



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2258

Enquiries: Ms. Thulisile Nyalunga

Telephone: (012) 399 9405 **E-mail:** tnyalunga@dff.gov.za

Nguni Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Mr. Dick Berlijn
PO Box 785553,
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number: +2778 335 9550
Cellphone Number: +46 76 941 8927
E-mail Address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Berlijn

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 350MW PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTIONS 1 AND 2 OF THE FARM ILLMASDALE NO. 70, REGISTRATION DIVISION IP, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the decision, as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful, and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further, your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing, and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below-mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@dffe.gov.za.

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 10/07/2023

cc:	Ms Christia Van Dyk	Environamics CC	Email: christia@environamics.co.za
	Ms Ouma Skosana	North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism	Email: oskosana@nwpg.gov.za
	Ms R Musetsho	JB Marks Local Municipality	Email: rmusetsho@nwpg.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

The development of a 350MW photovoltaic solar facility and its associated infrastructure on Portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70, Registration Division IP, North West Province

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2258
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Nguni Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	<u>Solar Power Plant</u> Portion 1 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70 Portion 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70 <u>Power Line</u> Portion 6 of Farm Wildebeestlaagte 72 Remaining Extent of Farm Illmasdale 70 JB Marks Local Municipality Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality North West Province

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

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Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

NGUNI SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr. Dick Berlijn
PO Box 785553,
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number: +2778 335 9550
Cellphone Number: +46 76 941 8927
E-mail Address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts."</i></p>	<p>The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132 kilovolts outside an urban area. The infrastructure for the distribution of electricity will include a power line (132kV), an on-site HV/MV substation and switching station (132kV).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road</i> <i>(ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters."</i></p>	<p>The internal roads will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width. The internal roads will be 6m in width and the perimeter road will be up to 12m in width.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 1998 and where such development</i> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>As portions of the affected property have been used for grazing and the property will be re-zoned to "special" use for the proposed development. The development footprint of the solar power plant will be 599 hectares.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre</i> <i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres."</i></p>	<p>Since the existing access to the affected property does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by more than 6 metres.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more."</i></p>	<p>Since the proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to 350 megawatts electricity through the use of a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15</u></p>	

<p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	<p>In terms of vegetation type the site falls within the Carletonville Dolomite Grassland which is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) as 'vulnerable'. Activity 15 is triggered since portions of the site has not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years; therefore, more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation will be removed. The development footprint of the solar power plant will be 599ha in extent.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4</u> <i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres within (h) the North West, and (vi) areas within 5 kilometres from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA or from a biosphere reserve."</i></p>	<p>As internal and perimeter access roads with a width of between 6 and 12 meters will be constructed and the site is located 5km from the Fred Coetzee nature reserve.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18</u> <i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre in (h) North within (ii) areas within 5 kilometres from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA or from a biosphere reserve."</i></p>	<p>Since the existing access road to the site will need to be widened by more than 4 metres and the site is located 5km from the Fred Coetzee nature reserve.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) dated May 2023:

GPS Co-ordinates for the development

Coordinates	Latitude	Longitude
A	26° 8'25.81"S	27° 3'15.54"E
B	26° 8'31.30"S	27° 4'27.20"E
C	26° 10'13.68"S	27° 4'27.35"E
D	26° 10'25.09"S	27° 2'49.58"E
E	26° 9'37.54"S	27° 3'32.34"E

F	26° 9'13.65"S	27° 3'37.99"E
Proposed Access Road – option 1 (Preferred)		
1	26°10'25.63"S	27° 2'43.10"E
2	26°10'24.42"S	27° 2'54.44"E
3	26°10'22.21"S	27° 2'56.63"E
4	26°10'11.66"S	27° 4'27.38"E
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)		
A	26° 9'57.15"S	27° 4'16.26"E
B	26° 9'57.11"S	27° 4'27.04"E
C	26°10'3.54"S	27° 4'27.05"E
D	26°10'3.55"S	27° 4'16.25"E
Substation		
A	26°10'3.93"S	27° 4'21.66"E
B	26°10'3.91"S	27° 4'27.04"E
C	26°10'11.16"S	27° 4'27.05"E
D	26°10'11.18"S	27° 4'21.65"E
Power Line Corridor		
A	26°10'11.25"S	27° 4'21.58"E
B	26°10'11.20"S	27° 4'27.35"E
C	26°10'14.57"S	27° 4'27.34"E
D	26°10'15.26"S	27° 4'21.63"E

Farm portion and SG code

<u>Farm portion</u>	<u>SG Code</u>
<u>Solar Power Plant</u>	T0IQ0000000007000001
Portion 1 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70	T0IQ0000000007000002
Portion 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70	
<u>Power Line</u>	T0IQ0000000007200006
Portion 6 of Farm Wildebeestlaagte 72 Remaining Extent of Farm Illmasdale 70	T0IQ0000000007000000

Technical details for the facility

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Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	Up to 6 meters
Area of PV Array	599 Hectares (Development footprint)
Number of inverters required	Minimum 50
Area occupied by investor/ transformer station substation/BESS	Central inverters+ LV/MV trafo: 750 m ² HV/MV substation with switching station: 20 000 m ² BESS: 4ha
Capacity of on-site substation	132kV
Capacity of the power line	132kV
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Total footprint: 599 Hectares Construction Laydown Area: ~3ha
Area occupied by buildings	Security Room: ~150 m ² O&M laydown: within 3.5ha
Battery storage facility	Maximum height: 8m Maximum volume: 1740 m ³ Capacity: Up to 350MW
Length of internal roads	Approximately 30 km
Width of internal roads	Between 4 & 6 meters
Proximity to grid connection	Approximately 94 km
Grid connection corridor width	200 and up to 550m in width
Grid connection corridor length	Up to ~94m
Power line servitude width	32m
Height of fencing	Approximately 2.5 meters

-for the development of a 350MW photovoltaic solar facility and its associated infrastructure on Portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70, Registration Division IP, North West Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of a 350MW photovoltaic solar facility and its associated infrastructure on Portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70, Registration Division IP, North West Province, the Grid connection corridor length of up to 94m and the Grid connection corridor width of between 200m and up to 550m is hereby approved, as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant, or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any transfer or change of ownership rights of this environmental authorisation.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If the commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.

10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request;
and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

12. A final site layout plan for the photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval, prior to the commencement of the activity. 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:
 - 12.1. The position of the solar PV panels and grid connection point
 - 12.2. All associated infrastructure;
 - 12.3. The finalised access route;
 - 12.4. The on-site and/or switching substation, indicating the Independent Power Producer's section and Eskom's section;
 - 12.5. The specific position of the powerline route, with pylon structures and foundation footprints;

- 12.6. All sensitive features; and
- 12.7. All “no-go” and buffer areas.
13. The Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the powerline submitted as part of the EIAr is approved. The final micro-sited and pegged powerline route layout plan must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
14. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substation submitted as part of the final EIAr dated May 2023 is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site and/or switching substation, depicting the Independent Power Producer's section and Eskom's section, must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
15. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the PV facility, submitted as part of the final EIAr dated May 2023 is not approved and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to the commencement of the activity.
16. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
 - 16.1. The requirements and conditions of this environmental authorisation;
 - 16.2. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr and the specialist reports as included in the final EIAr dated May 2023; and
 - 16.3. The final site layout map.
17. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
18. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
19. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

20. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 27 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.

21. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
22. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
23. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management, and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
24. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

25. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
 - 25.1. The ECO must be appointed before the commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 25.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 25.3. The ECO must keep a record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 25.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

26. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
27. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
28. The frequency of auditing and submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
29. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
30. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor, and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
31. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on-site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

32. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.
33. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must notify the Competent Authority of any alienation, transfer, or change of ownership rights of the property on which the activity is to take place.

Operation of the activity

34. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

35. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

Specific conditions

36. Should archaeologically sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
37. The ECO must be made aware that fossils (stromatolites) of the Malmani (Chuniespoort Group, Transvaal Supergroup) has a High to Very High Palaeontological Significance.
38. If a well-preserved stromatolite outcrop is uncovered in the development footprint (after vegetation clearance) the stromatolites must be cordoned off and a buffer of 30m must be placed around the outcrop or a representative example must be removed and placed near the offices of the PV as an informative example of fossils in the area.
39. The required biodiversity walk-throughs must be undertaken prior to construction.
40. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, reuse, and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

41. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 41.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
- 41.2. to anyone on request; and

- 41.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible websites.
42. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of the authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 10/07/2023



Mr. Sabelo Malaza

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment**



Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 12 December 2022.
- b) The information contained in the EIAR dated May 2023.
- c) The comments received from North-West Province: Department of Economic Development, Environment Conservation and Tourism, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), and Interested and Affected Parties and Interested and Affected Parties as included in the EIAR dated May 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAR dated May 2023 and as appears below:

Name of Specialist	Title of specialist reports	Date issued
Andrew Husted	Avifauna Assessment	March 2023
Andrew Husted	Ecological and Wetland Assessment	November 2022
Andrew Husted	Agricultural Compliance Statement	October 2022
Johny van Schalkwyk	Heritage Impact Assessment	November 2022
Elize Buttle	Palaeontological Impact Assessment	December 2022
Johan Botha	Visual Impact Assessment	December 2022
Johan Botha	Social Impact Assessment	December 2022
Liza van Zyl	Traffic Assessment Study	December 2022

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered in the Department's consideration of the application.

A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The project is intended to form part of the department of mineral resources and energy's (DMRES) renewable energy independent power producer procurement (REIPPP) programme or any other appropriate energy generation programmes / opportunities. The REIPPP programme aims to secure 14 725 megawatts (mw) of new generation capacity from renewable energy sources, while simultaneously diversifying south Africa's electricity mix. According to the 2021 state of the nation address, government

will soon be initiating the procurement of an additional 11 800 mw of power from renewable energy, natural gas, battery storage and coal in line with the integrated resource plan 2019 and fulfilling their commitments under the United Nations framework convention on climate change and its Paris agreement which include the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Eskom, the largest greenhouse gas emitter of south Africa, has committed in principle to net zero emission by 2050 and to increase its renewable capacity. During the 2022 state of the nation address it was indicated that during the past year the government had taken "firm steps" to bring additional generation capacity online as quickly as possible to close the shortfall in terms of electricity. As a result, it was confirmed that several new generation projects will be coming online over the next few years.

- c) The EIAr dated May 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The location of the proposed project.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated May 2023 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

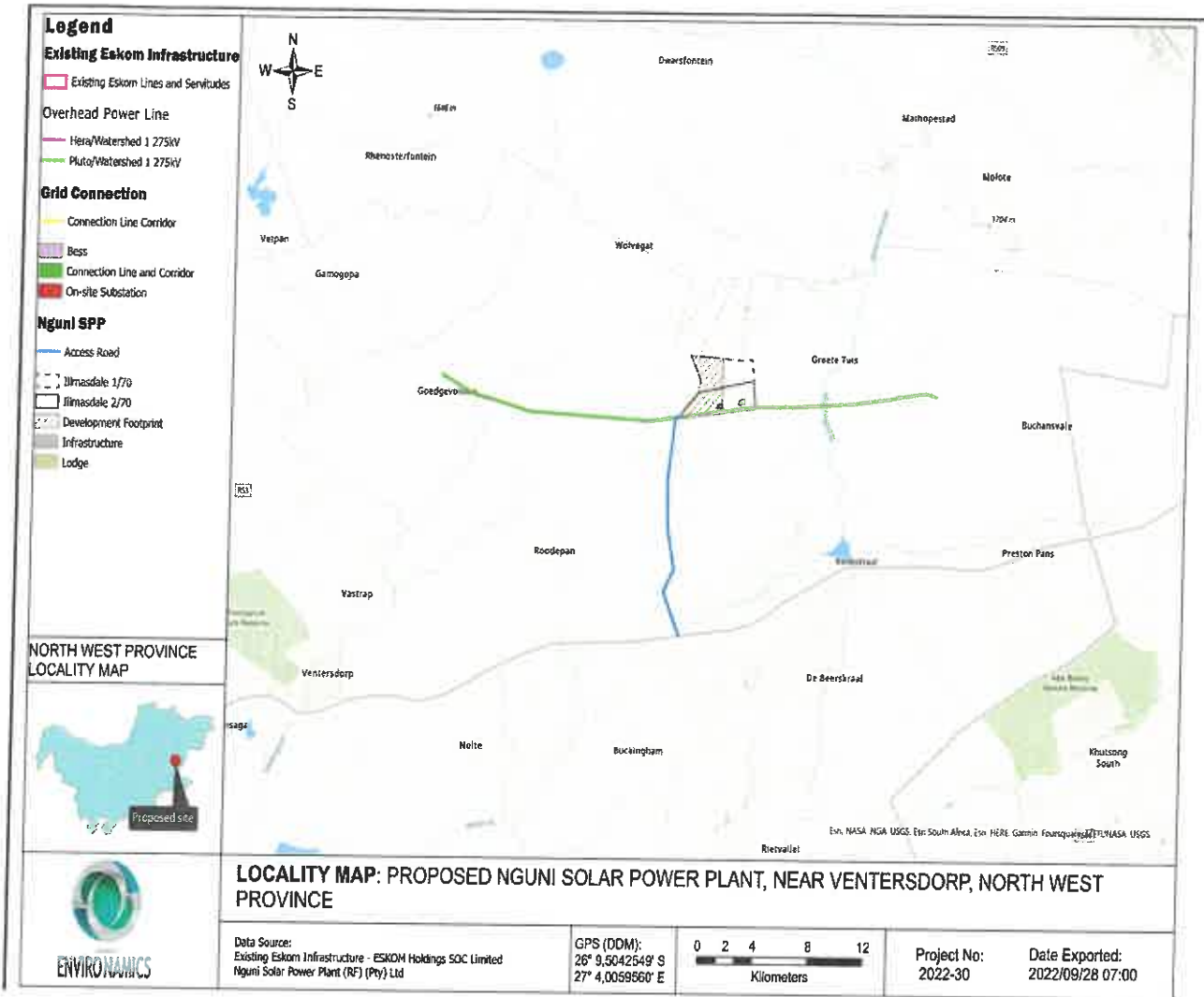
3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAr dated May 2023 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the EIAr dated May 2023 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction, and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan



M.S