

(iii) Final Scoping Phase Notification Correspondence

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Monday, February 06, 2023 07:16 UTC

What's your name?

Ashleigh

von der Heyden

Who do you represent?

Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd

Head of Project Management

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

+0

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Developer within the region

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

None

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Aneesah Alwie

From: Lydia Kutu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 09:36
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 17 January 2023. 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.

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.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

Aneesah Alwie

From: Bathandwa Ncube <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 01 March 2023 16:13
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Masina Morudu; Lydia Kutu; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; ElAadmin
Attachments: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236
14-12-16-3-3-2-2236.pdf; Acting letter.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.

I hope you find all in order.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

(T) [REDACTED]

(E) [REDACTED]



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number : 021 412 1529

Email Address : Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 14 January 2023, refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

Application form

1. It is noted that the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) does not fall within any strategic corridors or development zones, therefore the application will be considered as a normal EIA Application.
2. If the EIAR contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

MEM

Alternatives

3. 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.
4. Design/Layout alternatives, as illustrated in the preliminary site development plan of the final SR, must be included in the Alternatives Assessment section of the EIAR. This includes discussing the 2 laydown area alternatives and the 2 substation alternatives.
5. Where applicable, each specialist study must indicate a preferred laydown and substation alternative.
6. BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.

Public Participation

7. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this **Department's Biodiversity** Conservation Directorate. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
8. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
9. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR). This includes comments received from the distribution of the draft SR, which have not been incorporated into the CRR in the FSR.
10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
11. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
12. 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 an I&AP's comments.**

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

13. The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of Turbine 35-38 is proposed within a CBA 1 and NPAES focus area. Please provide motivation for the placement of these wind turbines.
14. Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - b. Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c. Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - d. The location of any sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - f. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - g. Buildings, including accommodation if any;
 - h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint if any; and
 - i. Buffer areas;
 - j. **All "no-go" areas.**
15. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process must be submitted in the EIAR.

16. A map combining the layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must be submitted in the EIAR.

Specialist assessments

17. In addition to the preliminary specialist studies contained in the final SR, it is noted that a desktop Wake Impact Analysis and desktop Geotechnical Impact Assessment will be included in the EIAR, as per Section 12.5 of the final SR.
18. Comments from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist dated 13 December 2022, state that the cumulative impacts of the 3 proposed Loxton WEFs on CBAs, is significant and an offset needs analysis is required to assess whether the cumulative impact is acceptable. Please include a Biodiversity Offset Assessment in the Specialist Plan of Study, which must be conducted in terms of the National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline. Should the assessment not be included in the EIAR, a detailed motivation must be provided for its exclusion. The list of required specialist studies proposed on page 5 of the comments letter must be addressed in the CRR.
19. A Risk Assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAR.
20. The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which will be included in the EIAR, must address the interim comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) dated 27 January 2023.
21. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
22. **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.**
23. **Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.**
24. 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 environmental authorisation.
25. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
26. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
27. 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 expert advice.
28. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.

Cumulative Assessments

29. Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must 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. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - c. **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.
- d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 30. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
- 31. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
 - a. Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan;
 - b. Weed and invader plant management plan;
 - c. Traffic management plan;
 - d. Emergency response plan;
 - e. Fire management plan;
 - f. Stormwater management plan;
 - g. Noise management;
 - h. Erosion management;
 - i. Dust management;
 - j. Waste management;
 - k. All recommendations and mitigation measures, plans and procedures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - l. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
 - m. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - n. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
- 32. The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
- 33. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
- 34. The EMPr must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
- 35. **The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word “should” or “may” are to be amended to “must”.**

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF:
 - a. *Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.*
- 37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPrs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.
- 38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic

EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

General

39. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.
40. Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas, which will result in significant negative impacts prior to mitigation measures, is prohibited.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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.

Yours faithfully



Ms Masina Morudu
Acting Director: National Integrated Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: **01/03/2023**.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Email:	
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email:	
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email:	

Aneesah Alwie

From: Lydia Kutu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 09:39
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za; Ashlin Bodasing
Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 17 January 2023. 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.

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.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

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Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

(T) [REDACTED]

(E) [REDACTED]



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number : 021 412 1529

Email Address : Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

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4. Design/Layout alternatives, as illustrated in the preliminary site development plan of the final SR, must be included in the Alternatives Assessment section of the EIAR. This includes discussing the 3 laydown area alternatives and the 3 substation alternatives.
5. Where applicable, each specialist study must indicate a preferred laydown and substation alternative.
6. BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.

Public Participation

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Layout & Sensitivity Maps

13. The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of Turbine 101 is proposed within a CBA 1 and multiple turbines are within a CBA 2. Please provide motivation for the placement of these wind turbines.
14. Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - b. Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c. Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - d. The location of any sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - f. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - g. Buildings, including accommodation if any;
 - h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint if any; and
 - i. Buffer areas;
 - j. **All "no-go" areas.**

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 - b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.

- c. **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.**
- d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
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WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

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- 36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF:
 - a. *Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.*
- 37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPrs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.

38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

General

39. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.
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The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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Yours faithfully



Ms Masina Morudu
Acting Director: National Integrated Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: **01/03/2023**.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email:	
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email:	
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email:	

Aneesah Alwie

From: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 January 2023 09:41
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Cc: Bathandwa Ncube; EIAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

You don't often get email from lkutu@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

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Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
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[REDACTED]
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Cc: unai.bravo [REDACTED]
Subject: Masina Morudu; Lydia Kutu; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; ElAadmin
14/12/16/3/3/2/2238
Attachments: 14-12-16-3-3-2-2238.pdf; Acting letter.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.

I hope you find all in order.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

EAPASA Registration: 2021/3238

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number : 021 412 1529

Email Address : LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 14 January 2023, refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

Application form

1. It is noted that the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) does not fall within any strategic corridors or development zones, therefore the application will be considered as a normal EIA Application.
2. If the EIAR contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

MEM

Alternatives

3. 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.
4. Design/Layout alternatives, as illustrated in the preliminary site development plan of the final SR, must be included in the Alternatives Assessment section of the EIAR. This includes discussing the 2 laydown area alternatives and the 3 substation alternatives.
5. Where applicable, each specialist study must indicate a preferred laydown and substation alternative.
6. BESS technologies must be included in the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAR, explaining how lithium-ion batteries were chosen as the preferred alternative.

Public Participation

7. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this **Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate**. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
8. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
9. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR). This includes comments received from the distribution of the draft SR, which have not been incorporated into the CRR in the FSR.
10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
11. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
12. 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 an I&AP's comments.**

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

13. The Critical Biodiversity Areas map in the FSR shows that the construction of all 41 turbines associated with Loxton WEF 3, is proposed within a CBA 1 and CBA 2. Please provide motivation for locating this WEF in a highly sensitive ecological area. Take note that any development within highly sensitive areas, which will result in significant negative impacts prior to mitigation measures, is prohibited.
14. Please provide a Layout Map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - b. Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c. Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - d. The location of any sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - e. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - f. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - g. Buildings, including accommodation if any;
 - h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint if any; and
 - i. Buffer areas;
 - j. **All "no-go" areas.**

15. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process must be submitted in the EIAR.
16. A map combining the layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must be submitted in the EIAR.

Specialist assessments

17. In addition to the preliminary specialist studies contained in the final SR, it is noted that a desktop Wake Impact Analysis and desktop Geotechnical Impact Assessment will be included in the EIAR, as per Section 12.5 of the final SR.
18. Comments from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist dated 13 December 2022, state that the cumulative impacts of the 3 proposed Loxton WEFs on CBAs, is significant and an offset needs analysis is required to assess whether the cumulative impact is acceptable. Please include a Biodiversity Offset Assessment in the Specialist Plan of Study, which must be conducted in terms of the National Draft Biodiversity Offset Guideline. Should the assessment not be included in the EIAR, a detailed motivation must be provided for its exclusion. The list of required specialist studies proposed on page 5 of the comments letter must be addressed in the CRR.
19. A Risk Assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAR.
20. The Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Heritage Compliance Statement, which will be included in the EIAR, must address the interim comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) dated 20 January 2023.
21. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
22. **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.**
23. **Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.**
24. 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 environmental authorisation.
25. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
26. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
27. 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 expert advice.
28. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.

Cumulative Assessments

29. Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must 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. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.

- c. **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.**
- d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 30. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
- 31. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
 - a. Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan;
 - b. Weed and invader plant management plan;
 - c. Traffic management plan;
 - d. Emergency response plan;
 - e. Fire management plan;
 - f. Stormwater management plan;
 - g. Noise management;
 - h. Erosion management;
 - i. Dust management;
 - j. Waste management;
 - k. All recommendations and mitigation measures, plans and procedures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - l. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
 - m. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - n. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
- 32. The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
- 33. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
- 34. The EMPr must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
- 35. **The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".**

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 as amended for an on-site substation. The following generic EMPr must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF:
 - a. *Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity.*
- 37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPrs must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.

38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

General

39. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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.

Yours faithfully .



Ms Masina Morudu
Acting Director: National Integrated Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: **01/03/2023**.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd	Email:	
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email:	
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email:	

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd

Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 240 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. The proposed Loxton WEF 1 is located ~ 20 km north of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 38 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 50 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 65 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

Page No: 2

*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 1 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 30 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 1 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, stone walled features/structures and dam wall of low heritage significance, surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, stone walled features of very low heritage significance, Stone Age lithics scatters, stone walled structures and historical midden of medium significance, well preserved stone walled kraals and farmsteads of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping number 20 due to its proximity to a farmstead;
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; 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.

Interim Comment

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

Page No: 3

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609017>

Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Friday January 27, 2023

Page No: 4

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 480 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. **Development Location:** The proposed Loxton WEF 2 is located ~ 17 km north-east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. **Application Process:** In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 63 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 100 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 110 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act,



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Department of Arts and Culture



Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 2 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 23 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 2 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and a dam wall of low heritage significance, scatters of historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, stone walled structures of medium significance, a burial ground consisting of 5 graves, the Aarfontein farmstead, the Yzerverkpoort farmstead and corbelled houses of high heritage significance.

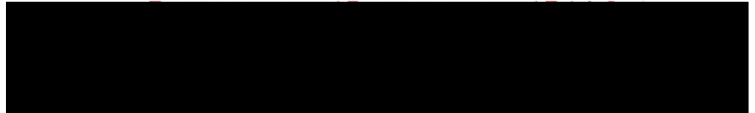
Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping numbers 101, 100 and/or 99 in that order due to their proximity to the R63 and their potential to be seen as outliers;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites;

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 3

- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; 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.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609024>
(DEA, Ref: TBC)

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

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Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20119

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 3(Pty) Ltd

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 240 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. **Development Location:** The proposed Loxton WEF 1 is located ~ 15 km east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. **Application Process:** In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 41 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), one on-site substation, access roads (up to 50 km), a temporary site camp and concrete batching plants, an operation and maintenance building within an application area of 65 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act,



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Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 3 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 24 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 2 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, rock engravings and stone walled structures of low heritage significance, scatters of Stone Age lithics and historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, a stone walled enclosure and stone walled features, rock engravings and surface scatters of Stone Age lithics with ostrich eggshell fragments of medium significance, a surface scatter of Stone Age lithics and pottery of moderate density, the Taaiboschfontein farmstead and the Vaalhoek corbelled house of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites;
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20119

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 3

undertaken; 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.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

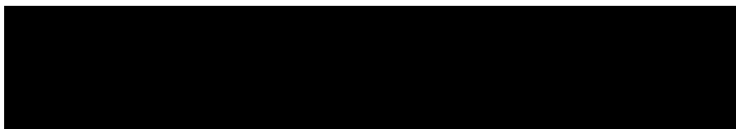
Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20119

Date: Friday January 20, 2023

Page No: 4

Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609028>
(DEA, Ref: TBC)

.

Stakeholder Engagement

<https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Monday, January 30, 2023 14:12 UTC

What's your name?

Willem

Muller

Who do you represent?

De Cypher Boerdery Trust

Representative of the Trust

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Mobile Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Postal Address

[REDACTED]

What is your interest in the projects?

Our family farm is bordering the northern border of the current design of the Loxton WEF 1 wind farm.

Do you have any comments or queries regarding the Loxton WEF Cluster

We would like to be included in the project.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes

Aneesah Alwie

From: Portia Makitla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 01 February 2023 14:25
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Mashudu Mudau
Subject: Final Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province
Attachments: FSR Loxton WEF 1 comments.pdf

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned projects.

Thanks & Regards 

Ms. Mashienyane Portia Makitla
CBO: Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets
PRETORIA
Tel: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Call Centre: [REDACTED]



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

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 12:54
To: BC Admin <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Request for Comment: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

Dear DFFE: BDC Directorate

This notification is being distributed following receipt of automatic replies or undelivered receipts following the original e-mail sent to on 14 November 2022 as per the attached.

Arcus submitted three Environmental Applications, including Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders were invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which were available for public review and comment, from **Monday, 14 November 2022 to Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (both days inclusive). Please ensure that you have submitted your comment by 11 January 2022 should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.**

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is included in the attached documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment is in respect of.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ashlin Bodasing
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 6:46 PM

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft Scoping Report Loxton WEFs, near Loxton Northern Cape Province

SUBMISSION OF A SCOPING AND EIA PROCESS FOR THE LOXTON 1, LOXTON 2 AND LOXTON 3 WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, LOXTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Environmental Application and Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

Please note that three separate applications with their respective scoping reports have been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from **14 November 2022 until 14 December 22 (both days inclusive)**. Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ashlin Bodasing
Environmental Assessment Practitioner



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, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236/7/8

Enquiries: Ms. Mashudu Mudau

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Great Westerford Building
1st Floor, Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7700

Telephone Number: 010 596 3502
Email Address: loxtonwef@arcusconsuting.co.za

Dear Ms Bodasing

COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR LOXTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the Scoping Report and the Plan of Study, however, must comply with the 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.

The final report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.

The Directorate has noted that the specialist disputes the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme very high sensitivity and the **specialists'** results of the site screening is high sensitivity. Kindly take note that any development within highly sensitive areas that will result in significant negative impacts prior mitigation measures is prohibited.



Batho pele- putting people first

COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR LOXTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; [REDACTED] for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Letter signed by: Ms. MP Makitla
Designation: Control Biodiversity Officer Grade A
Date: 31/01/2023



Batho pele- putting people first

Aneesah Alwie

From: Kamogelo Mathetja <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 17 February 2023 14:34
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Portia Makitla; Mashudu Mudau
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of the Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Loxton WEF 1, WEF 2 and WEF 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

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 P Makitla and Ms M Mudau (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Regards,
Kamogelo

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za <LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 3:27 PM
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Notification of Submission of the Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Loxton WEF 1, WEF 2 and WEF 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL BASIC SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, AND THE LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237, and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Loxton WEF 1, Loxton 2 and Loxton 3 Wind Energy Facilities, near Loxton in the Northern Cape Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from Monday, 14 November 2022 until Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (**both days inclusive**), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Report has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the [Arcus website](#).

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Arcus Reference : 4462 Loxton WEF Cluster
Via Email : LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Via Online AidaForm : <https://loxtonwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>
Via Telephone : +27105963502 / +27 (0) 72 595 0104
Contact Person : Ashlin Bodasing

***Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended):** If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.*

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards

Ashlin Bodasing
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)

Tel: +27105963502
Email: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
www.arcusconsulting.co.za

Aneesah Alwie

From: Colette Alisha Stander <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 06 February 2023 12:27
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Caryn Clarke; Kathryn Winstanley
Subject: Registration as I&AP: Loxton WEF 1-3

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,

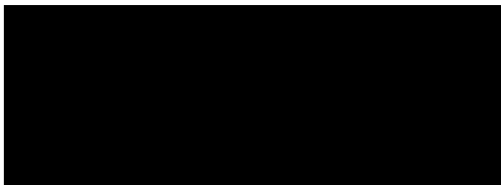
I hope that this mail finds you well?

Please register **Caryn Clarke with email address eia@g7energies.com** as an I&AP in the Loxton WEF 1, Loxton WEF 2 and Loxton WEF 3 EIA processes going forward. Please reply with confirmation of registration.

Many thanks, with kind regards



Colette Stander
Market Analyst



www.g7energies.com

Disclaimer: This email and any attachments are confidential and may be privileged. If you are not a named recipient, please consider this notice that any disclosure, copying, distribution or doing anything with the information and/ or contents of this email is strictly prohibited and unlawful. In case of strong suspicion of phishing, report the email through the reporting tool on your email toolbar or send it as an attachment to [REDACTED]

Aneesah Alwie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 March 2023 08:37
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: 'Gerald Ehlers'; 'Lance Blaine'
Subject: Loxton WEF - Registration as I&AP & Wake effect
Attachments: Hoogland WF Boundaries_Northern Cluster.kmz

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Please could you register me as an I&AP for the three Loxton WEFs.

Red Cap and their subsidiaries have received environmental authorisations for the four nearby Hoogland Wind Farms and their grid connections (granted between November and February 2023). Hoogland 1 and 2 are the Northern Cluster closest to the Loxton Wind Farms and I have attached the site boundaries for your reference.

We would like to ensure that the developer enters into a wakeloss agreement with us to ensure that if there are any wake issues, that the Hoogland development which has already received environmental authorisation, is not prejudiced by the Loxton development. We would like to have a meeting with the developer to discuss this so we can finalise such an agreement before the draft EIR is published.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards
Kirsten

KIRSTEN JONES | PROJECT MANAGER

www.red-cap.co.za



Aneesah Alwie

From: Nwabisa Ndaku <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 April 2023 11:34
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject: Request for Register as I & PAs

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good Day Ashlin Bodasing

I hope you are well.

Please register me as I & PA for Loxton WEF 1, Loxton WEF 2 and Loxton WEF 3.

Thank you

Best regards,
Nwabisa

(iv) Draft EIA Phase Notification Correspondence



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2236

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number: 021 412 1529

Email Address: Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The amended Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 11 May 2023 refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

General Comments

1. The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report signed on 01 March 2023, as well as these comments on the draft EIAR, and must address all comments received for the FSR and draft EIAR.
2. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
3. Please provide corner point coordinates of the on-site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
4. Part B: Section 2 of the Generic EMPr for the proposed development of the on-site substation must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the final EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.
5. The Wake Effect Impact Analysis report referred to in section 4.2.16 (Page 57) and section 12.16 (page 217) of the draft EIAR, is not included in the draft EIAR.
6. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for the following specialist studies conducted:
 - a. Aquatic Ecological Assessment dated March 2023;
 - b. Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Assessment dated April 2023;
 - c. Plant Species Compliance Statement dated April 2023;

MEM

- d. Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment for the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise dated April 2023;
 - e. Avifaunal Impact Assessment dated May 2023;
 - f. Bat (Chiroptera) Eia Report dated April 2023;
 - g. Visual Impact Assessment dated April 2023;
 - h. Heritage Impact Assessment dated April 2023;
 - i. Social Impact Assessment dated April 2023; and the
 - j. Stormwater Management Plan dated April 2023.
7. Final comments received from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed in the final EIAR.
 8. The requirements stipulated in the comments from the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) dated 09 February 2023, must be addressed in the EMPr and the Comments & Responses Report (CRR).

Public Participation Process (PPP)

9. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR.
10. 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 must be adequately addressed in the final EIAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments & Responses Report.
11. 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.
12. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. This must indicate that this draft EIAR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

General

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.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have 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."


Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public*

participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframe stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

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.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms. Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation

Date: 12/06/2023.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email: [REDACTED]
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email: [REDACTED]



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number: 021 412 1529

Email Address: Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The amended Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 12 May 2023 refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

General Comments

1. The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report signed on 01 March 2023, as well as these comments on the draft EIAR, and must address all comments received for the FSR and draft EIAR.
2. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
3. Please provide corner point coordinates of the on-site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
4. The screening tool in Appendix 11 of the application form and in Volume II: Specialist Draft EIA Reports, of the draft EIAR must be signed by the compiler.
5. Part B: Section 2 of the Generic EMPr for the proposed development of the on-site substation must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the final EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.
6. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for the following specialist studies conducted:
 - a. Aquatic Ecological Assessment dated April 2023;
 - b. Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Assessment dated April 2023;

MEM

- c. Offset Needs Analysis dated May 2023;
 - d. Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment for the Riverine Rabbit *Bunolagus Monticularis* dated April 2023;
 - e. Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment for the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise dated April 2023;
 - f. Plant Species Compliance Statement dated April 2023;
 - g. Avifaunal Impact Assessment dated May 2023;
 - h. Bat (Chiroptera) Eia Report dated March 2023;
 - i. Visual Impact Assessment dated May 2023;
 - j. Heritage Impact Assessment dated April 2023;
 - k. Social Impact Assessment dated April 2023; and the
 - l. Stormwater Management Plan dated April 2023.
7. Final comments received from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed in the final EIAR.
8. The requirements stipulated in the comments from the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) dated 09 February 2023, must be addressed in the EMPr and the Comments & Responses Report (CRR).

Public Participation Process (PPP)

- 9. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR.
- 10. Please request comments on the draft EIAR from the Northern Cape's Namaqualand District Ecologist.
- 11. 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 must be adequately addressed in the final EIAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments & Responses Report.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. This must indicate that this draft EIAR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

General

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.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have 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."

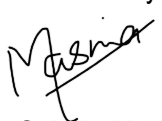
Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted*

within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframe stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

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.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms. Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation

Date: 12/06/2023.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd	Email:	
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email:	
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email:	



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Ms Ashlin Bodasing
Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
1st Floor Great Westerford
RONDEBOSCH
Cape Town
7700

Telephone Number: 021 412 1529

Email Address: Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za / LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Bodasing

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The amended Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 12 May 2023 refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

General Comments

1. The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report signed on 01 March 2023, as well as these comments on the draft EIAR, and must address all comments received for the FSR and draft EIAR.
2. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and specialist studies conducted.
3. Please provide corner point coordinates of the on-site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
4. Part B: Section 2 of the Generic EMPr for the proposed development of the on-site substation must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the final EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.
5. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for the following specialist studies conducted:
 - a. Aquatic Ecological Assessment dated March 2023;
 - b. Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Assessment dated April 2023;
 - c. Plant Species Compliance Statement dated April 2023;
 - d. Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment for the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise dated April 2023;
 - e. Avifaunal Impact Assessment dated May 2023;

MEM

- f. Bat (Chiroptera) Eia Report dated April 2023;
 - g. Visual Impact Assessment dated April 2023;
 - h. Heritage Impact Assessment dated April 2023;
 - i. Social Impact Assessment dated April 2023; and the
 - j. Stormwater Management Plan dated April 2023.
6. Final comments received from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed in the final EIAR.
7. The requirements stipulated in the comments from the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) dated 09 February 2023, must be addressed in the EMPr and the Comments & Responses Report (CRR).

Public Participation Process (PPP)

8. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAR.
9. 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 must be adequately addressed in the final EIAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments & Responses Report.
10. 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.
11. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. This must indicate that this draft EIAR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

General

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.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have 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."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".*

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframe stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

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.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms. Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation

Date: 12/06/2023.

cc:	Mr Unai Urtasun	Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email:	
	Mr Brian Fisher	Northern Cape DAEARD&LR	Email:	
	Mr Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email:	

Anathi Manyakanyaka

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Sent: Tuesday, 13 June 2023 17:08
To: Anathi Manyakanyaka
Subject: FW: AgriLand reference number: 2023_06_0054 - Subdivision of Agricultural Land (Act70 of 1970)

Regards,
Ashlin

From: Agriland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 4:09 PM
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: Mashudu Marubini <[REDACTED]>
Subject: AgriLand reference number: 2023_06_0054 - Subdivision of Agricultural Land (Act70 of 1970)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lightstone ,

The Department hereby acknowledge receipt of your application for Erasmuskraal 269 Farm 262 Rietfontein 572 Saaidam 574 Yzervarkpoort 139 (Various Portions) (Loxton Wind Energy 1 2 3).

The reference number for your application is: 2023_06_0054

Best regards,

AgriLand System
(Auto-generated e-mail - Please do NOT reply)

Disclaimer

The information contained in this e-mail may be confidential, legally privileged and protected by law. Access by the intended recipient only is authorised. If you are not the intended recipient, kindly notify the sender immediately. Unauthorised use, copying or dissemination hereof is strictly prohibited. Save for bona fide departmental purposes, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development does not accept responsibility for the contents or opinions expressed in this e-mail, nor does it warrant this communication to be free from errors, contamination, interference or interception.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 480 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. **Development Location:** The proposed Loxton WEF 2 is located ~ 17 km north-east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. **Application Process:** In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 63 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 100 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 110 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act,



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Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 2 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 23 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 2 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and a dam wall of low heritage significance, scatters of historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, stone walled structures of medium significance, a burial ground consisting of 5 graves, the Aarfontein farmstead, the Yzerverkpoort farmstead and corbelled houses of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping numbers 101, 100 and/or 99 in that order due to their proximity to the R63 and their potential to be seen as outliers;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites;



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- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; 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.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 20/01/2023, SAHRA requested that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA and appendices, with a revised HIA and PIA.

Almond, J. E. 2023. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Ubuntu Local Municipality (Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality) in the Northern Cape Province.

A total of four fossil sites were identified within the proposed development area. These include bone breccia blocks, possible rhizoliths or fossilized burrows, sandstone bedding plane showing poorly preserved, small scale trace fossils of burrowing invertebrates of Grade IIIC heritage significance with two sites of Grade IIIB heritage significance. No mitigation measures are recommended for these sites.

Orton, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 32 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include sites as previously described in the HIA summary above, as well as a rock shelter with stone walling and scattered artefacts, stone kraals of low heritage significance, farm shed and storeroom, and a stone kraal of medium heritage significance, and a farmstead of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 4

- Existing roads should be reused where possible and if any surfacing is required then high contrast materials should be avoided;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads, but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas. In this regard, No-go signage will need to be put in place and the sites monitored at waypoints 008, 011, 1281, 1229, 1230;
- The archaeological site at waypoint 1238 will need to be avoided through micro-siting the access road or else excavated, sampled and recorded as necessary prior to construction. If it is avoided, then No-Go signage must be installed and the site monitored;
- No stones or other materials may be removed from any historical sites;
- Make use of an early warning system that can switch on navigation lights only when they are needed (if such a system is available and approved at the time of construction);
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken, including the locations of all ancillary infrastructure; and
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of 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 EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) 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 no-go buffer of 5 m must be maintained around site 1238;
 - A report detailing the results of the pre-construction survey must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment prior to the construction phase. No construction may occur without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 5

and item 5 of the Schedule;

- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) 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 Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final EIA must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20118

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 6

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609024>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2237)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20119

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 3(Pty) Ltd

Nature of Activity: Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 240 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. **Development Location:** The proposed Loxton WEF 1 is located ~ 15 km east of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. **Application Process:** In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Arcus), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 41 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), one on-site substation, access roads (up to 50 km), a temporary site camp and concrete batching plants, an operation and maintenance building within an application area of 65 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act,



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Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 3 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

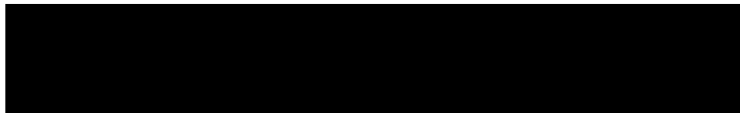
A total of 24 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 3 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, rock engravings and stone walled structures of low heritage significance, scatters of Stone Age lithics and historical artefacts, stone-walled structures, and cairns of very low heritage significance, a stone walled enclosure and stone walled features, rock engravings and surface scatters of Stone Age lithics with ostrich eggshell fragments of medium significance, a surface scatter of Stone Age lithics and pottery of moderate density, the Taaiboschfontein farmstead and the Vaalhoek corbelled house of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- No stones may be removed from any archaeological sites;
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be



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undertaken; 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.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 20/01/2023, SAHRA requested that the PIA be revised to include the results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA and appendices, with a revised HIA and PIA.

Almond, J. E. 2023. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 3, Ubuntu Local Municipality (Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality) in the Northern Cape Province.

A total of 21 fossil sites were identified within the proposed development area. These include tetrapod burrows, woody plant remains, tetrapod bone embedded in ferruginised channel breccio-conglomerate, reedy plant stems, bone fragments, fish fossil of Grade IIIC heritage significance, poorly preserved plant stem axis, fossilized insect burrows, tetrapod trackways, trace fossils of Grade IIIB heritage significance. No mitigation measures are recommended for these sites.

Orton, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 2, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

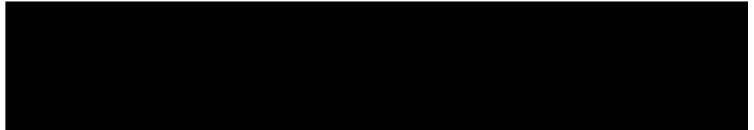
A total of 31 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include sites as previously described in the HIA summary above, as well as a stone walls of very low heritage significance, stone foundation of low heritage significance, an oval stone walled ruin with a vestibule and scattered artefacts of medium heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20119

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 4

- Existing roads should be reused where possible and if any surfacing is required then high contrast materials should be avoided;
- No stones or other materials may be removed from any historical sites;
- Make use of an early warning system that can switch on navigation lights only when they are needed (if such a system is available and approved at the time of construction);
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken, including the locations of all ancillary infrastructure; and
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Final Comment

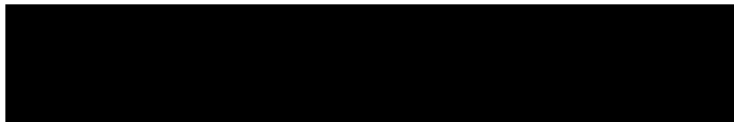
The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) 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 report detailing the results of the pre-construction survey must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment prior to the construction phase. No construction may occur without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- 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

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20119

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 5

inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;

- The Final EIA must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/609028>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2238)

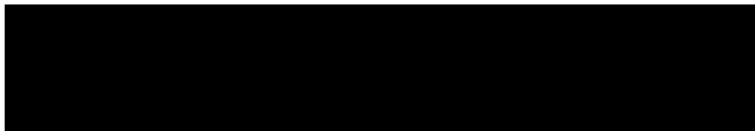
Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd

Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is proposing the construction and operation of the Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1. The facility is proposed for a potential generation capacity of up to 240 MW, and will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV / 400 kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network. The proposed Loxton WEF 1 is located ~ 20 km north of the town of Loxton and fall within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

Arcus Consulting Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Loxton Wind Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, near Loxton, Northern Cape Province.

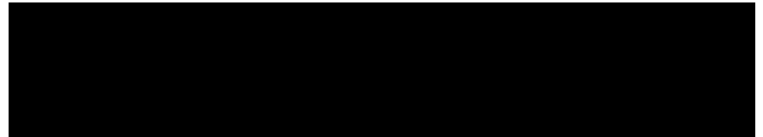
A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of up to 38 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of 200 m and a rotor diameter with up to 200 m, transformers at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundations, permanent crane hardstand at each turbine, temporary blade hardstand at each turbine, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads (up to 50 km), two temporary site camps and concrete batching plants, two operation and maintenance buildings within an application area of 65 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton WEF Cluster, Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.



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*Only the results pertaining to Loxton WEF 1 will be discussed below.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Beaufort Group (specifically the Abrahamskraal Formation) and Karoo Dolerite, with Late Caenozoic superficial deposits. According to the report, a handful of fossils sites were recorded in the WEF Cluster, however, no details were provided on the identified fossils sites. It is noted that the palaeosensitivity of the development footprint is low and the impact of local palaeontological heritage is anticipated to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape

A total of 30 heritage resources were identified within the proposed Loxton WEF 1 development application area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, stone walled features/structures and dam wall of low heritage significance, surface scatters of Stone Age lithics, stone walled features of very low heritage significance, Stone Age lithics scatters, stone walled structures and historical midden of medium significance, well preserved stone walled kraals and farmsteads of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The road design must take account of the sensitive areas;
- Existing roads should be reused where possible;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping number 20 due to its proximity to a farmstead;
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken; 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.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 27/01/2023, SAHRA requested that the PIA be revised to include the



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results of the field survey. The PIA must provide separate sections for each development under application i.e. clear discussions on each WEF application. The HIA must be revised to include maps with the relevant site numbers at each point provided in relation to the location of development components i.e. turbines, BESS, roads, laydown areas etc. The map of the track logs in the HIA must be revised to show all project components such as the BESS, roads, substations laydown areas etc.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA and appendices, with a revised HIA and PIA.

Almond, J. E. 2022. *Palaeontological Heritage: combined desktop and field-based Compliance Statement. Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, Ubuntu Local Municipality (Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality) in the Northern Cape Province.*

A total of six fossil sites were identified within the proposed development area. These include bone breccia blocks, possible rhizoliths or fossilized burrows, sandstone bedding plane showing poorly preserved, small scale trace fossils of burrowing invertebrates of Grade IIIC heritage significance with two sites of Grade IIIB heritage significance. No mitigation measures are recommended for these sites.

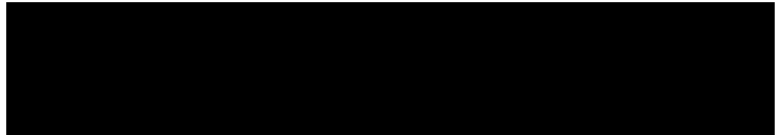
Orton, J. 2023. *Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Loxton Wind Energy Facility 1, Carnarvon and Victoria West Magisterial Districts, Northern Cape*

A total of 34 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include sites as previously described in the HIA summary above, as well as a rock shelter with stone walling and scattered artefacts, a stone kraal of low heritage significance, and a stone kraal of medium heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Existing roads should be reused where possible and if any surfacing is required then high contrast materials should be avoided;
- Where existing roads pass through sensitive areas this is preferred over making new roads, but the alignments should ensure the integrity of any specific resources in those sensitive areas. In this regard, No-go signage will need to be put in place and the sites monitored at waypoints 003, 004, 1229, 1230);
- The archaeological site at waypoint 1238 will need to be avoided through micro-siting the access road or else excavated, sampled and recorded as necessary prior to construction. If it is avoided, then No-Go signage must be installed and the site monitored;

Our Ref:



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

CaseID: 20116

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

Page No: 4

- No stones or other materials may be removed from any historical sites;
- If all other factors are equal and there are more turbines positions than required, then preference should be given to dropping number 26 due to its proximity to a farmstead;
- Make use of an early warning system that can switch on navigation lights only when they are needed (if such a system is available and approved at the time of construction);
- A pre-construction survey of all parts of the layout that have not yet been surveyed must be undertaken, including the locations of all ancillary infrastructure; and
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of 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 EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) 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 no-go buffer of 5 m must be maintained around site 1238;
 - A report detailing the results of the pre-construction survey must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment prior to the construction phase. No construction may occur without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Tel: [REDACTED]

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CaseID: 20116

Date: Monday June 12, 2023

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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 Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;

- The Final EIA must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609017>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

From: [Masina Morudu](#)
To: [Ashlin Bodasing](#); LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Cc: [REDACTED] [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [Lydia Kutu](#); [EIAAdmin](#)
Subject: Comments on DEIR - FOR THE PROPOSED LOXTON WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR LOXTON, WITHIN THE UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
Date: Monday, 12 June 2023 18:19:07
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[02-2022 Comments on Draft EIAr_ 2236.pdf](#)
[02-2022 Comments on Draft EIAr_ 2237.pdf](#)
[02-2022 Comments on Draft EIAr_ 2238.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Ashlin,

Please find the attached for your attention.

Regards,

MASINA MORUDU

Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
EAPASA Registered EAP: 2019/1805

Tel: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

"We all have few failures in life, it's what makes us ready for the success".



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Anathi Manyakanyaka

From: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Sent: Tuesday, 13 June 2023 17:09
To: Anathi Manyakanyaka
Subject: FW:

Regards,
Ashlin

From: Barbara De Lange <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 1:42 PM
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za
Subject:

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day
Please receive the reference number for application Loxten Wind Energy Erasmuskraal 269 & Farm 262 (various farms) & (various portions)
Rezoning
2023_06_0054
e mail
khuthalad@dalrrd.gov.za
regards
Barbara de lange

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Ashlin Bodasing

From: Barbara De Lange <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 12 June 2023 13:42
To: LoxtonWEF@arcusconsulting.co.za

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please receive the reference number for application Loxten Wind Energy Erasmuskraal 269 & Farm 262 (various farms) & (various portions)

Rezoning

2023_06_0054

e mail

khuthalad@dalrrd.gov.za

regards

Barbara de lange

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