

APPENDIX C8
MINUTES OF MEETINGS

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES
AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) NEAR
RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES**

DFFE Reference Numbers:

Merino Wind Farm:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2114
Kwana Solar PV:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2118
Moriri Solar PV:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2116
Nku Solar PV:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2115
Great Karoo EGI:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2554

**MEETING NOTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022 AT 14H00
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

**GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTRE
NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES**

MEETING ATTENDEES**(Captured according to Organisation)**

Name	Organisation	Position
Purity PHEME	Air Traffic & Navigation Services (ATNS)	Unknown
Vusi Nkosi		Obstacle Administrator
Leon Crafford	Central Karoo District Municipality (CKDM)	Environmental Health Practitioner: Air Quality & Waste Management
Aulicia Maifo	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Directorate Biodiversity Conservation (DFFE)	EIA Intern: Biodiversity Mainstreaming
Jacoline Mans	DFFE: Directorate Forestry Northern Cape	Chief Forester: Regulations
Natalie Uys	Northern Cape: Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (NC: DAEARD&LR)	Case Officer: Environmental Research & Development
Elsabe Swart		Manager: Environmental Research & Development
Thato Nape	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Unknown
Bernard Petlane	South African Weather Services (SAWDS)	Unknown
Rydall Jardine		Unknown
Allan Rhodes	WC: Transport & Public Works	Planner: Strategic & Integrated Planning
Deon Stoltz	WC DEA&DP	Unknown
Thorsten Aab	WC: DEAP&DP	Unknown
Evan Burger	WC: Dept of Transport – Road Infrastructure	Unknown
Lance McBain-Charles	WC: Dept of Transport – Road Infrastructure	Unknown
Ndivhuho Mudau	WC DEA&DP	Unknown
Nomonde Khuzwayo	WC: Dept of Public Works & Infrastructure	Unknown
Nsovo Mdungazi	WC: Dept of Agriculture – LandUse Management	Unknown
Ntanganedzeni Mabasa	WC: Dept of Public Works & Infrastructure	Manager: EIA Region 1
Russell Mehl	WC: DEA&D	Unknown
Shafeeq Mollagee	WC: Transport & Public Works, Roads Investment Planning	Professional Engineer

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

Sonwabiso Molaudi	WC: Unknown	Unknown
Yanga Xashimba	WC: Unknown	Unknown
Nsovo Mdungazi	WC: Unknown	Unknown
Eric Kweleta	Ubuntu Youth Forum Foundation	Chairman
Romaya Dorasamy	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	Project Manager
Keyasha Ramsamy		Project Co-ordinator
Zinhle Kunene		Assistance Project Manager
Mmakoena Mmola	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Assessment Practitioner Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Wind Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure)
Rendani Rasivhetshela		Environmental Assessment Practitioner Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Solar PV Facilities)
Nicolene Venter		Public Participation & Social Consultant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Key Stakeholder Workshop for the Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure and after introducing herself, she requested the project team to introduce themselves to the stakeholders and thereafter Nicolene requested the stakeholders to introduce themselves to the project team.

The agenda and purpose of the meeting was presented and Nicolene informed the attendees that, as per the agenda, a summary of the key environmental studies and mitigation measures for following projects would be presented at the workshop:

- Merino Wind Farm
- Kwana Solar PV
- Moriri Solar PV
- Nku Solar PV
- Great Karoo EGI

She informed the attendees that further studies are being undertaken for the Angora Wind Form Project and that once the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for this project is available for review and comment, virtual meetings will be held to present the findings of this report.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were presented.

A copy of the electronic Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the Key Stakeholder Workshop notes.

BACKGROUND AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mmakoena Mmola presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure;
- the EIA and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken for the projects; and
- summary of the key environmental results and mitigation measures proposed as documented in the various EIA Reports.

Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that it is important to note that the public participation process is an ongoing process which commenced when site notices were erected at the various development sites and with the distribution of the Background Information Document (BID), and is not only limited to the 30-day review and comment period of the various EIA Reports as presented in the presentation. The public participation process is only concluded once registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are notified of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's (DFFE) decision to issue an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for each project.

She ended the presentation by providing the way forward on the EIA and consultation process.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
Natalie Uys	Commented that based on the sensitivity map presented, it is difficult to distinguish between low, medium or high sensitivity as it is a very 'busy' map with all the different colours, and the map does not align with the colours used in the sensitivity tables as in the presentation.	Nicolene Venter responded that the maps are included in the various reports and that the presentation will be e-mailed to them after the meeting in which the sensitivity map is included. Post-meeting note: Distributed to all attendees on 24 May 2022.
	Has the turbine layout been adjusted based on the specialist reports or is this the original layout?	Mmakoena Mmola responded that there was an initial layout before the initiation of the Scoping and EIA process which was refined based on the sensitive environmental features identified during the Scoping Phase of the process. Mmakoena added that with the exception of the heritage specialists, all specialists indicated that the refined layout avoids all ecological, aquatic,

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

		<p>avifauna and bat sensitivities identified and honours the recommended buffer areas. Only the heritage specialist identified one turbine (i.e., M30) to be unacceptably placed within the development footprint. Reason being that a number of the proposed turbines are located on the ridgelines which have been identified as no-go for turbine development due to the high negative impact anticipated to the existing Karoo sense of place. In order to mitigate this impact, the specialist has therefore recommended that that one proposed turbine (i.e., M30) from the Merino Wind Farm be removed or relocated from the ridgelines.</p> <p>This recommendation still needs to be considered by the developer.</p>
	<p>Please take note that the bottom section of powerline (south) is located in the Critically Endangered Riverine Habitat and should be addressed in the EIA report. Please consult with EWT on this. You can contact Bonnie Schumann - bonnies@ewf.org.za.</p>	<p>The information shared with the project team is noted and the EAP will make contact with EWT as suggested.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: Information on the Critically Endangered Riverine Habitat has been included in the Animal Species Report, which will be included as Appendix D to the final BA Report for the EGI and EIA Reports for the renewable energy facilities.</p>
	<p>In terms of the cumulative impact assessment, the local climatic heat island effects need to be considered.</p>	<p>Mmakoena Mmola responded that this impact was not considered as part of the environmental studies, however the questioned is noted and will be responded to in the meeting notes.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: The local climatic heat island effects resulting from the construction and operation of numerous PV facilities within a 30km radius of the proposed development site would be an impact assessed within a Climate</p>

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

		Change Impact Assessment, which did not form part of the suite of studies undertaken for these projects.
	Please take note that Upper Karoo Hardeveld is a sensitive vegetation type that has been under mapped and species of concern to take note of that should be addressed is the very illusive Endangered Karoo Padloper that is very habitat specific.	According to the Animal Species Report, the only reptile species that has been identified as having a geographical distribution in the study area is Karoo Dwarf Tortoise (<i>Homopus boulengeri</i>). The assessment of impacts (direct and indirect) within the EIA Reports and BA Report therefore considers the potential occurrence of this species within the study area.
Leon Crafford	How will this equipment be transported to this area? If by road, what will the route be from North or from Western Cape. The Transportation of wind turbines and the associated structures has been an issue of concern in the Beaufort West in the past, especially around the prison in the main road of Beaufort West.	Mmakoena Mmola responded that as per the Traffic Specialist's recommendation, the most suitable port of entry, should the components be imported into South Africa, is Port of Ngqura in Coega, Eastern Cape Province. The route used will be the R75 passing Wolwefontein and Jansenville, onto the R63 at Graaf-Reinet, onto the N1, passing Murraysburg to the development site. The impact on traffic from the Port of Saldanha has also been considered but not recommended as the preferred route due to the distance from this port to the development site. Mmakoena added that widening of the access points at the development site has been considered to ensure that the roads are wide enough to allow the vehicles to turn with ease when they deliver components to the site, specifically the wind turbines.
Jacoline Mans	In the Ecological Scoping Report for Angora (which was not presented today), reference was made to the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit Survey, and the specialist said a separate report that will be compiled for Riverine Rabbit. Was	Mmakoena Mola responded that as the team prepared to present the environmental findings and mitigation measures for the current reports out for review and comment, feedback will be provided as a post-meeting note to the meeting notes.

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

	<p>the Riverine Rabbit confirmed present on site by the camera traps?</p>	<p>Post-meeting note: The Ecological Scoping Report for the Angora Wind Farm states that the Riverine Rabbit has a geographical distribution within the study area. At this stage, a separate report has not been prepared for the Riverine Rabbit as further studies are being undertaken for the Angora Wind Farm Project, the findings of which will only be presented at a later stage. Therefore, confirmation of whether the Riverine Rabbit was confirmed to be present within the Angora Wind Farm site by camera traps cannot be provided at this stage.</p>
Vusi Nkosi	<p>Could we please see the project timeline again to see when an obstacles, flight procedures and Communications Surveillance and Navigations assessments come in.</p>	<p>Romaya Dorasamy replied that the developer is in the process of submitting an application to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for approval. It was confirmed that previously, the developer received authorisations for all their test masts, and from that point the CAA did not have any concerns.</p> <p>The project team is working on the final layouts for the wind turbines and these need to be in place before actual applications for permits can be submitted to the CAA.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the final layouts would be completed towards the next three to four months.</p>
Rydall Jardine	<p>How far are the proposed developments from the R388 (De Aar).</p> <p>Would the SAWS radars, due to their close proximity to the proposed developments, be impacted as the wind turbines could create a radar receptor blind spot?</p> <p>The SAWS radar systems are located within one of the major</p>	<p>Romaya Dorasamy responded that it is approximately 150km north west of the development sites.</p> <p>Romaya Dorasamy confirmed that they are in the process to obtain all relevant permits and to date, none of the authorities have raised any concerns or red flags.</p>

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

	flight routes for aviation in South Africa.	
	It was recommended that the project team consider disaster management, especially in terms of the impact on radar and/or radar frequencies.	Post-meeting note: Romaya Dorasamy confirms the project team will consider disaster management.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter confirmed that the meeting presentation will be e-mailed to all attendees after the meeting.

She reminded all present that the review period for the EIA Reports is ending on Monday, 13 June 2022 and that the Reports are available for download from Savannah Environmental's website, and that once the EIA Reports have been updated with written comments received during the 30-day review and comment period, the final EIA Reports will be submitted to the DFFE for decision-making.

Nicolene also reminded stakeholders that the BA Report review period the for the Great Karoo EGI is ending on Monday, 20 June 2022.

She thanked the participants for making time to attend the KSW and for their valuable inputs into the EIA and public participation process.

The workshop was closed at 14h00.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ATNS	Air Traffic & Navigation Services	EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
BA	Basic Assessment	NC: DAEARD&LR	Northern Cape: Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	PV	Photovoltaic
CKDM	Central Karoo District Municipality	SAWS	South African Weather Services
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	SARAO	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	WC	Western Cape
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust		

APPENDIX A: Attendance Record

Meeting Summary	
Total Number of Participants	30
Meeting Title	SE3125: GREAT KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY CLUSTER: Key Stakeholder Workshop
Meeting Start Time	5/24/2022, 1:49:48 PM
Meeting End Time	5/24/2022, 4:44:35 PM
Meeting Id	c0bea4b1-930e-485e-9d6c-4ec2a8964517

Full Name	Role
Nicolene Venter	Organizer
Mmakoena Mmola	Presenter
Deon Stoltz	Attendee
Leon Crafford	Attendee
Eric Kweleta	Attendee
Bernard Petlane	Attendee
Purity PHEME	Attendee
Ntanganedzeni Mabasa	Attendee
Jacoline Mans (Guest)	Attendee
Keyasha Ramsamy	Attendee
Zinhle Kunene	Attendee
Nsovo Mdungazi (Guest)	Attendee
Rendani Rasivhetshele	Presenter
Vusi Nkosi	Attendee
Russell Mehl	Attendee
Rydall Jardine	Attendee
Yanga Xashimba	Attendee
Natalie Uys Northern Cape	Attendee
Sonwabiso M Molaudi	Attendee
Sonwabiso M Molaudi	Attendee
Evan Burger	Attendee
Thorsten Aab	Attendee
Elsabe Swart (Guest)	Attendee
Shafeeq Mollagee	Attendee
Allan Rhodes	Attendee
Aulicia Maifo (Guest)	Attendee
Romaya Dorasamy	Attendee
Thato Nape (Guest)	Attendee
Lance Mcbain-Charles	Attendee
Ndivhuho Mudau	Attendee
Nomonde (Guest)	Attendee

GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI)

NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

Key Stakeholder Workshop
Tuesday, 24 May 2022



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AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Overview
- Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Basic Assessment Process
- Key Environmental Findings
- Way Forward
- Discussions



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MEETING CONDUCT

- Recording of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on chat function (name, surname, and affiliation)
- Equal opportunity
- Questions and comments can be submitted on the chat function during the presentation – team will respond after presentation
- Please hold all verbal questions until after the presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question and state your name



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PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders & I&APs with an overview of the **Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure (separate projects)**
- Summary of the **Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Basic Assessment (BA) and Public Participation Processes** being undertaken
- Present a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the respective **EIA Reports and BA Report**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies, as well as the opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the submissions to the DFFE



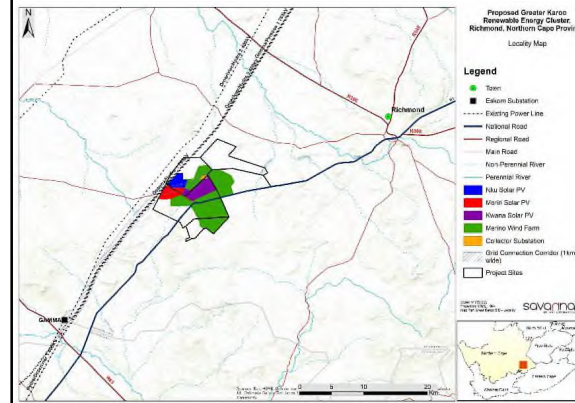
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PROJECT OVERVIEW (Mmakoena Mmola)



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COMBINED LOCALITY MAP

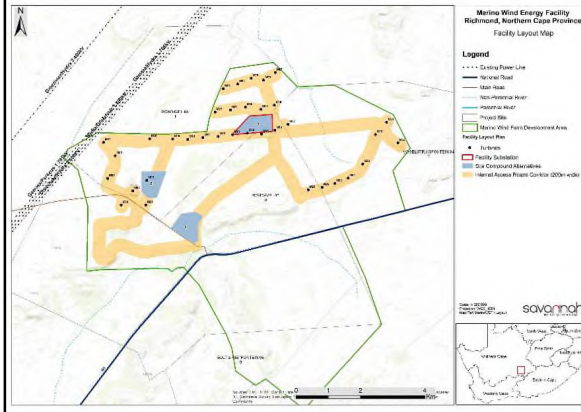


- Cluster of renewable energy facilities, comprising three (3) 100MW Solar PV Facilities and two (2) 140MW Wind Energy Facilities, and grid connection infrastructure comprising a 132kV central collector substation & a 132kV power line to enable the connection of five (5) renewable energy facilities to the national grid.
- Located ~35km south-west of Richmond and 80km south-east of Victoria West, within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. A portion (approximately 2km) of the grid corridor falls within the Beaufort West Local Municipality of the Central Karoo District in the Western Cape Province.



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PROPOSED LAYOUT - MERINO WIND FARM

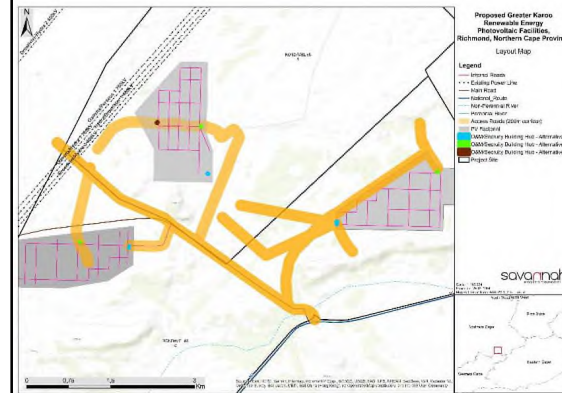


- Contracted capacity: 140MW
- Turbines:
 - Up to 35 turbines
 - Hub height of up to 170m
 - Tip height up to 250m
- Grid infrastructure:
 - 33/132kV onsite facility substation
 - 35kV underground cabling from the onsite substation to the 132kV collector substation
- Other infrastructure:
 - Foundations, hardstands, inverters and transformers, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, electrical and auxiliary equipment, Battery Energy Storage System, access roads and internal distribution roads, site offices, maintenance buildings, and workshop areas



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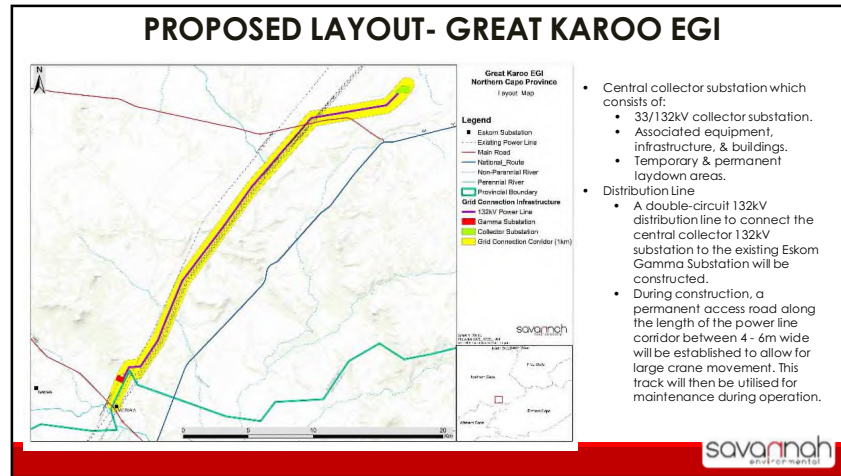
PROPOSED LAYOUT- NKU, MORIRI AND KWANA SOLAR PV FACILITIES



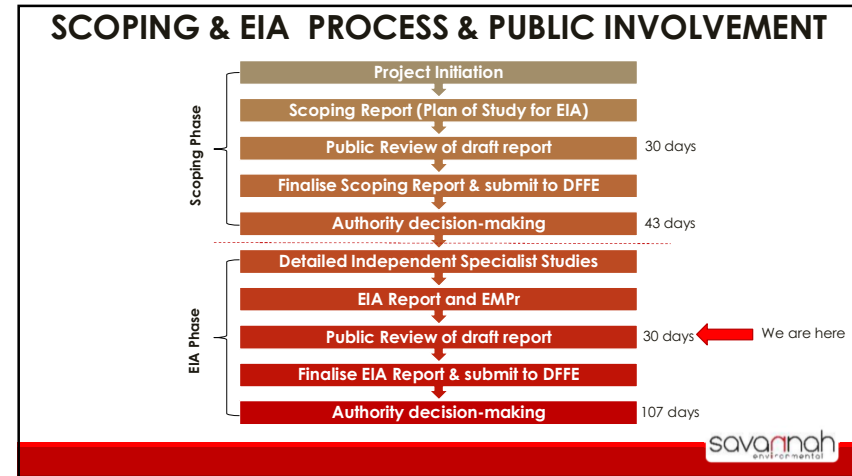
- Contracted capacity: 100MW
- Panels:
 - Panel height up to 5m
 - Fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking, and/or double-axis tracking PV technology
 - Monofacial or bifacial panels
- Grid infrastructure:
 - 33/132kV onsite facility substation
 - 35kV Underground cabling from the onsite substation to the 132kV collector substation
- Other infrastructure:
 - Inverters and transformers, cabling between the panels, electrical and auxiliary equipment, Battery Energy Storage System, laydown areas, access roads & internal distribution roads, site offices, maintenance buildings & workshop areas



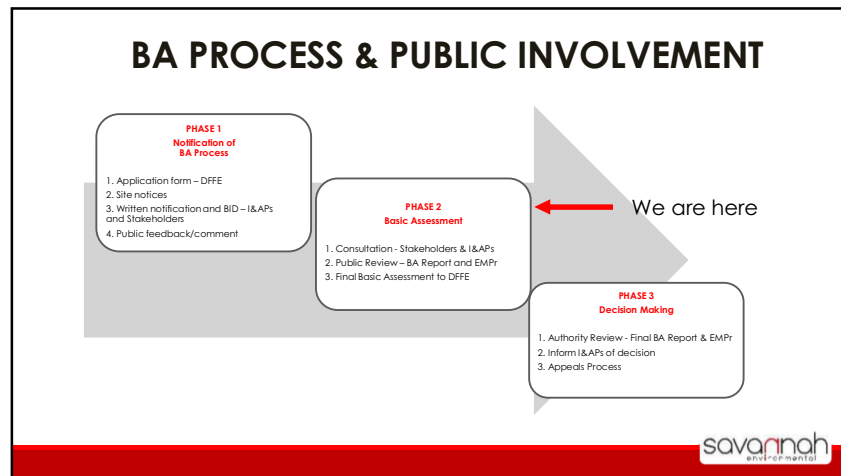
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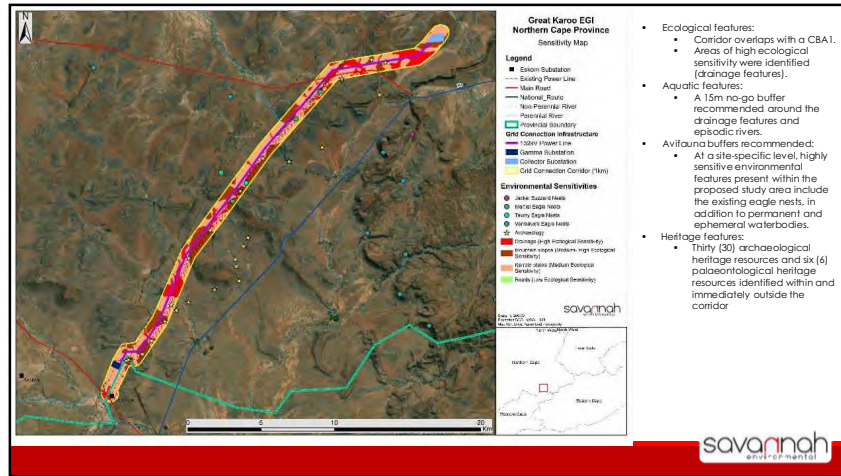
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SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist	Area of Expertise
David Hoare of David Hoare Consulting (Pty) Ltd	Ecology
Chris van Rooyen of Chris van Rooyen Consulting	Avifauna
Werner Marais of Animalia	Bats
Ivan Baker of the Biodiversity Company	Freshwater and Soils
Morné de Jager of Enviro-Acoustic Research	Noise
Lourens du Plessis of LoGIS	Visual
Tony Barbour of Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting	Social
Jenna Lavin of CTS Heritage	Heritage (including Archaeology Palaeontology and Cultural Heritage)
Iris Wink of JG Afrika	Traffic

savannah environmental

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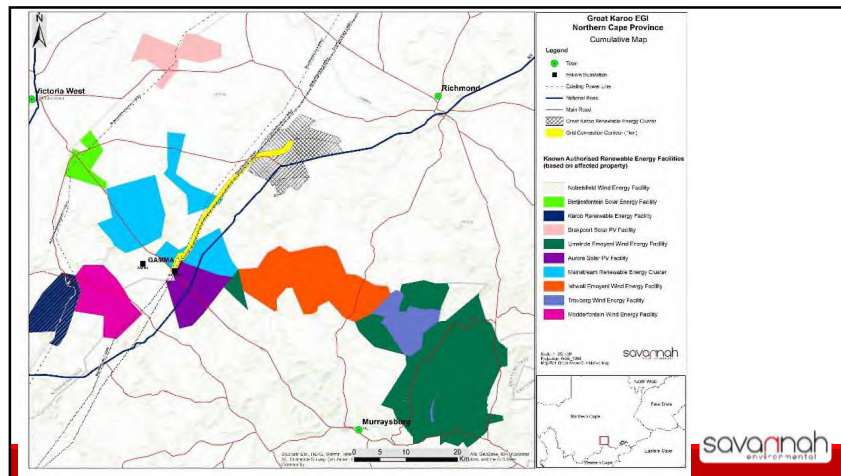


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IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESULTS (all projects)

Specialist Field	Construction/Decommissioning Phase		Operation Phase	
	Impact Significance (excl. mitigation/enhancement)	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation/enhancement)	Impact Significance (excl. mitigation/enhancement)	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation/enhancement)
Terrestrial Ecology	Medium	Medium and Low	Medium	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
Avifauna	High and Medium	Medium and Low	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Bats	Medium	Medium and Low	Medium	Medium and Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low	Medium and Low	Low
Heritage (including archaeology, palaeontology and cultural landscape)	High, Medium and Low	Low	High and Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low	Low	Low
Visual	Medium and Low	Medium and Low	High, Medium and Low	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: Medium and Low	Positive Impacts: Medium	Positive Impacts: High, Medium and Low	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Medium	Low	The traffic generated during this phase will be minimal and will have no impact on the surrounding road network.	

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CUMULATIVE IMPACTS RESULTS (all projects)

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation (post-mitigation)	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area (post-mitigation)
Ecology	Medium	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium and Low
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High and Low	High and Medium
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: Low and Medium	Positive impacts: Low and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Medium

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Projects are well aligned with the national, provincial and local policy framework
- Layouts proposed for all projects ensure that all ecological, aquatic, avifauna and bat sensitivities identified are avoided and recommended buffer areas are honoured. Only the heritage specialist identified one turbine (i.e., M30) to be unacceptably placed within the development footprint.
- Where impacts could not be avoided, appropriate mitigation has been proposed to minimise impacts & included in project EMPs.
- Socio-economic and visual impacts of the proposed wind farm on the surrounding areas expected to be negative
- Benefits of the projects are expected to occur at a national, regional and local level
- Costs to the environment at a site-specific level have been largely limited through the avoidance of ecological features, and avifauna and bat sensitive areas considered to be of high sensitivity.
- The benefits of the project are expected to partially offset the localised environmental costs of the wind farm
- Based on the conclusions of the specialist studies, it is concluded that the development of the projects will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts (subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures).



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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE (Nicolene Venter)



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WAY FORWARD

- EIA Reports review period: **13 May 2022 – 13 June 2022** and BA Report review period: **20 May 2022 – 20 June 2022** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final EIA Reports and BA Report to be submitted to DFFE for decision-making



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WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Nicolene Venter

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES
AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) NEAR
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**MEETING NOTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022 AT 17H30
VENUE: RICHMOND TOWN HALL, RICHMOND**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

**GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTRE
NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES**

MEETING ATTENDEES**(Captured alphabetically according to Surname)**

Name	Organisation	Position
Tersia Borders	NC Public Works	Student
Johnny Christoffels		Richmond Resident
GA de Vos	Chapter NGO	President
Jason Diedericks		Richmond Resident
Dumelisa Oliphant	Prima & Sons Project	Richmond Resident
Quentin Fei	Graasroots Hope	Project Manager
Elizabeth Fellies		Richmond Resident
Claude Frans		Richmond Resident
Claudia Frans		Richmond Resident
Reynald Gernel		Richmond Resident
M George		Richmond Resident
Machaldon Gerwel		Richmond Resident
Siyabonga Gift	NC Public Works	Student
Vuyo Given	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Speaker of Council
William Godongo		Richmond Resident
Esona Gunini		Richmond Resident
Hano Frans	NC Public Works	Student
Natalie Harmse	NC Public Works	Student
Johann Jacobs		Richmond Resident
R Jacobs		Richmond Resident
Alfrido Jantjies		Richmond Resident
Ayesha Khan	NC Public Works	Student
Jasmine Kinido		Richmond Resident
BM Kiwido	NC Public Works	Student
Desire Kiwido		Richmond Resident
Eldine Kiwido		Richmond Resident
Le-Anne Kiwido		Richmond Resident
Leon Klaasen	NC Public Works	Student
Marlin Klaaste		Richmond Resident
Ensodene Lodewyk	NC Public Works	Student
Marco Louw		Richmond Resident
Chalett Makaleni	NC Provincial Traffic Department	
Yonela Marthe		Richmond Resident
Elethu Mathews	NC Public Works	Student
Kevin McKey	Pam Golding	Franchise Holder
Ruisin Messelaar		Richmond Resident
Michael Monwabisi		Richmond Resident

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

Ndlala	NC Public Works	Student
Yandiswa Olifant		Richmond Resident
Leon Olivier	Ikhaya Primary	Principle
Dominique Plaatjies	NC Public Works	Student
Lucretia Reid		Richmond Resident
Errol Richard		Richmond Resident
Zemeyo Rigard		Richmond Resident
André Robertson	Ward Councillor – Ward 1	Ubuntu Local Municipality
Reginald Shaun	NC Public Works	Student
Riaan Sinkerman		Richmond Resident
Thobela Snyman	NC Provincial Traffic Department	
Phamela Tebele		Richmond Resident
Coen Williams		Richmond Resident
Luzaan van Rheede	NC Public Works	Student
Watala		Richmond Resident
Daniël Wessels		Richmond Resident
Romaya Dorasamy	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	Project Manager
Keyasha Ramsamy		Project Co-ordinator
Mmakoena Mmola	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Assessment Practitioner Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Wind Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure)
Nicolene Venter		Public Participation & Social Consultant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Public Meeting for the Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure and after introducing herself, she requested the project team to introduce themselves to the stakeholders.

The agenda and purpose of the meeting was presented and Nicolene informed the attendees that, as per the agenda, a summary of the key environmental studies and mitigation measures for following projects would be presented at the workshop:

- Merino Wind Farm
- Kwana Solar PV
- Moriri Solar PV
- Nku Solar PV
- Great Karoo EGI

She informed the attendees that further studies are being undertaken for the Angora Wind Form Project and that once the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for this project is available for review and comment, all registered I&APs will be notified of its availability.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were presented.

BACKGROUND AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mmakoena Mmola presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure;
- the EIA and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken for the projects; and
- summary of the key environmental results and mitigation measures proposed as documented in the various EIA Reports.

Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that it is important to note that the public participation process is an ongoing process which commenced when site notices were erected at the various development sites and with the distribution of the Background Information Document (BID) and is not only limited to the 30-day review and comment period of the various EIA Reports as presented in the presentation. The public participation process is only concluded once registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are notified of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's (DFFE) decision to issue an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for each project.

She ended the presentation by providing the way forward on the EIA and consultation process.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
Vuyo Given	Expressed his appreciation for the time that the project team took to present the projects to the community and provide the community an opportunity to participate in the process.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comment submitted to the project team.
	As water supply to the communities is a problem, where would the water be resourced from for construction and maintenance of the solar panels, and what would the utilisation % be?	Mmakoena Mola responded that at this stage, water supply would be sourced from the local municipality and should there be a water shortage, consideration would be given to the utilisation of existing boreholes or drilling new boreholes Romaya Dorasamy responded that an application would be submitted to the Department of Water and

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

		Sanitation (DWS) should new boreholes be required.
	What type of skills would be required during the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the projects?	Romaya Dorasamy indicated that a list of skills required during the operational and maintenance phases will be made available to Nicolene Venter to forward it to Mr Given.
	A list of skills required would be appreciated so that the Municipality who also have a Skills Development Framework can align their priority with that of the proposed developments.	
	What percentage of local skills workforce would be required during the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the projects?	Romaya Dorasamy responded that 95% of the workforce would be sourced locally and as the projects will be operational for 20 to 25 years. She further added that community members will be upskilled to enable them to work on other upcoming wind and or solar developments in the area.
	It was commented that communities generally only benefit up to the operation phase of these type of developments. However, it is important that community members, and youths, be upskilled.	Consultation will be undertaken with the Local Municipality to determine what skills and services are locally available prior to the construction of the facilities.
	It is important that the developer is informed and aware of what skills are available locally and also what type of service providers are available locally for construction material.	
	It was reiterated that the list of skills and services required for the development of these projects be shared and discussed with the Municipality as this will ensure that the local Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMME's) are informed of what could be required and to align their services and to meet the requirements.	
	What are the timeframes for these projects after the EIA process i.e. after the Environmental Authorisations have been issued?	Romaya Dorasamy responded that should the projects be granted Environmental Authorisation, it is envisaged that construction would commence within 24 to 36 months. However, there are a number of permits required before any construction can commence.

Meeting Notes

Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure located near Richmond, Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

Thobela Snyman	The local SMME's are registered entities, but most do not have the resource and/or funding to provide service to these types of developments.	Romaya Dorasamy responded that as developers, they have an Enterprise Development Programme which includes an Economic Advisor to close any possible gaps and to also assist with funding. The Enterprise Developer would be based either in town or at the site.
Kevin McKey	Informed the project team that there are qualified electrical engineers that could be employed on these projects.	Romaya Dorasamy responded that as the proposed developments consist of five (5) projects, it is believed that these engineers, depending on their qualifications, could be employed at either one or all five projects.
	How far is the process to decide whether the electricity generated will be sold to private off-takers or to Eskom.	Romaya Dorasamy indicated that discussions are still taking place with private off-takers and with Eskom.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter confirmed that the meeting presentation will be e-mailed to all attendees after the meeting.

She reminded all present that the review period for the EIA Reports is ending on Monday, 13 June 2022 and that the Reports are available for download from Savannah Environmental's website, and that once the EIA Reports have been updated with written comments received during the 30-day review and comment period, the final EIA Reports will be submitted to the DFFE for decision-making.

Nicolene also reminded stakeholders that the BA Report review period the for the Great Karoo EGI is ending on Monday, 20 June 2022.

She thanked the participants for making time to attend the KSW and for their valuable inputs into the EIA and public participation process.

The Public Meeting closed at 18h45.

APPENDIX B: Presentation

GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI)

NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

Public Participation Presentation
Thursday, 26 May 2022



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AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Overview
- Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Basic Assessment Process
- Key Environmental Findings
- Discussions
- Way Forward



2

MEETING CONDUCT

- Recording of Meeting
- Comments & questions after the presentation
- Please raise your hand to indicate comment / question to the team
- Equal opportunity



3

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders & I&APs with an overview of the **Great Karoo Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities and Electrical Grid Infrastructure (separate projects)**
- Summary of the **Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Basic Assessment (BA) and Public Participation Processes** being undertaken
- Present a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the respective **EIA Reports and BA Report**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies, as well as the opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the submissions to the DFFE

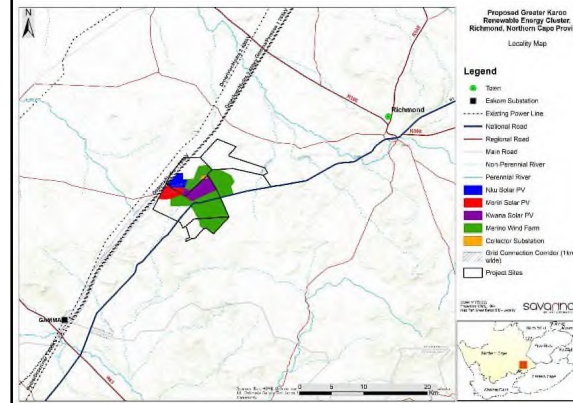


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PROJECTS OVERVIEW (Mmakoena Mmola)

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COMBINED LOCALITY MAP



- Cluster of renewable energy facilities, comprising three (3) 100MW Solar PV Facilities and two (2) 140MW Wind Energy Facilities, and grid connection infrastructure comprising a 132kV central collector substation & a 132kV power line to enable the connection of five (5) renewable energy facilities to the national grid.
- Located ~35km south-west of Richmond and 80km south-east of Victoria West, within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. A portion (approximately 2km) of the grid corridor falls within the Beaufort West Local Municipality of the Central Karoo District in the Western Cape Province.

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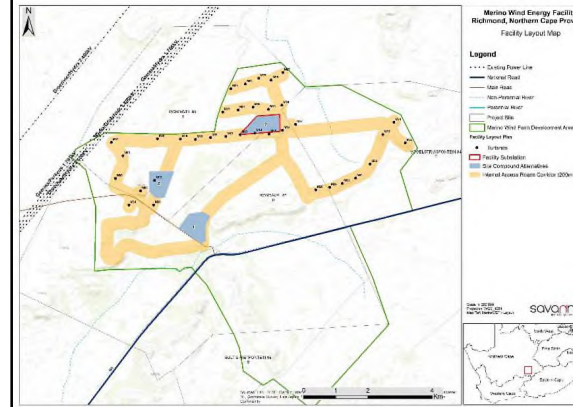
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activities associated with the renewable energy facilities and grid connection infrastructure may include:

- Surveys and studies during planning, including obtaining all permits and required approvals
- Procurement of contractor teams
- Establishment of access roads
- Site preparation, including vegetation clearing and soil preparation
- Component and equipment transport to site
- Establishment of laydown areas and a concrete batching plant
- Erection of PV panels and wind turbines as well as installation of structural and electrical infrastructure (cabling, substations, inverters etc.)
- Construction of the central collector substation and its associated overhead power line.
- Establishment of support infrastructure
- Site rehabilitation
- Operation and maintenance
- Site decommissioning

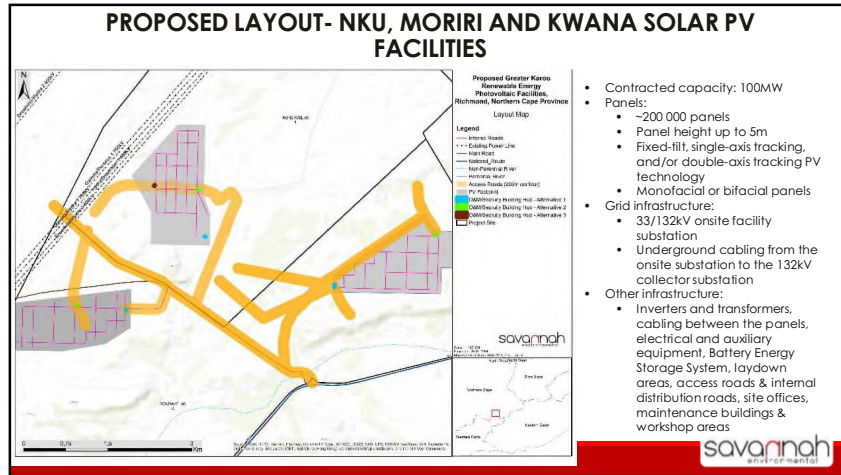
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PROPOSED LAYOUT - MERINO WIND FARM

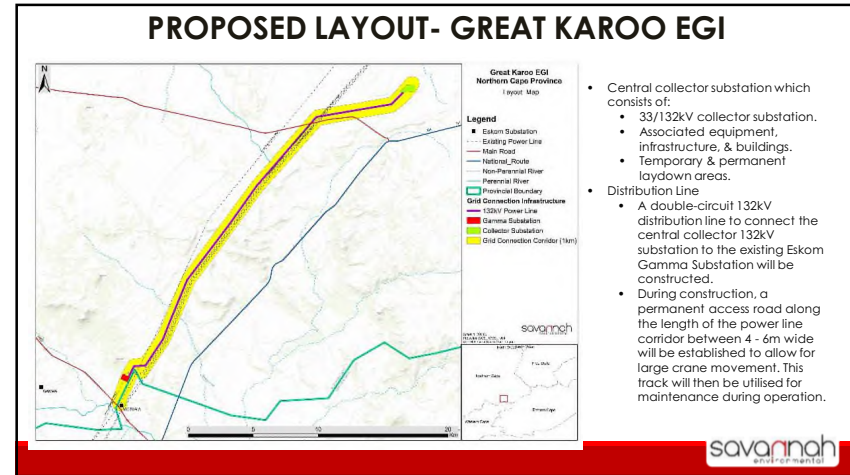


- Contracted capacity: 140MW
- Turbines:
 - Up to 35 turbines
 - Hub height of up to 170m
 - Tip height up to 250m
- Grid infrastructure:
 - 33/132kV onsite facility substation
 - Underground cabling from the onsite substation to the 132kV collector substation
- Other infrastructure:
 - Foundations, hardstands, inverters and transformers, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, electrical and auxiliary equipment, Battery Energy Storage System, access roads and internal distribution roads, site offices, maintenance buildings, and workshop areas

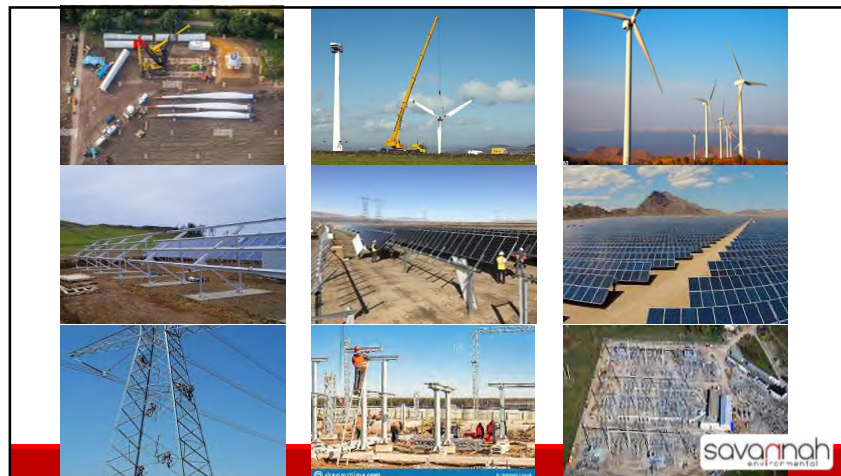
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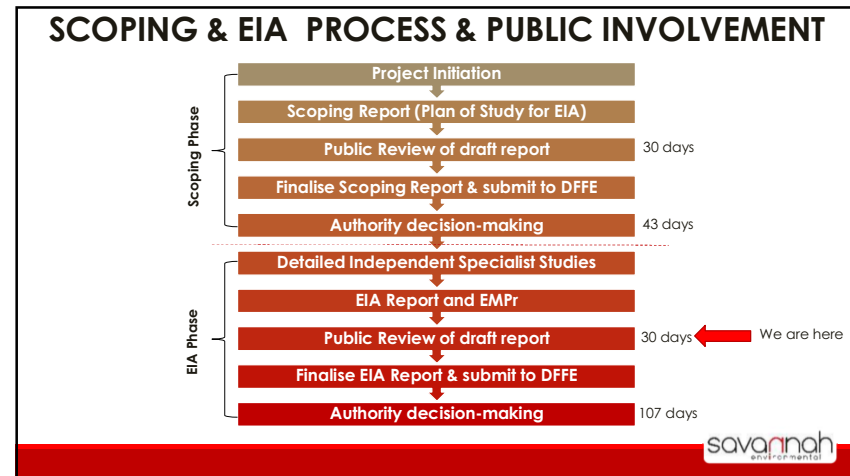
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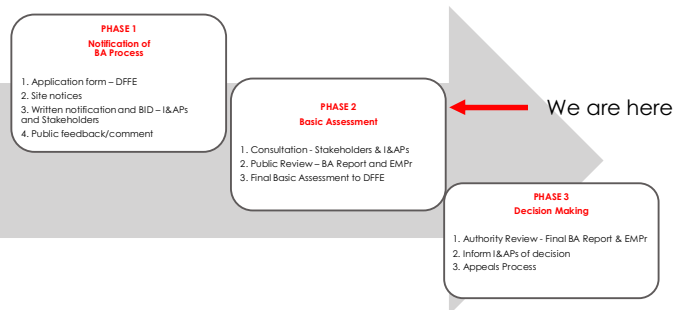


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BA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



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SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist	Area of Expertise
David Hoare of David Hoare Consulting (Pty) Ltd	Ecology
Chris van Rooyen of Chris van Rooyen Consulting	Avifauna
Werner Marais of Animalia	Bats
Ivan Baker of the Biodiversity Company	Freshwater and Soils
Morné de Jager of Enviro-Acoustic Research	Noise
Lourens du Plessis of LoGIS	Visual
Tony Barbour of Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting	Social
Jenna Lavin of CTS Heritage	Heritage (including Archaeology Palaeontology and Cultural Heritage)
Iris Wink of JG Afrika	Traffic

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED (all projects)

Specialist Field	Image
Impacts on Ecology (fauna & flora) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct loss of vegetation. The main impact on terrestrial ecosystems is due to road construction and not to the turbines themselves. The placement of roads is therefore critical in limiting impacts. • Loss, fragmentation, or degradation of faunal habitat. • Displacement of populations of mobile species. • Mortality of populations of sedentary species during construction. • Loss of indigenous natural vegetation during construction. • Loss of protected plants during construction. • Introduction and/or spread of declared weeds and alien invasive plants in terrestrial habitats. 	
Impacts on Freshwater Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance / degradation / loss to wetland soils or vegetation due to the construction of the facility and associated infrastructure, such as crossings. • Increased erosion and sedimentation, as well as the contamination of surface water resources. 	
Impacts on Bats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foraging habitat destruction. • Bat roost disturbance/destruction. • Increased bat mortality due to light pollution and moving turbine blades. 	

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED (all projects)

Specialist Field	Image
Impacts on Avifauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortality due to collisions with the wind turbines and panels. • Displacement due to disturbance during construction and operation of the wind farm. • Displacement due to habitat change and loss at the wind farm. • Mortality due to electrocution on the medium voltage overhead lines. • Mortality due to collisions with the medium voltage overhead lines. • Displacement due to disturbance associated with the construction of the 132kV central collector substation, associated infrastructure and 132kV double circuit power line. • Displacement due to habitat transformation associated with the construction of the 132kV central collector substation, associated infrastructure and to a lesser extent the 132kV double circuit power line. • Collisions with the 132kV double circuit power line. • Electrocutions within the substation yard. • Electrocution of vultures on the 132kV power line infrastructure. 	
Impacts on Land Use, Soils and Land Capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of soil / land capability. 	
Impacts on Heritage (Cultural Landscape, Archaeology and Palaeontology) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct impact to archaeological heritage of scientific significance. • Direct impact to palaeontological heritage of scientific significance. • Indirect impact to significance cultural landscapes and cultural landscape elements. 	

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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE (Nicolene Venter)



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WAY FORWARD

- EIA Reports review period: **13 May 2022 – 13 June 2022** and BA Report review period: **20 May 2022 – 20 June 2022** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final EIA Reports and BA Report to be submitted to DFFE for decision-making



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WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Mobile: 060 978 8396 (*including "please call me"*)

Fax: 086 684 0547

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