure area and Hoogland southern grid connection area.</p> <p>3.3 Divisional Road 2314 (DR02314) - Affected by Hoogland 3 wind farm area.</p> <p>3.4 Divisional Road 2315 (DR02315) - Affected by Hoogland 2 wind farm area and Hoogland I & 2 shared infrastructure area.</p> <p>3.5 Divisional Road 2317 (DR02317) - Affected by Hoogland southern grid connection area.</p> <p>3.6 Minor Road 8869 (OP08869) — Affected by Hoogland 4 wind farm area.</p> <p>3.7 Minor Road 8870 (OP08870) — Affected by Hoogland 3 wind farm area.</p> <p>3.8 Minor Road 8871 (OP08871) — Affected by Hoogland 3 wind farm area, Hoogland 4 wind farm area and Hoogland southern grid connection area.</p> <p>3.9 Minor Road 8876 (OP08876) — Affected by Hoogland 4 wind farm area.</p> <p>3.10 Minor Road 8877 (OP08877) — Affected by Hoogland 2 wind farm area and Hoogland northern grid connection area.</p> <p>3.11 Minor Road 8878 (OP08878) — Affected by Hoogland 1 wind farm area and Hoogland 2 wind farm area.</p> <p>3.12 Minor Road 8879 (OP08879) — Affected by Hoogland 1 wind farm area.</p> <p>3.13 Minor Road 8880 (OP08880) — Affected by Hoogland 1 wind farm area, Hoogland 2 wind farm area, Hoogland I & 2 shared infrastructure area and Hoogland northern grid connection area.</p> <p>3.14 Minor Road 8881 (OP08881) — Affected by Hoogland 1 wind farm area.</p> <p>5 This Branch, for now, will ultimately require the following: 5.1 Indication of all the access 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</p>	<p>The proponent will provide the application with ownership details of each farm portion for any changed access to the provincial road network - in line with WCRPB Access Management Guidelines, 2020. It will be clearly state which access will serve which purpose (e.g., energy and / or farming).</p>

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		<p>will be required to clearly state which access will serve which purpose (e.g., energy and / or farming).</p> <p>5.2 Construction applications, including wayleaves for third party services, when building restrictions, building lines and road reserves are affected.</p> <p>5.3 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 these planning in this regard once detail of energy infrastructure and transportation equipment are known.</p> <p>5.4 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 form 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 approval before implementation thereof may commence.</p> <p>5.5 Confirmation that a similar geotechnical proposal (as per paragraph 5.4) will be compiled and approval obtained prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase; whenever that may be.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely SW CARSTENS For DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: ROADS DATE: 30 AUGUST 2022</p>	<p>Construction applications, including wayleaves for third party services, will be submitted to the WCRPB if building restrictions, building lines and road reserves are affected.</p> <p>Once detail of energy infrastructure and transportation equipment are known, a route clearance report and application for any geometric and materials designs will be submitted to WCRPB for approval prior to construction.</p> <p>A geotechnical and geometric design report, including improvement proposals, will 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 activities commence on any of the form portions. Road designs affecting any Proclaimed Provincial Road will be submitted to the Chief Directorate Road Design's for approval before implementation.</p> <p>Similarly, a geotechnical proposal (as per paragraph 5.4) will be compiled, and approval obtained prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase.</p>
7.	<p>Heritage Western Cape (HWC): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Nuraan Vallie</p> <p>- Letter via Email</p> <p>- 2022/08/31</p>	<p>FINAL COMMENT:</p> <p>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</p> <p>HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED HOOGLAND 1 WIND FARM, BEAUFORT WEST SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(8) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999) CASE NUMBER: 21060101SB0818E</p>	

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		<p>The matter above has reference.</p> <p>This matter was discussed at the Impact Assessment Committee (IACom) meeting held on 17 August 2022.</p> <p>It was noted that the matter was tabled at Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee (APM) meeting held on the 3 August 2022 whereby the committee endorsed the report by ASHA consulting (July 2022) and the archaeological palaeontological recommendations on pg's 95-96</p> <p>FINAL COMMENT: APM comments endorsed. The Committee notes that the provisions of S.38(3) of the NHRA have been satisfied within the HIA. The Committee therefore endorse the HIA and the recommendations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The archaeological site at waypoint 1703 that will be crossed by a proposed wind farm road must be excavated prior to construction. Excavation should at least cover the area to be disturbed; • The archaeological site at waypoints 1978 and 1979 that will be overlapped by a turbine footing must be excavated prior to construction. Excavation must target the densest part(s) of the scatter within or close to the impact zone; • The two graves at waypoint 1696 must be fenced with a regular farm-style fence with a pedestrian entrance gate so as to ensure that they are easily identifiable on site. The fence must be placed at least 5 m from the graves and the electrical cable must be placed a minimum of 5 m away from the fence, but preferably further if possible; • Trenching within 30 m of waypoint 1696 must be monitored by relevant project staff and/or the ECO; • Road construction work around the Slangfontein farm werf must be monitored by relevant project staff and/or the ECO to ensure that the walls remain unharmed; • A pre-construction survey of the entire authorised footprint must be undertaken in order to determine whether any further archaeological sites may need mitigation or protection through micro-siting (if possible); • The final layout must be evaluated by a palaeontologist to determine which areas, if any, need a pre construction survey. These will be previously unsurveyed and potentially sensitive areas; If necessary, and subject to the agreement of Heritage Western Cape, a Workplan application should be submitted prior to the palaeontological survey to allow for sample collection during the survey; 	<p>The APMs endorsements are noted and recommendations listed in the final comment will be adhered to. The Specialist mitigation measures are included within the EMP.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A palaeontological chance finds procedure must be incorporated into the EMPr; • Landscape scarring must be minimised during construction; • If road surfacing is required then low contrast materials such as concrete with brown exposed aggregate should be used, where possible; • All areas not required during operation must be rehabilitated in accordance with the Rehabilitation and Revegetation Plan; • A CAA-approved warning system which only requires the red lights to come on when an aircraft is in the vicinity must be used to reduce the night-time impacts to the sense of place; • Visually sensitive skylines, rock outcrops and steep slopes must be avoided as per the recommendations of the visual impact assessment; • Temporary laydown and areas and batching plants should be located in areas approved by the visual specialists; • Substations and O&M Buildings to be located in unobtrusive low-lying areas away from provincial and district roads where possible; • On-site signage to be discrete, and billboards prohibited. Signage to be fixed as low as possible, preferably against a backdrop to avoid intrusion on the skyline; • Security and other outdoor lighting to be fitted with reflectors to conceal the light source; • In the event of decommissioning, the site must be rehabilitated in accordance with the Rehabilitation and Revegetation Plan; • If the wind farm is approved and the final layout does not need all approved turbine locations to ensure a maximum of 60 turbines, then where a choice exists between turbines to be dropped, and all other factors are equal, priority should be given to dropping turbines in the highest visual sensitivity areas and within 1 km of the R381, as well as turbines 72 and 75 due to their proximity to the Slangfontein homestead which is a IIIA cultural landscape; • Replacement structures for the existing bridges on the local access roads must be designed to have a similar appearance to the current structures; and • If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then 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. <p>HWC reserves the right to request additional information as required.</p>	

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		Should you have any further queries, please contact the official above and quote the case number.	
8.	Heritage Western Cape (HWC): key stakeholder - Nuraan Vallie - Letter via Email - 2022/08/31	<p style="text-align: center;">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</p> <p>HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED HOUGLAND 2 WIND FARM, BEAUFORT WEST SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(8) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999) CASE NUMBER: 21060102SB0818E</p> <p>The matter above has reference. This matter was discussed at the Impact Assessment Committee (IACom) meeting held on 17 August 2022.</p> <p>It was noted that the matter was tabled at Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee (APM) meeting held on the 3 August 2022 whereby the committee endorsed the report by ASHA consulting (July 2022) and the archaeological palaeontological recommendations on pg's 96-98 and the following condition:</p> <p>FINAL COMMENT: APM comments endorsed. The Committee notes that the provisions of S.38(3) of the NHRA have been satisfied within the HIA. The Committee therefore endorse the HIA and the recommendations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The archaeological site at waypoint 1703 that will be crossed by a proposed wind farm road must be excavated prior to construction. Excavation should at least cover the area to be disturbed; • The two graves at waypoint 702 must be fenced with a regular farm-style fence with a pedestrian entrance gate so as to ensure that they are easily identifiable on site; • The cable trench proposed through the historic farm complex of Bulskolk (in the vicinity of waypoint 113) must be sure to avoid impacting any ruined structures or other features in the vicinity; • Roadworks within 30 m of the graves at waypoint 702 must be monitored by relevant project staff and/or the ECO; 	The APMs endorsements are noted and recommendations listed in the final comment will be adhered to. The Specialist mitigation measures are included within the EMPr.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trenching within the historic werf at Bulskolk (in the vicinity of waypoint 113) must be monitored by relevant project staff and/or the ECO to ensure that the various features remain unharmed; • A pre-construction survey of the entire authorised footprint must be undertaken in order to determine whether any further archaeological sites may need mitigation or protection through micrositing (if possible); • The final layout must be evaluated by a palaeontologist to determine which areas, if any, need a pre construction survey. These will be previously unsurveyed and potentially sensitive areas; • If necessary, and subject to the agreement of Heritage Western Cape, a Workplan application should be submitted prior to the palaeontological survey to allow for sample collection during the survey; • A palaeontological chance finds procedure must be incorporated into the EMPr; • Landscape scarring must be minimised during construction; • If road surfacing is required then low contrast materials such as concrete with brown exposed aggregate should be used, where possible; • All areas not required during operation must be rehabilitated in accordance with the Rehabilitation and Revegetation Plan; • A CAA-approved warning system which only requires the red lights to come on when an aircraft is in the vicinity must be used to reduce the night-time impacts to the sense of place; • Visually sensitive skylines, rock outcrops and steep slopes must be avoided as per the recommendations of the visual impact assessment; • Temporary laydown and areas and batching plants should be located in areas approved by the visual specialists; • Substations and O&M Buildings to be located in unobtrusive low-lying areas away from provincial and district roads where possible; • On-site signage to be discrete, and billboards prohibited. Signage to be fixed as low as possible, preferably against a backdrop to avoid intrusion on the skyline; • Security and other outdoor lighting to be fitted with reflectors to conceal the light source; • In the event of decommissioning, the site must be rehabilitated in accordance with the Rehabilitation and Revegetation Plan; • If the wind farm is approved and the final layout does not need all approved turbine locations to ensure a maximum of 60 turbines, then where a choice exists between turbines to be dropped, and all other factors are equal, priority should be given to dropping turbines in the high visual sensitivity areas and within 1 km of the R381; 	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement structures for the existing bridges on the local access roads must be designed to have a similar appearance to the current structures; and If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, then 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. <p>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.</p>	
9.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Biodiversity Conservation -Mashudu Mudau - Email - 01/09/2022	<p>From: BC Admin Sent: Thursday, 01 September 2022 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Specific Request for comment -Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>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 Makitla and Ms Mudau (Both copied on this email).</p> <p>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Thursday, 01 September 2022 To: BC Admin Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Specific Request for comment -Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness</p> <p>Dear Ms Mudau</p> <p>Thank you for the email.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Liandra</p>
10.	Beaufort West Municipality Senior Building Control Officer - Ashley Mitchell -Email -09/09/2022	<p>From: Building Inspectors Sent: Friday, 09 September 2022 To: Hoogland Subject: Re: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Good morning Liandra</p> <p>Before the development can take place, the owner of the property must apply to a consent use.</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 To: Hoogland, Building Inspectors Subject: Re: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Dear Ashley</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		Attached are the application forms.	The Applicant will apply to the Beaufort West Local Municipality for a Consent Use in terms of the Beaufort West Municipality Standard Zoning Scheme By law and the Beaufort West Municipal Land Use Planning By-law. Kind regards Liandra
11.	Birdlife South Africa Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager -Samantha Ralston-Paton - Email -13/09/2022	From: Sam Ralston Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw Cc: Hoogland Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Specific Request for comment -BLSA Dear Liandra BirdLife South Africa simply does not have the capacity to review all renewable energy impact assessments. On scanning the documents it seems like the avifaunal specialist, Jon Smallie has done a thorough job, but I am afraid have not had time to study the reports in detail. Kind regards	From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 To: Sam Ralston Cc: Hoogland Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Specific Request for comment -BLSA Dear Sam Thank you for your email. We are grateful you commented on the pre-application phase and have considered BirdlifeSA's comments. Kind regards Liandra
12.	SLR Liandra Scott-Shaw Email 13/09/2022	From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 To: Brandon Layman Cc: Hoogland; Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period Dear Brandon I hope you are well? This is a courtesy reminder that the Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects comment period ends tomorrow and the Departments comments would be greatly appreciated. Kind regards	EAP: No response received.

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		Liandra	
13.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Biodiversity Conservation -Mashudu Mudau on behalf of Seoka Lekota - Email and letter - 14/09/2022</p>	<p>From: Mashudu Mudau Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw Cc: Portia Makitla Subject: FW: 14/09/2022 DBAR COMMENTS RED CAP Hoogland WEF & GRID CONNECTION</p> <p>Good day Liandra.</p> <p>Kindly find the attached comments for your consideration.</p> <p>Regards, Mashudu</p> <p>Dear Ms Scott-Shaw</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RED CAP HOUGLAND WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND GRID CONNECTION LOCATED WITHIN CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports.</p> <p>Kindly note that any development within a very highly sensitive area that will result with significant negative residual impacts after mitigation is prohibited. Where possible align the linear activities with the existing infrastructure and avoid all highly sensitive areas. The final Basic Assessment Report must demonstrate how the linear activities will avoid highly sensitive areas and impact mitigations for the proposed project.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	<p><u>EAP: following the issuing of Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects - Notification of PPP requesting specific comments from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Biodiversity Conservation (see Appendix D3 of EIAr)</u></p> <p>Please note the Hoogland Projects are entirely within the Western Cape Province.</p> <p>A description of alternatives assessed as part of the EIA process is detailed in Section 3 of the EIAr for the Northern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms). It should be noted that a comprehensive iterative design process (which included a screening phase) has been undertaken to inform the respective Wind Farm layouts and associated Grid Connection infrastructure for the Hoogland Projects, which negates the need for an alternative's assessment. Due to the thorough comprehensive iterative design process undertaken by the Applicant, the project layouts have been informed by detailed specialist input refined at each phase, as well as input from stakeholders and authorities through consultation, and avoids all no-go areas (based on infrastructure type). Therefore, the application of the mitigation hierarchy, and the prioritisation of avoidance of sensitive areas, has been the basis of the approach to the wind farm design process.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment	
14.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations - Lydia Kutu - Email - 2022/09/14	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 To: Stuart Heather-Clark, Lance Blaine, Zaahir Z. Toefy, kosieh@beaufortwestmun.co.za Cc: Thabile Sangweni, EIAAdmin, Salome Mambane Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2147</p> <p>Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 To: Thabile Sangweni, EIAAdmin, Salome Mambane Cc: Stuart Heather-Clark, Lance Blaine, Zaahir Z. Toefy, Hoogland; kosieh@beaufortwestmun.co.za Subject: Red Cap Hoogland Projects : DFFE Acknowledgement Letters</p> <p>Dear Lydia</p> <p>Thank you very much for send through the Acknowledgement Letters for all the of the Hoogland Project Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoogland Wind farm 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 • Hoogland Wind farm 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146 • Hoogland Wind farm 3: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2604 • Hoogland Wind farm 4: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2605 • Hoogland Northern Grid: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2602 • Hoogland Southern Grid: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2603 <p>With regards to Application DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2603, the applicant will continue with the Basic Assessment as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations, as amended.</p>
		<p>From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 To: Stuart Heather-Clark, Lance Blaine, Zaahir Z. Toefy, kosieh@beaufortwestmun.co.za Cc: Thabile Sangweni, EIAAdmin, Salome Mambane Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2146</p> <p>Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p>	<p>Kind regards</p> <p>Liandra</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>	
15.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p> <p>Acting Chief Director</p> <p>-Milicent Solomons</p> <p>- Letter via email</p> <p>- 14/09/2022</p>	<p>Dear Mr Heather-Clarke</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 1 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated August 2022 and received by this Department on 15 August 2022, refers.</p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:</u></p> <p><u>(a) Specific Comments</u></p> <p>(i) The presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site as indicated in the Flora and Fauna specialist study, and the consequent classification of the riparian areas as Very High sensitivity based on their value as Riverine Rabbit habitat and general ecological significance is noted.</p> <p>(ii) Comments from this Department's Biodiversity Management Directorate as well as the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation must be sought to understand if the potential impacts of the presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site have been fully assessed and that the proposed mitigation measures thereto are adequate.</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> Please see below for the EAP and/or Applicant's responses to the DFFE's comments:</p> <p><u>(a) Specific Comments</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: No response required.</p> <p>(ii) EAP: The Hoogland Projects are within the Western Cape and as such attempts have been made to obtain comments from key stakeholders, which included the DFFE's Biodiversity Management Directorate, NC DENC, EWT and CapeNature. Comments were obtained from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate and can be found in row 14, however did not address the presences of the Riverine Rabbit. It should be note that with regards to NC DENC, no comments have been received despite targeted correspondence during the Scoping Phase, and it is noted only minor watercourse crossing upgrades of existing public roads outside the wind farm boundary fall within their jurisdiction. Note also that EWT, as the main NGO serving</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(iii) The recommendations provided by the specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative</p> <p>(iv) The EAP must identify and provide a map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area.</p> <p>(v) The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the Scoping Report (SR) and must address all comments contained in the draft SR and this letter.</p> <p>(vi) The final EIAR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken which was included in the screening tool report.</p> <p>(vii) The EMPr must include a provision to make the following reports available to the Department and applicable competent authority on request: alien/invasive plant management report; plant rescue and protection report; and re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation report.</p>	<p>to protect Riverine Rabbits through their Drylands Conservation Programme, have been engaged by the EAP, the specialist and the Applicant throughout the process with regards to impacts on the Riverine Rabbit specifically; they have commented on the project during both the Scoping and EIA Phases and were satisfied with the approach to the wind farm design and the reporting. CapeNature supports the buffers applied to avoid impact to the Riverine Rabbit, see row X21.</p> <p>(iii) Specialist recommendations provided in the screening, scoping and EIA phases have been considered and used to inform the preferred layout. Section 6 of the EIAR explains the comprehensive iterative design approach which was informed by specialist input.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: A map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area can be found in Section 6, Figure 6.3. Other than the three (3) proposed Nuweveld Wind Farms, there are currently no approved renewable energy EA applications within a 30km radius of the project site (see Figure 6-5 of EIAR). The nearest operational Wind Farm from the site is the Noblesfontein Wind Farm located approximately 65km to the Northeast.</p> <p>(v) EAP: We have reviewed the Scoping Report Acceptance letter, and other key correspondence with the Department, and believe the requirements of the letter have been adequately addressed.</p> <p>(vi) EAP: Section 6.1.3.1 includes a Table of all specialist assessments identified by the Screening Tool and which relevant protocols apply. The section also motivates which themes did not require an assessment. Specialist reports have been compiled in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations and included herein the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), that have come into effect.</p> <p>(vii) EAP: The Wind Farm EMPr and Generic EMPrs are included in Appendix F and comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. The alien/invasive plant management report; plant rescue and protection plan; and re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan are included in the Wind Farm EMPr Appendices (refer to Appendix F, E and I respectively).</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(viii) Please ensure that all the mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</p> <p>(ix) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the final EIAR, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the final EIAR and its associated layout plans.</p> <p>(x) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(xi) All applicable generic EMPs must be signed. We request that you adequately complete all applicable sections in the generic EMPs</p> <p><u>(b) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.</p> <p>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.</p> <p>(iii) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iv) The listed activities represented in the final EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct.</p> <p>(v) 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</p>	<p>(viii) EAP: All the mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</p> <p>(ix) EAP: The specific location and details of the Wind Farm and associated layout plans can be found in Section 2. The Maps in Section 2.3 are also included in Appendix B.</p> <p>(x) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the final list of all applicable listed activities are clearly identified and are provided in both the final BAR and Application form. No activities are to be removed for the final EIAR.</p> <p>(xi) EAP: All applicable generic EMPs are signed and all applicable sections in the generic EMPs are adequately completed.</p> <p><u>(b) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities have been applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description (See Table 4-2 in Section 4.2.1 of the EIAR).</p> <p>(ii) EAP: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices (See Table 4-2 in Section 4.2.1 of the EIAR).</p> <p>(iii) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the final list of all applicable listed activities are clearly identified and are provided in both the final EIAR and Application form. No activities are to be removed for the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the activities applied for in the application form DO NOT differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR (nor the draft EIAR as they remain unchanged).</p> <p>(v) EAP: Please be advised that the most recent version of the Department's application form template (namely April 2021) was used for the applications forms which accompanied the draft EIAR (available from following link: https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms). The</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</p> <p>(vi) The final EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.</p> <p>(vii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</p> <p><u>(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) The final 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.</p> <p>(ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <p>a) The envisioned area for the infrastructure, i.e. placing of infrastructure and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.</p> <p>b) Location of turbines;</p> <p>c) All supporting onsite infrastructure required such as laydown areas, roads etc. (existing and proposed);</p> <p>d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</p>	<p>EAP will ensure that the most recent application form will be resubmitted to ensure any minor updates in the final EIAR align with the application form.</p> <p>(vi) EAP: The Final EIAR submitted to the DFFE for review provides an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for the infrastructure described in the project description, on which the listed activities are based.</p> <p>(vii) EAP: the relevant authorities have been continuously involved throughout the assessment process as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments have been obtained from the relevant authorities (namely CapeNature) and submitted to this Department, also found in Appendix D of the Final EIAR. Geographical representation of the proposed development is provided and can be found in the Final EIAR and Appendix B Maps.</p> <p><u>(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The final EIAR provides coordinate points for the proposed development site (which includes bend point coordinates, where required) as well as the coordinates of substations and BESS (see upfront in the final BAR under the Section titled “GENERAL SITE INFORMATION” and Section 2.1 and map provided in Appendix B).</p> <p>(ii) EAP: A copy of the final layout map has been submitted with the final EIAR (Figure 2.5 and in Appendix B). All available biodiversity information was used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure has been used as far as possible, the map depicts turbine locations and all supporting onsite infrastructure required such as laydown areas, roads, underground and overhead cables, substations, batteries, and temporary construction camps.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and</p> <p>f) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the infrastructure.</p> <p>g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure.</p> <p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and</p> <p>c) All “no-go” areas.</p> <p>(iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.</p> <p>(v) Google maps will not be accepted.</p> <p><u>(d) Alternatives</u></p> <p>(i) Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the</p>	<p>(iii) EAP: An environmental sensitivity map which indicates the information requested by the DFFE (where available) has been provided as part of the EIAR. Please refer to Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-8 in Section 9 of the EIAR. Key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas have been identified by a number of specialists, namely Geotechnical; Agricultural; Ecology (including Riverine Rabbit and Karoo dwarf tortoise); Aquatic; Bats; Avifauna; Heritage (including Palaeontology, Archaeology, Graves, Built Environment, Cultural landscape); Visual and Noise, which were compiled into the consolidated ‘No-Go’ map (which combines the ‘No-Go’ sensitivities of all specialist fields into one map – see Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-8). Please refer to Table 9-1 in Section 9 of the EIAR for a summary of the key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas identified by the specialists. The high number of specialist specific sensitivity layers, and the scale of the mapping, means it is best to view the specialist specific sensitivities in isolation as part of their specific discipline within Section 7 of the EIAR, or within the respective specialist studies (reports) in Appendix C.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: It should be noted that the EAP has provided separate cumulative impact (Figure 6-7) and sensitivity maps (Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-8) as part of the EIAR, as the ‘no-go’ areas identified are site-specific (i.e., contained to project site) and not for the 30km cumulative impact radius. It is not possible to map these areas effectively (i.e., cannot map them in detail) at the cumulative scale (namely at a 30km radius).</p> <p>(v) EAP: Mapping for the EIAR is undertaken in ArcGIS10.8.1.</p> <p><u>(d) Alternatives</u></p> <p>(i) & (ii) EAP: A description of alternatives assessed as part of the Scoping & EIA process is detailed in Section 3 of the EIAR. It should be noted that a comprehensive iterative design</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, including the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) details of all the alternatives considered; b) details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs; c) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them; d) the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects; e) the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) can be reversed; (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and (cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated; f) the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives; g) positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects; h) the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk; i) the outcome of the site selection matrix; j) if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and 	<p>process (which included screening and pre-application phases) has been undertaken to inform the respective Wind Farm layouts and associated Grid Connection infrastructure for the Hoogland Projects, which negates the need for an alternative's assessment. Due to the thorough comprehensive iterative design process undertaken by the Applicant, the project layouts have been informed by detailed specialist input refined at each phase, as well as input from stakeholders and authorities through consultation, and avoids all no-go areas (based on infrastructure type). Table 3-1 in the DEIAr highlights the iterative approach undertaken. It should however be noted that the preferred layout of the Hoogland Wind Farms have each been assessed against the 'no-go' alternative.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>k) a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity.</p> <p>(ii) Written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.</p> <p>(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest</p> <p>(i) 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 the Department's website (please use the Department's template).</p> <p><u>(f) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p>(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:</p> <p>a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p> <p>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</p> <p>c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no</p>	<p><u>(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: Please refer to Appendix A of the final EIAR for populated copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms that were downloaded from the Department's website. Updated specialist Dols which indicate the status of specialist registrations / memberships (where applicable / required) have been included as part of the final EIAR.</p> <p><u>(f) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The EAP can confirm that all specialist studies include:</p> <p>a) and b) Specialist reports have been compiled in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations and included herein the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), that have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments have been conducted in accordance with these protocols and they detail their methodology used.</p> <p>A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p> <p>c) Clear and concise definitions of the 'no-go' areas are provided in the EIAR (Section 6, Table 6.1) and in the terms of reference (ToR) provided to the specialists (Appendix H-Terms of Reference). No-Go is defined as an area where no development of <u>certain</u> infrastructure is allowed, this approach was discussed and approved with the DFFE in the Pre-Application</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p> <p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p> <p>f) Bird and bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.</p> <p>g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(ii) 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.</p> <p>(iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for</p>	<p>meetings (Minutes included in Appendices D1- Screening Phase and D2 – Scoping Phase and Appendix 1 of the Application form).</p> <p>d) The specialists have described the No-Go's relevant to their studies and have indicated the 'no-go' area's and buffers if applicable. Noting that different spatial features were considered as no-gos for the different types of wind farm infrastructure.</p> <p>e) All specialist studies are final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the wind farm layout and associated infrastructure, and recommendations, and do not recommend further studies to be completed post EA, however some specialists (namely the Terrestrial Ecologist, Aquatic Ecologist, Archaeologist, Palaeontologist, and Avifaunal Specialist are to be enlisted to conduct post-authorisation micro-siting of the wind farm infrastructure with the design engineers to reduce potential impacts relating to these specialist fields. Further to this construction and/or operational monitoring programmes for Riverine Rabbits, bats and avifauna are also required. Section 8.3 for key recommendations as well as Appendix C for detailed specialist studies.</p> <p>f) Birdlife have indicated that they have no further comments on the development (See Row 11. SABAA have not commented on the project despite attempts to contact them for specific comment (Please see Appendix D2 – Scoping Phase and D3 EIA Phase).</p> <p>g) Specialist specific mitigation measures and recommendations are clearly indicated in Section 8.3 of the EIAR and within the Specialist Reports (Appendix C).</p> <p>(ii) No contradicting recommendations were found.</p> <p>(iii)- (vi) Specialist reports have been compiled in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations and included herein the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental</p>

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		<p>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.</p> <p>(iv) <u>As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</u></p> <p>(v) Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.</p> <p>(vi) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists’ to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.</p> <p><u>(g) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) Should there be any 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:</p> <p>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <p>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p> <p>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p>	<p>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), that have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments have been conducted in accordance with these protocols. Please see Appendix A for DOIs and Appendix C for specialist studies which contain specialist specific DOIs, their relevant scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/memberships. All relevant specialists are SACNASP registered, as inclusion of the certificates is not stipulated in the Protocol, they have been provided in a separate Appendix folder under Appendix C.</p> <p><u>(g) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: A cumulative impact assessment has been conducted during the Scoping and EIA Phases and the results are presented in the EIAR. Other than the three (3) proposed Nuweveld Wind Farms, there are currently no approved renewable energy EA applications within a 30km radius of the project site (see Figure 6-5 of BAR). The nearest operational Wind Farm from the site is the Noblesfontein Wind Farm located approximately 65km to the Northeast.</p> <p>The latest South African Renewable Energy EIA Application Database (REEA) (“REEA_OR_2022_Q1”), which was released by the DFFE on 31 May 2022, was used during the EIA Phase. Subsequent to this report going out for public participation, the REEA second quarter dataset (REEA_OR_2022_Q2) was released on the 30th of August 2022. After interrogation of the new dataset, it was determined that no new additional neighbouring projects / applications were included in the most-recent version of the database (Q2, 2022), and the database still shows the same renewable energy projects (solar) authorised close to Beaufort West as presented in the Final Scoping Report and draft EIA Report. Research at the time had already confirmed that none of these projects are going ahead/have a valid EA. Although there is interest in this area due to proximity to the Beaufort West REDZ, research has shown that no other proposed renewable projects within this radius are in the public domain. The wind farm application’s impacts are therefore cumulatively assessed together with the three (3) Nuweveld Wind Farms by each specialist. These have only been quantified where possible. Refer to Section</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p><u>(h) Undertaking of an Oath</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that the final BAR includes an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP.</p> <p>(ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the BAR must include: “an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports; b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs; c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and d) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties”. <p><u>(i) Specialist Declaration of Interest</u></p>	<p>7 of the EIAR. Table 8-1 - Table 8-4 in the EIAR provides a summary of the potential environmental impacts that have been identified and assessed, which include cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The approach to assessing cumulative impacts was discussed with the DFFE in the pre-application meeting and detailed in the Scoping report and Plan of Study for the EIA. We believe the assessment is consistent with those requirements.</p> <p>The 2017 DEA Needs and desirability guideline were used to guide a discussion of the need and desirability of the project. The potential impact (which includes the cumulative impacts of the project) is discussed and inherently considered as part of the discussion on desirability. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the project may proceed has been provided in Section 10.2 of the EIAR.</p> <p><u>(h) Undertaking of an Oath</u></p> <p>(I and ii) A Declaration and undertaking under Oath, using the DFFE’s latest form from their website, has been completed, signed and certified under a commissioner of oaths and is appended as Appendix A.</p> <p><u>(i) Specialist Declaration of Interest</u></p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(i) 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)</p> <p><u>(j) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>(i) The final EIAr must comply with <u>all the conditions of the acceptance of the SR signed on 17 June 2022</u> and must address all comments contained in the final SR, the draft EIAr and this letter.</p> <p>(ii) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.</p> <p>(iii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>(i) EAP: Please refer to Appendix A of the final EIAr for copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms that were downloaded from the Department's website. Updated specialist DoIs which indicate the status of specialist registrations / memberships (where applicable / required) have been included as part of the final EIAr.</p> <p><u>(j) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The EAP has ensured that all comments received to date from all relevant stakeholders (see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D3 of EIAr) have been submitted to the Department with the EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders has been included in Appendix D of the EIAr. In addition, Section 6.2.4 the EIAr includes a summary of the comments received from I&APs and stakeholders to date, with a summary of the consultation undertaken with the Competent Authority included in Section 6.2.5. Responses to comments provided by I&APs and stakeholders (where required) have been included in the C&RR (this document), which has been made available with the EIAr.</p> <p>(ii) EAP: The EAP ensures that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and key stakeholders such as organs of state (OoS) which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity (including the DFFE's Biodiversity Directorate – see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D3 of EIAr), have been adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Please refer to Appendix D of the EIAr for a copy of all comments received as part of the Scoping and EIA phases. All issues raised and comments received to date from I&APs and key stakeholders and the respective responses are included in this C&RR in Appendix D.</p> <p>(iii) EAP: Proof of notification of the project and correspondence with the various I&APs and key stakeholders to date has been included in the final EIAr (Appendix D). All registered I&APs and key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment periods for the Draft SR and EIAr accordingly. Key stakeholders were also sent individual notifications with some contacted telephonically as well.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: Please refer to the responses to (j)(i)(ii) and (iii) above which are applicable here</p>

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		<p>(iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAr from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Area Sections), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAr.</p> <p>(v) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAr.</p> <p>(vi) 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. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAr for comment.</p> <p>(vii) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAr from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).</p> <p>(viii) The CRR 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.</p> <p>(ix) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly.</p>	<p>(v) EAP: Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAr.</p> <p>(vi) EAP: Refer to response to (j) (iii) above.</p> <p>(vii) EAP: Refer to the response to (j)(i) above.</p> <p>(viii) EAP: As mentioned above, all issues raised and/or comments received to date from I&APs and/or key stakeholders are detailed in this C&RR, with responses provided where required. The C&RR has been submitted as part of the Final EIAr (Appendix D3). The EAP can confirm that the C&RR is a separate document from the main report (i.e., the Final BAR) and that the format aligns with the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of the DFFE's comments letter (and contains all relevant information required by the department).</p> <p>(ix) The EAP has refrained from summarising comments made by I&APs and key stakeholders and all comments have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly (where required). In addition, the EAP has not made use of responses such as "Noted" only.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.</p> <p>(x) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAR.</p> <p><u>(k) Environmental Management Programme</u></p> <p>(i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation, 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, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.</p> <p>(ii) 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.</p> <p>(iii) Please be informed that the following content must be incorporated within the EMPr/s as indicated in Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended:</p> <p>a) Details of the EAP who prepared the EMPr; and the expertise of that EAP to prepare an EMPr, including a curriculum vitae.</p> <p>b) A map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers.</p>	<p>(x) Minutes of any physical / virtual meetings which have been held with I&APs and/or key stakeholders have been compiled and included in the final EIAR (Appendix D1 & D2). Registers are available to DFFE on request to ensure compliance with POPIA.</p> <p><u>(k) Environmental Management Programme</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The Generic EMPrs for the substations and overhead internal powerlines (up to 66kV) have been included in Appendix F.</p> <p>(ii and iii) EAP: The Wind Farm EMPr is included in Appendix F and complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>(iii) EAP: The required information is contained in the Wind Farm EMPr, See Appendix F of the BAR. More specifically:</p> <p>(a) Specialist mitigation measures are included throughout the entire EMPr depending on the phase of the projects.</p> <p>(b) See Figure 1-2 for the site layout plan.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>c) A description of the impact management outcomes, including management statements, identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided, managed and mitigated as identified through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the development including –</p> <p>(aa) Planning and design;</p> <p>(bb) Pre-construction activities;</p> <p>(cc) Construction activities;</p> <p>(dd) Rehabilitation of the environment after construction and where applicable post closure; and</p> <p>(ee) Where relevant, operation activities.</p> <p>d) A description of proposed impact management actions, identifying the manner in which the impact management outcomes contemplated in paragraph (d) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be achieved, and must, where applicable, include actions to –</p> <p>e) Avoid, modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation;</p> <p>f) Comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices;</p> <p>g) Comply with any applicable provisions of the Act regarding closure, where applicable; and</p> <p>h) Comply with any provisions of the Act regarding financial provision for rehabilitation, where applicable.</p> <p>i) The method of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>j) The frequency of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>k) An indication of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions.</p>	<p>(c) Refer to response to (a) above. Micro-siting will take place if the project is authorised and gets developed.</p> <p>(d) Sensitivity maps are shown in Figure 1-5 to Figure 1.8.</p> <p>(e) – (l) Various management and/or monitoring plans as listed here are included as Appendices to the EMPr.</p>

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		<p>l) The time periods within which the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, must be implemented.</p> <p>m) The mechanism for monitoring compliance with the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>n) A program for reporting on compliance, taking into account the requirements as prescribed by the Regulations.</p> <p><u>(m) General</u></p> <p>Please also ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>(m) & (n) The EMPr includes for these measures in the respective sub-sections eg 'hazardous substances' and the 'specialist specific' measures proposed by the aquatic specialist.</p> <p><u>(m) General</u></p> <p>The period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required is in Section 10.3.1. The applicant has requested a 10-year validity for the Environmental Authorisation (EA)</p> <p>The timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, are being met to ensure that the application does not lapse.</p> <p>Applicant: No activity related to the proposed development will proceed without an EA being granted by the DFFE.</p>
16.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p> <p>Acting Chief Director</p> <p>-Milicent Solomons</p> <p>- Letter via email</p> <p>- 14/09/2022</p>	<p>Dear Mr Heather-Clarke</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOUGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> Please see below for the EAP and/or Applicant's responses to the DFFE's comments:</p>

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		<p>The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated August 2022 and received by this Department on 15 August 2022, refers.</p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:</u></p> <p><u>(a) Specific Comments</u></p> <p>(i) The presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site as indicated in the Flora and Fauna specialist study, and the consequent classification of the riparian areas as Very High sensitivity based on their value as Riverine Rabbit habitat and general ecological significance is noted.</p> <p>(ii) Comments from this Department's Biodiversity Management Directorate as well as the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation must be sought to understand if the potential impacts of the presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site have been fully assessed and that the proposed mitigation measures thereto are adequate.</p> <p>(iii) The recommendations provided by the specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative</p> <p>(iv) The EAP must identify and provide a map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area.</p>	<p><u>(a) Specific Comments</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: No response required.</p> <p>(ii) EAP: The Hoogland Projects are within the Western Cape and as such attempts have been made to obtain comments from key stakeholders, which included the DFFE's Biodiversity Management Directorate, NC DENC, EWT and CapeNature. Comments were obtained from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate and can be found in row 14 however did not address the presences of the Riverine Rabbit. It should be note that with regards to NC DENC, no comments have been received despite targeted correspondence during the Scoping Phase, and it is noted only minor watercourse crossing upgrades of existing public roads outside the wind farm boundary fall within their jurisdiction. Note also that EWT, as the main NGO serving to protect Riverine Rabbits through their Drylands Conservation Programme, have been engaged by the EAP, the specialist and the Applicant throughout the process with regards to impacts on the Riverine Rabbit specifically; they have commented on the project during both the Scoping and EIA Phases and were satisfied with the approach to the wind farm design and the reporting. CapeNature supports the buffers applied to avoid impact to the Riverine Rabbit, see row 21.</p> <p>(iii) Specialist recommendations provided in the screening, scoping and EIA phases have been considered and used to inform the preferred layout. Section 6 of the EIAR explains the comprehensive iterative design approach which was unformed by specialist input.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: A map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area can be found in Section 6, Figure 6.3. Other than the three (3) proposed Nuweveld Wind Farms, there are currently no approved renewable energy</p>

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		<p>(v) The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the Scoping Report (SR) and must address all comments contained in the draft SR and this letter.</p> <p>(vi) The final EIAR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken which was included in the screening tool report.</p> <p>(vii) The EMPr must include a provision to make the following reports available to the Department and applicable competent authority on request: alien/invasive plant management report; plant rescue and protection report; and re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation report.</p> <p>(viii) Please ensure that all the mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</p> <p>(ix) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the final EIAR, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the final EIAR and its associated layout plans.</p>	<p>EA applications within a 30km radius of the project site (see Figure 6-5 of EIAR). The nearest operational Wind Farm from the site is the Noblesfontein Wind Farm located approximately 65km to the Northeast.</p> <p>(v) EAP: We have reviewed the Scoping Report Acceptance letter, and other key correspondence with the Department, and believe the requirements of the letter have been adequately addressed.</p> <p>(vi) EAP: Section 6.1.3.1 includes a Table of all specialist assessments identified by the Screening Tool and which relevant protocols apply. The section also motivates which themes did not require an assessment. Specialist reports have been compiled in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations and included herein the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), that have come into effect.</p> <p>(vii) EAP: The Wind Farm EMPr and Generic EMPrs are included in Appendix F and comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. The alien/invasive plant management report; plant rescue and protection plan; and re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan are included in the Wind Farm EMPr Appendices (refer to Appendix F, E and I respectively).</p> <p>(viii) EAP: All the mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines</p> <p>(ix) EAP: The specific location and details of the Wind Farm and associated layout plans can be found in Section 2. The Maps in Section 2.3 are also included in Appendix B.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(x) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(xi) All applicable generic EMPs must be signed. We request that you adequately complete all applicable sections in the generic EMPs</p> <p><u>(b) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.</p> <p>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.</p> <p>(iii) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iv) The listed activities represented in the final EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct.</p> <p>(v) 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.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p>	<p>(x) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the final list of all applicable listed activities are clearly identified and are provided in both the final BAR and Application form. No activities are to be removed for the final EIAR.</p> <p>(xi) EAP: All applicable generic EMPs are signed and all applicable sections in the generic EMPs are adequately completed</p> <p><u>(b) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities have been applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description (See Table 4-2 in Section 4.2.1 of the EIAR).</p> <p>(ii) EAP: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices (See Table 4-2 in Section 4.2.1 of the EIAR).</p> <p>(iii) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the final list of all applicable listed activities are clearly identified and are provided in both the final EIAR and Application form. No activities are to be removed for the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the activities applied for in the application form DO NOT differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR (nor the draft EIAR as they remain unchanged).</p> <p>(v) EAP: Please be advised that the most recent version of the Department's application form template (namely April 2021) was used for the applications forms which accompanied the draft EIAR (available from following link: https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms). The</p>

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		<p>(vi) The final EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.</p> <p>(vii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</p> <p><u>(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) The final 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.</p> <p>(ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <p>a) The envisioned area for the infrastructure, i.e. placing of infrastructure and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.</p> <p>b) Location of turbines;</p>	<p>EAP will ensure that the most recent application form will be resubmitted to ensure any minor updates in the final EIARBAR align with the application form.</p> <p>(vi) EAP: The Final EIAR submitted to the DFFE for review provides an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for the infrastructure described in the project description, on which the listed activities are based.</p> <p>(vii) EAP: the relevant authorities have been continuously involved throughout the assessment process as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments have been obtained from the relevant authorities (namely CapeNature) and submitted to this Department, also found in Appendix D of the Final EIAR. Geographical representation of the proposed development is provided and can be found in the Final EIAR and Appendix B Maps.</p> <p><u>(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The final EIAR provides coordinate points for the proposed development site (which includes bend point coordinates, where required) as well as the coordinates of substations and BESS (see upfront Section titled “GENERAL SITE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY DFFE” and Section 2.1 and map provided in Appendix B).</p> <p>(ii) EAP: A copy of the final layout map has been submitted with the final EIAR (Figure 2.6 and in Appendix B). All available biodiversity information was used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure has been used as far as possible, the map depicts turbine locations and all supporting onsite infrastructure required such as laydown areas, roads, underground and overhead cables, substations, batteries, and temporary construction camps.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>c) All supporting onsite infrastructure required such as laydown areas, roads etc. (existing and proposed);</p> <p>d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</p> <p>e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and</p> <p>f) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the infrastructure.</p> <p>g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure.</p> <p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and</p> <p>c) All “no-go” areas.</p> <p>(iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.</p> <p>(v) Google maps will not be accepted.</p> <p><u>(d) Alternatives</u></p>	<p>(iii) EAP: An environmental sensitivity map which indicates the information requested by the DFFE (where available) has been provided as part of the EIAR. Please refer to Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-8 in Section 9 of the EIAR. Key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas have been identified by a number of specialists, namely Geotechnical; Agricultural; Ecology (including Riverine Rabbit and Karoo dwarf tortoise); Aquatic; Bats; Avifauna; Heritage (including Palaeontology, Archaeology, Graves, Built Environment, Cultural landscape); Visual and Noise, which were compiled into the consolidated ‘No-Go’ map (which combines the ‘No-Go’ sensitivities of all specialist fields into one map – see Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-8). Please refer to Table 9-1 in Section 9 of the EIAR for a summary of the key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas identified by the specialists. The high number of specialist specific sensitivity layers, and the scale of the mapping, means it is best to view the specialist specific sensitivities in isolation as part of their specific discipline within Section 7 of the EIAR, or within the respective specialist studies (reports) in Appendix C.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: It should be noted that the EAP has provided separate cumulative impact (Figure 6-7) and sensitivity maps (Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-8) as part of the EIAR, as the ‘no-go’ areas identified are site-specific (i.e., contained to project site) and not for the 30km cumulative impact radius. It is not possible to map these areas effectively (i.e., cannot map them in detail) at the cumulative scale (namely at a 30km radius).</p> <p>(v) EAP: Mapping for the EIAR is undertaken in ArcGIS10.8.1.</p> <p><u>(d) Alternatives</u></p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(i) Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, including the following content:</p> <p>a) details of all the alternatives considered;</p> <p>b) details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs;</p> <p>c) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;</p> <p>d) the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;</p> <p>e) the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts—</p> <p>(aa) can be reversed;</p> <p>(bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and</p> <p>(cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated;</p> <p>f) the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives;</p> <p>g) positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;</p> <p>h) the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk;</p> <p>i) the outcome of the site selection matrix;</p>	<p>(i) & (ii) EAP: A description of alternatives assessed as part of the Scoping & EIA process is detailed in Section 3 of the EIAR. It should be noted that a comprehensive iterative design process (which included screening and pre-application phases) has been undertaken to inform the respective Wind Farm layouts and associated Grid Connection infrastructure for the Hoogland Projects, which negates the need for an alternative's assessment. Due to the thorough comprehensive iterative design process undertaken by the Applicant, the project layouts have been informed by detailed specialist input refined at each phase, as well as input from stakeholders and authorities through consultation, and avoids all no-go areas (based on infrastructure type). Table 3-1 in the DEIAR highlights the iterative approach undertaken. It should however be noted that the preferred layout of the Hoogland Wind Farms have each been assessed against the 'no-go' alternative.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>j) if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and</p> <p>k) a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity.</p> <p>(ii) Written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.</p> <p>(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest</p> <p>(i) 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 the Department's website (please use the Department's template).</p> <p>(f) Specialist Assessments</p> <p>(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:</p> <p>a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p> <p>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</p>	<p>(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest</p> <p>(i) EAP: Please refer to Appendix A of the final EIAR for populated copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms that were downloaded from the Department's website. Updated specialist Dols which indicate the status of specialist registrations / memberships (where applicable / required) have been included as part of the final EIAR.</p> <p>(f) Specialist Assessments</p> <p>(i) EAP: The EAP can confirm that all specialist studies include:</p> <p>a) and b) Specialist reports have been compiled in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations and included herein the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), that have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments have been conducted in accordance with these protocols and they detail their methodology used.</p> <p>A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>c) Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.</p> <p>d) Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.</p> <p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p> <p>f) Bird and bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.</p> <p>g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(ii) 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.</p>	<p>c) Clear and concise definitions of the ‘no-go’ areas are provided in the EIAR (Section 6, Table 6.1) and in the terms of reference (ToR) provided to the specialists (Appendix H-Terms of Reference). No-Go is defined as an area where no development of <u>certain</u> infrastructure is allowed, this approach was discussed and approved with the DFFE in the Pre-Application meetings (Minutes included in Appendices D1- Screening Phase and D2 – Scoping Phase and Appendix 1 of the Application form).</p> <p>d) The specialists have described the No-Go’s relevant to their studies and have indicated the ‘no-go’ area’s and buffers if applicable. Noting that different spatial features were considered as no-gos for the different types of wind farm infrastructure.</p> <p>e) All specialist studies are final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the wind farm layout and associated infrastructure, and recommendations, and do not recommend further studies to be completed post EA, however some specialists (namely the Terrestrial Ecologist, Aquatic Ecologist, Archaeologist, Palaeontologist, and Avifaunal Specialist are to be enlisted to conduct post-authorisation micro-siting of the wind farm infrastructure with the design engineers to reduce potential impacts relating to these specialist fields. Further to this construction and/or operational monitoring programmes for Riverine Rabbits, bats and avifauna are also required. Section 8.3 for key recommendations as well as Appendix C for detailed specialist studies.</p> <p>f) Birdlife have indicated that they have no further comments on the development (See Row 11). SABAA have not commented on the project despite attempts to contact them for specific comment (Please see Appendix D2 – Scoping Phase and D3 EIA Phase).</p> <p>g) Specialist specific mitigation measures and recommendations are clearly indicated in Section 8.3 of the EIAR and within the Specialist Reports (Appendix C).</p> <p>(ii) No contradicting recommendations were found.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p> <p>(iv) <u>As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</u></p> <p>(v) Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.</p> <p>(vi) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists’ to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.</p> <p><u>(g) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) Should there be any 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:</p> <p>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <p>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p>	<p>(iii)- (vi) Specialist reports have been compiled in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations and included herein the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), that have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments have been conducted in accordance with these protocols. Please see Appendix A for DOIs and Appendix C for specialist studies which contain specialist specific DOIs, their relevant scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/memberships. All relevant specialists are SACNASP registered, as inclusion of the certificates is not stipulated in the Protocol, they have been provided in a separate Appendix folder under Appendix C.</p> <p><u>(g) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: A cumulative impact assessment has been conducted during the Scoping and EIA Phases and the results are presented in the EIAR. Other than the three (3) proposed Nuweveld Wind Farms, there are currently no approved renewable energy EA applications within a 30km radius of the project site (see Figure 6-5 of BAR). The nearest operational Wind Farm from the site is the Noblesfontein Wind Farm located approximately 65km to the Northeast.</p> <p>The latest South African Renewable Energy EIA Application Database (REEA) (“REEA_OR_2022_Q1”), which was released by the DFFE on 31 May 2022, was used during the EIA Phase. Subsequent to this report going out for public participation, the REEA second quarter dataset (REEA_OR_2022_Q2) was released on the 30th of August 2022. After interrogation of the new dataset, it was determined that no new additional neighbouring projects / applications were included in the most-recent version of the database (Q2, 2022), and the database still shows the same renewable energy projects (solar) authorised close to Beaufort West as</p>

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		<p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p> <p>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p> <p><u>(h) Undertaking of an Oath</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that the final BAR includes an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP.</p> <p>(ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the BAR must include: <i>“an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</i></p> <p><i>a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports;</i></p> <p><i>b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;</i></p>	<p>presented in the Final Scoping Report and draft EIA Report., Research at the time had already confirmed that none of these projects are going ahead/have a valid EA. Although there is interest in this area due to proximity to the Beaufort West REDZ, research has shown that no other proposed renewable projects within this radius are in the public domain. The wind farm application’s impacts are therefore cumulatively assessed together with the three (3) Nuweveld Wind Farms by each specialist. These have only been quantified where possible. Refer to Section 7 of the EIAR. Table 8-1 - Table 8-4 in the EIAR provides a summary of the potential environmental impacts that have been identified and assessed, which include cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The approach to assessing cumulative impacts was discussed with the DFFE in the pre-application meeting and detailed in the Scoping report and Plan of Study for the EIA. We believe the assessment is consistent with those requirements.</p> <p>The 2017 DEA Needs and desirability guideline were used to guide a discussion of the need and desirability of the project. The potential impact (which includes the cumulative impacts of the project) is discussed and inherently considered as part of the discussion on desirability. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the project may proceed has been provided in Section 10.2 of the EIAR.</p> <p><u>(h) Undertaking of an Oath</u></p> <p>(i) & (ii) A Declaration and undertaking under Oath, using the DFFE’s latest form from their website, has been completed, signed and certified under a commissioner of oaths and is appended as Appendix A.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p><i>c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and</i></p> <p><i>d) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties”.</i></p> <p><u>(i) Specialist Declaration of Interest</u></p> <p>(i) 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)</p> <p><u>(j) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>(i) The final EIAr must comply with <u>all the conditions of the acceptance of the SR signed on 17 June 2022</u> and must address all comments contained in the final SR, the draft EIAr and this letter.</p> <p>(ii) Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.</p>	<p><u>(i) Specialist Declaration of Interest</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: Please refer to Appendix A of the final EIAr for copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms that were downloaded from the Department’s website. Updated specialist DolS which indicate the status of specialist registrations / memberships (where applicable / required) have been included as part of the final EIAr.</p> <p><u>(j) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The EAP has ensured that all comments received to date from all relevant stakeholders (see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D3 of EIAr) have been submitted to the Department with the EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders has been included in Appendix D of the EIAr. In addition, Section 6.2.4 the EIAr includes a summary of the comments received from I&APs and stakeholders to date, with a summary of the consultation undertaken with the Competent Authority included in Section 6.2.5. Responses to comments provided by I&APs and stakeholders (where required) have been included in the C&RR (this document), which has been made available with the EIAr.</p> <p>(ii) EAP: The EAP ensures that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and key stakeholders such as organs of state (OoS) which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity (including the DFFE’s Biodiversity Directorate – see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D3 of EIAr), , have been adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Please refer to Appendix D of the EIAr for a copy of all comments received as part of the Scoping and EIA phases. All issues raised and comments received to date from I&APs and key stakeholders and the respective responses are included in this C&RR in Appendix D.</p>

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		<p>(iii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>(iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Area Sections), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(v) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR.</p> <p>(vi) 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. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAR for comment.</p> <p>(vii) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).</p>	<p>(iii) EAP: Proof of notification of the project and correspondence with the various I&APs and key stakeholders to date has been included in the final EIAR (Appendix D). All registered I&APs and key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment periods for the Draft SR and EIAR accordingly. Key stakeholders were also sent individual notifications with some contacted telephonically as well.</p> <p>(iv) EAP: Please refer to the responses to (j)(i)(ii) and (iii) above which are applicable here</p> <p>(v) EAP: Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR.</p> <p>(vi) EAP: Refer to response to (j) (iii) above.</p> <p>(vii) EAP: Refer to the response to (j)(i) above.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(viii) The CRR 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.</p> <p>(ix) 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.</p> <p>(x) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAr.</p> <p><u>(k) Environmental Management Programme</u></p> <p>(i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation, 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, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.</p> <p>(ii) 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.</p> <p>(iii) Please be informed that the following content must be incorporated within the EMPr/s as indicated in Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended:</p>	<p>viii) EAP: As mentioned above, all issues raised and/or comments received to date from I&APs and/or key stakeholders are detailed in this C&RR, with responses provided where required. The C&RR has been submitted as part of the Final EIAr (Appendix D3). The EAP can confirm that the C&RR is a separate document from the main report (i.e., the Final BAR) and that the format aligns with the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of the DFFE’s comments letter (and contains all relevant information required by the department).</p> <p>(ix) The EAP has refrained from summarising comments made by I&APs and key stakeholders and all comments have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly (where required). In addition, the EAP has not made use of responses such as “Noted” only.</p> <p>(x) Minutes of any physical / virtual meetings which have been held with I&APs and/or key stakeholders have been compiled and included in the final EIAr (Appendix D1 & D2). Registers are available to DFFE on request to ensure compliance with POPIA.</p> <p><u>(k) Environmental Management Programme</u></p> <p>(i) EAP: The Generic EMPrs for the switching substations and overhead internal powerlines (up to 66kV) have been included in Appendix F.</p> <p>(ii) & (iii) EAP: The Wind Farm EMPr is also included in Appendix F and complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. The required information is contained in the Wind Farm EMPr, See Appendix F of the BAR. More specifically:</p> <p>(a) Specialist mitigation measures are included throughout the entire EMPr depending on the phase of the projects.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>a) Details of the EAP who prepared the EMPr; and the expertise of that EAP to prepare an EMPr, including a curriculum vitae.</p> <p>b) A map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers.</p> <p>c) A description of the impact management outcomes, including management statements, identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided, managed and mitigated as identified through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the development including –</p> <p>(aa) Planning and design;</p> <p>(bb) Pre-construction activities;</p> <p>(cc) Construction activities;</p> <p>(dd) Rehabilitation of the environment after construction and where applicable post closure; and</p> <p>(ee) Where relevant, operation activities.</p> <p>d) A description of proposed impact management actions, identifying the manner in which the impact management outcomes contemplated in paragraph (d) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be achieved, and must, where applicable, include actions to –</p> <p>e) Avoid, modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation;</p> <p>f) Comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices;</p> <p>g) Comply with any applicable provisions of the Act regarding closure, where applicable; and</p> <p>h) Comply with any provisions of the Act regarding financial provision for rehabilitation, where applicable.</p> <p>i) The method of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>(b) See Figure 1-2 for the site layout plan.</p> <p>(c) Refer to response to (a) above. Micro-siting will take place if the project is authorised and gets developed.</p> <p>(d) Sensitivity maps are shown in Figure 1-5 to Figure 1.8.</p> <p>(e) – (l) Various management and/or monitoring plans as listed here are included as Appendices to the EMPr.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>j) The frequency of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>k) An indication of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions.</p> <p>l) The time periods within which the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, must be implemented.</p> <p>m) The mechanism for monitoring compliance with the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>n) A program for reporting on compliance, taking into account the requirements as prescribed by the Regulations.</p> <p><u>(m) General</u></p> <p>Please also ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>(m) & (n) The EMPr includes for these measures in the respective sub-sections eg 'hazardous substances' and the 'specialist specific' measures proposed by the aquatic specialist.</p> <p><u>(m) General</u></p> <p>The period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required is in Section 10.3.2. The applicant has requested a 10-year validity for the Environmental Authorisation (EA)</p> <p>The timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, are being met to ensure that the application does not lapse.</p> <p>Applicant: No activity related to the proposed development will proceed without an EA being granted by the DFFE.</p>
17.	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) - Natasha Higgitt	<p>Final Comment</p> <p>In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p>Attention: SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd</p>	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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	<p>- Final Comment Letter via SAHRIS</p> <p>- 14/09/2022</p>	<p>Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd ('Red Cap') is proposing to develop four Wind Farms and associated grid connections (together referred to as the Hoogland Project) in an area located between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province. Hoogland 1 and 2 are located to the north closer to Loxton and form the Northern Cluster of Wind Farms that will share a grid connection named the Hoogland Northern Grid Connection. Hoogland 3 and 4 are located closer to Beaufort West and comprise the Southern Cluster which will similarly share a separate grid connection, named the Southern Grid Connection This application is for the Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm), which is subject to a Scoping and EIA process. Even though these are two separate applications they are being considered in the same EIA Report. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has granted Red Cap permission to combine the two Wind Farms into one Environmental Authorisation Application processes under Regulation 11 (1) of GN R. 982. It is proposed that each wind farm will comprise of up to 60 turbines with a targeted nameplate generation capacity of a maximum of 420MW. The entire footprint for each respective wind farm falls within the Western Cape Province, however, some watercourse crossing upgrades on existing roads fall within the Northern Cape and are under the jurisdiction of SAHRA. A supplementary specialist report was compiled to assess the watercourse crossing upgrades required on Northern Cape roads as shared infrastructure for the Hoogland Northern Projects, the findings of which have been incorporated into and presented within the EIA report.</p> <p>SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty Ltd) has been appointed by Red Cap Hoogland 1 (Pty) Ltd and Red Cap Hoogland 2 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Red Cap Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster between Loxton, Northern Cape Province and Beaufort West, Western Cape Province (Hoogland 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 and Hoogland 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146).</p> <p>A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act,1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of 94 and 82 turbines respectively for each facility including infrastructure such as underground cables, on-site substation, battery energy storage system, turbine foundations, transformers at each turbine, workshop and laydown areas, hardstands at each turbine, operation and maintenance buildings, office stores, service</p>	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>and access roads, stormwater infrastructure, gates, temporary site camps, concrete batching plant, crane boom and blade laydown areas. It must be noted that the majority of both developments is located in the Western Cape. The only development activities located in the Northern Cape include stream crossing upgrades, which are shared activities for both EA applications. This comment pertains only to the stream crossing upgrades located within the Northern Cape Province.</p> <p>Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required bisection 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p><i>Almond, J. E. 2022. Proposed Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection Project Northern Cluster: Hoogland1 Wind Farm, Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and Associated Hoogland Northern Grid Connection, Western Cape Province: Palaeontological Heritage.</i></p> <p>The proposed development area is underlain by the lower Beaufort Group of Middle to Late Permian age. Several fossils were identified within streams in the Western Cape section of the development area which include several skulls and post-cranial skeletal remains of tetrapod's, numerous tetrapod burrow casts and allow diversity of trace fossils which were concluded to be of limited scientific or conservation value. The area in which the stream crossings are located were not assessed as part of the PIA as these activities were added after the completion of the PIA.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final, authorised layout of the Hoogland Wind Farm and Grid Connection projects should be crosschecked against the available fossil database and other relevant resources (e.g. satellite imagery, geological maps) by the palaeontological specialist who should make recommendations fore-construction phase mitigation, if any proves necessary. This might entail, for example, focused palaeontological walk-downs of selected, previously surveyed and potentially sensitive sectors of the project footprint with judicious sampling or collection of threatened fossil material of scientific and / or conservation value; • Application of Chance Fossil Finds Protocol by the ECO and palaeontological specialist during the construction phase (See Appendix 4). 	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p><i>Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape.</i></p> <p>Only the results of the survey at the stream crossings will be discussed here. One of the stream crossings includes a concrete bridge dated to 1952, making the bridge 70 years old and thus protected by section 34 of the NHRA. The report noted the bridge as a heritage resource of very low cultural significance and required no further study.</p> <p>In an Interim Comment issued on the 26/05/2022, SAHRA requested that a field based PIA of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape section be conducted as part of the EIA phase as fossils have been identified in streams in the Western Cape section of the development. A letter of response to the Interim Comment has been uploaded to the Heritage Report file on the case (03/06/2022).</p> <p><i>Almond, J. E. 2022. Northern Cape Palaeontological Heritage Input: Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm between Loxton and Beaufort West, Western and Northern Cape Provinces.</i></p> <p>The specialist noted that the appointed archaeologist inspected the proposed stream crossings who stated that the crossings are unlikely to have good exposure of the Beaufort Group bedrock or older consolidated alluvium, in which fossils are likely to occur.</p> <p>The specialist continues to state that the recommendations of the original PIA state that a walkthrough of the final layout of the development is to be conducted once the layout is finalised, and that the stream crossings could be inspected at that time, to save on time and expenses.</p> <p>In an Interim Comment, SAHRA stated that the motivation for no field-based PIA to be conducted of the stream crossings during the EIA phase of the EA application is not accepted. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a field-based PIA has been submitted to the case along with the Draft EIA (16/08/2022).</p> <p><i>Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster Northern Cape Watercourse Crossing Upgrades.</i></p> <p>The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Abrahamskraal Formation and Poortjie Member of the Adelaide Subgroup and Cenozoic superficial deposits. Fragmented imprints of plant fossils were identified</p>	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>within the vicinity of Crossing DR2314-1, a well-preserved tetrapod skull and skeleton was identified at Crossing DR02314-2 & 3, ripple marks on loose slabs were identified at Crossing R381-5 and fragmented fossils of vertebrate skeletal bones and trace fossils were identified at Crossing R381-6.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well-preserved tetrapod skull and skeleton were observed near crossing DR023142&3 (-31.819436;22.089300). Mitigation of this specimen is recommended; • The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for this project must be informed that sediments of the Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) have a Very High Palaeontological Sensitivity. Training of accountable supervisory personnel (ECO) by a qualified palaeontologist in the recognition of fossil heritage is very important and necessary; • If Palaeontological Heritage is uncovered during surface clearing and excavations the Chance Finds Protocol attached should be implemented immediately. Fossil discoveries ought to be protected and the ECO/site manager must report to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel:021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation (recording and collection) can be carried out; • Before any fossil material can be collected from the development site the specialist involved would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be housed in an official collection (museum or university), while all reports and fieldwork should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies proposed by SAHRA (2012); • These recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme for the proposed development. <p>Final Comment</p> <p>*These comments are only valid for the Northern Cape section of the development.</p>	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development; • 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows: • A permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA and Chapter II and Chapter IV of the June 2000 Regulations must be applied for from SAHRA in order to mitigate the tetrapod fossil; • 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; • 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; • 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences; • 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists: • With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above; If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a 	<p>EAP: SAHRA's comments are noted and the requirements in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA have been included in the EMPr submitted with the Final EIAr.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes; <p>The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>	
18.	<p>Endangered Wildlife Trust Nama Karoo Coordinator - Bonnie Schumann - Email - 16/09/2022</p>	<p>From: Bonnie Schumann Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 To: Hoogland Cc: Lance Blaine; Johan du Plessis Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Dear Liandra Re: <u>Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</u> The Endangered Wildlife Trust Drylands Conservation Programme has no comments at this stage. However, we reserve the right to comment in future should any new information come to light. Many thanks.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2022 To: Bonnie Schumann Cc: Lance Blaine; Johan du Plessis; Hoogland Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Wind farms & Grid Connection Projects near Beaufort West & Loxton - Notification of Public Participation Period</p> <p>Dear Bonnie Thank you for your email. We will keep you updated to the progress of our project. Have a good week further Kind regards Liandra</p>
19.	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape Government Director: Development Facilitation Thea Jordan Email 20/09/2022</p>	<p>From: Thea Jordan; Hoogland Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw Cc: Adri La Meyer Subject: Comments on the Draft EIA Report for the proposed Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster and associated infrastructure near Beaufort West (14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146)</p> <p>Dear EAP</p> <p>Please find attached this department's comment in the above regard.</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 To: Thea Jordan; Hoogland Cc: Adri La Meyer Subject: RE: Comments on the Draft EIA Report for the proposed Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster and associated infrastructure near Beaufort West (14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146)</p> <p>Dear Thea</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		Yours faithfully	Thank you for your comments. Kind regards Liandra
20.	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape Government Director: Development Facilitation Thea Jordan Comment 20/09/2022	Dear Madam COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOUGLAND NORTHERN WIND FARM CLUSTER [420MW HOUGLAND 1 WIND FARM (REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147) AND 420MW HOUGLAND 2 WIND FARM (REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146)] AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON VARIOUS PROPERTIES NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIMITED OFFSITE ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE 1. The Draft Scoping Report (“DSR”) dated March 2022, the Department’s comments thereto dated 22 April 2022, and the email notification of 15 August 2022 regarding the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Report for comments, refer. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the scoping & environmental impact reporting process for the proposed Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster project. The Department further wishes to express its appreciation to the environmental assessment practitioner (“EAP”) and applicant for their willingness to provide the Department with additional days to provide comments the Draft EIA Report. 3. Please find consolidated comment from various directorates within the Department on the Draft EIA Report dated August 2022 that was available for download from various online platforms provided by the EAP. 4. Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) – Ms Jessica Christie (Email: Jessica.Christie@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (044) 814 2013): 4.1. It is understood that the proposal is for the development of the Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster that will consist of two wind energy facilities (“WEFs”), being the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm, each comprising of a maximum generation capacity of 420MW.	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>4.2. Up to a maximum of 60 wind turbines each will be developed within the development footprint of each WEF. The turbine specifications for each wind farm are as follows:</p> <p>4.2.1. Rotor diameter: 100m to 195m (up to 97.5m blade / radius).</p> <p>4.2.2. Hub height: 80m to 150m.</p> <p>4.2.3. Rotor top tip height: 130m to 247.5m (maximum based on 150m hub + 97.5m blade).</p> <p>4.2.4. Rotor bottom tip height: minimum of 20m (and not lower).</p> <p>4.3. This Directorate has reviewed the documents and is satisfied that previous comments made on the DSR were adequately addressed and responded to, and therefore, this Directorate has no further comments on the Draft EIA Report.</p> <p>5. Directorate: Development Facilitation – Ms Adri La Meyer (Email: Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 2887):</p> <p>5.1. This Directorate is satisfied that the Draft EIA Report with various specialist studies adequately assessed the impacts associated with the proposed Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster project and associated infrastructure, including an adequate assessment of cumulative impacts.</p> <p>5.2. Please amend the legend in Figure 3-2 of the Draft EIA Report which refers to “Screening turbine positions (369 turbines)”. It is understood that the total number of turbines during the screening phase layout (February 2021) for all the Hoogland wind farm projects consisted of 367 turbines.</p> <p>5.3. This Directorate supports the implementation of a Riverine Rabbit Monitoring Programme within the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm site to evaluate the post-construction impact of the proposed WEF development on the Riverine Rabbit and other key fauna at the wind farm. It is noted that the exact duration and frequency of monitoring would need to be determined based on the number of cameras to be used, and the desired precision and statistical power to be obtained. Please however confirm whether the Riverine Rabbit Monitoring Programme would be implemented for the lifetime of the operation of the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm, or for a period of at least twenty years?</p>	<p>EAP: The Directorate’s satisfaction with the DSR responses are noted.</p> <p>EAP: The Directorate’s satisfaction with the assessment of impacts and cumulative impacts is noted.</p> <p>Applicant: Correct, there were 369 turbines, the legend has been updated.</p> <p>EAP: The ecologist (Simon Todd of 3Foxes) has recommended that initial pre- construction and matched post-construction monitoring would need to developed with EWT and should last approximately 1 year as a minimum. However, the EAP recommends that post-construction monitoring should continue for a minimum of 3 years to allow for habituation after construction and to account for recent climatic annual variability to provide a more robust operational baseline. This will provide a more robust dataset on which to based future monitoring recommendations if required.</p> <p>Over and above this the Applicant has committed to developing and funding a conservation initiative for the life of the wind farm in partnership with EWT or a similar qualified NGO with experience of Riverine Rabbit Conservation in the area. Depending on the findings of the post-construction monitoring and the long term conservation initiative, further long term monitoring on the site may be considered.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>6. Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management – Ms Shehaam Brinkhuis (Email: Shehaam.Brinkhuis@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 8309):</p> <p>6.1. Temporary construction camps must be located outside of the watercourses and associated buffer areas. This is particularly important given that a higher likelihood of pollution and risk of contamination exists during the construction phase for such a development, with an increased risk of pollution emanating from the construction camp and substation area.</p> <p>6.2. This Directorate notes and supports the mitigation measures as stipulated in the Aquatic Impact Assessment Report compiled by EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd dated 20 June 2022 (pages 40 – 45). Notably, the recommendation to undertake a “pre-construction walkthrough with an aquatic specialist” is supported, along with the development of an Aquatic Rehabilitation and Monitoring Plan, coupled with micro-siting of the final layout.</p> <p>6.3. The following general recommendations are provided to prevent and manage the potential contamination emanating from the WEFs during the construction and operational phase:</p> <p>6.3.1. Appendix G (Risk Assessment for Battery Energy Storage System) – it should be noted that the storage of hazardous substances (i.e., diesel, petrol, transformer oils and lubricants, etc.) should be located on impervious surfaces with bunds (to accommodate 110% of the maximum allowable liquid volume) around them to contain any fugitive spillages and/or leakages.</p> <p>6.3.2. The refueling and/or repair of heavy earthmoving vehicles should not take place within any sensitive areas and should be conducted over a dedicated impervious area within the construction camp.</p> <p>6.3.3. No discharge of effluents or the wash water from cement batching areas should be allowed to enter nearby watercourses. Runoff must be strictly controlled in the vicinity of any cement batching areas.</p> <p>6.3.4. In the event of a significant spill or leak of hazardous substances (petrol and diesel) during the construction or operational phase, such incident(s) must be reported to all relevant authorities, including the Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management in accordance with section 30(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) pertaining to the control of incidents.</p>	<p>EAP: The Directorate’s satisfaction with the aquatic specialist’s recommendations is noted.</p> <p>The Risk Assessment (Appendix G of the EIA) in relation to Redox Flow batteries includes for secondary containment and berms. The detailed design of the BESS will be required to comply with all relevant legislation and standards to ensure risks to the environment and safety are mitigated adequately.</p> <p>Table 4.11 of the EMPr (Hazardous Substances: subsection Fuel (petrol and diesel) and Oil)) provides for refuelling with respect to designated refuelling areas and protection of with regards to spillages.</p> <p>Table 4.16 of the EMPr (Cement and batching plants) provides for location thereof with regards to watercourses as well as protection of the ground beneath batching activities to avoid pollutants entering the environment.</p> <p>Table 4.11 of the EMPr (Hazardous Substances) and Table provides for this reporting process during construction.</p> <p>Table 5.1 of the EMPr (Hazardous Substances) and Table provides for this reporting process during operation.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>7. Directorate: Waste Management – Mr Muneeb Baderoon (Email: Muneeb.Baderoon@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 2965): 7.1. This Directorate is satisfied with the responses to its comments on the DSR and has no further comment on the application.</p> <p>8. Directorate: Air Quality Management – Ms Nokulunga Goqo (E-mail: Nokulunga.Goqo@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 6510): 8.1. It is noticed that fugitive dust may be created from cleared, bare and excavated areas, as well as from large vehicles and equipment traversing and operating on-site during the construction phase of the proposed WEFs and associated infrastructure. This Directorate recommends that measures to monitor and prevent fugitive dust emissions be strictly implemented as per the Environmental Management Programmes (“EMPr’s”). 8.2. Noise generated from all the proposed activities must comply with the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations published in Provincial Notice 200/2013 of 23 June 2013.</p> <p>8.3. It is noted that: 8.3.1. Large vehicles traversing to and from the proposed WEFs and heavy earthmoving machinery may cause significant noise, which may become a noise nuisance and/or disturbance to the surrounding communities. 8.3.2. The ambient sound level measurements concluded that the residual noise level is low and typical of a rural noise district (45 dBA for the daytime period and 35 dBA for the night-time period). However, the specialist (Enviro-Acoustic Research cc) that undertook the Environmental Noise Impact Assessment (“ENIA”) dated June 2022 argued that the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations, 2013 and South African National Standard (SANS) 10103: 2008 do not cater for instances when background noise levels change due to the impact of external forces, such as noises induced by higher wind speeds, and therefore decided/proposed to use a night-time noise limit of 42 dBA (periods with low or no winds), and an upper limit of 45 dBA (periods that wind turbines may operate), stating that the wind turbines will only operate during periods of higher wind speeds. 8.3.3. It is stated in the ENIA that in instances that where the noise level exceeds the prevailing ambient sound level with more than 15 dBA, the</p>	<p>EAP: The Directorate’s satisfaction with the prior responses are noted.</p> <p>EAP: The Directorate’s satisfaction with reporting of the 12-month pre-construction bat and avifaunal monitoring is noted.</p> <p>These regulations are included in the EMPr in Table 4.13 (Noise control during construction). Noting that operational noise thresholds were based on international guidelines because the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations and SANS 10103 does not cater for instances when background noise levels change due to the impact of external forces (such as noises induced by higher wind speeds). A noise management plan has been developed as required by the regulations and is attached as Appendix M.</p> <p>No response required.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>noise can increase annoyance levels and may ultimately result in noise complaints.</p> <p>8.3.4. The hub height used for modelling is 120m (refer to paragraphs 4.2.2. above and 8.5. below) whereas the hub-height of the proposed wind turbines are indicated as 80m – 150m. Thus, to evaluate a worst-case scenario one would have to use the maximum proposed height. The reason for the use of 120m hub height for modelling instead of using the maximum proposed height (150m) was not clearly explained in the ENIA.</p> <p>8.3.5. Night-time construction activities would cause exceedance of the residual noise level by more than 5 dBA at noise sensitive receptors (“NSR”) 18, 19 and 23 (Appendix F, Table 3) and NSR 26 (Appendix F, Table 4).</p> <p>8.4. As such, this Directorate recommends that the residual noise levels be measured within the vicinity of the proposed WEFs to ensure accurate result reporting and analysis so that noise rating levels will not exceed the existing residual noise levels by 5 dB(A) or more, as per regulation 4(3) of the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations, 2013.</p> <p>8.5. Please provide reasons for modelling a 120m hub height instead of using the maximum proposed height (150m).</p> <p>8.6. It is recommended that all construction activities be undertaken during the day-time hours, to avoid any night-time noise disturbances at NSR 18, 19, 23 and 26.</p> <p>8.7. Furthermore, noise monitoring should be undertaken, and measures put in place to minimise disturbing noise emissions. Mitigation measures</p>	<p>EAP: The EMPr (Appendix M) includes a noise management plan which details the requirements for noise monitoring.</p> <p>Morné de Jager (of EARES, noise specialist): The Sound Power Emission Levels used in the Hoogland assessment was obtained from the General Document, available from Acciona Windpower, titled: “Sound Power Levels AW132/3300, Doc.: DG200725, Rev.: A”. Acciona reports the estimated sound power levels in section 2, referenced to 120 m. The sound power levels are valid for conditions defined in section 1 of the document, with Acciona reporting that an uncertainty of 1 dB was applied.</p> <p>When using a different hub height, the potential noise levels may be different, though this difference will be insignificant (less than 0.5 dB for heights 120m ±50m). Depending on topography, calculated noise levels will normally decrease as heights increase (as the line-of-sight distance would increase), though this will depend on the topography at certain locations (a hill may partially attenuate noise at a specific receptor at a lower level).</p> <p>EAP: It is not possible to undertake all construction activities only during the day, for example concrete pouring is a continuous activity and may have to extend into night-time hours. The EMPr however includes measures to address disturbance to sensitive receptors with regards to night-time activities (Section 4.1 and 4.13).</p> <p>Furthermore the EMPr includes for a noise complaint register which requires an investigation to address any noise complaints received during construction.</p> <p>EAP: Noted, mitigation will be undertaken as per the EMPrs.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>must be implemented strictly during all phases of the proposed development, as per the EMPr's.</p> <p>8.8. Potential emissions will be in the form of dust pollution, exhaust fumes from vehicles and machinery, as well as potential noise pollution from activities on-site. All potential air and noise pollutants at the WEFs must be monitored and if causing significant emissions, must be mitigated strictly.</p> <p>8.9. Please note that the abovementioned recommendations do not pre-empt the outcome of the application. No information provided, views expressed and/or comments made by this Directorate should in any way be regarded as an indication or confirmation that additional information or documents will not be requested.</p> <p>9. The applicant is reminded of its "duty of care" 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".</p> <p>Please direct all enquiries to the commenting officials should you require any clarity on any of the comments provided.</p> <p>The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any or new information received.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>	<p>EAP: The noise management plan in the EMPr (Appendix M) provides for noise monitoring at selected locations prior to construction should be implemented as per the noise specialists' recommendations. This can be used as a baseline in the case of complaints. Furthermore, design related mitigation has been provided to ensure operational noise from turbines does not result in an exceedance. In the case of dust pollution and exhaust fumes, these will be monitored on-site during construction by a qualified ECO. These impacts are unlikely to occur during operation due to the limited activities on site. These recommendations have been included into the EMPr. In addition, the relevant dust control and noise regulations are included in the EMPr and compliance thereto will also be monitored by the ECO.</p> <p>EAP: The EAP notes that these recommendations don't pre-empt the outcome of the application and that additional information may be requested.</p> <p>Applicant: The Applicant is aware of the duty of care requirements provided for in NEMA.</p> <p>EAP: Noted</p> <p>EAP: Noted</p>
21.	<p>Cape Nature - Megan Simons - Comment Letter</p>	<p>From: Megan Simons Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw</p>	

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
	-22/09/2022	<p>Subject: RE: Red Cap Hoogland Specific Request for comment -CapeNature</p> <p>Dear Ms Liandra Scott-Shaw</p> <p>THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RED CAP HOUGLAND WIND FARM CLUSTER, BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CapeNature has provided detailed comments for during the Pre-Application for the proposed Hoogland Northern and Southern Wind Farm Cluster. Following a review of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment and specialist studies, CapeNature wishes to make the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floral sampling was undertaken over each season and the specialist did not find any SCC or sensitive plant species. CapeNature is satisfied with the conclusions in the Flora Compliance Statement and emphasizes on the importance of implementing the recommended mitigation measures. 2. CapeNature supports the removal of turbines within areas that has Riverine Rabbit habitat. Furthermore, the recommended 500m buffer for Riverine Rabbit habitat is also supported and CapeNature notes that the buffers will be modified based on the landscape context. The riparian corridors that are buffered by 150 m is also supported. 3. The proposed wind turbines are positioned outside natural CBAs, thereby avoiding compromising the biodiversity objectives and ecological functioning of CBAs. CapeNature reminds the applicant that roads must be constructed outside CBAs and existing roads must be used as far possible. 4. If any fences will be installed it must be animal permeable and mitigation must be included for faunal species entering the work sites. Furthermore, the installation of fences must not have an impact on any the biodiversity of the surrounding area. 	<p>EAP: Cape Natures comments and recommendations are duly noted.</p> <p>EAP: Existing roads will be used as far as possible and new roads will be constructed outside No-go areas identified by the specialists and used to inform the development layout.</p> <p>EAP: Permanent fencing is only proposed around the substations and batteries. Section 3.2.1 (Detailed Design – Specialist Mitigation, under the sub-heading of Terrestrial Ecology) provides design measures for fencing to ensure that animals do not get stuck in fences. Fencing during construction is provided for in Section 4.8 of the Wind Farm EMP (Animal rescue and protection) and allows for any animals found in the working area that are threatened, to be removed.</p>

Comments and Responses for Draft EIA Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>5. All the proposed monitoring plans/ programmes that were proposed by the specialists are supported by CapeNature. These programmes must be included in the EMPr and monitored by the ECO. CapeNature would require annual feedback reports up to the end of the 3rd or 4th year of the rehabilitation success.</p> <p>6. It is important to implement the mitigation measures proposed by the specialists to minimise and avoid any negative impacts associated with the WEF. Furthermore, adhering to these mitigation measure will not result in compromising any CBA or local biodiversity.</p> <p>CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>	<p>EAP: These programmes are included in the EMPr and therefore are to be monitored by the ECO. Annual rehabilitation success feedback reports will be submitted to CapeNature for up to four years after construction as ceased and Section 4.19 (Table 4.19) of the Wind Farm EMPr has been updated to include this.</p> <p>EAP: Mitigation measures will be implemented and adhered to, to avoid compromising any CBA or local biodiversity.</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES AFTER SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT (HOUGLAND 1 AND HOUGLAND 2 WIND FARMS)

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
1.	<p>South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)</p> <p>- Natasha Higgitt</p> <p>- Interim Comment Letter via SAHRIS</p> <p>- 26/05/2022</p>	<p>Interim Comment</p> <p>In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p><u>Attention:</u> SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd ('Red Cap') is proposing to develop four Wind Farms and associated grid connections (together referred to as the Hoogland Project) in an area located between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. Hoogland 1 and 2 are located to the north closer to Loxton and form the Northern Cluster of Wind Farms that will share a grid connection named the Hoogland Northern Grid Connection. Hoogland 3 and 4 are located closer to Beaufort West and comprise the Southern Cluster which will similarly</p>	<p><i>EAP: Following the issuing of the Interim Comment letter dated 26 May 2022 by SAHRA, a letter from the palaeontologist (Dr John Almond) motivating that a field-based PIA was not required was submitted to SAHRA (via submission to SAHRIS Case Application), along with a document containing information for the watercourse crossings & temporary bypass road (see Appendix D2 of EIAR). See below for contents of this letter:</i></p> <p>NORTHERN CAPE PALAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE INPUT:</p> <p>Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm between Loxton and Beaufort West, Western and Northern Cape Provinces</p> <p>Dear Ms Higgitt,</p>

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>share a separate grid connection, named the Southern Grid Connection This application is for the Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm), which is subject to a Scoping and EIA process. Even though these are two separate applications they will be considered in the same Scoping Report. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has granted Red Cap permission to combine the two Wind Farms into one Environmental Authorisation Application processes under Regulation 11 (1) of GN R. 982. It is proposed that each wind farm will comprise of up to 60 turbines with a targeted nameplate generation capacity of a maximum of 420MW. The entire footprint for each respective wind farm falls within the Western Cape Province, however, some watercourse crossing upgrades on existing roads fall within the Northern Cape and are under the jurisdiction of SAHRA. It should however be noted that the specialist has confirmed they have no heritage significance and do not warrant an assessment.</p> <p>SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty Ltd) has been appointed by Red Cap Hoogland 1 (Pty) Ltd and Red Cap Hoogland 2 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Red Cap Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster between Loxton, Northern Cape Province and Beaufort West, Western Cape Province (Hoogland 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 and Hoogland 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146).</p> <p>A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of 94 and 82 turbines respectively for each facility including infrastructure such as underground cables, on-site substation, battery energy storage system, turbine foundations, transformers at each turbine, workshop and laydown areas, hardstands at each turbine, operation and maintenance buildings, office stores, service and access roads, stormwater infrastructure, gates, temporary site camps, concrete batching plant, crane boom and blade laydown areas. It must be noted that the majority of both developments</p>	<p>I have been forwarded a copy of your Interim Comment of 26 May 2022 on these renewable energy projects (SAHRA Case ID: 18203).</p> <p>I note that you are requesting that a field-based PIA of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape section of the project footprint be conducted as part of the EIA phase for these developments.</p> <p>As you have noted, in my PIA reports for these WEFs I have recommended a focused specialist palaeontological walk-down of selected, potentially sensitive sectors of the WEF footprints in the pre-construction phase. This would include stream / river crossings where these have not already been surveyed. In the case of the particular Northern Cape stream / river crossings in question, I understand from my colleague Dr Jayson Orton, who has been on site, that these crossings are unlikely to have good exposure of Beaufort Group bedrock or older consolidated alluvium - the primary targets of fossil surveying in the region, so I would not expect any issues here (I am appending here a very helpful tabulation of the relevant N Cape sites, none of which shows potentially vulnerable sedimentary bedrock exposures, which has been kindly provided by Dr Orton).</p> <p>The developer, Red Cap and EAP SLR have already gone the extra mile in promoting PIA input into the Hoogland WEF projects, in contrast to several other Karoo WEF developers and EAPs. I am reluctant to complicate the EIA process when I do not feel that a separate palaeontological site visit is likely to add value to the palaeontological database or fossil heritage conservation at this stage. For these reasons – and also due to added expense plus time constraints – my preference would therefore be stay with my original recommendations rather than have to make a separate trip and PIA report for the EIA phase Perhaps we could rather reinforce the PIA recommendations to specify palaeontological walk downs of stream / river crossings in the N. Cape in the pre-construction phase.</p> <p>Best wishes, John Almond (Palaeontologist), Natura Viva cc</p>

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>is located in the Western Cape. The only development activities located in the Northern Cape include stream crossing upgrades, which are shared activities for both EA applications. This comment pertains only to the stream crossing upgrades located within the Northern Cape Province.</p> <p>Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p><i>Almond, J. E. 2022. Proposed Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection Project Northern Cluster: Hoogland 1 Wind Farm, Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and Associated Hoogland Northern Grid Connection, Western Cape Province: Palaeontological Heritage.</i></p> <p>The proposed development area is underlain by the lower Beaufort Group of Middle to Late Permian age. Several fossils were identified within streams in the Western Cape section of the development area which include several skulls and post-cranial skeletal remains of tetrapods, numerous tetrapod burrow casts and a low diversity of trace fossils which were concluded to be of limited scientific or conservation value. The area in which the stream crossings are located were not assessed as part of the PIA as these activities were added after the completion of the PIA.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final, authorised layout of the Hoogland Wind Farm and Grid Connection projects should be crosschecked against the available fossil database and other relevant resources (e.g. satellite imagery, geological maps) by the palaeontological specialist who should make recommendations for pre-construction phase mitigation, if any proves necessary. This might entail, for example, focused palaeontological walk-downs of selected, previously un-surveyed and potentially sensitive sectors of the project footprint with judicious 	

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		<p>sampling or collection of threatened fossil material of scientific and/or conservation value;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of Chance Fossil Finds Protocol by the ECO and palaeontological specialist during the construction phase (See Appendix 4). <p><i>Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape.</i></p> <p>Only the results of the survey at the stream crossings will be discussed here. One of the stream crossings includes a concrete bridge dated to 1952, making the bridge 70 years old and thus protected by section 34 of the NHRA. The report noted the bridge as a heritage resource of very low cultural significance and required no further study.</p> <p>Interim Comment</p> <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that a field based PIA of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape section be conducted as part of the EIA phase as fossils have been identified in streams in the Western Cape section of the development. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA documents inclusive of appendices and updated PIA.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Natasha Higgitt</p>	
2.	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) - Natasha Higgitt	<p>Interim Comment</p> <p>In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p>	EAP: Based on this second interim comment received from SAHRA, a supplementary specialist report was undertaken by Elize Butler of Banzai Environmental to assess the water course road crossing upgrades required on Northern Cape roads as shared infrastructure for the Hoogland

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
	<p>- Interim Comment Letter via SAHRIS</p> <p>- 10/06/2022</p>	<p><u>Attention:</u> SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd ('Red Cap') is proposing to develop four Wind Farms and associated grid connections (together referred to as the Hoogland Project) in an area located between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. Hoogland 1 and 2 are located to the north closer to Loxton and form the Northern Cluster of Wind Farms that will share a grid connection named the Hoogland Northern Grid Connection. Hoogland 3 and 4 are located closer to Beaufort West and comprise the Southern Cluster which will similarly share a separate grid connection, named the Southern Grid Connection. This application is for the Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm), which is subject to a Scoping and EIA process. Even though these are two separate applications they will be considered in the same Scoping Report. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has granted Red Cap permission to combine the two Wind Farms into one Environmental Authorisation Application processes under Regulation 11 (1) of GN R. 982. It is proposed that each wind farm will comprise of up to 60 turbines with a targeted nameplate generation capacity of a maximum of 420MW. The entire footprint for each respective wind farm falls within the Western Cape Province, however, some watercourse crossing upgrades on existing roads fall within the Northern Cape and are under the jurisdiction of SAHRA. It should however be noted that the specialist has confirmed they have no heritage significance and do not warrant an assessment.</p> <p>SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty Ltd) has been appointed by Red Cap Hoogland 1 (Pty) Ltd and Red Cap Hoogland 2 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Red Cap Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster between Loxton, Northern Cape Province and Beaufort West, Western Cape Province (Hoogland 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 and Hoogland 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146).</p>	<p>Projects (Table 2-3 and Figure 2-16 of EIAR). The results of this are provided in a supplementary PIA report (Appendix C13 of EIAR) and have also been incorporated into the EIAR (Section 7.10).</p> <p>According to the supplementary assessment undertaken by Elize Butler of Banzai Environmental (Section 7.10.6), there are some higher conservation value fossil sites at the water course crossing upgrade locations and palaeontological mitigation is proposed for one of these. This has been included in the EMPr.</p> <p><i>EAP: The EAP has submitted the supplementary assessment undertaken by Elize Butler of Banzai Environmental to the SAHRIS case application and awaits further comments from SAHRA as part of the EIA Phase.</i></p>

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		<p>A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of 94 and 82 turbines respectively for each facility including infrastructure such as underground cables, on-site substation, battery energy storage system, turbine foundations, transformers at each turbine, workshop and laydown areas, hardstands at each turbine, operation and maintenance buildings, office stores, service and access roads, stormwater infrastructure, gates, temporary site camps, concrete batching plant, crane boom and blade laydown areas. It must be noted that the majority of both developments is located in the Western Cape. The only development activities located in the Northern Cape include stream crossing upgrades, which are shared activities for both EA applications. This comment pertains only to the stream crossing upgrades located within the Northern Cape Province.</p> <p>Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p>Almond, J. E. 2022. Proposed Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection Project Northern Cluster: Hoogland 1 Wind Farm, Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and Associated Hoogland Northern Grid Connection, Western Cape Province: Palaeontological Heritage.</p> <p>The proposed development area is underlain by the lower Beaufort Group of Middle to Late Permian age. Several fossils were identified within streams in the Western Cape section of the development area which include several skulls and post-cranial skeletal remains of tetrapods, numerous tetrapod burrow casts and a low diversity of trace fossils which were concluded to be of limited scientific or conservation value. The area in which the stream crossings are located were not assessed as part of the PIA as these activities were added after the completion of the PIA.</p>	

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		<p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final, authorised layout of the Hoogland Wind Farm and Grid Connection projects should be crosschecked against the available fossil database and other relevant resources (e.g., satellite imagery, geological maps) by the palaeontological specialist who should make recommendations for pre-construction phase mitigation, if any proves necessary. This might entail, for example, focussed palaeontological walk-downs of selected, previously unsurveyed and potentially sensitive sectors of the project footprint with judicious sampling or collection of threatened fossil material of scientific and/or conservation value; Application of Chance Fossil Finds Protocol by the ECO and palaeontological specialist during the construction phase (See Appendix 4). <p>Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape.</p> <p>Only the results of the survey at the stream crossings will be discussed here. One of the stream crossings includes a concrete bridge dated to 1952, making the bridge 70 years old and thus protected by section 34 of the NHRA. The report noted the bridge as a heritage resource of very low cultural significance and required no further study.</p> <p>In an Interim Comment issued on the 26/05/2022, SAHRA requested that a field based PIA of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape section be conducted as part of the EIA phase as fossils have been identified in streams in the Western Cape section of the development. A letter of response to the Interim Comment has been uploaded to the Heritage Report file on the case (03/06/2022).</p>	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>Almond, J. E. 2022. Northern Cape Palaeontological Heritage Input: Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm between Loxton and Beaufort West, Western and Northern Cape Provinces.</p> <p>The specialist noted that the appointed archaeologist inspected the proposed stream crossings who stated that the crossings are unlikely to have good exposure of the Beaufort Group bedrock or older consolidated alluvium, in which fossils are likely to occur.</p> <p>The specialist continues to state that the recommendations of the original PIA state that a walkthrough of the final layout of the development is to be conducted once the layout is finalised, and that the stream crossings could be inspected at that time, to save on time and expenses.</p> <p>Interim Comment</p> <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit is not satisfied with the motivation for no field-based PIA to be conducted of the stream crossings during the EIA phase of the EA application, as it does not comply with the 2012 PIA Minimum Standards. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA, it is incumbent on the EAP to assess all impacts to the environment prior to the decision-making stage and prior to the authorisation of the development to ensure that the risk and impacts to both the heritage resources and to the project are identified so that may be mitigated prior to the development commencing. Unlike the layout of the WEF, the position of the stream crossings will not change, and as such the stream crossings must be assessed to the satisfaction of SAHRA during the EIA phase so that the competent authority has all the necessary information to make a decision regarding the authorisation of the proposed development.</p> <p>As such, SAHRA waits the requested field-based PIA of the stream crossings before further comments will be issued.</p>	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Natasha Higgitt</p>	
3.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations: - Ms Milicent Solomons - Letter via Email - 2022/06/17</p>	<p>Dear Mr Heather-Clarke</p> <p>ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 1 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2022 and received by the Department on 06 May 2022, refer.</p> <p>The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2022 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:</p> <p>(a) Listed Activities</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant</u>: Please see below for the EAP and/or Applicant's responses to the DFFE's comments:</p>

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p> <p>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.</p> <p>(iii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the draft EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted.</p> <p>(iv) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p> <p>(v) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.</p> <p><u>(b) Public Participation</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to Western Cape: DEADP, the provincial Department of Agriculture, SANRAL, the Local Municipality, the District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency</p>	<p><u>(a) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities have been applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description (See Table 4-2 in Section 4.2.1 of the EIAr).</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices (See Table 4-2 in Section 4.2.1 of the EIAr).</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP can confirm that the activities applied for in the application form DO NOT differ from those mentioned in the draft EIAr. Since changes have been made to the project, mostly with regards to the layout, since the application form was submitted as part of the Final Scoping Report (SR), an amended application form reflecting these changes has been submitted with the draft EIAr, and the changes / updates have been underlined for the department's ease of reference.</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP</u>: Please be advised that the most recent version of the Department's application form template (namely April 2021) was used for the applications forms which accompanied the draft EIAr (available from following link: https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms). The EAP will ensure that the most recent application form is used going forward, should the application forms need to be updated and re-submitted.</p> <p>(v) <u>EAP</u>: The SR submitted to the DFFE for review already provided an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for the infrastructure described in the project description, on which the listed activities were based, which was subsequently updated by the relevant specialists (where applicable/required) as part of the EIA phase. The impact assessment was thus presented in the Scoping Phase and all comments received as part of the Scoping Phase were taken into consideration for the impact assessment presented in the draft EIAr.</p> <p><u>(b) Public Participation</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that all comments received to date from all relevant stakeholders (see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D3 of EIAr) have been submitted to the Department with the EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders has been included in Appendix D2 of the EIAr. In addition, Section 6.2.4 the EIAr</p>

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		<p>(SAHRA), Heritage Western Cape, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, SABAAP, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorates Biodiversity Management and Protected Areas Systems Management.</p> <p>(ii) 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 adequately addressed in the final EIAr.</p> <p>(iii) 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.</p> <p>(iv) 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</p>	<p>includes a summary of the comments received from I&APs and stakeholders to date, with a summary of the consultation undertaken with the Competent Authority included in Section 6.2.5. Responses to comments provided by I&APs and stakeholder (where required) have been included in the C&RR (this document), which has been made available with the EIAr. The Final EIAr and C&RR will also be updated with comments received during the EIAr PPP.</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP will ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and key stakeholders such as organs of state (OoS) (including the DFFE’s Biodiversity Directorate – see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D3 of EIAr), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, will be adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Once the Draft EIAr has been made available for review and comment, the report will be updated, taking into consideration the comments received (where required), and responses will be provided as part of the C&RR (where required).</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: Proof of correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders to date has been included in the Draft EIAr (Appendix D2). Proof of all correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders undertaken during the EIA phase will also be included in the final EIAr.</p> <p>It should be noted that attempts have been made to obtain comments from I&APs and key stakeholders. All I&APs and key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment period of the Draft SR accordingly. I&APs and key stakeholders were also reminded about the closure of the 30-day review and comment period and reminded to submit comments. Proof of this is included in the draft EIAr. Please refer to Appendix D2 of the EIAr for a copy of all comments received to date (including comments received as part of the scoping process). I&APs and key stakeholders will be provided with further opportunity to comment during the EIA phase, as the draft EIAr will be made available for a 30-day review and comment period. Proof of all correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders during the EIA phase will also be included in the final EIAr</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP</u>: A C&RR was submitted as part of the SR and included / incorporated all comments received as part of the scoping process, with responses provided where required (see</p>

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		<p>main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.</p> <p>(v) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.</p> <p>(vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and the approved Public Participation Plan (PPP).</p> <p><u>(c) Alternatives</u></p> <p>(i) Please provide a description of each of the preferred alternative type and provide detailed motivation on why it is preferred.</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that all relevant alternatives and/or alternative combinations are adequately assessed in the EIAR.</p>	<p>COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FOR DRAFT SCOPING REPORT table on page 86 of C&RR). All issues raised and comments received to date from I&APs and key stakeholders and the respective responses are included in this C&RR, which has been submitted as part of the Draft EIAR. The C&RR is a separate document from the main report (SR and EIAR) and follows the format as indicated in Appendix 1 of the DFFE’s FSR Acceptance Letter (Appendix D2). The EAP has also refrained from summarising comments made by I&APs and stakeholders, and all comments received to date have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly. In addition, a response such as “noted” has not been used as a response to any of the comments received. The C&RR will be updated following the completion of the 30-day review and comment period for the draft EIAR and be submitted with the final EIAR for decision making. The C&RR to be submitted with the final EIAR will incorporate all comments received as part of the Scoping & EIA process, with responses provided where required. The C&RR to be submitted with the final EIAR will meet all requirements as detailed in the DFFE’s FSR Acceptance Letter.</p> <p>(v) <u>EAP</u>: Comments from I&APs and stakeholders received to date have not been split and arranged into categories in the C&RR. In addition, comments from each submission have been responded to individually. Separate tables have been provided in the C&RR for comments received as part of the Screening Phase, Draft Scoping Report and Final Scoping Report (with responses provided where required).</p> <p>(vi) <u>EAP</u>: Considering the information above, the Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and as per the approved PP Plan. Please refer to section 6.2 of the EIAR and Appendix D for more information regarding the public participation process undertaken to date, including the necessary proofs.</p> <p><u>(c) Alternatives</u></p> <p>(i) & (ii) <u>EAP</u>: A description of alternatives assessed as part of the Scoping & EIA process is detailed in Section 3 of the EIAR. It should be noted that a comprehensive iterative design process (which included a pre-application screening phase) has been undertaken to inform the respective Wind Farm layouts and associated Grid Connection infrastructure for the Hoogland Projects, which negates the need for an alternative’s assessment. Due to the thorough comprehensive iterative design process undertaken by the Applicant, the project layouts have been informed by high-level specialist input, as well as input from stakeholders and authorities through consultation,</p>

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		<p><u>(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) 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.</p> <p>(ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all maps to be included in the final EIAr.</p> <p>(iii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAr. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The wind turbine positions and its associated infrastructure; All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc. All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed BESS, the main substation and internal power lines. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure. <p>(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>and avoids all no-go areas (where required). Table 3-1 in the DEIAr highlights the iterative approach undertaken. It should however be noted that the preferred layouts of the Hoogland Wind Farms, and respective Grid Corridors, have each been assessed against the ‘no-go’ alternative.</p> <p><u>(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: The EIAr provides coordinate points for the proposed development site (which includes bend point coordinates, where required) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities (see Section 2.1 and map provided in Appendix B).</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: All preferred turbine positions have been clearly numbered in the relevant maps provided as part of the EIAr. In addition, the EAP will ensure that the turbine position numbers will be consistently used in all maps included in the final EIAr.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP will ensure that a copy of the final layout map with the information requested by the DFFE (where available) is submitted with the final EIAr. All available biodiversity information will be used in the finalisation of the layout map and existing infrastructure will also be used, as far as possible at the scale used for mapping.</p> <p>Note that with reference to (d), the area for the proposed project is rural and very remote, the main type of infrastructure in the area is public roads which has been shown on the maps. Farmhouses and related buildings and infrastructure such as reservoirs is at a scale too small to be visible on the maps and have been treated as ‘no-go’ areas for development.</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP</u>: An environmental sensitivity map which indicates the information requested by the DFFE (where available) has been provided as part of the EIAr. Please refer to Figure 9-1 - Figure 9-8 on page 400 - 407 in Section 9 of the EIAr. Key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas have been identified by a number of specialists, namely Geotechnical; Agricultural; Ecology (including Riverine Rabbit and Karoo dwarf tortoise); Aquatic; Bats; Avifauna; Heritage (including Palaeontology, Archaeology, Graves, Built Environment, Cultural landscape); Visual and Noise, which were compiled into the consolidated ‘No-Go’ map (which combines the ‘No-Go’ sensitivities of all</p>

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		<p><u>(v) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>(e) Specialist assessments</u></p> <p>(i) The final EIAr and all the attached specialist studies must indicate and adequately assess a consistent number of turbines.</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation. b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed. c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas. 	<p>specialist fields into one map – see Figure 9-1 - Figure 9-8). Please refer to Table 9-1 in Section 9 of the EIAr for a summary of the key sensitivities / 'no-go' areas identified by the specialists. The high number of specialist specific sensitivity layers, and the scale of the mapping, means it is best to view the specialist specific sensitivities in isolation as part of their specific discipline within Section 7 of the EIAr, or within the respective specialist studies (reports) in Appendix C.</p> <p>(v) <u>EAP</u>: It should be noted that the EAP has provided separate cumulative impact (Figure 6-7) and sensitivity maps (Figure 9-1-Figure 9-8) as part of the EIAr, as the 'no-go' areas identified are site-specific (i.e., contained to project site) and not for the 30km cumulative impact radius. It is not possible to map these areas effectively (i.e., cannot map them in detail) at the cumulative scale (namely at a 30km radius).</p> <p><u>(e) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP will ensure that the final EIAr and all attached specialist studies indicate and adequately assess a consistent number of turbines. Section 3 and Section 6.1.3 of the EIAr details the layout changes, including the turbine numbers which have been removed following the completion of the Scoping Phase. It should be noted that the turbine numbering used in the EIAr is as per the Scoping layout, as the remaining turbines were re-numbered for the EIA layout. These previous Scoping layouts have been appended to the EIR for reference (Appendix B – Scoping Phase Layout).</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that the terms of reference for the identified specialist studies includes the information requested / outlined by the DFFE as part of the Final SR Acceptance Letter.</p>

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		<p>d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p> <p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p> <p>f) Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAAP and adhere to the latest guidelines in this regard.</p> <p>g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(iii) 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.</p> <p>(iv) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p>	<p>With regards to e), all specialist studies are final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations. In addition, none of the specialist studies have recommended further studies to be completed post EA.</p> <p>With regards to f), the EAP Birdlife South Africa and SABAAP have been included as I&APs / stakeholders during the process thus far. In addition, a meeting was held with Birdlife during the Screening Phase, and they also submitted comments during Scoping. The EAP and/or Applicant will reach out to SABAAP during the EIA phase public participation process and provide them with an opportunity to comment, if required. Proof of all comments received from Birdlife South Africa and SABAAP as part of the Scoping & EIA process will be submitted as part of the final EIAR. In addition, the Bird and Bat specialist studies submitted as part of the draft EIAR adhere to the latest guidelines in this regard.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP can confirm that none of the appointed specialists have specified contradicting recommendations. Specialists have also been provided with one another's studies where relevant to cross-reference the findings. The key recommendations provided by each specialist are provided in Section 8.3 of the EIAR, while the conditions to be included in the EA are provided on Section 10.3.</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP</u>: The specialist assessments undertaken as part of the Scoping & EIA process have been undertaken in accordance with the relevant protocols which are currently in effect. Section 6.1.3.1 of the EIAR details the specialist studies undertaken as part of the Scoping & EIA process, including where Protocols were applicable.</p>

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		<p>(v) <u>As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</u></p> <p><u>(f) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) If there other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <p>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <p>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p> <p>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p> <p><u>(g) Specific comments</u></p> <p>(i) The presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site as indicated in the Flora and Fauna specialist study, and the consequent classification</p>	<p>(v) <u>EAP</u>: Please refer to Appendix A of the draft EIAr for copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms. Updated specialist Dols which indicate the status of specialist registrations / memberships (where applicable / required) have been included as part of the EIAr.</p> <p><u>(f) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: A cumulative impact assessment has been conducted during the Scoping and EIA Phases and the results are presented in the EIAr. Other than the three (3) proposed Nuweveld Wind Farms, there are currently no approved renewable energy EA applications within a 30km radius of the project site (see Figure 6-5 of EIAr). The nearest operational Wind Farm from the site is the Noblesfontein Wind Farm located approximately 65km to the Northeast.</p> <p>The latest South African Renewable Energy EIA Application Database (REEA) ("REEA_OR_2022_Q1"), which was released by the DFFE on 31 May 2022, was used during the EIA Phase. It is noted that no new projects / applications were included in the most-recent version of the database (Q1, 2022), and the database still shows the same renewable energy projects. These included solar projects authorized close to Beaufort West and as presented in the Final Scoping Report, further research confirmed that none of these projects are going ahead/have a valid EA. Although there is interest in this area due to proximity to the Beaufort West REDZ, research has shown that no other proposed renewable projects within this radius are in the public domain.</p> <p>The wind farm application's impacts are therefore cumulatively assessed together with the three (3) Nuweveld Wind Farms by each specialist. Refer to Section 7 of the EIAr. Table 8-1 - Table 8-4 in the EIAr provides a summary of the potential environmental impacts that have been identified and assessed, which include cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The 2017 DEA Needs and desirability guideline were used to guide answer regarding the need and desirability of the project. The potential impact (which includes the cumulative impacts of the project) is discussed and inherently considered as part of the discussion on desirability. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the project may proceed has been provided in Section 10.2 of the EIAr.</p> <p><u>(g) Specific comments</u></p>

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		<p>of the riparian areas as Very High sensitivity based on their value as Riverine Rabbit habitat and general ecological significance is noted.</p> <p>(ii) Comments from this Department's Biodiversity Management Directorate as well as the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation must be sought to understand if the potential impacts of the presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site have been fully assessed and that the proposed mitigation measures thereto are adequate.</p> <p>(iii) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the EIAR, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the EIAR and its associated layout plans.</p> <p>(iv) The EAP must identify and provide a map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area.</p>	<p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: Ecology camera trapping has been completed for the Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 wind farm sites and the terrestrial ecology specialist (namely Simon Todd of 3Foxes Biodiversity) has compiled a Riverine Rabbit species assessment in accordance with the species protocols for each wind farm. The terrestrial biodiversity assessment has also been revised based on the latest layout assessed during the EIA Phase (see Section 7.4 and Appendix C4 of the EIAR).</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: Attempts have been made to obtain comments from key stakeholders, which included the DFFE's Biodiversity Management Directorate as well as the NC DENC, as part of the Scoping Phase, however, no comments have been received from the DFFE's Biodiversity Management Directorate or the NC DENC to date. All key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment of the Draft Scoping Report period accordingly and were also reminded about the closure of the 30-day review and comment period, as well as to submit comments. NC DENC were contacted directly. Proof of this was included in the final SR (Appendix D2). The DFFE's Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate and the NC DENC will however be provided with further opportunity to comment during the current EIA phase and any comments received will be provided as part of the Final EIAR, with adequate responses provided as part of the C&RR (where required). Note also that EWT have been engaged by the EAP, the specialist and the Applicant throughout the process with regards to impacts on the Riverine Rabbit specifically; they have commented on the project during Scoping, with further opportunity to comment on the Riverine Rabbit species assessment again during the EIA Phase.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that the EIAR provides details of the specific locations of the proposed development. See Section 2.1 of the EIAR for the proposed site location and description. All associated infrastructure has also been clearly indicated in the EIAR (Section 2.2 & Section 2.4 of EIAR), including its associated layout plans (see Figure 2-5 & Figure 2-6 in Section 2.3 of EIAR).</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that the EIAR provides a map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area. This map has been provided as Figure 6-5 in Section 6.4 of the EIAR. As mentioned above, it is not possible to map the proposed development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area effectively (i.e., cannot map this in detail) at the cumulative scale (namely at a 30km radius).</p>

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		<p>(v) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the EIAr.</p> <p>(vi) When submitting the EIAr and future documents kindly name each of the documents and attachments according to the information it contains. E.g., instead of only naming it Appendix A, it must be Appendix A: Maps, Appendix B: EAP Declaration etc.</p> <p><u>(h) General</u></p> <p>(i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all non-linear infrastructure proposed on the farm portions affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>(iii) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr.</p> <p>(iv) The final EIAr must include a list providing a clear description of the infrastructure associated with the development.</p> <p>(v) The EAP must provide an outline of where in the final Report each of this Department's comments are addressed. This must be a separate document and must be submitted as an appendix to the EIAr.</p>	<p>(v) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has identified and provided a final list of all applicable listed activities as part of Section 4.2.1 of the EIAr, which are not anticipated to change (Table 4-2). It should be noted that no activities have been removed following the submission of the Final SR, however, minor updates have been made to the description of the applicability of some activities, in light of technical information relating to such activities becoming available.</p> <p>(vi) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that the documents and attachments submitted as part of the EIAr (including any future documents) have been named according to the information it contains.</p> <p><u>(h) General</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: Page iii-xiv of the EIAr provides the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format, as well as their description and/or dimensions. This is also provided as part of Section 2.2 (Table 2-3).</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that the application form submitted with the EIAr provides landowner consent for all non-linear infrastructure proposed on the farm portions affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: A draft construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures has been submitted with the EIAr and is being made available for comment and review for a period of 30-days. The EMPr will be updated following the conclusion of the 30-day review and comment period and submitted with the final EIAr</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP</u>: Page iii-xiv of the EIAr includes a list which provides a clear description of the infrastructure associated with the development. This will also be included as part of the Final EIAr.</p> <p>(v) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP will ensure that the Final EIAr provides an outline of where in the final Report each of the Department's comments are addressed. This will be outlined as part of the C&RR (this document), which is a separate document submitted as an appendix to the EIAr (Appendix D3).</p>

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No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> The department's comment is duly noted. The EAP will ensure that the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 45 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, are met to ensure that the application does not lapse. Should an extension be required, this will be requested in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p> <p><u>Applicant:</u> No activity related to the proposed development will proceed without an EA being granted by the DFFE.</p>
4.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations:</p> <p>- Ms Milicent Solomons</p> <p>- Letter via Email</p> <p>- 2022/06/17</p>	<p>Dear Mr Heather-Clarke</p> <p>ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2022 and received by the Department on 06 May 2022, refer.</p> <p>The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2022 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>EAP & Applicant: Same responses for as above for Hoogland 1 Wind Farm apply as the same comments were provided by the DFFE for Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms (Appendix D2) - Please see Row 3 above.</i></p> <p><i>However, comments which are specific to the Hoogland 2 Wind Farm only have been provided as points (i) and (ii) under (g) Specific comments. The EAP has provided specific responses to these comments – Please see response below.</i></p>

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:</p> <p><u>(a) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p> <p>(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.</p> <p>(iii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the draft EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted.</p> <p>(iv) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p> <p>(v) The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.</p> <p><u>(b) Public Participation</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to Western Cape: DEADP, the provincial Department of Agriculture, SANRAL, the Local Municipality, the District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), Heritage Western Cape, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, SABAAP, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorates Biodiversity Management and Protected Areas Systems Management.</p> <p>(ii) 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</p>	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iii) 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.</p> <p>(iv) 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 Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.</p> <p>(v) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.</p> <p>(vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and the approved Public Participation Plan (PPP).</p> <p><u>(c) Alternatives</u></p> <p>(i) Please provide a description of each of the preferred alternative type and provide detailed motivation on why it is preferred.</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that all relevant alternatives and/or alternative combinations are adequately assessed in the EIAR.</p> <p><u>(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) 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.</p>	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
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		<p>(ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all maps to be included in the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The wind turbine positions and its associated infrastructure; b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc. c) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed BESS, the main substation and internal power lines. d) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure. <p>(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; b) Buffer areas; and c) All “no-go” areas. <p><u>(v) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>(e) Specialist assessments</u></p> <p>(i) The final EIAR and all the attached specialist studies must indicate and adequately assess a consistent number of turbines.</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation. 	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</p> <p>c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p> <p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p> <p>f) Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAAP and adhere to the latest guidelines in this regard.</p> <p>g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(iii) 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.</p> <p>(iv) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p> <p>(v) <u>As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</u></p>	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p><u>(f) Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>(i) If there other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <p>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <p>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p> <p>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p> <p><u>(g) Specific comments</u></p> <p>(i) It is noted that the presence of the Riverine Rabbit has been confirmed within the Hoogland 1 site. Seeing that this facility is adjacent to Hoogland 2, the Department requires that a proper assessment of its presence be conducted in the EIA Phase. Should it be confirmed, then the impacts on this species must be undertaken.</p> <p>(ii) Should the presence of this species not be identified, a detailed motivation from the specialist must be provided as to why this species are not present on this proposed site.</p> <p>(iii) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the EIAR, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the EIAR and its associated layout plans.</p>	<p><u>(g) Specific comments</u></p> <p>(i & ii) <u>EAP</u>: Ecology camera trapping has been completed for the Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 wind farm sites, and the terrestrial ecology specialist (namely Simon Todd of 3Foxes Biodiversity) has compiled a Riverine Rabbit species assessment in accordance with the species protocols for each wind farm. See Section 7.4 and Appendix C6 of the EIAR. Although further camera trap surveying did not confirm the presence of Riverine Rabbits on the Hoogland 2 Wind Farm site, and the core areas of Riverine Rabbit habitat are located within the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm site, there is some potential habitat associated with Slangfontein se Rivier (a tributary of the Brak Rivier) which projects into the site along the boundary with the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm. These potential impacts are assessed in the Riverine Rabbit species assessment for the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm.</p>

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>(iv) The EAP must identify and provide a map which shows this development and its associated infrastructure in relation to the other proposed facilities in the area.</p> <p>(v) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the EIAR.</p> <p>(vi) When submitting the EIAR and future documents kindly name each of the documents and attachments according to the information it contains. E.g., instead of only naming it Appendix A, it must be Appendix A: Maps, Appendix B: EAP Declaration etc.</p> <p><u>(h) General</u></p> <p>(i) The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all non-linear infrastructure proposed on the farm portions affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>(iii) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR.</p> <p>(iv) The final EIAR must include a list providing a clear description of the infrastructure associated with the development.</p> <p>(v) The EAP must provide an outline of where in the final Report each of this Department's comments are addressed. This must be a separate document and must be submitted as an appendix to the EIAR.</p> <p>The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.</p> <p>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.</p>	

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
5.	Heritage Western Cape (HWC): key stakeholder - Xola Mlwandle - Email - 2022/07/22	<p>From: Jayson Orton Date: Thursday, 21 July 2022 at 11:20 To: Ceoheritage Subject: NEW APPLICATION: Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms (northern cluster)</p> <p>Dear HWC</p> <p>Please find at the links below reports for the Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms. These are assessed together as the Hoogland Northern Cluster. Earlier drafts of the reports have been seen by HWC already but they have now been finalised. Payments were made for the earlier submission and I attach the PoPs here again for convenience.</p> <p>HIA: https://1drv.ms/b/s!ApZVQiNnEoPhhtxX5_Q-RasYDnHolw?e=mWQUGi PIA: https://1drv.ms/b/s!ApZVQiNnEoPhhtxjTs_8Pgk8R_Wp5g?e=bNk4os VIA: https://1drv.ms/b/s!ApZVQiNnEoPhhtxfyPmztEq5rYUvOg?e=Khdbj7</p> <p>Please note that the projects are still on consultation but this will be completed by the end of the month and I will submit a letter to the case officer with the details and results.</p> <p>thanks Jayson</p>	<p>On Fri, 22 July 2022 at 06:49, Xola Mlwandlewrote:</p> <p>Dear Applicant,</p> <p>I acknowledge receipt of your permit application submitted for Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms (northern cluster) received on 21 July 2022.</p> <p>Please note, the above is a pre-assessment of your application submitted as per the application guideline of documentation required. Once your application is assigned, the relevant Case Officer will confirm assignment of application and if there are any further requirements.</p>
6.	- Jayson Orton – Heritage Specialist - Email - 2022/08/01	<p>From: Jayson Orton Date: Monday, 01 August 2022 21:24 To: Stephanie Barnardt Subject: Hoogland Consultation</p> <p>Dear Stephanie</p> <p>As promised, please find attached the results of the heritage consultation for the six Hoogland projects. I would appreciate if the results can be conveyed to the APM and IACom committees during their deliberations. – see Appendix D3 of EIAr for a copy of the Consultation Letter sent to HWC</p> <p>Many thanks</p>	<p><i>EAP & Applicant: Email was sent to Stephanie Barnardt of HWC to provide results of the heritage consultation (see Appendix D3 of EIAr for a copy of the Consultation Letter sent to HWC) for the six Hoogland projects, so that results can be conveyed to the APM and IACom committees during their deliberations. No written response has yet been received HWC.</i></p>

Comments and Responses after submission of Final Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		Jayson	

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FOR DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (HOOGLAND 1 & HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARMS)

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
1.	Department of Defence / South African Army: key stakeholder - Colonel Zondi & Colonel Loy de Jager - Email - 2022/03/09	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Date: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 10:45 Subject: Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farm & Grid Connection projects between Loxton and Beaufort West, Western & Northern Cape Provinces To: Colonel Zondi & Colonel Loy de Jager</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Please find attached a letter for your attention. – <i>see EIA Appendix D2</i></p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact SLR should you have any queries or should you wish to discuss anything.</p> <p><i>Any correspondence related to the proposed Hoogland projects should please be directed to the Hoogland email address copied herein (hoogland@slrconsulting.com).</i></p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	<p><i>EAP: Email was sent to South African Army / Department of Defence to provide department with project information and to provide department with opportunity to comment or correspond with the project team, if required.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that the proposed developments are not expected to impact directly on defense installations and no significant impacts on defense installations are expected (due to their Low Sensitivity, according to environmental screening tool (https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool/)).</i></p>
2.	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning	<p>From: Stephan Jacobs Date: Monday, 14 March 2022 15:45 Subject: Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farm & Grid Connection projects - Draft Meeting Minutes for review and approval</p>	<p><i>EAP: Email was sent to WC DEA&DP in order for minutes of pre-application meeting held on 2 March 2022 to be reviewed and approved. It should be noted that no response was received by the department. However, the WC DEA&DP have provided formal comments as part of the scoping & EIA and pre-application processes for the respective Hoogland projects. Please see Row 29 for formal comments, including responses thereto.</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

	<p>(WC DEA&DP): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Francois Naude, Danie Swanepoel & Jessica Christie</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/03/14</p>	<p>To: Francois Naude; Danie Swanepoel; Jessica Christie</p> <p>Good Afternoon Francois; Danie and Jessica,</p> <p>I trust you are all well.</p> <p>The Pre-application meeting undertaken with the WC DEA&DP on Wednesday 2 March 2022 for the Hoogland Wind Farm and Grid Connection projects between Loxton and Beaufort West refers.</p> <p>Please find attached the Draft Meeting Minutes for the pre-application meeting undertaken for review and approval. Please could you kindly review the attached minutes and provide feedback at your earliest possible convenience (if possible, by Friday this week).</p> <p>SLR have attached a Word version of the Draft Minutes, should the Department wish to leave any responses and/or comments. If you could please include these as tracked changes or highlight where changes have been made or responses / comments added, that would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>I have also provided a link to the recording of this meeting, should the department require this: <i>*Link to recording of pre-application meeting with DEA&DP was provided in email, which has been redacted due to confidentiality</i></p> <p>Please let SLR know if you have any issues downloading or accessing this. Please also let SLR know should your department require a PDF copy of the presentation.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing back from you. Please feel free to contact SLR should you wish to discuss anything.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Square Kilometer Array (SKA): key stakeholder</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Date: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 15:27</p>	<p><i>EAP: Email was sent to the SKA for information purposes and to inform the SKA that SLR will retain them on the database so that they may be kept up to date with the process. Please refer to Appendix</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

	<p>- Thato Nape - Email - 2022/03/18</p>	<p>Subject: RE: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections To: Thato Nape</p> <p>Dear Mr Nape,</p> <p>My name is Liandra Scott-Shaw from SLR Consulting, the email notification regarding the NEMA process for the Hoogland Wind Farm projects sent from SLR on Friday 18 March 2021 has reference (see below emails – project notification emails sent to registered I&APs and key stakeholders).</p> <p>We note that SARAO have already engaged with the developer Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd and their consultant Interference Testing and Consultancy Services (Pty) Ltd, as per the attached correspondence dated 15 June 2021. This record is included in the appendices to the environmental report/s. Should you have any further comment, please contact me on the details below. We will retain you as an I&AP on the database so that you may be kept up to date with the process.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>	<p><i>D1 of the FSR for a copy of the letter received from the SKA as part of the screening process based on engagement with the developer.</i></p>
4.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations: competent authority</p> <p>- Lydia Kutu - Email - 2022/03/22</p>	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Date: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 19:33 Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw; Kirsten Jones; Stephan Jacobs; Hoogland</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED HOUGLAND 1 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p>	<p>On Wed, 23 March 2022 at 06:56, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Lydia</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p> <p><i>EAP & Applicant: SLR (as the independent EAP) as well as the Applicant will ensure that Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is followed and adhered to.</i></p> <p><i>SLR and the Applicant acknowledges the Department’s comment regarding Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and will ensure that it is adhered to. Potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, are being provided with an opportunity to comment on</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 18 March 2022. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>	<p><i>reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Please refer to Section 6.2 of the project report for information regarding the public participation process being undertaken for the proposed Hoogland projects.</i></p> <p><i>The Department's comment regarding Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is also duly noted and acknowledged. SLR and the Applicant will ensure that the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations are met / adhered to, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</i></p> <p><i>Lastly, SLR and the Applicant have taken note about the department's comment regarding Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Applicant can confirm that no activity will commence prior to an EA being granted by the Department.</i></p>
5.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE),	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Date: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 19:29 Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146</p>	<p>On Wed, 23 March 2022 at 06:56, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Lydia</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

<p>Integrated Environmental Authorisations: competent authority</p> <p>- Lydia Kutu</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/03/22</p>	<p>To: Liandra Scott-Shaw; Kirsten Jones; Stephan Jacobs; Hoogland</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 18 March 2022. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p> <p><i>EAP & Applicant: SLR (as the independent EAP) as well as the Applicant will ensure that Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is followed and adhered to.</i></p> <p><i>SLR and the Applicant acknowledges the Department’s comment regarding Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and will ensure that it is adhered to. Potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, are being provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) - Please refer to Section 6.2 of the project report for information regarding the public participation process being undertaken for the proposed Hoogland projects.</i></p> <p><i>The Department’s comment regarding Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is also duly noted and acknowledged. SLR and the Applicant will ensure that the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations are met / adhered to, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</i></p> <p><i>Lastly, SLR and the Applicant have taken note about the department’s comment regarding Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Applicant can confirm that no activity will commence prior to an EA being granted by the Department.</i></p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>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.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>	
6.	<p>CapeNature: key stakeholder</p> <p>- Megan Simons</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/03/22</p>	<p>From: Megan Simons Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 15:50 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw Subject: RE: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Dear Liandra,</p> <p>I trust this email finds you well.</p> <p>Kindly can you send me the shapefiles for the proposed WEF and Grid Connections.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	<p>On Tues, 22 March 2022 at 16:23, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Megan</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>I will package the layers for you and forward on as soon as they are done.</p> <p>Please note that I understand that the time frames are tight, please focus comments on the Norther Cluster Draft Scoping Report and then the other three Pre-Application Reports?</p> <p>If you need additional time I can give you an extra week to send comments back on the Pre-Applications Reports.</p> <p>To reiterate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments for the Northern Cluster Draft Scoping report due 22nd April 2022 • Comments for remaining three Pre-Application Reports can be submitted 29th of April 2022 <p>I hope you find this in order.</p> <p>I will call you tomorrow to see that you have received all the documentation?</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

7.		<p>On Tue, 22 Mar 2022 at 16:28, Megan Simons wrote:</p> <p>Dear Liandra,</p> <p>Thank you for getting back to me.</p> <p>I still need to download the documents, but you are most welcome to follow-up telephonically.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	<p>On Wed, 23 March 2022 at 07:04, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Megan</p> <p>Please find the shapefiles attached as zip files:</p> <p>Wind Farm shapefiles inclusive of the substation and grid connection shapefiles inclusive of the switching stations.</p> <p>Please also note the following based on the specialist recommendations:</p> <p>All turbines in the 'medium VERA' layers to be removed /micro-sited at the next stage to avoid this layer (also note a rerun of VERA was already undertaken due to a new nest and this will also slightly change the VERA boundaries in the next round):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoogland 1 (Turbine numbers 28, 37, 53, 117) • Hoogland 3 (Turbine numbers 1, 6, 20, 110, 165, 166) • Hoogland 4 (Turbine number 143) <p>Turbines in the Riverine Rabbit habitat and their buffers to be removed /micro-sited at the next stage include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoogland 1 (Turbine number 34) • Hoogland 2 (Turbine number 153) <p>Please let me know if all is in order?</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>
8.	<p>Western Cape Department of Transport & Public Works: key stakeholder</p> <p>- Vanessa Stoffels</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/03/22</p>	<p>From: Vanessa Stoffels Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 13:05 To: Hoogland Subject: HOOGLAND WIND FARMS, BEAUFORT WEST</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Received your application, our reference Job 29407.</p>	<p>On Wed, 23 March 2022 at 13:32, Hoogland wrote:</p> <p>Dear Vanessa</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
		<p>The matter is receiving attention and further communication will be addressed to you as soon as circumstances permit.</p> <p>Kind Regards Vanessa Stoffels</p>	
9.	<p>Western Cape Department of Agriculture – Elsenburg: key stakeholder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brandon Layman - Emails - 2022/03/25 to 2022/03/29 	<p>From: Layman, Brandon Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 12:00 To: Hoogland Subject: FW: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Hi Mrs. Scott-Shaw</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CD or USB we can still put on a physical file.</p> <p><i>EAP: Email was sent in response to SLR’s email notification regarding the availability of the project reports for review and approval and the links to download the relevant project information.</i></p>	<p><i>EAP: A USB containing the project documents was delivered to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture on 01 April 2022. Proof of delivery / acknowledgement of receipt document can be found in Appendix D2 of the EIAr.</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

<p>10.</p>	<p>South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) - Natasha Higgitt - Message on SAHRIS via Email - 2022/04/06 to 2022/04/14</p>	<p>From: SAHRIS Admin Sent: Wednesday, 06 April 2022 11:18 To: Candice Sadan Subject: New private message from SAHRIS: SAHRIS Case ID 18203</p> <p>This is an automatic reminder from the site SAHRA. You have received a new private message from natasha.higgitt.</p> <p>To read your message on SAHRIS, First LOGIN TO SAHRIS then, follow this link: https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsaahris.sahra.org.za%2Fmessages%2Fview%2F32443&data=04%7C01%7C%7C39f74eb26de44f453f1408da17ae5fac%7C109cec53a87742eb93e8b9f5c282ba38%7C0%7C1%7C637848334954100851%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=bJadPga2Cmlg8Wlz9E7jd%2BINmtbeb1NEYkWzsuEc7W0%3D&reserved=0</p> <p>Alternatively, login to SAHRIS and navigate to https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sahra.org.za%2Fmessages&data=04%7C01%7C%7C39f74eb26de44f453f1408da17ae5fac%7C109cec53a87742eb93e8b9f5c282ba38%7C0%7C1%7C637848334954100851%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=eAa13rX3N2AQL%2BilmZhVo9JafINe6Kcdq82nuWgVhio%3D&reserved=0</p> <p>The body of your message reads: *** Good morning, Please note that only one of the two wind farms has been mapped on the GIS section of the SAHRIS application. Please ensure that the southern wind farm is mapped. Additionally, please clarify if a portion of the northern-most wind farm is located within the Northern Cape Province. The maps in the DSR show</p>	<p>On Mon, 11 April 2022 at 10:12, Stephan Jacobs wrote:</p> <p>Good morning Natasha,</p> <p>I trust this email finds you well. The message below from SAHRIS for Case ID 18203 refers. Apologies for the delayed response. I was off sick with covid last week and only returned to work today.</p> <p>Please be advised that the EAP has mapped the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm which form part of the Northern Wind Farm Cluster only as the applications for the wind farms which form part</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>that the boundary of the wind farm sits on the provincial border, but the kml file on SAHRIS shows a small section of the farm falls within the Northern Cape i.e. on the farm Welgevonden 230. If this is incorrect, please correct the kml to exclude that portion.</p> <p>Kind regards, Natasha Higgitt</p>	<p>of the Southern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 3 and Hoogland 4) have not yet been submitted to the DFFE. The wind farms which form part of the Southern Wind Farm Cluster form part of separate applications which will be submitted at a later stage.</p> <p>The EAP is thus only requesting comment on the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm which form part of the Northern Wind Farm Cluster.</p> <p>Please note that the entire footprint for each respective wind farm falls within the Western Cape Province, however, some watercourse crossing upgrades on existing roads fall within the Northern Cape. It should however be noted that the specialist has confirmed they have no heritage significance and do not warrant an assessment. The small section of the farm which falls within the Northern Cape is most likely related to these watercourse crossing. However, the EAP has amended the KML to exclude this portion, so that it aligns with what has been presented in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR).</p> <p>We trust you will find everything is in order. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss anything.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
<p>11.</p>		<p>On Mon, 11 Apr 2022 at 14:13, Natasha Higgitt wrote:</p> <p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Best wishes with your recovery from COVID.</p> <p>As the application completely falls with the Western Cape Province, SAHRA will not be issuing any comments on the application. I have amended the case to reflect only HWC as a Heritage Authority and I have removed myself as a case officer.</p> <p>Please contact Heritage Western Cape for comments.</p>	<p>On Wed, 13 April 2022 at 16:10, Stephan Jacobs wrote:</p> <p>Good afternoon Natasha,</p> <p>I hope you are well.</p> <p>The emails below refer. Apologies for the delayed response. I have been experiencing connectivity issues due to the flooding in KZN.</p> <p>Noted, thank you very much for confirming this and for letting us know that you amended the case to reflect only HWC as a Heritage Authority and that you have removed yourself as a case officer.</p> <p>Please note that HWC have been approached and requested to provide comments (i.e., have been included as part of the environmental authorisation process). The project team just wanted to give SAHRA an opportunity to review the application and comment on this, if required. We are however happy to hear that there are no issues in this regard and that SAHRA has no comments.</p> <p>Thank you for your input. Would you like SLR to remove SAHRA from the project database or would you prefer to be kept informed about the projects?</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
			Kind regards,
12.		<p>On Wed, 13 Apr 2022 at 16:23, Natasha Higgitt wrote:</p> <p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I hope that you and your family are safe during this time.</p> <p>There is no need to keep SAHRA informed as we will not be issuing any comments on the application, so you may remove SAHRA from the I&AP database.</p> <p>I await the Southern Cluster application as there is a portion located in the Northern Cape, and SAHRA will provide comments on this application.</p>	<p>On Wed, 13 April 2022 at 17:07, Stephan Jacobs wrote:</p> <p>Good afternoon Natasha,</p> <p>Noted, thanks for confirming. Please however note that SLR are sending combined notifications for all Hoogland projects and thus you will most likely receive notifications which include the Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms as well as the Northern and Southern Grid Connections, although SAHRA will not necessarily be commenting on these projects.</p> <p>Please note that the Pre-Application report for the Southern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 3 & 4 Wind Farm) is currently also available for review and comment until 22 April 2022. These projects are being made available for public review and comment as part of an unlegislated Pre-Application phase, outside of the formal Basic Assessment (BA) process. You are thus welcome to comment on the Pre-Application Report should you wish? Alternatively, you can wait until SLR formally submit the applications to the DFFE as part of the legislated BA processes, as another opportunity to comment will be provided during this time.</p> <p>I have created a SAHRIS case for the Southern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 3 & 4), have submitted the relevant documents, mapped the project that falls within the Northern Cape province (Hoogland 3) and changed the status of the case to "SUBMITTED".</p> <p>We trust you will find everything is in order. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or wish to discuss anything.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
13.		<p>On Thu, 14 Apr 2022 at 08:07, Natasha Higgitt wrote:</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I note the combined notifications.</p> <p>As there is no legislative process for the pre-application phase, there is no need for SAHRA to provide comments. Comments will be issued during the BA process. I have assigned myself to the Southern Wind Farm</p>	<p>On Thus, 14 April 2022 at 08:52, Stephan Jacobs wrote:</p> <p>Good morning Natasha,</p> <p>Not a problem at all, we completely understand. We will change the status of the case to SUBMITTED once the formal BA process commences and will notify you accordingly.</p> <p>Thank you for your assistance and patience in this regard.</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)		
		<p>Cluster, however, I have changed the status of the case to DRAFT. Once the BA process begins, please change the status of the case to SUBMITTED. As part of my monthly reporting, any of my assigned cases (not in DRAFT) that I have not commented on within 30 days affects my performance review. I do hope you understand this.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
14.	<p>South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)</p> <p>- Natasha Higgitt</p> <p>- Email correspondence between heritage Specialist and SAHRA case officer</p> <p>- 2022/05/03 to 2022/05/04</p>	<p><i>EAP: Please note that there are minor watercourse crossing upgrades on public roads outside the main wind farm boundary, within the Northern Cape. The heritage specialist (Jayson Orton) emailed the SAHRA case officer (Natasha Higgitt) on 3 and 4 May 2022 to confirm whether SAHRA intends to still submit comments on these watercourse crossing upgrades, due to confusion caused in this regard.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that the case officer confirmed that if the roadworks form part of the NEMA application, then the location of the application lies within both the Western Cape and Northern Cape and will thus submit comments on the DEIR. The project team will thus continue to liaise with SAHRA for the EIA phase. Proof of correspondence between the heritage specialist and SAHRA case officer have been kept on record and can be provided upon request.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the above, it should be noted that following the submission of the Final Scoping Report, it was requested by SAHRA (via Interim Comment letters issued via the SAHRIS Case Application) that a field-based PIA was to be conducted of the stream crossings in the Northern Cape Province. A letter from the palaeontologist (Dr John Almond) motivating that a field-based PIA was not required was submitted to SAHRA in response, however, it was confirmed that the stream crossings must be assessed to the satisfaction of SAHRA during the EIA phase. Considering this, a suitably qualified palaeontologist (Dr Elize Butler) was appointed to undertake the required field-based PIA, the results of which are provided in a supplementary PIA report (Appendix C13 of Draft EIAR). Please refer to Rows 1 & 2 in the Comments and Responses Table for Final Scoping Report for these comments from SAHRA, as well as the relevant responses thereto.</i></p>
15.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations: competent authority</p> <p>- Lydia Kutu</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/11</p>	<p>From: Lydia Kutu Sent: Monday, 11 April 2022 07:58 To: Stuart Heather-Clark; Lance Blain Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146 & 2147</p> <p>Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letters for the above mentioned. – <i>see Row 16 & 17 below for DFFE comments, including responses thereto.</i></p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>
		<p>EAP & Applicant: Please see below for responses to the DFFE’s comments:</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

16.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Sabelo Malaza - Letter via Email - 2022/04/08 	<p>Dear Mr Heather-Clarke</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND 1 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2022, and received by the Department on 18 March 2022, refer.</p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final SR:</u></p> <p><u>(a) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p> <p>(ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.</p> <p>(iii) Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p> <p>(iv) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained</p>	<p><u>(a) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities have been applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP can confirm that the activities applied for in the application form DO NOT differ from those mentioned in the final SR. No changes have been made to the application form submitted as part of the Draft Scoping Report (SR). Should there be any differences and/or updates throughout the project, an amended application form will be submitted, and the changes / updates will be <u>underlined</u> for the department’s ease of reference.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: Please be advised that the most recent version of the Department’s application form template (namely April 2021) was used for the applications forms which accompanied the Draft SR (available from following link: https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms). The EAP will ensure that the most recent application form is used going forward, should the application forms need to be updated and re-submitted.</p> <p>(iv) <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The Department’s comment is duly noted. The EAP and Applicant can confirm that the relevant authorities have been given opportunities to be involved as part of the assessment processes undertaken to date. These authorities will be given further opportunity to be involved going forward, as the projects progress. All relevant authorities will thus be continuously involved throughout the respective assessment processes. The project team have made attempts to obtain written comments</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

(i) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:

- a) Positions of the proposed facility as well as all associated infrastructure;
- b) Permanent laydown area footprint;
- c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
- d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
- e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
- f) All existing infrastructure on the site.

(ii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:

- a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- b) Buffer areas; and,
- c) All “no-go” areas.

from the relevant authorities. Notifications regarding the commencement of the environmental assessment and public participation processes and availability of reports for review and commenting have been sent to the relevant authorities and proof of this has been kept on record. Any comments received prior to submission of the Final SR have been submitted to this Department. - ***Please refer to Section 6.2 of the SR for information regarding the public participation process being undertaken for the proposed Hoogland projects.***

In addition, it is confirmed that the SR provides a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographically designated areas, namely Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), as requested (see Figure 7-20 of FSR). CapeNature as the custodian of biodiversity in the Western Cape has been engaged - ***refer to Row 29 and 34 respectively, for comments on, inter alia, CBAs.***

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

(i) EAP: A layout map which indicates the information requested by the DFFE (where available) has been provided as part of the SR. Please refer to Figure 2-6 on page 18 in Section 2.3 of the SR.

Note that with reference to (e), the connection routes, these were indicated as a corridor (Figure 1-2 on page 2) and each Grid Connection project is subject to a separate report, with the formal applications still to be submitted to the competent authority. At the next stage of reporting for these Grid Connection projects the corridor will be refined, and a provisional alignment identified. It should however be noted that it is not possible to including pylon positions as these are unknown at this stage. The powerlines will however be routed within the authorised corridor.

Note that with reference to (f), the area for the proposed project is rural and very remote, the main type of infrastructure in the area is public roads which has been shown on the maps. Farmhouses and related buildings and infrastructure such as reservoirs is at a scale too small to be visible on the maps and have been treated as ‘no-go’ areas for development.

(ii) EAP: An environmental sensitivity map which indicates the information requested by the DFFE (where available) has been provided as part of the SR. Please refer to Figure 9-1 - Figure 9-8 on page 346 - 353 in Section 9.1 of the SR. Key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas have been identified by a number of specialists, namely Geotechnical; Agricultural; Ecology; Aquatic; Bats; Avifauna; Heritage (including Palaeontology, Archaeology, Graves, Built Environment, Cultural landscape); Visual and Noise, which were compiled into the consolidated ‘No-Go’ map (which combines the ‘No-Go’ sensitivities of all specialist fields into one map – see Figure 9-1 - Figure 9-8). Please refer to Table 9-1 in Section 9.1 of the FSR for a summary of

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>(iii) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p> <p><u>(c) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state (<u>including this Department’s Biodiversity Directorate</u>), which have jurisdiction 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 should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p> <p>(ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and as per the approved PP Plan.</p> <p>(iii) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main</p>	<p>the key sensitivities / ‘no-go’ areas identified by the specialists. The respective specialist studies (reports) are provided in Appendix C of the FSR.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: It should be noted that the EAP has provided separate cumulative impact (Figure 6-5) and sensitivity maps (Figure 9-1 - Figure 9-8) as part of the SR as the ‘no-go’ areas identified are site-specific (i.e., contained to project site) and not for the 30km cumulative impact radius. It will not be possible to map these areas effectively (i.e., cannot map them in detail) at the cumulative scale (namely at a 30km radius).</p> <p><u>(c) Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>(i) <u>EAP</u>: The EAP has ensured that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and key stakeholders such as organs of state (OoS) (including the DFFE’s Biodiversity Directorate – <i>see I&AP and stakeholder database in Appendix D</i>), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, have been adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various registered I&APs and key stakeholders has been included in the final SR (Appendix D).</p> <p>It should be noted that attempts have been made to obtain comments from I&APs and key stakeholders. All I&APs and key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment period accordingly. I&APs and key stakeholders were also reminded about the closure of the 30-day review and comment period and reminded to submit comments. Proof of this is included in the final SR. Please refer to Appendix D2 of the SR for a copy of all comments received as part of the scoping process. I&APs and key stakeholders will be provided with further opportunity to comment during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase, should the DFFE accept the Final SR and allow the project to proceed to the EIA phase.</p> <p>All issues raised and comments received to date from I&APs and key stakeholders and the respective responses are included in this C&RR.</p> <p>(ii) <u>EAP</u>: Considering the information above, the Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and as per the approved PP Plan. Please refer to section 6.2 of the SR and Appendix D for more information regarding the public participation process undertaken to date, including the necessary proofs.</p> <p>(iii) <u>EAP</u>: As mentioned above, all issues raised and/or comments received to date from I&APs and/or key stakeholders are detailed in this C&RR, with responses provided where required. The C&RR has been</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

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.

(iv) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly, the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and the District and Local Municipalities.

(v) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.

(d) Specialist Assessments

(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:

- a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.

submitted as part of the Final SR (Appendix D2). The EAP can confirm that the C&RR is a separate document from the main report (i.e., the Final SR) and that the format aligns with the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of the DFFE’s comments letter (Appendix D2 of FSR) and contains all relevant information required by the department. The EAP has refrained from summarising comments made by I&APs and key stakeholders and all comments have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly (where required). In addition, the EAP has not made use of responses such as “Noted” only.

(iv) EAP: The EAP can confirm that the final SR provides evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development. This includes the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (WC DEA&DP), and the District and Local Municipalities (Please refer to Appendix D for a copy of the I&AP & stakeholder database). As mentioned, attempts have been made to obtain comments from key stakeholders such as relevant competent authorities. All key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment period accordingly and were also reminded about the closure of the 30-day review and comment period, as well as to submit comments. Proof of this is included in the final SR (Appendix D2). In addition, all issues raised and/or comments received to date from key stakeholders such as relevant competent authorities are detailed in this C&RR, with responses provided where required.

(v) EAP: Minutes of any physical / virtual meetings which have been held with I&APs and/or key stakeholders have been compiled and included in the final SR (Appendix D1 & D2). Registers are available to DFFE on request to ensure compliance with POPIA. It should be noted that the WC DEA&DP have not reviewed and approved the minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 2 March 2022, despite an email being sent to request this. The WC DEA&DP have however provided formal comments as part of the scoping process, which have been incorporated into the C&RR (including responses thereto). ***Please see Row 29 for formal comments, including responses thereto.***

(d) Specialist Assessments

(i) EAP: The EAP will ensure that the terms of reference for the identified specialist studies includes the information requested / outlined by the DFFE.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

- b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be accepted.
- c) Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.
- d) Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.
- e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
- f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- g) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

(ii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting 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.**

(iii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

(ii) EAP & Applicant: The Protocols, including specialist assessments will be undertaken in accordance with the protocols.

(iii) EAP: Please refer to Appendix A of Final SR for copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms. Should it be required, updated specialist Dols which indicate the status of specialist registrations / memberships (where applicable / required) will be included as part of the Draft EIA Report.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

(i) As there are other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:

- a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(f) Specific comments

(i) The presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site as indicated in the flora and fauna specialist study, and the consequent classification of the riparian areas as Very High sensitivity based on their value as Riverine Rabbit habitat and general ecological significance is noted.

(ii) Comments from this Department's Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate as well as the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation must be sought to understand if the potential impacts of the presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site have been fully assessed and that the proposed mitigation measures thereto are adequate.

(g) General

(i) EAP: A cumulative impact assessment has been conducted and included in the SR. Other than the three (3) proposed Nuweveld Wind Farms, there are currently no approved renewable energy EA applications within a 30km radius of the project site (see Figure 6-5 of SR). The nearest operational Wind Farm from the site is the Noblesfontein Wind Farm located approximately 65km to the Northeast. The wind farm application's impacts are therefore cumulatively assessed together with the three (3) Nuweveld Wind Farms by each specialist. Refer to Section 7 of the FSR. Table 8-1 and Table 8-2 in the Final SR provides a summary of the potential environmental impacts that have been identified and assessed, which include cumulative impacts.

The 2017 DEA Needs and desirability guideline were used to guide answer regarding the need and desirability of the project. The potential impact (which includes the cumulative impacts of the project) is discussed and inherently considered as part of the discussion on desirability. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the project may proceed will be provided in the Impact assessment phase once all information is available.

(f) Specific comments

(i) EAP: It should however be noted that Ecology camera trapping is still to be completed, as mentioned in the Plan of Study for the EIA (Section 10 of Draft SR). The results of this will be used to update further iterations of the specialist report where necessary, as well as the Draft EIA report.

(ii) EAP: Attempts have been made to obtain comments from key stakeholders, which included the DFFE's Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate as well as the NC DENC. All key stakeholders were informed about the 30-day review and comment period accordingly and were also reminded about the closure of the 30-day review and comment period, as well as to submit comments. NC DENC were contacted directly. Proof of this is included in the final SR (Appendix D2). The DFFE's Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate and the NC DENC will be provided with further opportunity to comment during the EIA phase, should the DFFE accept the Final SR and allow the project to proceed to the EIA phase.

(g) General

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>“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 scoping report 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”</i></p> <p>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 Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza</p>	<p><u>EAP:</u> The department’s comment is duly noted. The EAP can confirm that Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, has been complied with, which includes the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 of the regulations. The relevant sections of the SR which meet the requirements of Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, are detailed in the table on page 5 of the SR.</p> <p>The Application for EA and Draft SR was submitted to the DFFE on 18 March 2022, with the Draft SR also being made available for a 30-day public review and comment period from 18 March 2022 to 22 April 2022 (excluding public holidays). The Draft SR was subsequently updated, taking the comments received into consideration (where required / applicable), and a final SR was submitted to the DFFE for decision-making before 7 May 2022. The final SR reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority. Please refer to Appendix D2 of SR for a copy of all comments received, with responses provided (where required) in the C&RR.</p> <p><u>EAP:</u> The EAP will ensure that the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 45 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, are met to ensure that the application does not lapse. Should an extension be required, this will be requested in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p> <p><u>Applicant:</u> No activity related to the proposed development will proceed without an EA being granted by the DFFE.</p>
17.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Integrated Environmental Authorisations: competent authority	<p>Dear Mr Heather-Clarke</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOUGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> Same responses as above for Hoogland 1 Wind Farm apply as the same comments were provided by the DFFE for Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms - Please see Row 16 above.</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

<p>- Mr Sabelo Malaza - Letter via Email - 2022/04/08</p>	<p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2022, and received by the Department on 18 March 2022, refer.</p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final SR:</u></p> <p><u>(a) Listed Activities</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p> <p>(ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.</p> <p>(iii) Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p> <p>(iv) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</p> <p><u>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Positions of the proposed facility as well as all associated infrastructure; b) Permanent laydown area footprint; c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint; 	
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

- e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
 - f) All existing infrastructure on the site.
- (ii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
- a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - b) Buffer areas; and,
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iii) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

(c) Public Participation Process

- (i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state (including this Department’s Biodiversity Directorate), which have jurisdiction 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 should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and as per the approved PP Plan.
- (iii) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. 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.
- (iv) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly, the Western Cape Department

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and the District and Local Municipalities.

(v) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.

(d) Specialist Assessments

(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:

- a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
- b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be accepted.
- c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
- d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
- e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
- f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- g) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

(ii) 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.**

(iii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

(i) As there are other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:

- a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(f) Specific comments

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

(i) The presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site as indicated in the flora and fauna specialist study, and the consequent classification of the riparian areas as Very High sensitivity based on their value as Riverine Rabbit habitat and general ecological significance is noted.

(ii) Comments from this Department's Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate as well as the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation must be sought to understand if the potential impacts of the presence of the Riverine Rabbit on the proposed site have been fully assessed and that the proposed mitigation measures thereto are adequate.

(g) General

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 scoping report 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 Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the 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

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
		<p>Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza</p>	
18.	<p>Eskom: key stakeholder</p> <p>- John Geeringh</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/11 to 2022/04/21</p>	<p>From: John Geeringh Sent: Monday, 11 April 2022 15:41 To: Hoogland Subject: RE: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom servitudes and infrastructure, as well as the Eskom setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments. Please send me KMZ files of the proposed development, layouts and grid connection.</p> <p>Kind regards John Geeringh</p>	<p>On Tues, 19 April 2022 at 08:07, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear John</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Apologies for the delay in response.</p> <p>Please find the KMLs attached:</p> <p>Please let me know if all is in order?</p> <p>Kind regards</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>On Tue, 19 April 2022 at 10:34, Kirsten Jones wrote:</p> <p>Hi John,</p> <p>Please note there are two proposed powerlines, one connecting the Hoogland Northern Wind Farms (1 and 2) to the Nuweveld Collector Substation (on Red Cap’s adjacent Nuweveld Wind Farm site) and the second one connecting the Hoogland Southern Wind Farms (3 and 4) to the Nuweveld Collector Substation. At this stage the specialists have assessed a 5km powerline corridor from the wind farm/s to the approved Nuweveld Collector Substation and the line will run somewhere within this corridor based on our constraints and sensitivities. We hope to refine this to a narrower corridor in the next stage (the Draft BAR).</p> <p>If you have any queries please let us know.</p> <p>Kind regards Kirsten</p>	<p>On Thu, 21 April 2022 at 11:09, John Geeringh wrote:</p> <p>Thanks for clarification and information submitted.</p> <p>Regards John</p>
19.	<p>Ubuntu Municipality: stakeholder</p> <p>- Yoliswa Tsheke</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/12</p> <p>Local key</p>	<p>From: Yoliswa Tsheke Sent: Tuesday, 12 April 2022 09:59 To: Hoogland</p> <p>Subject: NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED RED CAP HOOGLAND WIND FARMS AND GRID CONNECTIONS</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Please be informed that your email was received (printed). May you forward me the email in order for me to see the notices to give you the regulations of Ubuntu Local Municipality. Please include the full application and proof of payment as we have not received your application.</p> <p>For more information please contact us at 0536210026.</p> <p>Kind regards Yoliswa Tsheke</p>	<p>On Wed, 20 April 2022 at 07:49, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Ms Tsheke</p> <p>Please see the original email attached inclusive of attachments:</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have an queries.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p> <p><i>EAP: A further email was sent to follow-up with Ubuntu Local Municipality about registering on the project database (Appendix D2). No response has however been received.</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
20.	<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness: commenting authority</p> <p>- Rofhiwa Magodi</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/20</p>	<p>From: Rofhiwa Magodi Sent: Wednesday, 20 April 2022 10:09 To: Hoogland Subject: RE: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness, would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the reports for the above-mentioned project due on the 22nd of April 2022.</p> <p>After we reviewed your reports including the maps, we have noted that the proposed development will not take place within any kind of protected areas in terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), Act No. 57 of 2003. Subsequently, this directorate provides comments or input on the projects which are affecting the protected areas. Therefore, we do not have comments on the above-mentioned project.</p> <p>Kind regards, Rofhiwa Magodi</p>	<p>On Wed, 20 April 2022 at 14:56, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Ms Magodi</p> <p>Thank you for email.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Liandra</p> <p>The reasons for this Directorate not commenting are acknowledged and noted.</p>
21.	<p>Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NC DENC): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Elsabe Swart</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/20</p>	<p>From: Liandra Scott-Shaw Sent: Wednesday, 20 April 2022 16:10 To: Elsabe Swart Subject: FW: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections (DENC)</p> <p>Dear Elsabe</p> <p>I hope you are well?</p> <p>Please see the email below:</p> <p>Please let me know if you receive this email? I have not received any emails from the denc@gmail.com account.</p>	<p><i>EAP: Elsabe Swart of the NC DENC was notified by email of the public participation process using the same email address that SLR had successfully contacted her on in early 2021 when arranging a meeting (refer to Appendix D1 for the minutes thereof).</i></p> <p><i>No comments had been received in relation to the March / April 2022 round of public participation and a further email was sent to Elsabe Swart to ensure that correct email address was being used to confirm receipt of project emails. No response has been provided to date. Further attempts will however be made to contact NC DENC. In addition, other individuals from the NC DENC have been included in the project database and forwarded project related notifications and/or emails. Please refer to Appendix D2 for copies of all correspondence sent to NC DENC.</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
		<p>I will try call you tomorrow to confirm.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>	
22.	<p>Beaufort West Local Municipality: key stakeholder</p> <p>- Ashley Mitchell</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/21</p>	<p>From: Building Inspectors Sent: Thursday, 21 April 2022 11:22 To: Hoogland Subject: Re: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Môre Liandra</p> <p>U moet kennis dra dat na die publieke deelname moet die eienaar aansoek om 'n vergunningsgebruik om 'n "renewable energy structure" te kan oprig.</p> <p>Groete ***** ENGLISH TRANSLATION:</p> <p>Morning Liandra</p> <p>You should be aware that after public participation, the owner must apply for a consent use.</p> <p>To be able to set up a renewable energy structure.</p> <p>Greetings / Regards,</p>	<p>On Thu, 21 April 2022 at 11:53, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Môre Ashley</p> <p>Dankie vir jou e-pos, ek het die inligting aangestuur vir die aansoeker.</p> <p>Groete</p> <p>Liandra ***** ENGLISH TRANSLATION:</p> <p>Morning Ashley</p> <p>Thank you for your email, I forwarded the information to the applicant.</p> <p>Greetings / Regards Liandra</p> <p><i>EAP: The Applicant will apply to the Beaufort West Local Municipality for a consent use in terms of the Beaufort West Municipality Land Use Planning By-law (2019).</i></p>
23.	<p>Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Bloem Marisa</p> <p>- Email</p>	<p>From: Marisa Bloem Sent: Thursday, 21 April 2022 09:45 To: Hoogland Subject: Re: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Good day Liandre</p>	<p>On Thu, 21 April 2022 at 15:38, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Marisa</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

	<p>- 2022/04/21</p>	<p>Please attach the document for our office to comment. We would require an extension till next Friday please.</p> <p>Kind regards Marisa</p>	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>The document and appendices are too big to send over email.</p> <p>They can be downloaded from our website or an alternative dropbox link (instructions are in the email attached)</p> <p>For ease of reference, please find the links below:</p> <p>SLR Website: https://www.slrconsulting.com/en/public-documents/hoogland SLR Datafree Website: https://slrpublicdocs.datafree.co/en/public-documents/hoogland DropBox: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fvbf9lrxufdjzc/AADcH1QcfgeAvySnkIBIT5Hya?dl=0</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any problems downloading the information?</p> <p>We look forward to receiving your comments by the 29th of April.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>
24.	<p>BirdLife South Africa (BLSA): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Sam Ralston-Paton</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/21</p>	<p>From: Sam Ralston-Paton Sent: Thursday, 21 April 2022 17:30 To: Hoogland Subject: Re: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Dear Liandra</p> <p>I hope you are well and had a good long weekend?</p> <p>I've attached our comments on the above applications. Please don't hesitate to give me a shout if anything is unclear.</p> <p>Take care</p> <p>Sam</p>	<p>On Thu, 21 April 2022 at 19:11, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Sam</p> <p>Thank you very much!</p> <p>I will review and revert if I have any queries.</p> <p>Have a good week</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p> <p>EAP: See Row 25 below for BLSA's comments, as well as responses thereto (where required).</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

25.	<p>BirdLife South Africa (BLSA): key stakeholder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sam Ralston-Paton - Letter via Email - 2022/04/21 	<p>Dear Liandra</p> <p>Public Participation for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections (<i>Hoogland Northern Cluster Wind Farms - Draft Scoping Report, and Hoogland Southern Cluster Wind Farms - Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report</i>)</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above applications. BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy. To this end, we released the second edition of BirdLife South Africa's Guidelines for Verreaux's Eagle and Wind Farms in late 2021 (https://www.birdlife.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BLSA-Guidelines-Verreauxs-Eagle-and-Wind.pdf). These guidelines were updated to reflect new evidence and available tools (e.g. VERA). Please refer to these guidelines in the next stage of the assessments.</p> <p>We note (and welcome) that the applicant considers all areas identified as medium sensitivity by VERA as no-go areas. However, the avifaunal and basic assessment/scoping reports are ambiguous regarding the appropriate duration of data collection (12 months vs two years) should these areas not be avoided. The new edition of the Verreaux's Eagle Guidelines clarifies our recommended approach if turbines are proposed within medium sensitivity areas identified by VERA - two years of data collection should take place so that impacts can be rigorously assessed and mitigated.</p> <p>We also welcome the inclusion of Adaptative Management Plans, thresholds and response strategies to address impacts on birds during the operational phase. Although implicit, we suggest that the environmental management objective should be clearly stated in both the EMPr and Adaptative Management Plan. This will allow sufficient flexibility in the management responses (e.g. shutdown-on-demand or blade-painting) to accommodate new evidence or tools while ensuring that biodiversity is protected.</p> <p>Management actions in the EMPr should be specific, time-bound and measurable. Therefore, the appropriate duration and nature of post-</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> Please see below for responses to BLSA's comments (where required):</p> <p><u>EAP:</u> Noted, the specialist will reference the latest Verreaux's Eagle (VE) Guidelines in the next iteration of his report.</p> <p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> The Applicant has commenced with the next design iteration of the wind farms, taking into account the recommendations that have emerged from the Scoping Phase assessments and PPP. In addition, the pre-construction avifaunal monitoring has been completed, and monitoring on an adjacent proposed wind farm has resulted in a further VE nest being identified. The VERA model has been revised to include this new nest and will inform the next layout iteration. Furthermore, based on the recommendation of the specialist, the next layout iteration will also avoid areas identified as being of medium sensitivity by VERA. This will mean that two years of monitoring will not be required.</p> <p><u>EAP:</u> As suggested, to allow flexibility, the environmental management objective will be clearly stated in the Adaptive Management Plan and the EMPr at the Draft EIR stage.</p> <p><i>*Post Submission note from Applicant: Following request from BirdLife, the Avifauna specialist has included a clearly stated goal at the start of the Adaptive Management Plan provided as part of the EIAr.</i></p> <p><u>EAP:</u> The specialist report has recommended that as per the guidelines, a minimum of two years of monitoring must be completed, although if significant impacts are detected this will need to be extended.</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>construction monitoring should be informed by what is required to measure the effectiveness of the Adaptive Management Plan and EMPr (in addition to the recommendations of latest version of the Best Practice Guidelines).</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to discuss our recommendations further.</p> <p>Kind regards Samantha Ralston-Paton</p>	<p>The results of this monitoring should feed into the Adaptive Management Plan for the facility. The specialist will consider your comment in the next round of assessment, and adapt his report where required.</p> <p>*Post Submission note from Applicant: Following request from BirdLife, the Avifauna specialist has confirmed that this will be addressed in the EMPr at the appropriate time.</p>
26.	<p>Endangered Wildlife trust (EWT): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Bonnie Schumann</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>From: Bonnie Schumann Sent: Friday, 22 April 2022 06:59 To: Hoogland Subject: RE: EWT comments Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Hi Liandra</p> <p>Pls find attached comments from the Endangered Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Many thanks.</p> <p>Regards Bonnie Schumann</p>	<p>On Fri, 22 April 2022 at 07:49, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Bonnie</p> <p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>
27.	<p>Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Bonnie Schumann</p> <p>- Letter via Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>Dear Sir / Madam,</p> <p>Comment Re: Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) as would like to submit the following comments in respect of the abovementioned development.</p> <p>1. The EWT supports the development of renewable energy supply as an alternative to generation of electricity through burning of fossil fuels.</p>	<p>1. <u>Applicant</u>: The Applicant recognises the importance of implementing environmental best practice in the development and operation of their projects, specifically the Hoogland Projects.</p> <p>2&3. <u>EAP</u>: Impacts are described with specifics below (4.1-3.4).</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

2. Renewable energy developments however, like any other development, may have serious impacts on species, habitat, and society and as such need to be properly evaluated.

3. There is a strong need for developers in this sector to adhere to and initiate environmental best practices in the development and operation of large-scale renewable energy projects in South Africa's arid interior.

4. In evaluation of the above application, we wish to highlight the following impacts and resultant recommendations:

4.1 Terrestrial Impacts

a) We would like to support recommendations made in the terrestrial specialist report and recommend their implementation should the project be approved.

b) Riparian areas represent important ecological infrastructure in the arid regions. These areas should be avoided as far as is possible from a construction point of view and access road drainage need to be well planned and fitted with dispersal mechanisms.

c) At this stage we are satisfied that steps have been taken to avoid the placement of infrastructure in the priority Riverine Rabbit riparian habitat areas, particularly along the Sak River and its tributaries.

d) Significant adverse impacts can be expected during the construction phase including vehicular collisions with wildlife, collection and cutting of shrubs for firewood, potential snaring, pollution etc. and as such strict controls and protocols are required during this phase.

e) We have concerns regarding the impact of this and other developments on the Karoo dwarf tortoises, including the Karoo dwarf tortoise (Endangered) (*Chersobius boulengeri*) and the greater dwarf tortoise (Least Concern) (*Homopus femoralis*). Populations are in decline

4.1 Terrestrial Impacts

a) Applicant: EWT's support of the recommendations is duly noted.

b) EAP: The Aquatic Specialist made several recommendations to manage the impact that may occur at drainage crossings. Please refer to Section 8 (Impact 1) of the Aquatic Impact Assessment Report (Appendix C10) for the mitigation measures proposed. Riparian area identified as 'no-go' and sensitive areas (see the 'No-Go' and sensitivity criteria informing the sensitivity mapping table, Table 9-1 in Section 9 of the Scoping Report) and are to be avoided apart from where exceptions have been approved by the specialists (and thus considered in the impact assessments). These exceptions are detailed in the same table. These recommendations will be included in the EMPr.

c) EAP & Applicant: Noted.

d) EAP: Mitigation measures have been included in the terrestrial ecology study to manage these impacts. These will be incorporated into the EMPr and must be adhered.

e) EAP: The Karoo dwarf tortoise (*Chersobius boulengeri*) was identified as a species requiring assessment by the DFFE Screening Tool and therefore the site has been surveyed by Marius Burger (SACNASP accredited reptile specialist), along with Simon Todd of 3Foxes (ecologist). A species assessment will be included to inform the Draft EIA Report. The wind farm layout includes limited sections of overhead

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>and the causes are poorly understood. Both species occur in the general area of the proposed development. We recommend that post-development monitoring of power lines also include the aspect of surveying for tortoise remains at bird perch locations to identify potential impacts by e.g. crows at perch sites. This aspect be included in the environmental monitoring programme.</p> <p>f) Should any new research results become available that may help mitigate impacts to tortoises, that these be adopted where relevant.</p> <p>g) We would like to see the specialist report pertaining to reptiles (including the dwarf tortoises) and reserve the right for further comment on this aspect once we have seen the report.</p> <p><u>4.2 Avifaunal Impacts</u></p> <p>a) Should new more effective bird flight diverters (BFDS) come available the developer needs to be ready to procure and fit these. The EWT are in the process of expanding our current long term line marking experiment near De Aar where a further 4 BFD designs will be tested, specifically to reduce Ludwig`s Bustard collisions. If this development proceeds, we urge the developer to contact the EWT Wildlife and Energy programme directly and participate in this research. If an effective BFD is identified in the near future, this should immediately be applied to the lines.</p> <p>b) Lines need to be seasonally monitored for fatalities and these should be reported to the Eskom/EWT Strategic partnership</p> <p><u>4.3 Social</u></p> <p>Should the project be approved it is recommended that the developer partner with local schools in the area to promote an interest science and</p>	<p>powerlines as part of the infrastructure and the specialist/s will be requested to include a monitoring protocol to be included in the EMPr.</p> <p>f) <u>Applicant</u>: Should any new research results become available in relation to tortoises, the relevant specialist(s) should be appointed to review these and engage with EWT in this regard.</p> <p>g) <u>EAP</u>: Noted, as mentioned above, this will be available at the Draft EIR stage.</p> <p><u>4.2 Avifaunal Impacts</u></p> <p>a) <u>Applicant</u>: Should the project be approved and selected as a preferred bidder, the avifauna specialist appointed for the walkdown, and micro-siting surveys will be requested to engage with EWT to ensure the latest BFDS are considered in the design.</p> <p><i>*Post Submission note from Applicant: Following request from EWT, the Avifauna specialist has confirmed that this text has been included in the mitigation measures, to ensure this approach is included.</i></p> <p>b) <u>Applicant</u>: As set out in the avifaunal report(s) (Appendix 3 - Post construction bird monitoring framework), the wind farms will be conducting operational phase bird monitoring for a minimum of two years and power line monitoring is included in that programme. These include, inter alia, surveys of servitudes to survey for collision fatalities. The results of the avifauna monitoring programme will be presented in quarterly and yearly reports and these reports should be submitted to the DFFE, BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust.</p> <p><i>*Post Submission note from Applicant: This recommendation has been included in the monitoring plan.</i></p> <p><u>4.3 Social</u></p> <p><u>Applicant</u>: A major part of the SED spend will be for education and the wind farms will therefore contribute to these types of initiatives over their 20-year lifespan.</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>technology. The rationale of this is to nurture the prospect of future career opportunities in this sector and the technology sector.</p> <p><u>3.4 General recommendations</u></p> <p>a) We further recommend a comprehensive, long term avifaunal and terrestrial monitoring programme be implemented by an independent qualified service provider. Little is known on terrestrial impacts of large wind developments and as such this project, if approved, will provide an ideal opportunity to measure baselines and changes over time for terrestrial species. Certainly, as recommended in the terrestrial specialist report, we support the monitoring of impacts of Riverine Rabbits which would entail pre-, during and post development monitoring.</p> <p>b) Avifaunal impacts need to be closely monitored with seasonal line surveys and surveys in the vicinity of turbines.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information or inputs.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Cobus Theron</p>	<p><u>3.4 General recommendations</u></p> <p>a) <u>Applicant:</u> The wind farms include avifaunal operational monitoring based on best practice and site specifics. As noted, Riverine Rabbit monitoring has been recommended by the specialist and will be undertaken.</p> <p>b) <u>Applicant:</u> As per response to 4.2b above, the wind farms will be conducting operational phase bird monitoring and power line monitoring will be included in that programme.</p>
<p>28.</p>	<p>Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (WC DEA&DP): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Thea Jordan</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>From: Thea Jordan Sent: Friday, 22 April 2022 16:10 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw; Hoogland Subject: Comment: Proposed Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster (Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farms) near Beaufort West</p> <p>Dear EAP</p> <p>Please find attached this Department's comment in the above regard.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Thea Jordan</p>	<p>On Sun, 24 April 2022 at 08:26, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Thea</p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p> <p><i>EAP: Please refer to Row 29 below for a copy of the WC DEA&DP's comments, including responses thereto (where required).</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

29.	<p>Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (WC DEA&DP): key stakeholder</p> <p>- Thea Jordan</p> <p>- Letter via Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>References:</p> <p>16/3/3/6/4/2/1/C3/2/0039/22 (Development Management)</p> <p>19/3/2/4/C3/1/DDF122/21 (Pollution and Chemicals Management)</p> <p>19/2/5/3/C3/2/WL0031/22 (Waste Management)</p> <p>19/4/4/1/BB1 – Red Cap Energy Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster, Beaufort West (Air Quality Management)</p> <p>Attention: Mrs Liandra Scott-Shaw</p> <p>SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd P.O. Box 1596 CRAMERVIEW 2060</p> <p>hoogland@slrconsulting.com</p> <p>Dear Madam</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED HOOGLAND NORTHERN WIND FARM CLUSTER (HOOGLAND 1 AND 2 WIND FARMS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) ON VARIOUS PROPERTIES NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES</p> <p>1. The email notification of 18 March 2022 regarding the commencement of the public participation period for the proposed Hoogland wind farms and grid connection projects, the email of 22 March 2022 providing interested and affected parties with links to download the various reports, and the email of 22 March 2022 confirming the deadline for comments on the Draft Scoping Report (“DSR”) for the proposed Hoogland Northern Wind Farm Cluster, refer.</p> <p>2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the DSR. Please find consolidated comment from various directorates within the Department on the DSR and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) dated March 2022 that was available for download</p>	<p>EAP & Applicant: The project team thanks the department for its comments and contribution to the scoping, pre-application and public participation processes.</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

	<p>from various online platforms provided by the environmental assessment practitioner.</p> <p>3. Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) – Ms Jessica Christie (Email: Jessica.Christie@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (044) 814 2013):</p> <p>3.1. It is noted in the conclusions of the Site Sensitivity Verification and Agricultural Compliance Statement compiled by Johann Lanz dated 03 December 2021 that mitigation measures have been provided and recommended for implementation. These mitigation measures must be detailed in the forthcoming Environmental Management Programmes (“EMPr’s”).</p> <p>3.2. It is noted that the scoping phase Visual Impact Assessment dated 03 December 2021 has indicated that the only effective mitigation for the visual impact is “avoidance”, and that many wind turbines in high visually sensitive areas must be excluded from the layout / site development plan. This Directorate supports this approach to minimise the visual impact on highly sensitive areas.</p> <p>3.3. It is noted that there are no wind turbines situated within any of the Critical Biodiversity Areas (“CBAs”) on the layouts at present, although there are some roads that traverse the CBAs. Furthermore, it is noted that Riverine Rabbits were located at three locations within the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm site and as a result, it is recommended that a Riverine Rabbit monitoring programme should be implemented at the site. This Directorate agrees with and supports the recommendation. The other recommendations proposed in the Fauna & Flora Specialist Study compiled by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions dated January 2022 should be included in the EMPr’s as well.</p> <p>3.4. This Directorate supports the conclusions, recommendations and mitigation measures identified by the other specialists contained in their respective reports. These mitigation measures must be included in the EMPr’s.</p>	<p>Please see below for responses to the department’s comments (where required):</p> <p>3.1. <u>EAP</u>: The EAP can confirm that the mitigation measures provided and recommended for implementation as part of the Site Sensitivity Verification and Agricultural Compliance Statement compiled by Johann Lanz dated 03 December 2021 will be incorporated / detailed in the respective Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs).</p> <p>3.2. <u>Applicant</u>: The Applicant has adopted the recommendations of the visual specialist to stay out of all of the visual no-go areas and the next design will reflect this.</p> <p>3.3. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: Environmental sensitivities were avoided at an early stage in the project lifecycle and as such, no wind turbines or other associated infrastructure will be situated within any of the CBAs, except, as noted by the department, there are some roads that traverse the CBAs. These were unavoidable and were considered acceptable by the specialist.</p> <p>Due to the presence of Riverine Rabbits at three (3) locations within the Hoogland 1 Wind Farm site, a Riverine Rabbit monitoring programme has been recommended in the Fauna & Flora Specialist Study by 3 Foxes Biodiversity Solutions dated January 2022s.</p> <p>This and the other recommendations proposed in the Fauna & Flora Specialist Study will be included in the respective EMPr.</p> <p>3.4. <u>EAP</u>: The EAP can confirm that the conclusions, recommendations and mitigation measures identified by the other specialists, as contained in their respective reports, will be included in the respective EMPrs and should be strictly implemented and adhered to (where required).</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>3.5. Subject to the above comments/recommendations, the Plan of Study for EIA adequately addresses the tasks which need to be undertaken for the EIA Report. In light thereof, it is recommended that the competent authority advise the applicant to proceed or continue with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA.</p> <p>4. Directorate: Development Facilitation – Mr Ralph van Delin (Email: Ralph.vandelin@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 5574):</p> <p>4.1. This Directorate has no comments on the DSR and Plan of Study for EIA and awaits the Draft EIA Report for further comments.</p> <p>5. Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management – Ms Shehaam Brinkhuis (Email: Shehaam.Brinkhuis@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 8309):</p> <p>5.1. This Directorate notes and supports the specialist studies to be undertaken and aspects to be assessed, as noted in the Plan of Study for EIA.</p> <p>5.2. This Directorate awaits the Draft EIA Report, EMPr's and specialist studies to provide comment on potential pollution impacts and mitigation measures.</p> <p>6. Directorate: Waste Management – Ms Hadjira Peinke (Email: Hadjira.Peinke@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 3003):</p> <p>6.1. Section 2.4.5.3 of the DSR refers to waste disposal during the construction phase at possibly Beaufort West, Loxton or another neighbouring town. Kindly note that there is no waste disposal facility ("WDF") in Loxton and the closest WDF within the Western Cape Province is Vaalkoppies WDF, located in Beaufort West.</p>	<p>3.5. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The department's support of the Plan of Study for EIA is duly noted.</p> <p>4.1. <u>EAP</u>: The Development Facilitation Directorate's comment is duly noted. The EAP can confirm that all Directorates of the WC DEA&DP will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIA Reports for the Northern Wind Farm Cluster and Draft BA Reports for the Southern Wind Farm Cluster and Grid Connection projects.</p> <p>5.1. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The department's support of the Plan of Study for EIA is duly noted. As mentioned, it is the reasoned opinion of the project team that all relevant requirements have been met and there are no fatal flaws; the competent authority should therefore allow the Applicant to proceed or continue with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA.</p> <p>5.2. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The Pollution and Chemicals Management Directorate's comment is duly noted. See response to 4.1 above.</p> <p>6.1. <u>EAP</u>: The Waste Management Directorate's comment is duly noted. The project reports have been updated to remove mention of the waste disposal facility in Loxton.</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>6.2. The Directorate will provide further comments during the environmental impact reporting phase.</p> <p>7. Directorate: Air Quality Management - Mr Sibusiso Sinuka (E-mail: Sibusiso.Sinuka@westerncape.gov.za; Tel.: (021) 483 3463):</p> <p>7.1. It is noticed that dust may be created from cleared, bare and excavated areas, as well as from large vehicles and equipment traversing and operating on-site during the construction phase of the proposed wind farms and associated infrastructure. This Directorate recommends that measures to monitor and prevent fugitive dust emissions be included in the EMPr's.</p> <p>7.2. Dust generated during the various stages of the proposed development must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004). These regulations prohibit a person from conducting any activity in such a way as to give rise to dust in such quantities and concentrations that the dust, or dust fallout, has a detrimental effect on the environment, including human health.</p> <p>7.3. Large vehicles and machinery and wind turbines may cause significant noise during the construction and operational phases; these activities may become a noise nuisance and/or disturbance to potential noise-sensitive receptors. Noise generated on-site from all the proposed activities must comply with the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations published in Provincial Notice 200/2013.</p> <p>7.4. Potential emissions in the form of dust pollution, exhaust fumes from vehicles and machinery, as well as potential noise pollution from operating wind turbines must be monitored on-site and if causing significant emissions, be mitigated strictly as per recommendations to be stipulated in the EMPr's.</p>	<p>6.2. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The Waste Management Directorate's comment is duly noted. See response to 4.1 above.</p> <p>7.1. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The EMPr will include a section that addresses mitigation measures for dust emissions.</p> <p>7.2. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The EMPr will stipulate that dust management must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (GN No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013).</p> <p>7.3. <u>EAP & Applicant</u>: The noise assessment (Enviro Acoustic Research, 2022) has assessed noise in relation to the requirements of the Noise Control Regulations and has recommended appropriate mitigation measures where necessary. The respective EMPr's will include these proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>7.4. <u>Applicant</u>: The Applicant can confirm that noise monitoring at selected locations prior to construction should be implemented as per the noise specialists' recommendations. This can be used as a baseline in the case of complaints. Furthermore, design related mitigation has been provided to ensure operational noise from turbines does not result in an exceedance. In the case of dust pollution and exhaust fumes will be monitored on-site during construction by a qualified ECO. These impacts are unlikely to occur during operation due to the limited activities on site. These recommendations will be incorporated into the EMPr's. In addition, the relevant dust control and noise regulations as mentioned</p>
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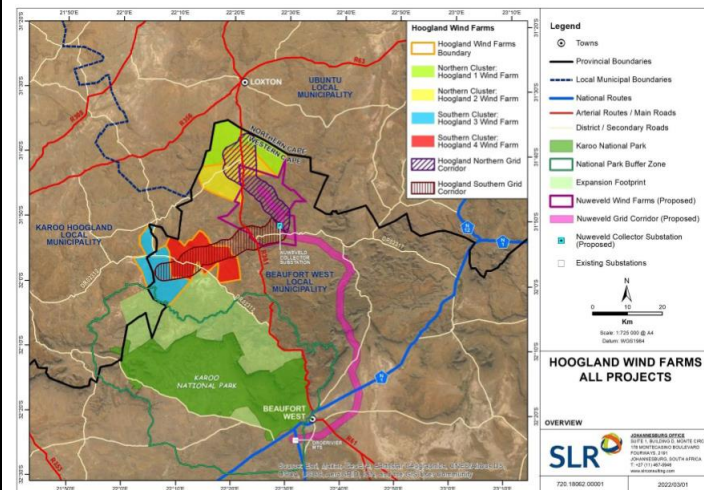
Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
		<p>7.5. Please note that the abovementioned recommendations do not preempt the outcome of the application. No information provided, views expressed and/or comments made by this Directorate should in any way be regarded as an indication or confirmation that additional information or documents will not be requested.</p> <p>Please direct all enquiries to the commenting officials should you require any clarity on any of the comments provided.</p> <p>The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any or new information received.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Thea Jordan</p>	<p>in 7.2 and 7.3 above will be included in the EMPr and compliance thereto will also be monitored by the ECO.</p> <p>7.5. <u>EAP & Applicant:</u> The Air Quality Management Directorate's comment is duly noted and acknowledged. The project team have no objection to this and will provide the Directorate with additional information or documents if requested, where available.</p>
30.	<p>South African National Parks (SANParks)</p> <p>- Maretha Alant</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>From: Maretha Alant Sent: Friday, 22 April 2022 16:31 To: Hoogland Subject: RED CAP HOUGLAND NOTHERN CLUSTER WIND FARMS - PRE-SCOPING REPORT FOR HOUGLAND 1 AND HOUGLAND 2</p> <p>Good afternoon</p> <p>Please find attached the SANParks comment. – refer to Row 31 below for SANPark's comments, as well as responses thereto (where required)</p> <p>Regards Maretha</p>	<p>On Sun, 24 April 2022 at 08:25, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Maretha</p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>
31.	<p>South African National Parks (SANParks)</p> <p>- Maretha Alant</p> <p>- Letter via Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>Mrs Liandra Scott-Shaw Environmental Assessment Practitioner SLR Consulting (South Africa) Pty Ltd</p> <p>Per email: hoogland@slrconsulting.com</p> <p>RE: RED CAP HOUGLAND NOTHERN CLUSTER WIND FARMS - PRE-SCOPING REPORT FOR HOUGLAND 1 AND HOUGLAND 2</p>	

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd ('Red Cap') is proposing to develop four Wind Farms and associated grid connections (together referred to as the Hoogland Project) in an area located between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. Hoogland 1 and 2 are located to the north closer to Loxton and form the Northern Cluster of Wind Farms that will share a grid connection named the Hoogland Northern Grid Connection. Hoogland 3 and 4 are located closer to Beaufort West and comprise the Southern Cluster which will similarly share a separate grid connection, named the Southern Grid Connection. The two Grid Connections are each in the form of 132 kV overhead power lines and will connect the Hoogland Wind Farms to the Nuweveld Collector Substation on Red Cap's adjacent Nuweveld Wind Farms Project. It is intended that these projects would be bid in a forthcoming round of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).

EAP & Applicant: The project team thanks SANParks for its comments and contribution to the scoping, pre-application and public participation processes.

Please see below for responses to the department's comments (where required):



-2- Locality Map presenting the location of the project components in relation to the Nuweveld Wind Farms Project

Locality map showing Hoogland northern and southern clusters.

SANParks objected to the Hoogland southern cluster and related infrastructure below (south) of the DR 02312 as it will have a negative

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

impact on conservation and landscape functionality of the Karoo National Park. Key negative impacts are:

- Visual impact and loss of sense of place.
- Protected area expansion compromised and no contribution to biodiversity targets.
- Spiral turbulence may affect flying operations with small aircraft.
- The impact of infrasound and noise on rhino populations are poorly understood and a risk-averse precautionary approach is recommended.
- Heritage resources will be lost and the cultural landscapes degraded.
- Loss of raptors and large terrestrial species, many of which are regionally and globally Red Listed.
- Cumulative impact of wind farms should be recognised. Important areas for conservation and landscape functionality should be ‘no go’ areas for wind farms.

SANParks supports the Hoogland northern cluster as the project location is outside of the Karoo National Park buffer zone or expansion footprint and the project will not have a direct negative impact on the Park.

SANParks reserves the right to revise initial comments if additional information becomes available.

Yours sincerely
Maretha Alant

Applicant: SANParks’ support for the Northern Wind Farm Cluster is duly noted. With regards to SANParks’ comments on the Hoogland Southern Cluster, these are not relevant to this S&EIR process for the Northern Cluster. SANParks is being engaged regarding these Southern Wind Farm Cluster comments as part of the Southern Cluster development process.

Applicant: SANParks’ comment is duly noted and acknowledged. The project team have no objection to SANParks revising initial comments should additional information become available.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

32.	<p>Christo Scholtz: adjacent landowner</p> <p>- Adjacent Landowner: KOOPMANS GRAFT; RYERS VALLEY & WATERFALL</p> <p>- Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/22</p>	<p>From: M&M Scholtz Sent: Friday, 22 April 2022 07:08 To: Hoogland Subject: Re: Notification of Public Participation Period for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connections</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I would like to express my concern about the wind farms being planned to go up in our surrounding area. It would be a sore eye to us and will have a great impact on the aesthetic look around our farm. We rely greatly on tourism in this unique Karoo area and such massive constructions will completely impact the natural beauty of the veld and nature that we rely on. It also impacts the natural wildlife that is part of the attraction to this area and disturbs the ecosystem for natural occurring wildlife.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Christo Scholtz</p>	<p>On Tue, 3 May 2022 at 11:21, Stephan Jacobs wrote:</p> <p>Good morning Mr Scholtz,</p> <p>I trust this email finds you well. Your email below refers.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your comments. Please be advised that these have been forwarded to the Applicant for consideration and a response will be provided in the Comments and Response Report (C&RR) which will form part of the Final Scoping Report (FSR). We will however share our response with you once it has been finalised.</p> <p>Feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss anything.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p><u>Applicant's Response:</u> A Visual Impact Assessment (Lawson and Oberholzer, 2022) has been undertaken for the Northern and Southern Wind Farm Clusters and has found the overall visual impact of the turbines to be high. This is the case with any wind farm because turbines cannot be hidden however it should be noted that turbines have been removed from high sensitivity areas. Furthermore, the specialist has confirmed there are no fatal flaws with the development.</p> <p>Significant changes in the Southern Cluster turbine layout were undertaken in an attempt to reduce the visual impact of the wind farms. Therefore, when considering the impact on Mr Scholz's farmsteads (Sakrivierspoort and Minverwagspoort) located between the two clusters, the turbines are found to be of marginal and moderate visibility respectively with the former homestead partially screened. The closest turbines from the Southern Cluster, at their closest are 10.67km from Sakrivierspoort and 9.94km Minverwagspoort, and 4.7km from Amandelboom in the south. Amandelboom would have a limited number of turbines visible from the farmstead (refer to the VIA as Appendix C11, Map 7). [Refer to the Southern Wind Farm BA and C&RR where this response has been updated to take into account further action to reduce the visual impacts]</p>
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Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)			
			<p>With regards to night-time visual impact from mandatory aviation warning lights, the Applicant has committed to installing lights that are only activated on-demand in response to a plane in close proximity. The Applicant will adopt any risk associated with getting this system approved by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The recommendations in Section 9.2 of the Final SR have been updated in this regard to reflect this commitment.</p> <p>The socio-economic study has addressed the impacts on tourism and found them to be medium during operation (without and with mitigation), however, these comments have been considered by the socio-economic specialists (Independent Economic Researchers) when updating their reports for the EIA Report.</p> <p>Ecological impacts have been assessed by 3Foxes (2022) and are all rated as low (with mitigation). Impacts to avifauna (Wildskies, 2022) and bats (Animalia, 2022) are also overall low (with mitigation) however are rated as medium (with mitigation) in relation to operational mortalities. All of these specialists have concluded that these impacts do not constitute a fatal flaw to the development.</p> <p>Lastly, the Applicant met with Mr Scholz in person on 19 May 2022 to discuss the proposal and his concerns.</p>
33.	<p>CapeNature: key stakeholder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Megan Simons - Email - 2022/04/29 	<p>From: Megan Simons Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022, 12:59 To: Liandra Scott-Shaw Subject: Pre-Application Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Northern Cluster WEF</p> <p>Dear Liandra,</p> <p>I trust you are well.</p> <p>Kindly find attached comment from CapeNature for the Pre-Application Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Red Cap Hoogland Northern Cluster WEF, Beaufort West. - <i>refer to Row 34 below for CapeNature’s comments, as well as responses thereto (where required).</i></p> <p>Have a good afternoon. Kind Regards,</p>	<p>On Fri, 29 April 2022 at 13:07, Liandra Scott-Shaw wrote:</p> <p>Dear Megan,</p> <p>Thank you so much for the comments.</p> <p>Kind regards Liandra</p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

34.	<p>CapeNature: stakeholder</p> <p>- Megan Simons</p> <p>- Letter via Email</p> <p>- 2022/04/29</p>	<p>key</p> <p>SRL Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, Unit 14, Braehead Office Park, 1 Old Main Road, Kloof, 3640</p> <p>Attention: Ms Liandra Scott-Shaw By email: lscottshaw@slrconsulting.com</p> <p>Dear Ms Liandra Scott-Shaw</p> <p>DRAFT PRE-APPLICATION DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RED CAP HOUGLAND NORTHERN WIND FARM CLUSTER, BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above application. 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:</p> <p>According to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (Pool-Stanvliet et.al. 2017)¹ the proposed farms have areas classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1: Terrestrial, Aquatic), Ecological Support Areas (ESA 1: Aquatic; ESA 2: Restore), and Other Natural Areas mapped across all farms. The Remainder of Farm No.5 is situation within the Lexton Strategic Water Source Area for Groundwater and serves as a watercourse protection for the Nama Karoo. The farms have numerous rivers (i.e., Sak, Klein Brak and Slangfontein se Rivers), drainage lines, dams, and wetlands. The wetlands are classified as National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) and are important in achieving biodiversity targets for riverine ecosystems² and have an important role in allowing plant and animal species movement within the landscape.</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> The classification of the site with regards to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan is noted and reiterates the findings of the terrestrial ecology specialist report by 3 Foxes Biodiversity Solutions, 2022 (Appendix C4).</p>
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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.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

According to Mucina and Rutherford³ and the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (Pool-Stanvliet et al. 2017) the vegetation is Least Threatened Eastern Upper Karoo. Furthermore, the conservation target for the vegetation is listed as 21% and is poorly protected. The vegetation unit and threat status will remain the same in the updated National Biodiversity Assessment (Skowno et al. 2018)⁴.

Although, the vegetation type is Least Threatened (LT), kindly note that any loss to natural habitat should be avoided. Considering 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 impact on CBAs was considered low due to no turbine being situated in these areas. During the construction and operational phases some CBA might be impacted. Although the loss of CBA and natural habitat should be avoided, some limited habitat loss might be acceptable if this is in line with the Western Cape Land Use Guideline Handbook provided the underlying biodiversity objectives and ecological functioning of are CBAs and ESAs not compromised (Pool-Stanvliet et al. 2017).

It must be noted that ESAs will be impacted. Ecological Support Areas are defined as: "Areas that are not essential for meeting biodiversity targets, but that play an important role in supporting the functioning of PAs or CBAs, and are often vital for delivering ecosystem services." ESA objectives are to: "Restore and/or manage to minimize impact on ecological processes and ecological infrastructure functioning, especially soil and water-related services, and to allow for faunal movement." ESA 2 are degraded ESA.

CapeNature would like to remind the applicant that all endangered species or protected species listed in Schedules 3 and 4 respectively, in terms of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Laws Amendment Act,

EAP & Applicant: The vegetation and its threat status are noted and reiterates the findings of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment report by 3 Foxes Biodiversity Solutions, 2022 (Appendix C4 & C5).

EAP & Applicant: A Revegetation and Rehabilitation Plan will be included in the EMPr which will consider rehabilitation progress against targets for vegetation cover, monitoring and evaluation. Noting that typically once some ecological function is restored, species richness will slowly increase and ultimately the effectiveness of rehabilitation in restoring species richness can only be evaluated after 10 or more years after rehabilitation.

EAP & Applicant: The ecologist will be requested to comment as part of the Draft EIR terrestrial ecology assessment, on the acceptability of the loss of CBA and habitat loss in respect of the Western Cape Land Use Guideline Handbook (Pool-Stanvliet *et al.* 2017).

EAP & Applicant: According to 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions (2022) (Appendix C4), all of the minor drainage systems and washes (minor drainage features without well-developed riparian vegetation) of the site are mapped as ESAs and as it is not possible to avoid these features, there would be some impact on these minor features, largely through habitat loss and disturbance associated with the access roads of the development. However, with the appropriate mitigation, impacts on the ESAs would be relatively low and considered acceptable. The ESAs are small and represent buffers along the minor drainage features of the site and as such do not represent broad-scale corridors or ecological gradients that would potentially be disrupted by the development.

EAP & Applicant: The requirements of the Conservation Laws Amendment Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000) will be included in the respective EMPrs.

³ Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M. C. (EDS) 2006. The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Strelitzia 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. (revised 2012)

⁴ 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.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000) may not be picked or removed without the relevant permit, which must be obtained from CapeNature. This is also to ensure that rescued plant material is accounted for and used in the rehabilitation or relocation process.

For this reason, a rehabilitation plan can be drafted (and included in the EMPr) by a qualified specialist to outline the ecological functioning of the rescued plants and their success, mitigation of plant species that will be removed and to provide details regarding their location. The specialist should determine a suitable location before search-and-rescue is undertaken. The season should also be considered to give the plants an adequate chance to re-establish. Thus, CapeNature will not support infrastructure located in high sensitive areas as the value of having the high sensitive areas remain in a natural state is of significant importance to conservation.

CapeNature supports the compilation of an Alien Plant Species Management Plan and included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). The eradication and monitoring of the spread of invasive alien species should follow the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No.10 of 2004)⁵. Prior to the closure of the construction phase, the last monitoring report must confirm that there are no introduced alien flora species on site. If at any stage during the construction phase any such species are noted they should be eradicated using suitable methods. Confirmation of eradication of all such species must be recorded within the last monitoring report. The removal of invasive alien plant species must be continuous and should continue beyond the operational phase. Suitable indigenous vegetation must be used during the rehabilitation.

To prevent the dispersal of alien seeds, we advise that construction vehicles and machinery be washed regularly and away from any watercourse. The alien vegetation that will be removed and any other moribund materials must be removed from site as they have a fire risk.

EAP & Applicant: A Revegetation and Rehabilitation Plan and a Plant Rescue and Protection Plan will both be included in the EMPr which will provide for avoidance and mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the development on listed and protected plant species and their habitats during construction and operation. This will include, inter alia, a walk-through of the final development footprint by a suitably qualified botanist/ecologist to locate and identify all listed and protected species which fall within the development footprint during an appropriate season.

EAP & Applicant: The Alien Plant Species Management Plan will align with NEMBA and will include the monitoring / reporting recommendations that have been proposed. The Alien Plant Species Management Plan will be included as part of the EMPrs.

EAP & Applicant: The Alien Plant Species Management Plan will include for equipment washing and disposal.

⁵ Government Gazette No. 37885, GN No. R. 598 (2014) National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

CapeNature supports the recommendation to remove turbine 34 which is situated in the buffer area for riverine rabbit.

Concerning the groundwater that will be used the applicant must not impact the surrounding boreholes and water provision for the livestock of the farmers. The borehole exploration phase must include the identification of any groundwater dependent ecosystems that might be impacted. Also, these boreholes must not be located within river channels/lines or within any wetland systems (even if they are ephemeral). Once boreholes have been drilled, the yield testing phase should take extreme caution against erosion. All mitigation measures should be implemented and the water levels, water use volumes, etc should be monitored regularly.

The proposed development areas have numerous non-perennial rivers which are mapped as natural ESA. The area is highly erodible so extra caution must be taken to mitigate erosion for the duration of the project. Possible erosion points need to be monitored and rehabilitated when needed. Areas susceptible to erosion must be protected by installing the necessary temporary structures.

We remind the applicant that flooding events can change watercourses within a short period and it must be mitigated in the EMPr. Construction must be during the drier periods of the year.

New or upgraded roads that will be associated with the windfarms and gridline should be kept to areas where there are existing roads and outside of the aquatic habitats.

The topsoil and subsoil must be stored separately and should not be contaminated. Furthermore, the soil layers should be replaced in the same order and the topsoil returned last. CapeNature recommends that all topsoil stockpiles be less than 1.5m in height and have adequate

Applicant: Turbine 34 has been removed in the following layout iteration for Hoogland 1 which has commenced, and which will appear in the DEIR for the Northern Cluster.

EAP & Applicant: The geohydrologist has recommended that monitoring of groundwater (abstraction volumes, quality and water levels) will be required and will ensure that extraction is sustainable and to intervene with mitigation before long term impacts are incurred. This will be included in the EMPr. The geohydrology report and EMPr will be updated to ensure no boreholes to be drilled in river channels / lines or wetlands and erosion is mitigated.

****Post Submission note from EAP / Applicant: Borehole drilling in river channels / lines or wetlands has not been mentioned in the geohydrology report, however, this recommendation has been included in the EMPr.***

EAP & Applicant: To manage stormwater run-off, the specialist recommends that a stormwater management plan be developed for the site. The plan will include mechanisms to manage stormwater run-off which will include that suitable stormwater management systems installed along roads and other areas and monitored and maintained at routine intervals. Any erosion / sedimentation must be resolved through whatever additional interventions maybe necessary (i.e., cut off drains, extension, energy dissipaters, spreaders, etc). These stormwater management mitigation measures will form part of the EMPrs.

EAP & Applicant: Construction of a wind farm lasts approximately 24 months and must continue year-round, and it is difficult to avoid construction during wet periods. Therefore, if flooding events do occur, the Contractor will be required to respond to mitigate for this with input from the ECO. This will be included in the EMPr.

EAP & Applicant: The aquatic specialist provided sensitivity mapping and mitigation and management measures outlining where new roads may be developed. No new roads may be developed within valley bottom wetlands or pans (wetlands) and watercourses (mainstem and minor) should be avoided where possible but have been evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the specialist when designing the layout.

EAP & Applicant: The respective EMPrs will include these provisions for stockpiling. Noting that the gazetted generic powerline and substation EMPrs for the development or expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity requiring EA in terms of NEMA, provides for 2m stockpiles and this will be adopted for this project.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

		<p>signage to illustrate which are topsoil and subsoil for rehabilitation purpose.</p> <p>Waste generated must be stored on site until it is removed to a registered facility. Implement the integrated waste management approach that addresses waste avoidance, reduction, re-use, recycling, recovery, treatment, and safe disposal as a last resort.⁶</p> <p>The Environmental Control Officer should monitor the construction and operational phases and ensure the recommended mitigation measures of the specialist studies are implemented. The ECO must identify any harmful activities to the environment.</p> <p>CapeNature supports the development of renewable energy facilities, including wind driven turbines. 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. We are concerned that the cumulative impacts of these facilities, if not properly considered and planned for, could be quite significant. It is therefore essential to take a precautionary 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.</p> <p>CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> The respective EMPRs will stipulate that all measures regarding waste management must be undertaken using an integrated waste management approach.</p> <p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> The respective EMPRs will make provision for a suitably qualified ECO to monitor the construction phase, with an equivalent environmental officer monitoring during the operational phase. They will ensure compliance with the EMPr that includes the various specialist recommendations.</p> <p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> A precautionary approach has been followed in developing the proposed layout for the wind farm. The process that is being undertaken to determine the final layout to be presented in the final EIA report for the wind farm is an iterative design approach whereby a layout is determined, the specialists provide input and based on this input the layout is further refined. The process provides for various opportunities to improve/refine the site layout based on specialist and I&AP inputs. The approach has centred on avoidance of impacts through the provision of sensitivity mapping and associated 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>As part of the outcomes of this Scoping / Pre-Application phase (which is one of the iterations of the iterative design process), key recommendations have been made to further refine the layout in the following phase (i.e., the EIR / BA phase). This includes removing infrastructure from riverine rabbit habitat and visually sensitive areas (e.g., slopes and setback along the R381), avoidance of hardstands in the watercourses, relocation of the construction camp for Hoogland 2 out of an aquatic sensitive area and reduction of the number of sections of OHL.</p> <p>The developer has commenced making these adjustments which will form the EIR / BA layouts and the new layout will be assessed by the specialists. We hope this approach demonstrates a precautionary approach with the intension to avoid ecologically sensitive site to a greater and reasonable extent.</p> <p>The respective EMPRs will make provision for on-going monitoring during the various project phases.</p>
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⁶ National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008). Consultation on the draft revised and updated national waste management strategy. 2019.

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

35.	<p>Heritage Western Cape (HWC): key stakeholder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colette Scheermeyer - Letter via Email - 2022/04/29 	<p>Our Ref: HM/CENTRAL KAROO/BEAUFORT WEST / HOOGLAND 1 Case No.: 21060101SB0818E Enquiries: Stephanie-Anne Barnardt</p> <p>Jayson Orton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMENT:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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</p> <p>HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED HOOGLAND 1 WIND, BEAUFORT WEST, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(8) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)</p> <p>CASE NUMBER: 21060101SB0818E</p> <p>The matter above has reference.</p> <p>This matter was discussed at the Impact Assessment Committee (IACom) meeting held on 13 April 2022. It was noted that the matter was tabled at Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee (APM) meeting held on the 11 April 2022 whereby the Committee supports the HIA by ASHA Consultant dated March 2022 and the recommendations on page 88-89.</p> <p>COMMENT:</p> <p>The Committee has no concerns with the proposal, not anticipate with the proposal any heritage, any significant heritage impacts of concern.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Colette Scheermeyer</p>	<p><u>EAP & Applicant:</u> HWC's comment regarding the support for the HIA and the recommendations is duly noted. It should be noted that the recommendations of the HIA will be incorporated into the EMPs to be implemented and strictly adhered to (where required).</p>
36.	<p>Heritage Western Cape (HWC): key stakeholder</p>	<p>Our Ref: HM/CENTRAL KAROO/BEAUFORT WEST / HOOGLAND 2 Case No.: 21060102SB0818E</p>	<p><i>EAP: Refer to the response above for Hoogland 1 Wind Farm (Row 35), which also applies to Hoogland 2 Wind Farm.</i></p>

Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and Hoogland 2 Wind Farms)

<p>- Colette Scheermeyer - Letter via Email - 2022/04/29</p>	<p>Enquiries: Stephanie-Anne Barnardt Jayson Orton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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</p> <p>HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED HOOGLAND 2 WIND, BEAUFORT WEST, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(8) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)</p> <p>CASE NUMBER: 21060102SB0818E</p> <p>The matter above has reference. This matter was discussed at the Impact Assessment Committee (IACom) meeting held on 13 April 2022. It was noted that the matter was tabled at Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee (APM) meeting held on the 11 April 2022 whereby the Committee supports the HIA by ASHA Consultant dated March 2022 and the recommendations on page 89-90.</p> <p>COMMENT: The Committee has no concerns with the proposal, not anticipate with the proposal any heritage, any significant heritage impacts of concern. 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.</p> <p>Colette Scheermeyer</p>	
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LAND OCCUPIER ENGAGEMENT

It should be noted that the public participation process followed has provided the opportunity for all interested and affected parties to become involved. In furthering the process to ensure that the opportunity to participate has reached land occupiers⁷ (which may also be seen to be vulnerable and disadvantaged persons due to low levels of literacy and also illiteracy, etc.) specific effort was made to engage with them during the public review period of the Draft Scoping Report (Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farm) and Pre-application Reports (Hoogland 3 Wind Farm, Hoogland 4 Wind Farm, Hoogland Northern Grid Connection and Hoogland Southern Grid Connection) during March / April 2022.

Land occupiers on farms adjacent to the proposed Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection Project, as well as those living on the farms where the proposed construction of the wind farms and grid connection is planned, were targeted to be reached with the opportunity to participate. This has been detailed in an “Occupier Engagement Report”, which is appended to the EIAr (**Appendix D2**).

Public Participation Process for the Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection projects – Summary of the comments received as part of the Occupier Engagement Process (see Appendix D2 of EIAr for a copy of the full report)			
No.	Organisation / Person / Method / Date sent / Date received	Issue / Comment / Correspondence	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blou Family - Theodoris (Doris) van der Poel - farm manager - Pieter M - Xolani Maketile - Annaleen de Wee - Simon Vlok - Elsa de Flam - Elries Voorman - Antonie Olivier 	<p>Occupiers could not be reached</p> <p>The proposed project sounds like a positive development, however there is a concern with potential construction impacts. Theft and dust were specifically mentioned.</p> <p>We will have to see if it happens</p> <p>It is a good thing</p> <p>It is a good thing - jobs could be created</p> <p>See monitoring is taking place on the farm</p> <p><i>No comment(s) provided</i></p> <p>I think it is a good thing</p> <p>Yes, I think it will help a lot</p>	<p>As noted in the socio-economic specialists’ report, the government ensures, through the rules in the REIPPPP (the competitive programme set up by government to procure energy from renewable energy projects), that wind farms once operational must invest millions of Rands a year in enterprise development and socio-economic development (ED and SED) initiatives in the previously disadvantaged communities around the wind farms.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that: “The occupiers/ farm labourers are some of the most marginalised individuals in the area and will thus most definitely be targets to benefit from this investment.”</p> <p>Wind farms generally focus their ED/SED spend in health & welfare, education, skills development, recreation and infrastructure. Initiatives like mobile clinics and improving children’s access to education will most definitely be the type of initiatives that the wind farms would invest in.</p> <p>The wind farm development will create temporary construction jobs and limited permanent jobs as detailed in the socio-economic specialist’s report. However adjacent communities may benefit from the ED/SED spend even if they have no direct involvement in the project.</p> <p>Regarding load shedding, one of the main reasons the government has started to procure energy from renewable energy projects again is precisely to help Eskom reduce load shedding as quickly and cheaply</p>

⁷ The term land occupier is understood to be any person, other than the landowner permanently staying on the land or persons leasing land from the landowner.

Public Participation Process for the Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection projects – Summary of the comments received as part of the Occupier Engagement Process (see Appendix D2 of EIAr for a copy of the full report)

- Erica Blom	Yes, I think it will help with improvement	<p>as possible. This project would then contribute to a more reliable electricity grid with reduce load shedding which would benefit all citizens.</p> <p>Regarding theft, these impacts have been considered in the socio-economic specialists' report and it has been recommended that the applicant should implement measures to assist and, if needed, fairly compensate potentially affected surrounding landowners whereby damages to farm property, stock theft or significant disruptions to farming activities can be minimised or reduced. Measures to manage dust will be included in the EMPr and should be monitored during construction.</p>
- Daniel Syster	I think it will help a lot	
- Nelie van Wyk	No comment(s) provided	
- Elaine Jooste	It was very good to have received more information about the wind turbines	
- Willemina Booyesen	It was very good to have received more information about the wind turbines	
- Alfred Phiri	It is a good thing	
- Francois Grootboom	No comment(s) provided	
- Andrew Grootboom	No comment(s) provided	
- Eldo Blou	No comment(s) provided	
- Piet Jooste	No comment(s) provided	
- Felicity Vrieslaar	We are looking forward to the project / wind turbines being constructed	
- Andries Vrieslaar	No comment(s) provided	
- Charmain Vrieslaar	No comment(s) provided	
- Marie Vrieslaar	No comment(s) provided	
- Elton Vrieslaar	No comment(s) provided	
- Clive Blom	No comment(s) provided	
- Alexander Jafta	Can be a good thing	

Public Participation Process for the Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection projects – Summary of the comments received as part of the Occupier Engagement Process (see Appendix D2 of EIAR for a copy of the full report)

- Sydney Prins	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Shaun van Rooyen	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Gert van Rooyen	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Elton de Wee	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Mariaan Meintjies	Positive about the project, however cautious of the potential socio-economic impacts	
- John and his wife (Trudie) Meintjies	Positive about the project, however cautious of the potential socio-economic impacts	
- David van Rooy	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Danie Gaiga	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Derrick Gaiga	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Elderico de Vos	We will not have any benefits from the project as it is not being constructed on the farm where we stay. We give our approval for the project, but we do not benefit.	
- Gershwill Bezuidenhout	Yes, it is a good thing, but it is not happening on our farm, so it is not so good.	
- Ricardo Mei	It will be good for farms and towns. There will be more job opportunities.	
- Romeo Horn	It is a good example of what can be done. But what about the farms without electricity? It is tough. But thank you for the developments for our country - South Africa	
- Ruaan Ludick	What help it if I give permission, but will not have any power. The people on the farms will not have any benefits - only the people in the towns. I do not support the project.	

Public Participation Process for the Hoogland Wind Farms and Grid Connection projects – Summary of the comments received as part of the Occupier Engagement Process (see Appendix D2 of EIAr for a copy of the full report)

- Danwood Frieslaar	<i>No comment(s) provided</i>	
- Frans Lottering	It can bring more job opportunities	
- Johan George	It can bring more job opportunities	
- Clinton George	It can bring more job opportunities	
- Johan Brown	It can bring more job opportunities	
- Lazarus Mahove	It can bring more job opportunities	
- Jonathan Louw	It can bring more job opportunities	

As documented by Anelle Lötter (2022), comments were generally positive, however, it should be noted that many occupiers did not have comments as the purpose of the engagement with them was not *per se* to solicit comments, but to inform them and to provide future opportunities for participation by obtaining their contact details. Land occupiers, especially those on directly adjacent farms, maintain that they should also benefit from the proposed project as opposed to only those living in the formal towns of Beaufort West and Loxton. Other comments include:

- Positivity on opportunity for future job creation
- Concerned about potential construction impacts, especially dust and theft
- Concerned about potential socio-economic impacts, e.g., contractors visiting the area and the potential influence that they could have on local labour, potential change in character of people who may receive compensation
- Proposed project will not assist with provision of electricity on farms

SCREENING PHASE PPP

Please be advised that prior to the commencement of the submission of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for the Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farm projects (14/12/16/3/3/2/2147 & 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146) to the DFFE, SLR undertook initial targeted stakeholder engagement with landowners, adjacent landowners and local authorities who were invited to a focus group meeting to discuss the project and raise potential issues or concerns. The EAP and/or Red Cap further engaged with key stakeholders one-on-one, including WC DEA&DP, CapeNature, DENC, EWT, Birdlife SA and SANParks.

Please refer to **Appendix D1** of the EIAR for copies of the above-mentioned meeting minutes.