

**APPENDIX C8**  
**MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**DRAFT MEETING NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 15 MARCH 2021 AT 18H00  
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING USING MICROSOFT TEAMS PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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

**WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA,  
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Captured alphabetically according to surname**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Cathy Braans	Owner	Cathy Braans Public Relations
James & Aletta Brown	Landowners	Brakkloof Farm
Joe Cloete	General Manager	Shamwari Game Lodge
William Fowlds	Medivet Project Co-Ordinator	Wilderness Foundation Africa
		Indalo Protected Environment
Shané Gertze	Representative	ECPTA
Bradley Gibbons	African Crane Conservation Programme	EWT
Rob Gradwell		Lalibela Management Services
Giles Gush	Director	Woodbury Lodge (Pty) Ltd
Wesley Gush		Amakhala Game Reserve
Francois Havenga		Spiny Cactus Pear Processing (Pty) Ltd
Rydall Jardine		SA Weather Services
L Johnston		
Jan Louw	Environmental Practitioner	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd
Megan Maritz	Personal Assistant	Agri Eastern Cape
Chris Pike	Director	Lukhanyo Game Reserve
Grant Soulé	Landowner	
Richard Summers	Representative	Kwandwe Private Game Reserve – Mr Nick Orphanides
S (Guest)		
Nick Orphanides	Director	Gentatite (Pty) Ltd
Sarah-Anne Orphanides		
Shaun Thompson	Director	Rockdale Game Rances
Linda Watson		Sabela Safaris
Simon White	Landowner	Table Hill Trust
Wilmien Wicomb		Legal Resources Centre
Richard York	CEO	Wildlife Ranching South Africa
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	
Themba Skonje	Translator	

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online public meeting for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms proposed development located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Although numerous participants were able to join the meeting, it was brought to the attention of the project team that there were interested parties who were unable to join the meeting. As a result, no project information was presented. The presentation is attached as Appendix A to the meeting notes.

Following discussion with the various stakeholders and requests for face-to-face meetings to be held, the meeting was ended and it was agreed that face-to-face meetings would be arranged and held in Makhanda. Meetings were and held on the following dates:

- Friday, 26 March 2021 @ 10h00: Information Session for the Western Cluster
- Friday, 26 March 2021 @ 17h00: Public Meeting at Grahams Hotel
- Saturday 27 March 2021 at Graham Hotel:
  - 09h00
  - 14h00
  - 18h00

## **CLOSURE**

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Nicolene Venter thanked those participants for joining the virtual meeting and the meeting was closed at 19h00.

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**DRAFT MEETING NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021 AT 10H00  
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING USING MICROSOFT TEAMS PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

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

**WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Captured alphabetically according to surname**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Charlie Berrington	Manager	Alt-e Developments (Pty) Ltd
Chad Comley	Landowner	Tweefontein Farm
Ryan Hillier		Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
Charles Hanyani		
Danie Jordaan	Landowner and Interested Party	
Jan Louw	Environmental Practitioner	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd
Mzukisi Maneli	Case Officer	DWS: PE Satellite Office – WULA and WQM. Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma WMA
Steve Mann	Director	Engineering Advice & Services (Pty) Ltd
Graeme Mann	Executive Manager	Kwandwe Private Game Reserve
Nicholas Mannion		Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
Sibulele Manquma		DEDEAT
JP Maree	General Manager	Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
Kirstin Meiring	Candidate Attorney Representing C-S.A Properties (Pty) Ltd	Richard Summers Inc
David Parker		Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
Grant Perry		Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
Angus Sholto-Douglas	Managing Director	Kwandwe Private Game Reserve (C-S.A. Properties (Pty) Ltd)
Tristan Stead		Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
Richard York	CEO	Wildlife Ranching South Africa
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	
Themba Skonje	Translator	

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online public meeting (PM) for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Lisa Opperman provided an overview of the proposed cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and Makhanda as well as a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment processes undertaken. She presented the following key information:

- project description for the Wind Garden Wind Farm and the Fronteer Wind Farm;
- the locality of the two proposed wind farms and their respective development footprint as assessed within the BA process;
- the BA and public participation process followed to date;
- how the development footprint has been optimised by taking the environmental sensitivities within the development footprint into consideration;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the construction and operational phases;
- cumulative impacts were also done and the results thereof; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

Nicolene Venter informed all participants that the review and comment period for the BA Reports had been extended by 10 days to end on Monday, 19 April 2021.

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

**DISCUSSION SESSION (comments and questions submitted on MS Teams conversation platform)**

Question / Comment	Response
Danie Jordaan asked whether the recording of the meeting will be shared with the participants.	Nicolene Venter responded that the recording could be downloaded from MS Teams. It will also be downloaded and shared with those participants who request a copy.
Richard York informed the project team that both the proposed wind farms have high visual impact as recorded and asked what the total or accumulative visual impact of the proposed wind farms is?	Lisa Opperman confirmed that the visual impact will be high as indicated in the visual impact assessment.
Richard York asked how many small businesses in the tourism sector currently fall under this impacted area.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the question will be forwarded to the SIA Specialist for a response which will be included in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b><u>SIA response:</u></b>            A full audit of small businesses was not undertaken as part of the study. Based on the Visual Impact Study, and through the SEIA research process, approximately 25 land and/or business owners/representatives that have</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>been approached within the boarder impacted area to obtain business-specific data and information pertaining to their operations. A second-round of data collection is currently underway, so as to enhance the business profile analysis included in the SEIA.</p>
<p>Danie Jordaan requested the team to explain how comments will be handled and will all comments be addressed, or should rebuttal reports be filed?</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that all comments received during the EIA process will be captured in the Comments and Responses report and will be responded to.</p> <p>Where necessary, specialist inputs will be obtained to include in the response.</p> <p>She further responded that to be compliant with the EIA Regulations, should the comments result in new information or further studies being required and updates to the BA Report being effected, the reports must be made available for a further 30-day review and comment period.</p>
<p>Richard York informed the project team that as Kwandwe is in very close proximity to the proposed wind farm sites, it is the understanding that stakeholders should not wait for further studies or additional reports to address the visual and social impacts on Kwandwe. The social impact on Kwandwe should have already been assessed and information provided in the SIA Report.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that a visual impact assessment and socio-economic impact assessment had been undertaken as part of the BA process. She added that the findings of the VIA were considered within the SEIA i.e. the SIA focus on specific impact such as business. Tourism, land-use, etc whereas the Visual Specialist looked at the visual receptors in the area. She referred the attendees to Chapter 10 of the BA Reports.</p>
<p>Danie Jordaan commented that the specialists' reports should be independent from one another.</p> <p>To clarify the question, the best way to get an independent view of all the issues, is to avoid that one specialist study starts reinforcing the other.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that Savannah Environmental and the specialists' assessment reports are independent. However, they do cross-reference one another in order to ensure comprehensive assessments are undertaken.</p>
<p>Angus Sholto-Douglas enquired as to why are there two developments right next to each other.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the two projects were informed by wind resource data and the availability / opportunity the area represents.</p>
<p>Graeme Mann requested specifics of how high visual impact only has a low / moderate socio-economic impact on businesses which rely heavily on natural visual aesthetics</p>	<p><b><u>SIA Specialist feedback:</u></b></p> <p>The SEIA has found that the proposed wind farms will be located in the area where natural</p>



Question / Comment	Response
<p>essentially. It would be his view that high visual impact is essentially devastating in a socio-economic sense to rural livelihoods and businesses.</p> <p>He requested written feedback as to how much specific information related to how classification of the risk has been arrived at.</p>	<p>landscape and aesthetics are highly valued by both residents and visitors to the area. Both during construction and operation, the SEIA has found that negative impacts are expected to ensue as a result of noise and most importantly visual disturbance, which will alter the natural and cultural landscape features of the environment and subsequently the experience of visitors to local tourism destinations and game farms. As indicated in the report, the research conducted with tourism businesses in close proximity to the nearby Waainek Wind Farm found that these businesses had not experienced any negative impacts in business performance as a result of their customer sentiments towards the windfarm. These findings are aligned to the extensive literature review research undertaken regarding the impacts of windfarms on the broader tourism industry (in SA and globally). However, the SEIA concludes that there is a possibility that the development of the proposed wind farms may decrease the number of visitors to the region. The impact is described as being 'probable' with a medium significance. It is found that the significance could be reduced to 'low' over time, as visitors become more accustomed to the views of the turbines. Further, mitigation measures are also suggested in the visual impact study report such as implementing strobing light technology to avoid visual impacts at night.</p>
<p>Charles Hanyani agreed with Graeme Mann's enquiry and asked for clarity on the error rate of the models used to measure the level of impact.</p>	<p>The rating attributed to the impact on tourism of as a result of changes in the visual environment is based on an aggregation of the impact across the entire study area. It therefore shows the impact of the full development, not just the impact that could arise on a single individual property or business entity. Individual impacts for specific entities may be higher or lower than the aggregated rating presented.</p>
<p>Chad Comley asked for details of the developer.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that Wind Relic is the company name, i.e. umbrella company, under which the Wind Garden Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd and Fronteer Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd, as SPVs, are being proposed for EAs.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Danie Jordaan stated that the quantification of the impacts needs further clarity.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that Savannah Environmental follows specific assessment methodology which looks at the nature, extent, duration, magnitude and the probability of the impact occurring. Each of these aspects are rated by the specialists, per impact identified. The results are reached by using a formula looking at the duration, magnitude combined summed. A rating scale is used – i.e. low significance is a rating below rating of 30, moderate is a rating of between 30 and 60; and high is a rating of 60 and above . She informed the stakeholder the the methodology is detailed in Chapter 7 of the main BA report for each project.</p>
<p>Mzukisi Maneli informed the project team that he is aware that consultation with the DWS has taken place and confirm that the Department will submit written comments on the BA Reports in due course.</p> <p>He requested the following confirmations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As the projects will trigger water usage, the Department also needs to be informed of any other any water users triggered, to be applied for and authorised under the NWA</li> <li>2. Makana LM must, as a service provider of water services to an extent, be part of the consultation and authorisation process from the onset to avoid any challenges of water supply and other required services that the project might be depend on, i.e. water supply to construction camps, containment of sanitation, etc. The project must ensure that the LM will have the capacity to handle the requirements.</li> </ol> <p>At this stage, the reports have not yet been reviewed to ensure that the water uses triggered have been included in the advertisements, consultation and the various specialist studies being undertaken. It is recommended not to reinvent another process in terms of water related activities, but to include it in these BA processes.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that a FGM will be held with Makana LM as required by the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>Lisa Opperman responded that the need for a WULA has been identified and the need has been detailed in the reports. As mentioned by the Official, the Aquatic Specialist has identified that a WULA would be required and consultation with the DWS is underway.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>3. It was reiterated that the project team must ensure that they obtain responses as and when required.</p>	
<p>Richard York referenced an article in Maroela Media dated 14 March 2021 in which it is reported that ocean-based wind turbine developments at Struisbaai, Richards Bay and Durban could supply sufficient electricity. He asked why these projects are required if these ocean-based developments can provide sufficient electricity.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the IRP includes 16 GW of renewable energy as part of the energy mix of which wind energy is one of the technologies to be implemented.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> It was noted that the article referred to was referencing off-shore wind development, the feasibility of which is still being investigated for South Africa. Currently, all wind projects proposed for the country are on-shore facilities.</p>
<p>Graeme Mann informed the project team that on slide 11 the legend indicates thicket as having a high ecological sensitivity and it was noted that several turbine sites were located within these areas and enquired whether he has read the maps correctly.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that from an ecological perspective the specialist considered sensitivities and features identified within the project site and a limit of acceptable change within each sensitivity category. For each category he identified the percentage of loss that would be acceptable from an ecological perspective. The ecological results show where there is an infringement of the project into areas of sensitivity and include an indication regarding the acceptability of this infringement.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> the developer considered sensitivities identified by all the specialists when determining the layout</p>
<p>Graeme Mann acknowledged the response and added that he would like to understand how the determination of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable has been reached. He requested that Savannah Environmental provides him with the response via e-mail.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman confirmed that information from the Ecological Assessment will be forwarded to Graeme Mann via e-mail.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> As detailed within section 2.3 of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the BA Reports), <i>“Limits of acceptable change for each sensitivity category are indicated below and refer to the extent of on-site habitat loss within each sensitivity category that is considered acceptable before significant ecological impact that is difficult to mitigate and which may compromise the development is likely to occur. This provides a guide for the developer in terms of ensuring that the spatial</i></p>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p><i>distribution of impact associated with the development is appropriate with respect to the sensitivity of the site. In addition, it provides a benchmark against which impacts can be assessed and represents an explicit threshold that when exceeded indicates that potentially unacceptable impacts may have occurred. In terms of this latter criterion, exceeding the limits of acceptable change for either High or Very High sensitivity areas is considered to represent an immediate fatal flaw, while the limits within either Low or Medium sensitivity areas could potentially be exceeded, provided that the total footprint in these two areas combined does not exceed the overall combined acceptable loss within these classes. However, in the latter case, this would raise significant concern regarding the suitability of the development and the exact spatial configuration of the development and the likely impacts on ecological processes would need to be considered."</i></p> <p>The various limits assigned by the specialist are defined in Table 1 of the Ecological Impact Assessment.</p>
<p>Graeme Mann informed the project team that on slide 11 it is indicated that there are two Verreaux's Eagle nest sites and asked for clarification whether his understanding is correct that a radius of 1.5km from the nest is considered a sufficient distance to ensure the protection of these Eagles.</p> <p>He indicated that a written response in the meeting notes would be appreciated and must also include the inclusion of reasoning for Eagle species listed.</p> <p>He further enquired whether any other avian species, apart from Eagles were recorded or considered.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that buffers identified by the avifauna specialist for Verreaux's Eagle is a 1.5km no go area for turbine placements. In addition, the specialist identified a cautionary buffer of 3km. The same approach was used for Martial Eagles, where a 2.5km no go area for turbine placement and a 5km cautionary buffer were defined. Within the cautionary buffer, the specialist has indicated that turbines can be placed but specific mitigations need to be applied to these turbines i.e. painting one blade black to make the blades more visible to birds.</p>
<p>Chad Comley referred back to his question regarding who the developer is for these projects and the response was that Wind Relic</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that Hylton Newcombe is Savannah Environmental's client contact.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>is the umbrella company for these applications.</p> <p>He stated that it is assumed that Hylton Newcombe is managing these developments.</p>	
<p>Chad Comley enquired as to when the face-to-face public meetings are to be held.</p>	<p>Nicolene venter responded that these were scheduled for the week of 22 March and that all registered parties would be notified of the relevant details once confirmed. She added that parties are welcome to extend the invitation to other persons they believe should be informed and part of process. However, she reiterated the need for the team to comply with the relevant Covid-19 Regulations, i.e. the number of occupants the venue can accommodate and relevant aspects of the venue's compliance. She indicated that attendees will therefore need to register their attendance prior to the meeting dates.</p>
<p>Chad Comley asked whether the socio-economic specialist looked at the historic aspects of previous proposed projects which the applicant misrepresented to other landowners in the area and asked whether Savannah Environmental take these into consideration.</p> <p>He also asked whether the adjacent landowners' opinions have been taken into consideration by the social specialist.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that the socio-economic study did look at other developments in the area i.e. the Cookhouse and Somerset East projects. The specialist also reviewed various overseas literature from a South African perspective.</p>
<p>Chad Comley noted that the information that one blade would be painted black is an interesting fact and asked whether this will be taken into consideration i.e. the overall visual impact and that to the people.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the visual specialist will have to look at the visual impact should one blade be painted black. She also noted that the CAA's inputs in this regard is required.</p>
<p>Aletta Brown submitted her opinion that most of the farmers and landowners adjacent to the proposed development involved in the consultation meeting are located between 15km and 20km away from project sites.</p> <p>The social impacts associated with these proposed projects are more positive for local people, for the town, and everyone else. The immediate area consists of farming operations and not eco-tourism.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the opinion, and it was recorded as such.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p><b><u>Submission on conversation platform</u></b></p> <p>Angus Sholto-Douglas commented that the area is not a low tourism area as most of the neighbours are involved in tourism.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman acknowledged the comment.</p>
<p>Danie Jordaan asked how the documents can be accessed on the website.</p>	<p>The website link was provided on MS Teams conversation platform i.e. <a href="https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/eastern-cape-cluster-of-renewable-energy-facilities/">https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/eastern-cape-cluster-of-renewable-energy-facilities/</a> and the release code was also provided.</p>
<p>Mzukisi Maneli thanked the project team for the consultation and informed the project team that the DWS will submit written comments on the BA Reports.</p>	<p>This submission was acknowledged.</p>

## CLOSURE

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Nicolene Venter and Lisa Opperman thanked all the participants for their attendance and valuable inputs into the process. The meeting was closed at 11h15.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CEO	Chief Executive Officer	LM	Local Municipality
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	NWA	National Water Act
C&RR	Comments and Responses Report	SIA	Social Impact Assessment
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation	SPV	Special Purpose Vehicles
EA	Environmental Authorisation	WMA	Water Management Area
GW	Gigawatt	WULA	Water Use License Application
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan	WQM	Water Quality Management
<b>SEIA</b>	<b>Socio-economic Impact Assessment</b>		

**APPENDIX A**  
PRESENTATION

# Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm, Eastern Cape Province

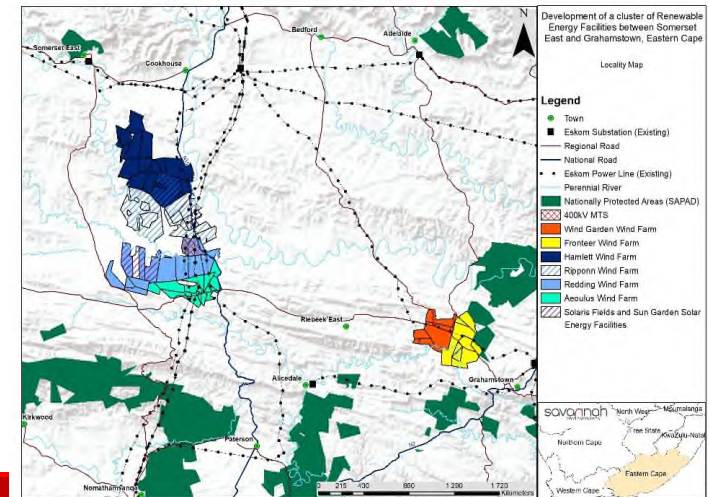
Public Meetings  
15 & 16 March 2021

## AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Project description
- BA process
- Results
- Way forward

## MEETING CONDUCT

- Please make use of mute while presentation is presented
- Please type your name in the message box as proof of attendance
- Please hold all questions till after presentation
- Please provide equal opportunity to all attendees
- Please raise your hand to ask a question



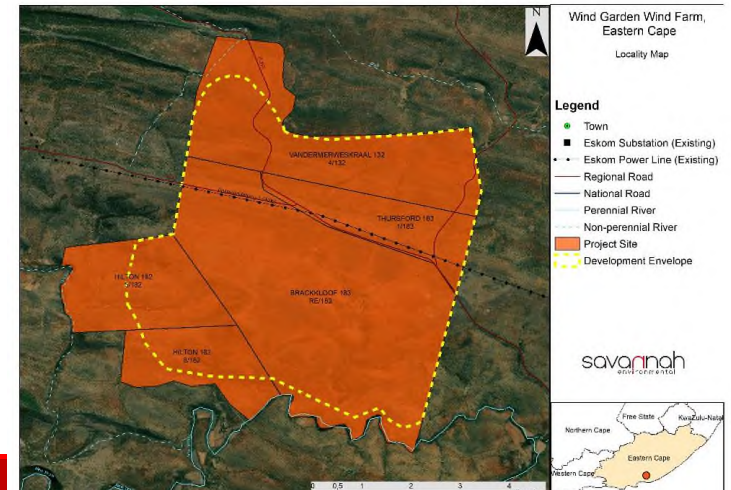


# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

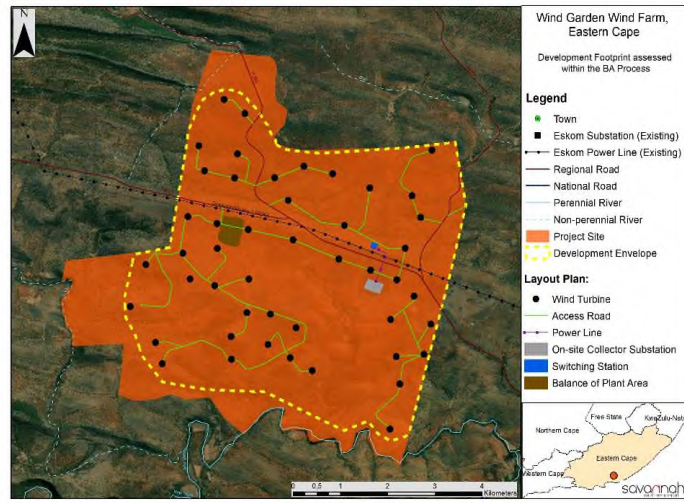
Wind Garden Wind Farm		Fronteer Wind Farm	
Applicant	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Applicant	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd
Location	17km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ	Location	12km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ
Contracted Capacity	264MW	Contracted Capacity	213MW
Infrastructure details	47 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	38 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	



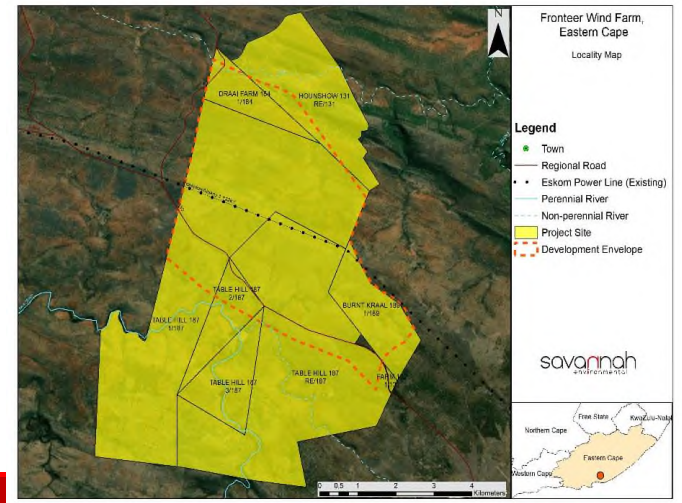
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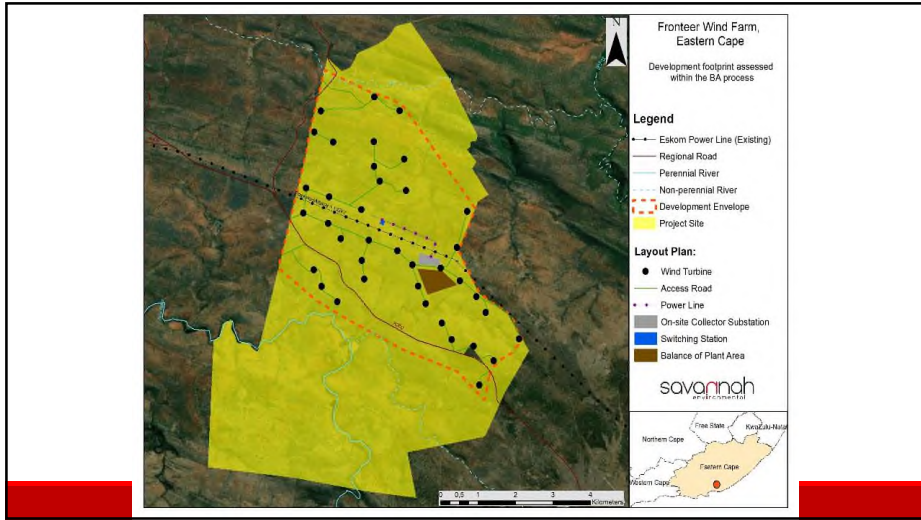
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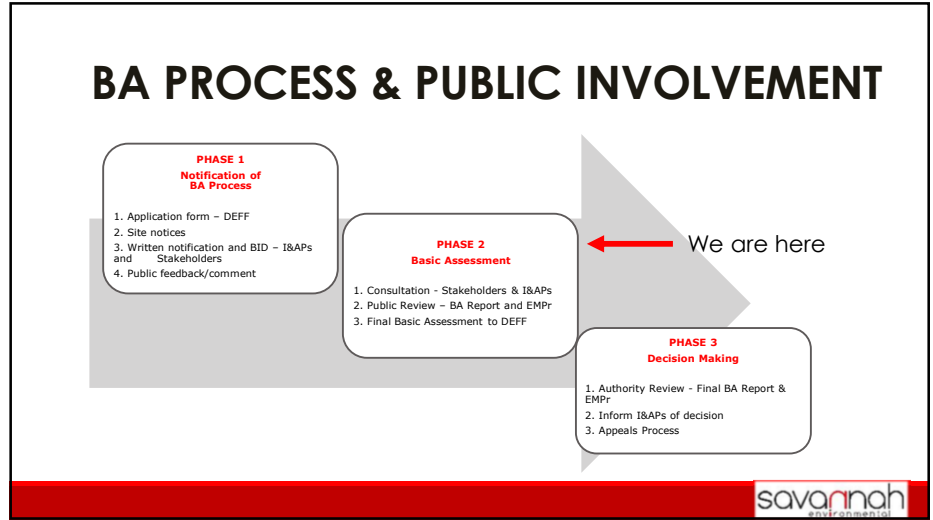
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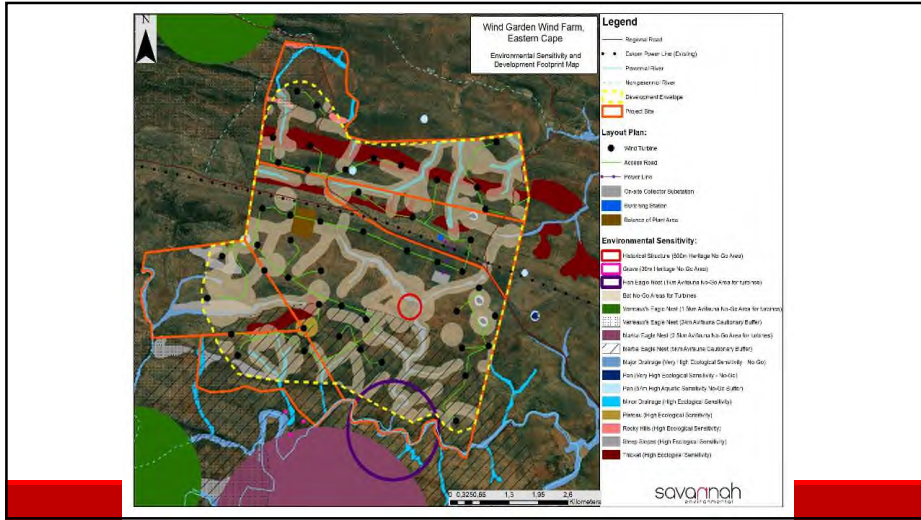
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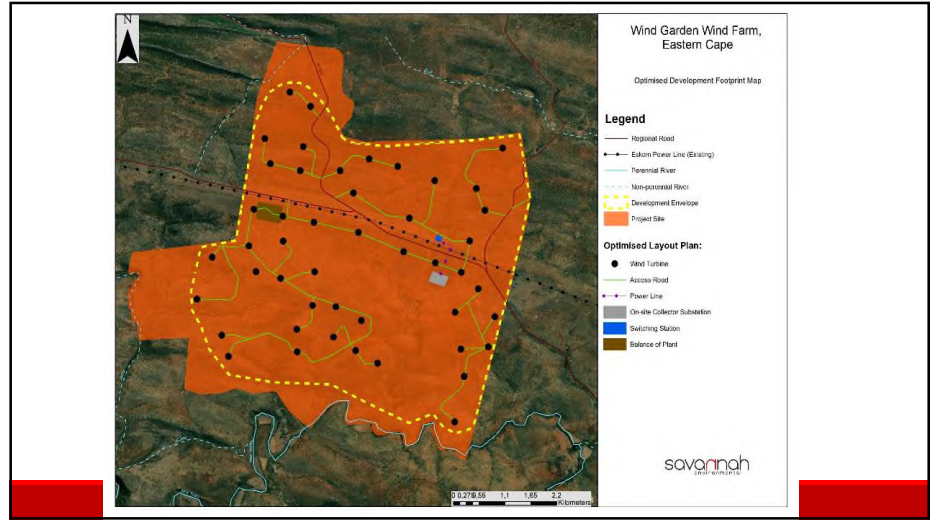
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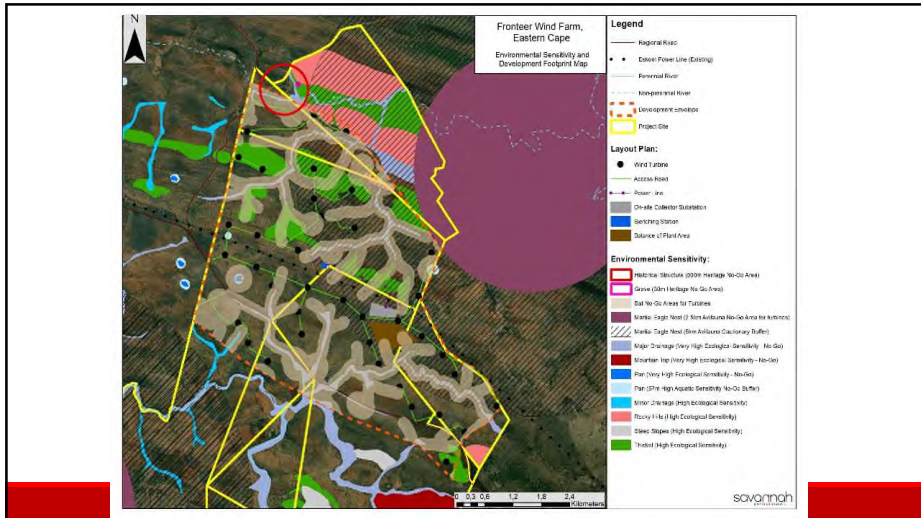
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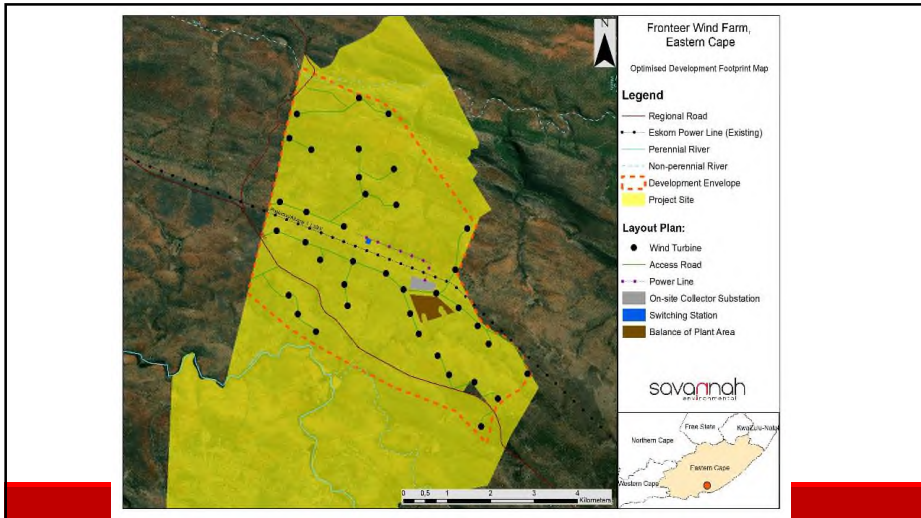
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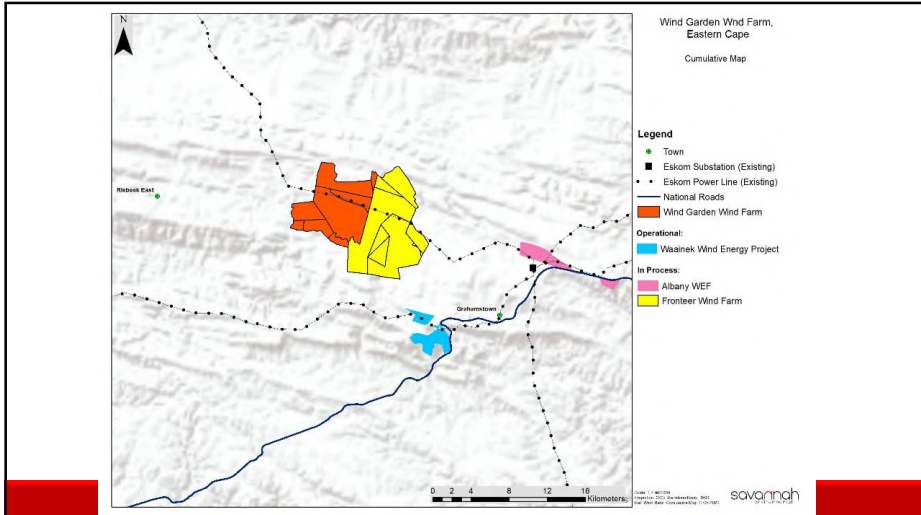


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### RESULTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	Medium	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Minimal

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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High	High
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: High and Medium	Positive impacts: High and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Without Mitigation: Medium and Low	With Mitigation: Low

## WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports: 04 March 2021 – 07 April 2021 (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DEFF for decision-making

## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nicolene Venter

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[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**MEETING NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 26 MARCH 2021 AT 17H00  
VENUE: GRAHAMS HOTEL, 123 HIGH STREET, MAKHANDA**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

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

**WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Captured alphabetically according to surname**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Clarice Arendse	Senior Associate	Richard Summers Inc. Attorneys
Aletta Brown (Virtual)	Landowner	Brackkloof Farm
William Fowlds	Director	INDALO Protected Environment
James Gush (Virtual)	Landowner	Brentwood Farm
Jennifer Gush (Virtual)	Director	Amakhala Foundation
Giles Gush	Landowner	Woodbury Lodge (Pty) Ltd
Francois Havenga (Virtual)	Director	Spiny Cactus Pear Processing (Pty) Ltd
Joseph Marr	Landowners	Marr Family Trust
John O'Brien	Director	Shamwari Game Lodge
Nick Orphanides	Landowner	Kwandwe Game Reserve
Sarah-Anne Orphanides	Landowner	Kwandwe Game Reserve
Demetri Pappadopoulos	I&AP	
Chris Pike	Director	Lukhanyo Game Reserve
Owen Poltney	Owner	Lanka Safaris
Angus Sholto-Douglas	Managing Director	Kwandwe Game Reserve
Alexandra Soulé	Landowner	Vaalkrans Game Farm
Grant Soulé	Landowner	Vaalkrans Game Farm
Richard Summer	Attorney	Richard Summers Inc
Owen Were	Landowner	
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas (Virtual)	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	
<b>Environmental Specialist</b>		
Matthew Keeley (Virtual)	Socio-economic Specialist; Urban-Econ	
Simon Todd (Virtual)	Ecologist	

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the public meeting (PM) for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Lisa Opperman provided an overview of the proposed cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and Makhanda, as well as a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment processes undertaken. She presented the following key information:

- project description for the Wind Garden Wind Farm and the Fronteer Wind Farm;
- the locality of the two proposed wind farms and their respective development footprint as assessed within the BA process;
- the BA and public participation process followed to date;

- how the development footprint has been optimised by taking the environmental sensitivities within the development footprint into consideration;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the construction and operational phases;
- cumulative impacts were also done and the results thereof; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

Nicolene Venter informed the participants that the review and comment period for the BA Reports had been extended to Thursday, 06 May 2021.

A copy of the virtual participants' attendance is attached as **Appendix A** and the presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

**DISCUSSION SESSION (including those submitted on the MS Teams conversation platform)**

**Comments captured per participants and in alphabetical order**

Question / Comment	Response
<b>William Fowlds</b>	
<p>Appreciation was expressed for the team for listening and addressing the participant's concerns.</p> <p>In the introduction, he informed the project team that he has been in the area for five (5) generations, raised farming stock and has three (3) businesses in the area and intimately associated with the community within the study area, in terms of farming and conservation. The introduction was provided to indicate that he is sympathetic to both sides in terms of the application. As he wears different 'hats', he advised that the one that will be applicable for this meeting was for conservation.</p> <p>Extreme concern was expressed regarding the placement of the wind farms and stated for record purposes that the Indalo Protected Environment Foundation is not against renewable energy, but that biodiversity was the primary concern.</p> <p>It is also believed that the intention of renewable energy is to make the planet a better place and therefore the principle</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the background information provided to the project team.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>behind wind and solar farms is being embraced.</p> <p>However, biodiversity is the main concern which will be commented on at the meeting. The siting of the wind farms clashes directly with what has been achieved with biodiversity in the area.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that the conservation landscape in the study area had grown over the past 20 to 30 years and industries were established which support a number of communities in the area and also contributed to biodiversity.</p> <p>The project team was also informed that four Indalo Socio-economic Studies were undertaken and urged the socio-economic specialist to look at those studies carefully.</p> <p>He also informed the project team that the Addo to Fish River biodiversity corridor assessment which came out in November 2020 provided significant new information of the biodiversity of the area globally and not just per hectares.</p> <p>The project team needs to note that there is an existing land-use that supports a large number of people and numerous contributions were already made, and it was urged that the area will miss out on these opportunities should these two projects go ahead.</p>	
<p>With his association with the communities at large, i.e. representative for farmers, game farmers, game reserves and communities within Grahamstown, has the impact of social cohesion been measured in the socio-economic assessment.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that one of their indicators included consideration of social conflicts associated with the projects. This is specifically associated with the construction phase, where it is found that before mitigation the impact is negative due to the influx of construction workers to the area and through mitigation measures, the negative impact will change to low.</p>
<p>The question was whether the social cohesion on the ground has been measured, i.e. the impact on people's livelihoods which is at</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that international and local assessment had indicated that the stress levels regarding the positioning of the</p>



Question / Comment	Response
<p>stake due to the location of the wind farms which would have directly negative impact on the neighbours and their neighbours.</p>	<p>wind turbines is high during the initial introduction phase and are carried on into the construction phase. However, American, European and South African's sentiments change over the long term.</p>
<p>It was asked whether these sentiments change over time as a result of people getting used to the infrastructure, they cannot do anything about it or is it that visitors go to other areas where there are no wind farms.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that studies indicate that international tourist (i.e. those from North America and Europe) are quite exposed to wind farms and renewable energy in general. It was also determined that the impact on their businesses have not been significant.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the studies undertaken, were specifically done for safaris or the Big 5 establishments or on nature based experiences, or was this hard evidence collected from neighbouring properties.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the studies were based on tourism business case studies in other countries such as North America and Europe.</p>
<p>It was requested that it be minuted that interviews have not been conducted with the people asking whether they will come back to the area after the wind turbines was erected.</p> <p>it was noted that the SIA impact assessment cannot be done by generalisation of other areas and summation in the process.</p> <p>It is concurred by the meeting attendees that the social studies will not considered to be completed until the interviews with the adjacent property owners and tourism industries have taken place.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the request is noted, and he referred the attendees to studies undertaken by Urban-Econ in 2012 / 2013 to the east of Makhahda in terms of internal and domestic tourism, the results of which referenced in the SIA report.</p>
<p>In response it was requested whether the interviews conducted with those tourists was a wildlife safari amongst megafauna and -flora.</p> <p>It was again stated that information is being generalised by using information from other areas that are not relevant to the study area and the results are not based on local knowledge.</p> <p>The establishments in the area have done their own assessments and these do not concur with the SIA specialist's results.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the information regarding who was interviewed will be provided.</p> <p>He added that the studies do indicate that there will be short- and long-term negative impacts on the local tourism industry.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the impact of sound and vibration impacts have been fully assessed in terms of specific frequency effects on animals</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that feedback will be obtained from the noise specialist, but it can</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>such as elephants, rhinoceros, giraffes, etc that are critical to the business in the area</p>	<p>be mentioned that there is a section in his report relating to noise impact on animals.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting notes:</b></p> <p>Section 7 of the noise impact assessment included within Appendix J of the BA Report considers the impact of noise on animals. The following is noted from a review of studies undertaken regarding this impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Animals respond to impulsive (sudden) noises (higher than 90 dBA) by running away. If the noises continue, animals would try to relocate. This is not relevant to wind energy facilities because the turbines do not generate any impulsive noises close to these sound levels.</i></li> <li>• <i>Animals of most species exhibit adaptation with noise, including aircraft noise and sonic booms (far worse than noises associated with Wind Turbines).</i></li> <li>• <i>More sensitive species would relocate to a quieter area, especially species that depend on hearing to hunt or evade prey, or species that makes use of sound/hearing to locate a suitable mate.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Noises associated with helicopters, motor- and quad bikes significantly impact on animals.</i></p>
<p>It was requested whether the laminar over hunting farms have been assessed and quantified as part of the protection of endangered species aerial monitoring by helicopter are being done as reserves made significant investments and the pilot flying the aircraft also needs to be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the wake-effect of the two facilities has been taken into consideration by the applicant.</p> <p>However, the impact on adjacent properties was not consider and this concern will be forwarded to the applicant for a response.</p>
<p>It was asked whether an assessment has been conducted or the impact measured to assess the phycological impact that the proposed developments will have on landowners because of the impact to their livelihood.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that phycological impact cannot be measured due to the many variables which affect a person's life.</p>
<p>It was asked whether a study has not been done or will not be done.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that such a study has not been done and it is believed it cannot be accurately done.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>The project team was informed that it is believed a phycologist could do such a study and made reference to a church who donated their property as they could not continue living with the wind farms on their property.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the participant's viewpoint and the information provided.</p>
<b>John O'Brien</b>	
<p>John O'Brien commented that he is not opposed to the wind farms, but is opposed to the location.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comment.</p>
<p>Reference was made to the loss of opportunity in terms of the Addo – Fish River biodiversity conservation initiative and the following comments were submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The socio-economic study has not been done to be representative of the negative impacts to the area; and</li> <li>• In reference to the 2012/2013 assessment done, it was stated in letters received from international tour operators that they will not support the current industry should there be any wind turbines on neighbouring farms.</li> </ul> <p>It was mentioned that it took Kwandwe and Shamwari approximately 23 year to establish the area as a game area for international visitors.</p> <p>He further commented that the placement of these wind farms in the locations proposed would put not only Kwandwe but other game farms in the area out of business.</p>	<p>The comments submitted were noted by the project team.</p>
<b>Nick Orphanides</b>	
<p>It was asked whether the social specialist can answer "yes" or "no" whether they had slipped up by not contacting the adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that they were provided an I&amp;AP list by Savannah Environmental and that his team did make attempts to contact the adjacent landowners.</p>
<p>It was commented that looking at the cumulative map, his property, Clifton Farm, is in the middle of all the existing and proposed developments.</p> <p>Already there is a visual intrusion as a result of the existing wind farms in the area and it was</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that in terms of cumulative assessments, the standard radius to consider as determined by the DFFE is 30km.</p> <p>For these projects the existing wind farms that formed part of the cumulative impacts are Albany and Waainek.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>asked what the threshold for wind farm developments in an area is.</p>	<p>Regarding the threshold question, the department approved the REDZ area as areas where these types of developments can be considered. There is no threshold specified. The DFFE is the decision-making authority that will determine what the threshold is based on the impact assessment provided.</p>
<p>Are there specific off-takers for these proposed projects and will Grahamstown benefit?</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the electricity is planned to be sold to private off-takers and not to Eskom. Industries that will receive electricity from these developments, should it be approved and constructed include mining. There will not be any direct electricity provided to Grahamstown..</p>
<p><b>Sarah-Anne Orphanides</b></p>	
<p>It was commented that taking the seriousness of the issues raised and the impact the projects would have on landowners and businesses livelihood, and the fact that Savannah Environmental Directors could not attend the face-to-face meeting and leave Lisa Opperman as project manager to deal with all these issues, is seen in extremely poor light.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comment raised.</p>
<p>It was asked what consultation has taken place to ensure that farm workers and people living on the farms (both directly affected properties and adjacent properties) had been undertaken.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that advertisements have been placed in a regional and local newspaper, live reads undertaken on the local radio station and that consultation with the Ward Councillor of Ward 1 is taking place to provide information on the projects to occupiers and community members. The local municipality, as a commenting authority, has also been informed of the proposed projects.</p> <p>She asked those present whether she can contact them to secure a time to meet with their foreman or a representative to provide them with information on the projects.</p> <p>She added that it is also the landowners' responsibility to share information that could affect their occupiers of any proposed development or activities taking place in the area.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
It was asked whether a buffer has been placed around occupiers' homes or communities living on affected and neighbouring properties.	Lisa Opperman responded that noise buffers are placed around directly affected landowners' and occupiers' homes.
<b>Chris Pike</b>	
In response to Matthew Keeley's response regarding tourism and eco-tourism studies undertaken in Cookhouse, Jeffrey's Bay areas, etc, and the results, referenced information (wording) in the socio-economic report i.e.: <i>Negative impacts on tourism have not been confirmed.</i> It was requested whether the words are correct.	The participants agreed that the wording can be confirmed later.  <b>Post-meeting note:</b> <b>Response from Socio-Economic Specialist</b> It is confirmed the wording as reference in the Socio-Economic Report is correct.
It was asked whether the social team has interacted with the relevant tourism entities in the area before finalising the SIA Report to conclude on the positive and negative impacts.	Matthew Keeley confirmed that they did interview a number of tourism business owners in the study area.
The response provided is questioned as a number of the major tourism industry business owners are present at the meeting and it was confirmed that they were not consulted. The question has been asked whether these businesses were purposefully excluded, including Chris Pike. This makes the SIA Report biased.	Matthew Keeley responded that the information is available of the various tourism businesses interviewed for the assessment. The information received from these interviews was input into Urban-Econ's assessment tool.
It was recommended that the specialist re-look at their assessment tool as the information is not correctly presented if adjacent landowners' inputs are not included.	The recommendation was noted.
It was enquired whether Matthew or any of his team members visited the study area for their assessment?  It was also asked whether the social team is aware of the adjacent farms to the wind farms and whether Conway Farm has been interviewed.	Matthew Keeley responded that he believes his team contacted everyone within the study area that could potentially be affected by the proposed developments.  It was mentioned that information is available of those property owners who have been contacted but indicated that they prefer not to participate in the interviews.
It was asked whether it can be confirmed that the power would not be sold to Eskom but to the private users.	Lisa Opperman confirmed that this is correct.
It was asked whether there is technology available to store electricity generated by the wind farms.	Lisa Opperman responded that battery energy storage facilities are available for this purpose.

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was requested whether batteries are being considered for these developments.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the facilities could be available but that batteries do not form part of the current applications.</p>
<p>In response it is assumed that the power still needs to be fed into the Eskom grid.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that use would be made of the Eskom grid to supply the private off-takers through a wheeling agreement with Eskom. She added that these proposed developments would take the strain off of Eskom to some extent as the power exported directly to the private off-takers would result in Eskom-supplied electricity currently being used by these businesses being available for other users.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that the two north west wind turbines from the Wind Garden project are within 800m from his lodge and the seven (7) turbines lower down are all within 1.2 to 1.3 kms from the lodge and are clearly visible.</p> <p>He stated that the visual map is flawed and should be revisited.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman informed the attendees that the visual specialist montage shows the photos taken from various advantage points and are mostly done from roads.</p> <p>The comment regarding the visual maps will be communicated with the visual specialist.</p>
<p><b>Owen Poltney</b></p>	
<p>As part of Grant Soulé's request for information regarding the social interview with the 22 landowners, it was stated that the meeting is a farce as the specialists should have been present at the meeting as these projects are affecting local livelihood.</p> <p>He expressed the feeling of being railroaded as they are small farmers in the valley that was known of previously and now the area has been identified for industrial use.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the meeting is an open and transparent process whereby information as documented in the BA Reports were presented and the opportunity provided to I&amp;APs to raise comments and any concerns they have with the proposed developments.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> The face-to-face meetings were requested during the virtual public meeting held on Monday, 15 March 2021 and it be held as soon as possible. A total of four (4) face-to-face public meetings were scheduled to offer all I&amp;APs an opportunity to attend. the meetings were arranged to accommodate the stakeholders in the area. As a result, some of the specialist team members were unfortunately unavailable to attend the meetings. Those specialists who were available, attended the meetings via virtual platform.</p>
<p>It was noted that there is 1 wind turbine located with a CBA 1 and 7 wind turbines in a CB2 area, and the ecological report talks to</p>	<p>Simon Todd replied that there is a table in the ecological report detailing the CBA underlying features.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>the placement of these turbines within the CBA areas.</p> <p>It was requested whether the impacts on the adjacent properties and the possible impact of the wind turbines on the biodiversity corridor was assessed.</p> <p>The content of the ecological report was discussed, and it was asked whether there were gaps in the report that needs to be addressed.</p>	
<b>Angus Shalto-Douglas</b>	
<p>The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the option of having one blade painted black;</li> <li>• lights can be switched off at night. At an unrecorded meeting it was stated that approval was received from the CAA to turn off the lights;</li> <li>• noise impact;</li> <li>• GPS co-ordinates for turbine positions.</li> </ul> <p>The project team was informed that the mitigation measures are very vague in the reports and there are not clear and concise mitigations. It was recommended that the assessment reports be revisited.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that the CAA is a stakeholder and is included in the consultation process for the proposed projects.</p> <p>Lisa Opperman responded that the avifauna specialist made the recommendation in their report that all turbines located within the cautionary buffers have one single blade painted black. She added that this is a novel mitigation, which has been proven to be effective internationally, but not yet locally.</p> <p>Regarding the final placement of the turbines, Lisa noted that the current turbine positions were placed in optimised positions based on sensitivity information provided by the specialists. She added that what has been presented is already an optimised layout and it is believed there will not be a major change.</p>
<p>In response to the consultation process with the CAA, it was stated that the team is passing the buck as the visual and noise reports must address the issues.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that comments submitted by the CAA as part of the consultation process, once received, will be shared with the participants.</p> <p>Lisa Opperman responded that it is the intention of the applicant to investigate the development of strobing lights that only activate when an aircraft is detected nearby to aid in restricting light pollution at night-time. Discussions with the SACAA still need to take place to determine whether this will be permissible. The use of this lighting option has</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	been considered within the visual impact assessment.
<p>It was stated that in the presentation it was indicated that the whole area was looked at and taking the environmental factors into account.</p> <p>Looking at the blocks where the wind farms are being proposed are placed on willing landowners' properties, and that environmental factors did not actually play a significant role in determining where to place the wind farms.</p> <p>It was mentioned that to say that environmental factors were considered was misleading as the landowners were in agreement to have the development on their property.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that more landowners than the current landowners were signed up for the projects and it was through the environmental assessment process that the current properties were found to be environmentally acceptable.</p> <p>The attendees were requested to read Chapter 3 of the BA Reports which provide information regarding the initial number of turbines and the current turbine positions recommended through the environmental assessment process.</p> <p>Reference was also made to the specialist workshop held where each specialist provided inputs regarding sensitive areas that needs to be avoided and where applicable buffers allocated to areas that were environmentally acceptable.</p>
<p>It was asked whether water for the construction phase will be sourced from boreholes as the abstraction of water from a borehole will negatively impact the water table in the area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the a response regarding water sources will be obtained from the developer.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b></p> <p>As detailed in Chapter 2 of the Basic Assessment reports, Water will be required for the construction phase. Water will be sourced from existing boreholes in the area. Volumes required are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Garden - approximately 19014.12kl in total for the construction activities and 12686.98kl for human consumption.</li> <li>• Fronteer - approximately 14313.19kl in total for the construction activities and 10140.24kl for human consumption</li> </ul>
<p>It was noted that comments and concerns raised regarding negative impacts are not made from a personal point of view but are made representing his clients and the 21 communities in the area that are being supported from a social perspective through Kwandwe's development foundation contributions.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the point raised and informed the participant that the specialists will be briefed accordingly.</p>



Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was reiterated that the possible negative impact these proposed developments will have on the participants' livelihood as alluded to by Owen Were and William Fowlds.</p> <p>The information sourced for the social study by canvassing opinions from tourism on the west coast and Oyster Bay has no reference to game farming of Big 5 hunting at all. There is no correlation at all.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comment submitted.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that the Natal long-fingered bat has disappeared from the Waainek windfarm site when construction commenced which was about five years ago and it was requested whether the bat study mentioned and assessed the possible impact on this species.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the question will be forwarded to bat specialist and a response will be provided in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> As detailed in the bat impact assessment (Appendix F of the BA Reports), the impact on the Natal long-fingered bat has been assessed as part of the study.</p>
<p><b>Grant Soulé</b></p>	
<p>It was asked for confirmation that all the areas that were excluded are low lying areas.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that in terms of the ecology report some sites were excluded due to the steep slopes and hilly areas.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that, as an adjacent landowner, he knows the area very well due to him doing a lot of flying and that the areas not taken forward were due to the low-lying areas.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that in addition to the specialist inputs received, wind turbine positions are determined by the data received from the wind monitoring that took place.</p>
<p>As a follow-up question, it was asked where the wind monitoring towers were placed, as it is believed that these are placed on the highest peak and valleys are always excluded.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman noted that the participant does not agree with the specialists' findings.</p>
<p>The participant confirmed that he does not agree with the specialists' findings.</p>	
<p>In terms of the socio-economic study, interviews and data were sourced from landowners in Oyster Bay, a B&amp;B in Grahamstown, etc and as an adjacent landowner whose property is located within the tourism hub of the area and involved in eco-tourism and a game reserve, no inputs were obtained from him.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that their primary research was done with 22 landowners in the area, and it is possible that some properties were not included in their sample study.</p> <p>The study undertaken was to consider potential negative impacts on tourism in the study area and the social team has not sought to underplay this impact but tried to bring rational perspective from an economic and social point of view into the mix.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was stated that as an adjacent landowner, he was not contacted for an interview, and it was stated that the information of the 22 landowners interviewed was not made available in the socio-economic report.</p> <p>It was requested that the list be made available to those landowners present at the meeting.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley confirmed that the list will be shared with the participants.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b>  <b>Response by Socio-economic Specialist</b>  The list is attached as Annexure A, page 120 of the Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm Social Impact Assessment Report of the Revised BA Reports.</p>
<p>In response to the Matthew Keeley's response regarding international tourism impacts where wind farms have been developed it seems to be a copy and paste as it is believed there are sufficient wind farm developments in south Africa for social impacts to be assessed.</p>	<p><b>Response by Socio-economic Specialist</b>  Detailed reviews of a variety of internationally academically published studies were undertaken in a variety of rural locations, which consider the impacts of wind farms on tourism. The updated SEIA expands upon the primary research undertaken, and incorporates interviews and surveys conducted with tourism establishment owners/representatives located in close proximity to existing developed wind farms in RSA.</p>
<p>In addition to the matter regarding the social team not contacting adjacent landowners, Matthew Keeley was informed that there is not a single person in the study area who does not know Kwandwe Game Reserve, and this raised the concern that the social team had not visited the area.</p> <p>Were you not aware of Kwandwe and were they contacted?</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the team is aware of Kwandwe Game Reserve, and it is believed attempts were made to contact them as they are on the list provided by Lisa Opperman and her team.</p>
<p>It was stated that although the current focus is on the social studies, how sure can the participants be that the other reports do not also have gaps.</p> <p>The concern is the content of the reports that are questionable.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the specialists need to comply with the EIA Regulations (i.e. independence, and registered with associated organisations applicable to field of expertise). There are regulations and guidelines regarding the requirements for specialist studies and these must be adhered to.</p>
<p>It was enquired whether the close proximity of the airport was taken into consideration as it is used for training students, especially night-time training, for landing and take-off from the airport strip.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter confirmed that the airport is managed by the Local Municipality and is part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>It was asked, for interest's sake, what is a cautionary buffer for eagles and why was it ignored in the map.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the specialist placed a buffer of 2.5km around specific species and where a nest was identified. An additional cautionary buffer around the nest</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	was recommended within which specific mitigation is required should turbines be placed here (i.e. painting of one blade black).
<b>Richard Summers</b>	
It was asked for transparency, who are the participants that joined the meeting via the MS Teams virtual platform.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aletta Brown</li> <li>• James Gush</li> <li>• Jennifer Gush</li> <li>• Matthew Keeley – Socio-economic Specialist</li> <li>• Simon Todd – Ecologist</li> <li>• Jo-Anne Thomas – Registered EAP</li> </ul>
As a follow-up it was asked for confirmation that only two specialists joined the meeting.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that it was noticed that the avifaunal specialist (Adri Barkhuysen) did join, but it seems he lost connection and had not joined again.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that the record of virtual attendees will be downloaded and included in the meeting notes.</p>
It was asked whether it is defensible where a specialist, with specific reference to the visual specialist, could not submit an opinion on the impact from a scientific point of view.	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the visual assessment includes details regarding why the impact is not considered to be a fatal flaw. She added that further clarification will be requested from the visual specialist as to why he believes the visual impact is not a fatal flaw.
It was requested that it be recorded that the issue regarding defensible conclusions was not addressed at the meeting.	This issue was recorded as requested.
It was stated that the impact of water use and water abstraction resource is an environmental issue and should be addressed in the Reports and Sections 21(a), (c) and 24 of the Water Act is applicable.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the requirement for a water use license is noted in the report. The assessment of abstraction from boreholes is a geohydrology issue and was not included in the scope of work for the projects.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> Impacts on geohydrology will be assessed as part of the Water Use License application should abstraction from boreholes be pursued.</p>
The project team was informed that the decision regarding the putting off of night-time lighting is not a decision that can be taken by the CAA but must be addressed and assessed by the BA process.	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledge the comment.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> The use of pilot-activated lighting is included within the visual impact assessment of the report (refer to Appendix K of the BA Reports).</p>

## CLOSURE

---

Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for making time available to attend the public meeting and for their valuable inputs into the process. The meeting was closed at 19h30.

### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

BA	Basic Assessment	EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
BESS	Battery Energy Storage system	IPE	Indalo Protected Environment
B&B	Bed and Breakfast	I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	PM	Public Meeting
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment		

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** John O'Brien

**SURNAME:** O'Brien

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

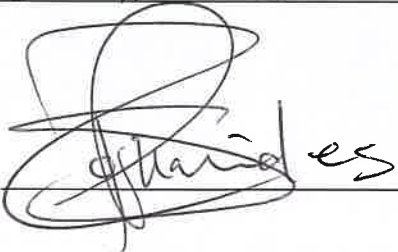
**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** SARAH-ANNE

**SURNAME:** ORPHANIDES

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Alexandra

**SURNAME:** Soulé

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Giles

**SURNAME:** Gush

**SIGNATURE:** Giles Gush



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Grant

**SURNAME:** Soule

**SIGNATURE:**  \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** William Fowlds

**SURNAME:** Fowlds

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Chris ~~Pipe~~

**SURNAME:** Pipe

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** DEMETRI

**SURNAME:** PAPADOPOULOS

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

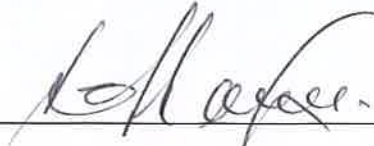
**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** M. Orphanides .

**SURNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

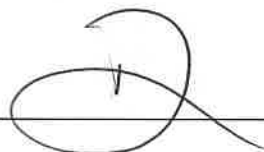
**NAME:**

Angus Sholto-Douglas

**SURNAME:**

Sholto-Douglas

**SIGNATURE:**



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

*Fridy, 26*  
**MEETING DATE:** ~~Saturday~~, 27 March 2021  
**MEETING TIME:** ~~09:00~~ 17:00  
**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Owen

**SURNAME:** Wene

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** CLARICE

**SURNAME:** ARENDSE

**SIGNATURE:** 



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Richard

**SURNAME:** Summers

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Friday, 26 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 17h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

JOSEPH

**SURNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

MARR

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph Marr

Meeting Summary			
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	<b>11</b>		
<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>WIND GARDEN &amp; FRONTEER WIND FARMS: Public Meeting No1</b>		
<b>Meeting Start Time</b>	<b>3/26/2021, 4:34:33 PM</b>		
<b>Meeting End Time</b>	<b>3/26/2021, 8:51:10 PM</b>		
<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Nicolene Venter	3/26/2021, 4:34:33 PM	3/26/2021, 7:57:15 PM	3h 22m
Jo-Anne Thomas	3/26/2021, 4:38:38 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:43 PM	3h 18m
Lisa Opperman	3/26/2021, 4:40:17 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:44 PM	3h 16m
Guest	3/26/2021, 4:45:33 PM	3/26/2021, 5:01:46 PM	16m 12s
Matthew Keeley	3/26/2021, 4:58:00 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:41 PM	2h 58m
JamesGush	3/26/2021, 4:58:05 PM	3/26/2021, 8:51:10 PM	3h 53m
\ALETTA BROWN - BRACKKLOOF (Guest)"	3/26/2021, 5:00:58 PM	3/26/2021, 6:42:30 PM	1h 41m
Jennifer Gush (Guest)	3/26/2021, 5:02:17 PM	3/26/2021, 7:58:53 PM	2h 56m
Simon Todd (Guest)	3/26/2021, 5:12:45 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:52 PM	2h 44m
Francois Havenga	3/26/2021, 5:32:14 PM	3/26/2021, 6:52:49 PM	1h 20m

# Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm, Eastern Cape Province

Public Meetings  
26 & 27 March 2021

1

## AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project description
- BA process
- Need and Desirability
- Results
- Way forward

2

## MEETING CONDUCT

- Please hold all questions till after presentation
- Please provide equal opportunity to all attendees
- Please raise your hand to ask a question and repeat your name
- Please switch all cell phones to silent
- Virtual participants please use chat function
- Administration

3

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

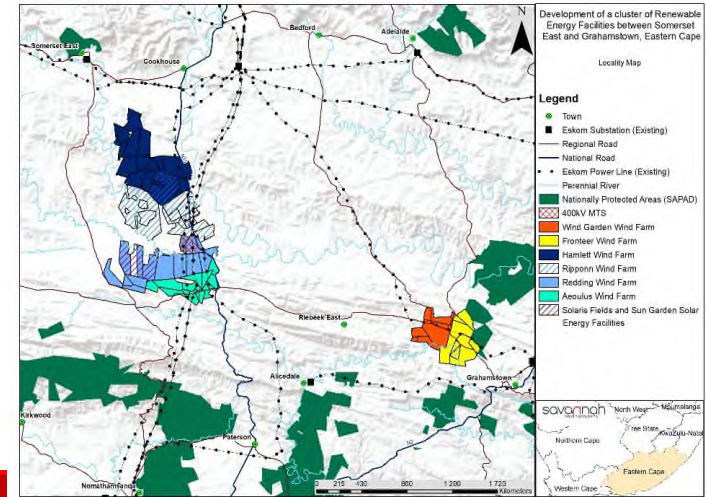
- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed project
- Summary of the BA and PP process
- Present a summary of key environmental findings
- Opportunity for you to seek clarity and obtain further information
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the final BA reports to be submitted to DEFF
- Local knowledge

4

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Lisa Opperman)

5

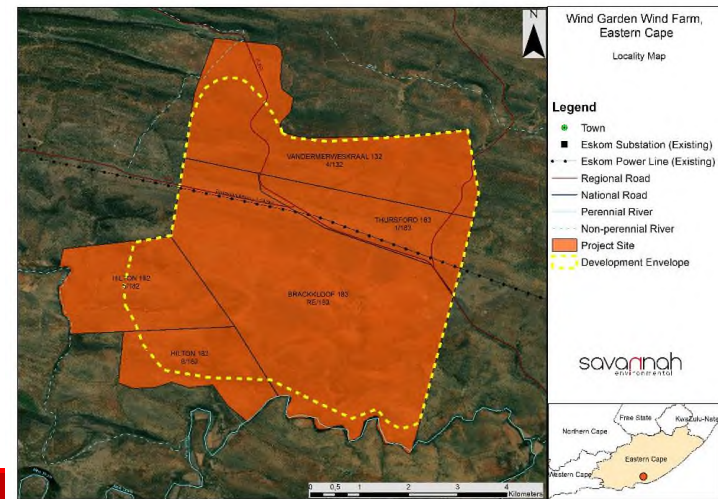


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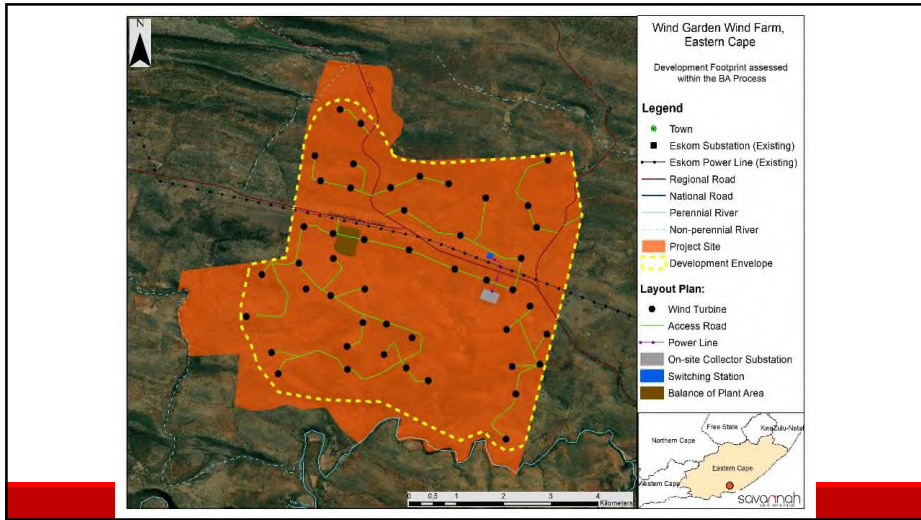
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wind Garden Wind Farm		Fronteer Wind Farm	
Applicant	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Applicant	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd
Location	17km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ	Location	12km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ
Contracted Capacity	264MW	Contracted Capacity	213MW
Infrastructure details	47 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	38 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	

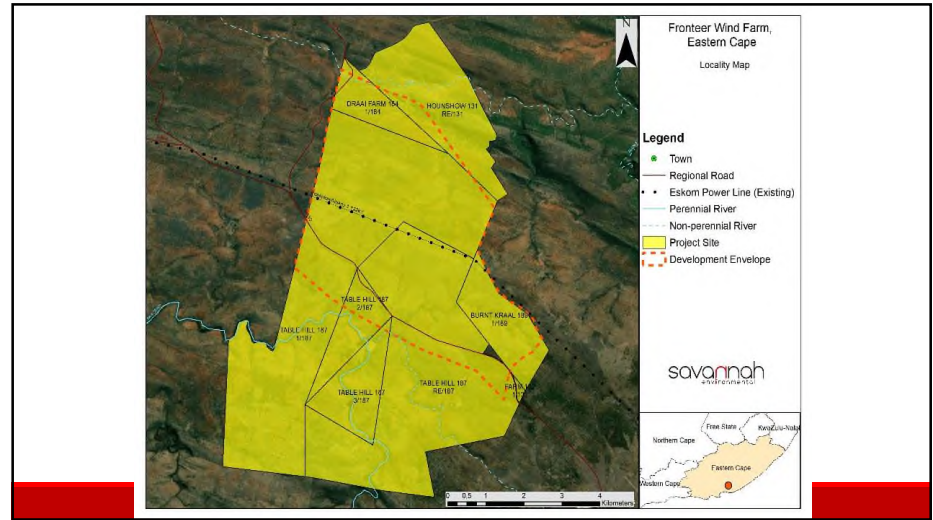
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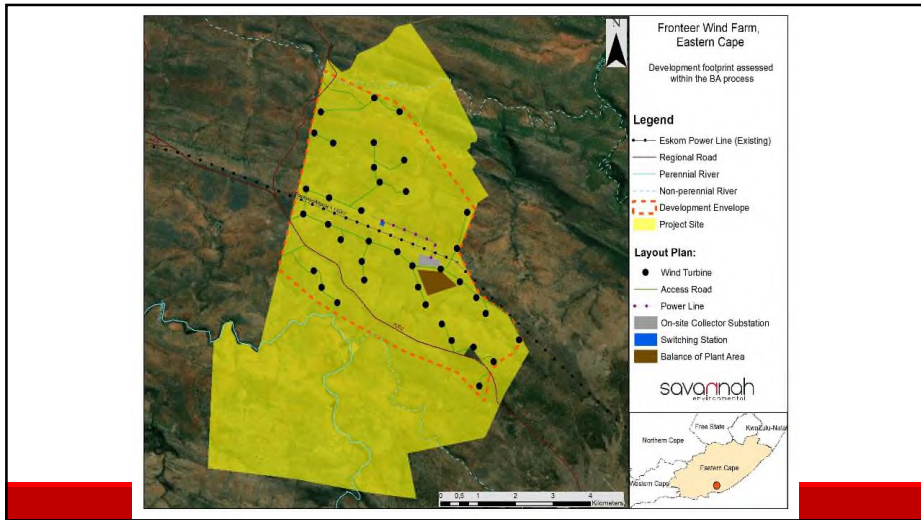
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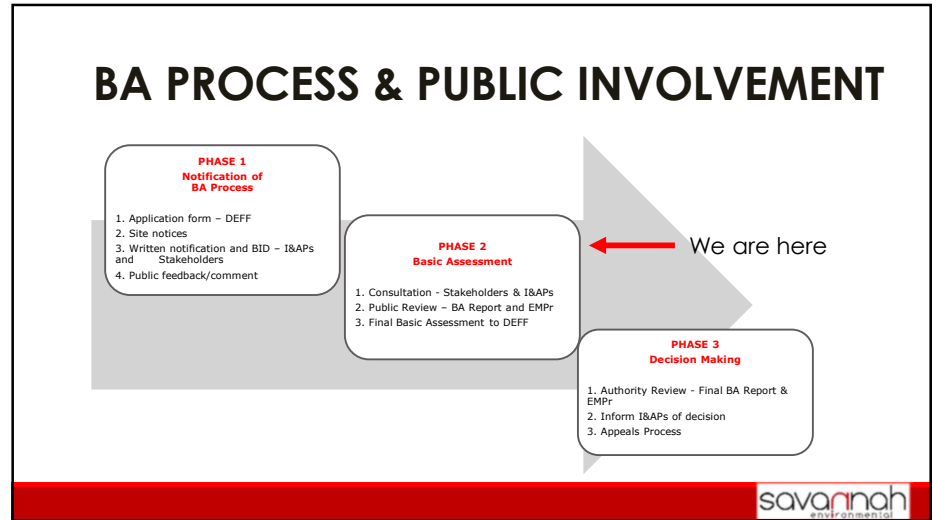
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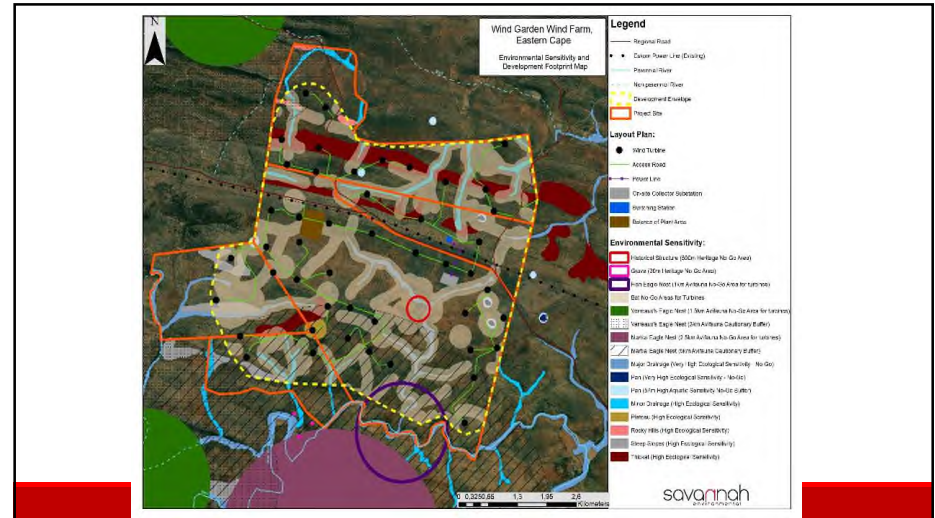
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# NEED AND DESIRABILITY

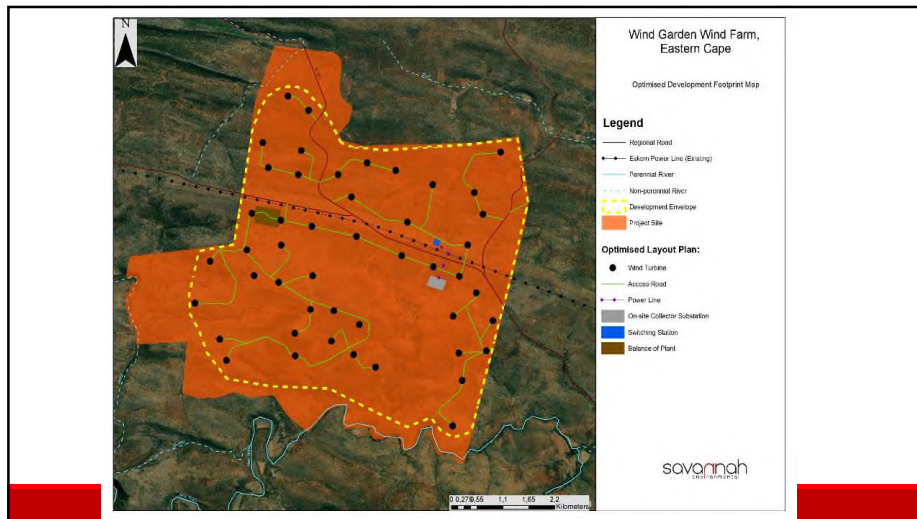
- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for 17GW from wind energy
- Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (2020) calls for massive investment in infrastructure, including energy
- Wind resource available in the project site
- Securing additional power generation capacity for private off-takers
- Reduced reliance on Eskom



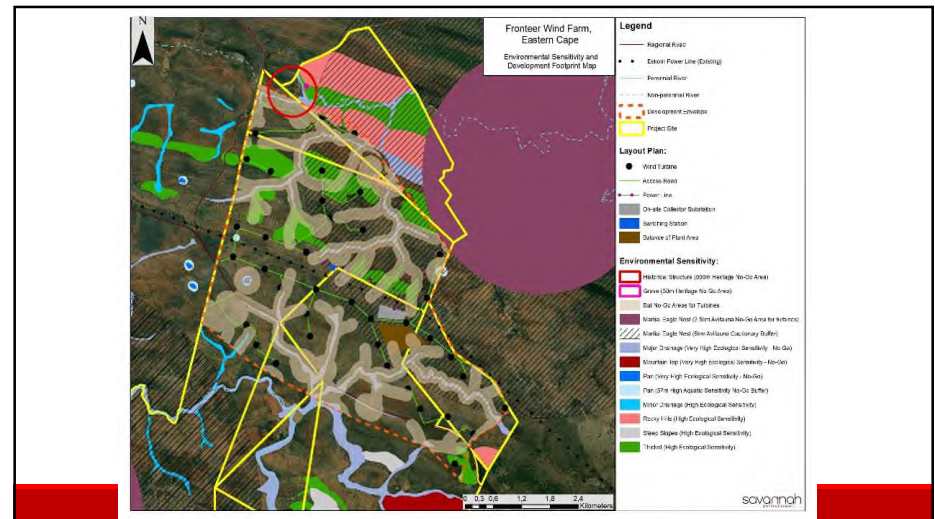
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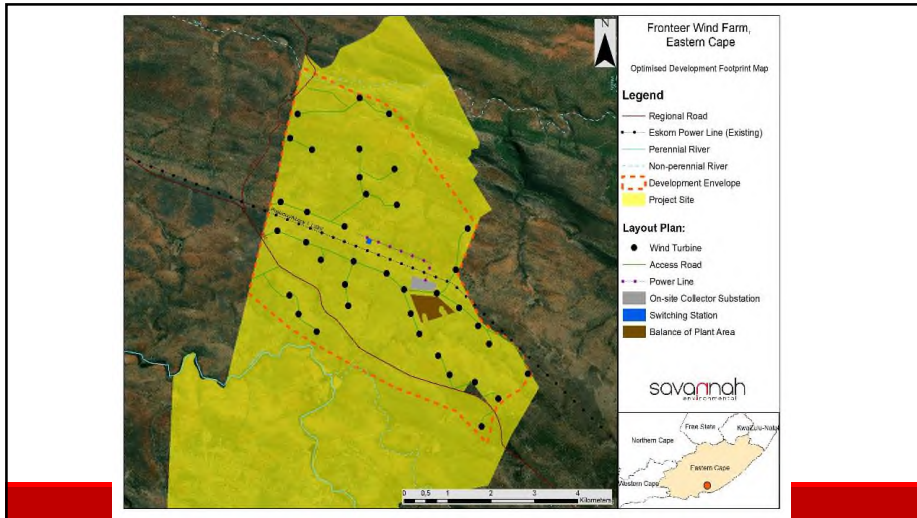
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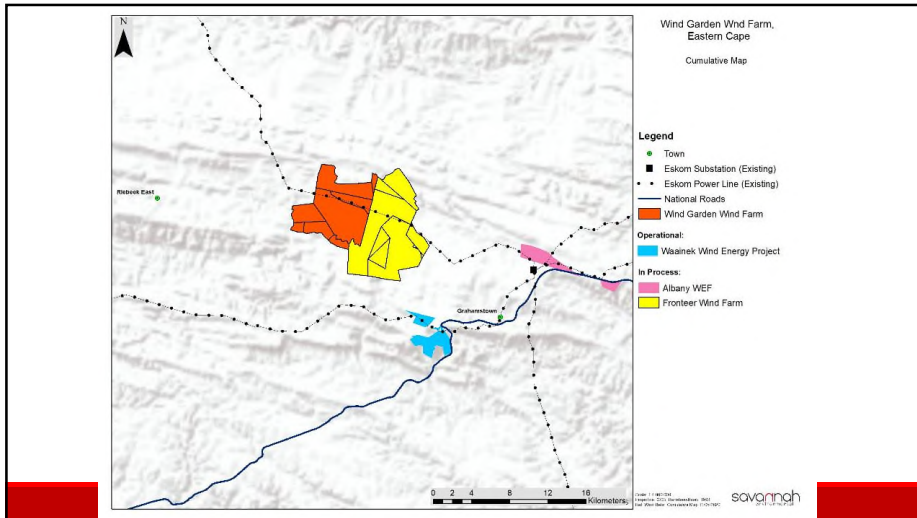


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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	Medium	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Minimal

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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High	High
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: High and Medium	Positive impacts: High and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Without Mitigation: Medium and Low	With Mitigation: Low

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## WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports: 04 March 2021 – 06 May 2021  
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DEFF for decision-making

## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nicolene Venter

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**DRAFT MEETING NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2021 AT 09H00  
VENUE: GRAHAMS HOTEL, 123 HIGH STREET, MAKHANDA**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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

**WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA,  
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Captured alphabetically according to surname**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Chad Comley	Property Developer & Landowner	Tweefontein Farm
Monde Galelimali	Resident	Farm Ford
Wesley Gush		Amakhala Game Reserve
James Harrison	Director	J.A.H. & Son Consultancy
Gerhard Heyneke		
Ryan Hillier		Kwandwe Private Game Reserve
Neale Howarth (Virtual)		INDALO Protected Environment and Pumba Private Game Reserve
Danie Jordaan	Representative	Game Farms
Nonkosi Khamani	Resident	Farm Ford
Nosipho Khamani	Resident	Farm Ford
Siyabulela Khomani	Resident	Farm Ford
Graeme Mann	Executive Manager	Kwandwe Private Game Reserve
Cameron McConnachie	Attorney	Legal Resources Centre
Vuyiswa Ndyolashe		
Hilton Petersen (Virtual)	Attorney	
Chris Pike	Director	Lukhanyo Game Reserve
Owen Poltney	Resident	Makhanda
Menzi Sikhakhane (Virtual)		Rasema Geomatics
Bongani Solami		
Shaun Thompson	Director	Rockdale Game Rances
Zandisile Twani	Resident	Makhanda
Linda Watson		Sabela Safaris
Richard York	Chief Executive Officer	Wildlife Ranching South Africa
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas (Virtual)	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	
<b>Environmental Specialist</b>		
Matthew Keeley (Virtual)	Socio-economic Specialist; Urban-Econ	

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the public meeting (PM) for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Lisa Opperman provided an overview of the proposed cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and Makhanda, as well as a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment processes undertaken. She presented the following key information:

- project description for the Wind Garden Wind Farm and the Fronteer Wind Farm;
- the locality of the two proposed wind farms and their respective development footprint as assessed within the BA process;
- the BA and public participation process followed to date;
- how the development footprint has been optimised by taking the environmental sensitivities within the development footprint into consideration;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the construction and operational phases;
- cumulative impacts were also done and the results thereof; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

Nicolene Venter informed the participants that the review and comment period for the BA Reports had been extended to Thursday, 06 May 2021.

She informed the attendees that due to unforeseen circumstances the translator could not attend the series of public meetings.

A copy of the participants' attendance, including the virtual participants, is attached as **Appendix A** and the presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

**DISCUSSION SESSION (including those submitted on the MS Teams conversation platform)**

**Comments captured per participants and in alphabetical order**

Question / Comment	Response
<b>Chad Comley</b>	
It was enquired who is the client and why are they not here.	Lisa Opperman responded that the umbrella company is Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd and that Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd and Fronteer (Pty) Ltd are the companies for the two projects presented at the public meeting.
In addition to the request made by Linda Watson that the client and specialist be present at the next meeting, he requested that the partner companies also be present i.e. Dimsum and Energy Exchange.	Nicolene Venter responded that the request will be forwarded to the applicant.
It was requested that a map with a larger area be made available to the participants indicating where the various bird nests have been identified.	Lisa Opperman responded that larger scale maps are included in the BA Reports as Appendix O.
It was requested that the visual impact of having one blade painted black be assessed and addressed.	Lisa Opperman responded that the request will be put forward to the visual specialist to consider in their assessment.

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was asked whether the existing 132kV power line be upgraded to handle the power generated by these wind farms.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the applicant is in consultation with Eskom to determine what would be required for the project. She added that feedback would be obtained from the client and included in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> There is sufficient capacity on the existing 132kV power line for one of the two proposed wind farms. The grid would need to be strengthened should both projects be approved, but no upgrading would be required.</p>
<p>It was mentioned that one of the applicant's CVs needs to be added in, however Lisa Opperman's and Jo-Anne Thomas' were included in the report and since this is a draft report it is envisaged that the applicant's will be included in the final report.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that in terms of the EIA Regulations, only the registered EAP and specialists' CVs are required to be included in the report.</p>
<p><b>Wesley Gush</b></p>	
<p>It was stated that, in reference to Amakhala Game Reserve being mentioned in the social studies, that Amakhala Game Reserve does not endorse the two proposed developments and Amakhala Game Reserve is not sure how the sample was undertaken.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the reference made to Amakhala Game Reserve was from a secondary source, i.e not primary research undertaken by Urban-Econ.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Urban-Econ would be embarking on a second round of interviews with nearby landowners to ascertain their inputs and perceptions towards the project. These inputs would be added to the SEIA report.</p>
<p><b>James Harrison</b></p>	
<p>In response to Nicolene Venter's answer regarding which specialists are present at the meeting, James Harrison added that he is also a specialist and was one of the avifauna specialists, contracted by East Cape Diverse Consultants.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman informed the attendees that the avifaunal specialists are Adri Barkhuysen and Steve Percival.</p>
<p>James Harrison informed the participants that he would be responding to any avifaunal questions raised at the meeting.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter asked for clarification purposes whether James Harrison's responses will be on behalf of Adri Barkhuizen, the appointed avifaunal specialist.</p>
<p>James Harrison responded that his responses will not be on behalf of Adri Barkhuizen but on behalf of his company J.A.H. Consultancy.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the confirmation.</p>
<p>In response to Lynda Watson's question regarding the range of assessment area for the avifaunal studies, it was responded, as</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter and Lisa Opperman acknowledged the information provided.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>observer for the first 9 of the 12 months observation, the area looked at was much larger, however there are three (3) different methods of doing birds observation and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vantage point where one sits in a specific point, i.e. view of some of the wind turbines;</li> <li>• Road transects, which are a much large area outside the development area, and</li> <li>• Then sites at dams where there is a concentration of birds.</li> </ul>	
<p>He informed the project team that his main concern was that, as a specialist on the project, he was not asked at any point to review the content of the draft avifaunal report.</p> <p>He stated that he was blind sided by Adri Barkhuizen and was surprised as to how far the process had proceeded without requesting him to comment on the draft report.</p> <p>Written comments will be submitted on the report now that the BA Reports are available for comment, as not all issues have been addressed.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the information shared.</p>
<p>He stated that in terms of the presentation it is noted that some adjustments were made in terms of eagles nests i.e. Martial and Verreaux's Eagles. However, that was not the only issue as there are presence of Blue Crane, Southern Black Korhaan, Secretary Birds, etc. These are species that was personally observed by him.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman acknowledged the information shared and responded that it would be forwarded to the avifaunal specialist.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> All species referred to are listed as being recorded as part of the study within the Avifauna Impact Assessment reports.</p>
<p>Cumulative impact was briefly mentioned and not sure if all participants understood the significant thereof. The impact referred to the development site and cumulative impacts are what the proposed development would add to those existing developments in the area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman thanked James Harrison for the clarification provided.</p>
<p>It is of importance that the cumulative impacts be reviewed as one can see Waainek from the proposed development sites, and the visual impact would be significant.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that from a visual perspective the specialist had considered all wind farms in the area i.e. Waainek and Albany, and has included these into a viewshed analysis. A map showing the expected</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	cumulative impact is included in the Visual Impact Assessment Report and the BA Report.
<p>It was reiterated that not only are eagles important, but there are also a number of bird species such as the Blue Crane, Southern Black Korhaan, Secretary Birds, i.e. red listed species whose nests are on the ground that are just as important as eagles.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked James Harrison for the information provided.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> All species referred to are listed as being recorded as part of the study within the Avifauna Impact Assessment reports.</p>
<b>Gerhard Heyneke</b>	
<p>He commented that when Amakhala is referenced it is not applicable for the SIA as Amakhala is situated 160km from Cookhouse.</p> <p>He suggested that they as landowners have a regional interest, and he is more than willing to get the farmers together as wildlife ranches and then the SIA specialist can compile a list of not only the three (3) farmers who support the projects, but also those that are opposing the projects. It is believed this will be the best way to ensure that all applicable parties are part of the social study.</p>	<p>Matthey Keeley acknowledged the point regarding Amakhala. Mr Keeley confirmed that further engagements would be undertaken to solicit additional information and inputs from affected and surrounding landowners.</p>
<p>He informed the social specialist that it needs to be taken into consideration that all the properties are eco-tourism, it consists of trophy hunting and taken down the production line such as butcheries, and food source, etc. it was stated that the social specialist will shoot himself in the foot if the by-products are not included in the economic study.</p> <p>Over the past 30 years in establishing wildlife was an extensive process and they are all now sustainable and this fact also needs to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>No international hunter would want to hunt on a property where wind turbines are visible.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley acknowledged the point made regarding the consideration of the entire value chain.</p>
<b>Danie Jordaan</b>	
<p>He requested that from a methodology point of view that the SAM model was used to obtain results and informed the project team that the SAM model was created in 2006 and would like to confirm the credibility of that</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley acknowledged the question and responded that the SAM is indeed used as the input/output modelling technique so as to quantify the total potential impacts to GDP etc.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
model representing the study area's conditions.	Urban-Econ utilises the Eastern Cape SAM Model, benchmarked against industry norms.
It was requested whether participants have access to the SAM model.	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that access to the model is not provided for, as it is a dynamic model.</p> <p>Matthew Keeley confirmed his availability to discuss the matter with Danie Jordaan.</p>
It was asked whether the results were peer reviewed.	Matthew Keeley responded that the SEIA Report was peer review by Urban-Econ's internal team and moderators which includes staff members with +42 years of experience based at their Head Office in Pretoria.
It was asked to what extent the weighting factors can be explained i.e. percentage allocation per impact and what is the weighting between the specialist fields i.e. bats vs social economics.	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the weighting has been equally presented in the report. The results of the studies are being presented to the Department for review and decision-making.
It was requested that it be record that according to his view the weighting system is not an appropriate representation of the situation as some impacts could have a larger than others.	Lisa Opperman acknowledged the comment and responded that what Savannah Environmental considered are the duration, magnitude of the impact, etc. and these are all from the legislation, i.e. the legislations requires that you consider those impact to get the significance rating.
If you quantify the actual impacts, it allows you to plug it into high, i.e. The rating scaling is not sensitive enough as it underrepresents the impact, and this skews the results.	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the methodology was developed to try and equally represent impacts across all fields of study. She added that some impacts are rated slightly differently depending on the extent and duration of the impact. The Report includes a section discussing costs and benefits associated with the project.
<p>It was requested that it be recorded that the weighting is not representative of the situation as some impacts have a result of not being of high significance.</p> <p>In short, the social studies indicate that tourism is the biggest economic contributor and the weighting skews the results.</p>	Jo-Anne Thomas commented that the weighting could be refined to include a very high scale impact. This however is not expected to change the outcome of the assessment. All specialist used same methodology.
It was commented that the SEIA Report considers many of the SA national strategies and documents relevant to these types of developments, but it is completely silent on wildlife economy.	Matthew Keeley acknowledged the comment.



Question / Comment	Response
<p>In response to Matthew Keeley's request for an example of a national strategy document, the SANParks Biodiversity Strategy held on 08 March 2018 in East London was mentioned.</p> <p>It was requested that the fact that this Strategy document was not considered and therefore not included in the SEIA report to be noted as such in the meeting notes.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley thanked Danie Jordaan for the information and confirmed that his team will familiarise themselves with the content of the Report.</p>
<p>It was commented that if the SEIA study can quantify the jobs per SAM model created it was believed that the SAM model could be used to quantify job losses.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that theoretically one could be able to do such, however looking at the SAM it is an appreciation of economic flows throughout the entire South African economy as a whole and it should be appreciated that expenditure flows across local and municipal district boundaries. It becomes difficult to use SAM on a local level to identify local job losses especially in the tourism industry.</p> <p>It could be considered but it needs to be noted that there could be some limitation in modelling in this regard.</p>
<p>It was commented that although the SAM cannot handle it properly it does not mean it should not happen. It is his point of view that more needs to be done as the hypothesis is that there would be no job losses and that only jobs would be created. This is information that is critical to the decision maker to enable them to evaluate the real situation and make an informed decision.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the inputs provided by Danie Jordaan. Matthew Keeley also noted the comment.</p>
<p>Reference was made to page 27 of the SEIA Report where it is stated:  <i>480 full time jobs will be created in both phases and 460 for SA and long run 22 jobs and 25 full time.</i>  How many of the full-time jobs will be for high skilled and how many for low skilled workers.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the figures mentioned are from the Fronteer Wind Farm SEIA Report. He referred to the Wind Garden Wind Farm Report to which he had access and referred to page 31 which indicated that the job creation from a skills point of view would include 27 sustainable jobs available for South Africans and 27% thereof would be skilled and 73% will be unskilled.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that the information as captured on the visual map needed to be verified on the ground.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the specialist had visited the area and has used various viewpoints for his assessment.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that some of the surveys which have been done by themselves as landowners indicated a loss of</p>	<p>The comment has been noted. The SEIA specialist would welcome any additional information that could be shared for</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>90% of visitors to game farms and also the tourism facilities that offers wildlife experience, not guest houses in town.</p> <p>It was requested whether this loss could be modelled by the social specialist and that the impacts must not be based on assumptions but on scenarios.</p> <p>The question was asked as to what would happen to the economy should there be a loss of 90% income for the country. It was mentioned that no business can survive with a loss of 90% income.</p>	<p>consideration and inclusion into the SEIA report to inform the decision-making.</p>
<p>It was asked how comprehensive the literature cited by the social specialist is as it does not seem like a systematic review but rather a pick of preference.</p>	<p>The comment has been noted. Mr Keeley has confirmed that the literature review does not conclusively speak to absolute positives and negative impacts. Several of the studies reviewed do speak of negative impacts attributed to the development of wind farms on the tourism industry. This aligns to the findings of the SEIA report.</p>
<p>It was asked what proof there is that the mitigation measures being proposed would be sufficient to eliminate or reduce the negative impact.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the specialists on the project team have worked on various wind farm developments and have experience regarding mitigations which would be needed to minimise impacts associated with such developments. She added that the mitigations are included within the EMPr for the project which is a dynamic document which can be updated if a mitigation measure has been identified as not being applicable or effective. This can occur several times during the lifespan of the project. Any changes to the EMPr are required to be approved by the Department as per the EIA Regulations.</p>
<p><b>Nosipho Khamani</b></p>	
<p>The following was presented to the project team as representative from the occupiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they as occupiers in the area have a problem with water supply to their homes</li> <li>• The current position of two wind turbines is located in the front and back of her house</li> </ul>	<p>Matthew Keeley acknowledged the information provided and confirmed that it would be considered in the socio-economic assessment.</p> <p>The potential negative impacts associated in terms of the loss to local tourism were</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are occupants on the farm for over 25 years</li> <li>It was mentioned that Nosipho Khamani is a landowner of a newly established game farm. The concern was raised that should turbines be erected on the property, workers will lose their jobs in the tourism industry as no one will visit the game farm if there are turbines on it.</li> </ul>	<p>acknowledged and it was responded that the study by South Africa and Internal literature indicated that the long-term negative impacts would be far less over a longer period of time.</p> <p>The SEIA report has not sought to forecast potential negative impacts to each individual property. Rather, an industry-wide impact perspective is provided within the SEIA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was asked how many job opportunities would be created by these projects during the construction and operation phase i.e. long term/ sustainable job opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>Post meeting note:</p> <p>As detailed in the BA Reports (Chapter 2), the following job opportunities are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Wind Garden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Direct construction employment opportunities: Up to 620 jobs created and maintained for approximately two and a half years.</li> <li>o Operation: Employment opportunities relating mainly to operation activities and maintenance. Up to 15 full-time employment opportunities will be available.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» Fronteer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Direct construction employment opportunities: Up to 493 jobs created and maintained for approximately two and a half years.</li> <li>o Operation: Employment opportunities relating mainly to operation activities and maintenance. Up to 12 full-time employment opportunities will be available.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Graeme Mann</b>	
<p>It was asked for clarification purposes that the avifaunal assessment feedback by James Harrison is for both Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm.</p>	<p>James Harrison confirmed that the responsibility for vantage point assessment was shared by him and Adri Barkhuizen. He was solely responsible for the road transects and the site-specific interest. He was involved for 9 of the 12 months monitoring. Another person took over the last observation for the remaining three months.</p>
<p>He suggested that the households (i.e human inhabitants) on the directly and adjacent properties be included on the sensitivity map.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that it could be added to the requested map.</p> <p><b><u>Post meeting note:</u></b></p>

Question / Comment	Response
	All dwellings identified on the affected and adjacent properties are indicated on Figure 2.1 of the noise impact assessment report (Appendix J of the BA Reports), as these are all considered to be noise sensitive developments.
<b>Cameron McConnachie</b>	
<p>The following issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that no transport was arranged for community members to attend the PM.</li> <li>Why is there not a translator at the PM?</li> </ul>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that due to unforeseen circumstances the translator could not join the series of public meetings.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b></p> <p>It needs to be noted that in order to ensure that all COVID-19 protocols of the meeting venue, the invitations extended to all registered I&amp;APs on the projects' databases were requested to register their attendance at the meetings. A translator was requested to attend the meetings but was unfortunately not available.</p> <p>Savannah Environmental accommodated the community members that arrived at the public meeting without registration as their attendance could be accommodated.</p> <p>Furthermore, transport arrangement was not made as no such a request was received from those I&amp;APs who registered their attendance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupiers on the development and adjacent properties were not informed and are in the dark regarding the proposed projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that consultation is taking place with the Ward Councillor to ensure that information is disseminated to community workers and the occupiers on the various properties within the study area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A list of occupiers will be submitted to the project team after the meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked Cameron McConnachie for the sharing of the information and confirmed that these occupiers will be registered on the projects' databases.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An occupier on one of the development property's house is located between two (2) turbines.</li> </ul>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the location of this house will be determined.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SIA Report must be made available to community members in an easily accessible manner and written in such a way that it can be read and understood.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, how will the social specialist ensure that that their report is accessible to community members.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged this request and the team will assess how the SIA report could be made available to the occupiers.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the specialist will be available to answer the participant's question.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that Matthew Keeley, the social specialist is available online.</p>
<p>It was mentioned that it is important that the project be made known to the workers on the affected properties, maybe a roadshow, but definitely with a person that speaks Xhosa or IsiZulu to explain what these projects are about and what could be expected during construction and operational phase.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the suggestion and responded that the team would determine the best approach.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that there is a legal term in the Constitution called a Pre and Prior Informed Consent which is mainly applicable to the mining industry.</p> <p>It is the occupiers right to be informed. They have been living on these farms for longer than 30 years and it is believed that it is important they give their consent, or at least be informed.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the information shared and it was confirmed that as these applications are not mining related, the only consent required in the legislation is that of the directly affected landowners on whose property/ties the developments are being proposed. <u>Occupiers are however required to be informed such that they can submit their comments/issues.</u></p>
<p>He commented that he had not yet read the SEIA report but would like to know what time and effort has been put into people as it seems a lot of money has been spent on the biodiversity impacts associated with the proposed developments.</p> <p>It was therefore requested from the social specialist how their process unfolded to assess the impact on farm workers and community members.</p>	<p>A detailed scope of work and methodology is presented within the first Chapter of the SEIA study.</p>
<b>Chris Pike</b>	
<p>It was requested that the project team informs the participants which specialists are present at meeting.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that Matthew Keeley, the social specialist is present online via MS Teams.</p>
<p>It was commented that Lisa Opperman's response to Linda Watson regarding water source is not the same as what was responded</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the question of Friday evening was which specialist has looked at the impact and the response was none and that a geohydrology specialist would need to</p>

Question / Comment	Response
to at the PM held on Friday evening, 26 March 2021.	<p>be appointed and that this point will be forwarded to the client.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter confirmed that the response provided by Lisa Opperman was correct and that the requirement for a geohydrology study was identified by the stakeholders and that this requirement will be forwarded to the applicant.</p> <p><b><u>Post meeting note:</u></b> A geohydrology study, should it be required, would be undertaken as part of a Water Use License application process.</p>
In addition, it was asked why this study is only identified now.	Lisa Opperman responded that, as mentioned previously, stakeholders at the Friday evening meeting had identified and requested such a study.
In terms of the Ward Councillor, where is this ward and what area does it cover.	Nicolene Venter responded that the study area falls within Ward 1 and that the western cluster also falls within Ward 1.
It was asked whether Grahamstown falls within Ward 1.	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that Makhanda does not fall within Ward 1 but that the wind farm sites do. She added that Ward 1 is a huge area and consists mainly of farms and rural areas.</p> <p>She informed the participant that a copy of the Demarcation Board .KMZ file will be e-mailed to him showing the extent of Ward 1.</p>
Chris Pike requested where in the SIA Report would he find the references to the three farmers that were interviewed which are located near Cookhouse.	Mathew Keeley responded that it is referenced as <i>Terblanche 2020</i> in the Report and at the top of page 36 in the Wind Garden Report interviews with game farm owners. The details of the interview parties have not been included in the SIA report, but it could be expanded on.
It was mentioned at the meeting held on Friday, 26 March 2021 Urban-Econ stated that there insufficient studies were conducted to assess social impacts associated with wind farm developments and such a response comes across as a fatal flaw. Is it not possible for Urban-Econ to do their own studies?	Matthew Keeley responded that there are limited published academic studies relating to the impact on game farm "Big 5" tourism as a result of the development of renewable energy projects. However, it should be noted that as part of the SEIA study the team has undertaken primary research and interviewed a number of tourism establishments in other locations within SA. The results of this research can be found within the report.

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>It was acknowledged that those study areas are somewhat different from what is found in the Makhanda area.</p> <p>Expanding on the discussions held at the process t meeting, the team is now fortunate to know which stakeholders have not been engaged with previously. The team will now work with Savannah Environmental's I&amp;AP process to revisit their studies and ensure that all adjacent landowners are approached for information, and to update their Report.</p>
<b>Shaun Thompson</b>	
<p>It was brought under the project team's attention that they had not been interviewed as part of the social studies and indicated that he is willing to join Chris Pike and the other landowners to complete the questionnaire and to air their view on how the proposed projects would impact their current operations.</p> <p>He informed the project team that most of the questions that he had, had been answered through the questions raised by the other participants.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comments submitted.</p>
<p>He asked the project team who pays for these studies.</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded the developer, as required by the legislation, is responsible to pay for the various environmental studies being undertaken.</p>
<p>As a follow-up, he enquired whether the developer could select who he wants to appoint to do the studies, i.e. does it go through a selection panel to decide which EAP is the most suited to do the studies.</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the environmental specialists are appointed by Savannah Environmental, and Savannah Environmental was appointed by the applicant.</p> <p>The only specialists not appointed by Savannah Environmental are the avifauna and bat pre-construction monitoring as the monitoring commenced prior to Savannah Environmental's appointment.</p>
<p>The project team responded to one of Danie Jordaan's first questions there was a statement made that there were subjective opinions put into the case studies and if Savannah Environmental is employed by the client how</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the specialists are appointed based on their expertise, experience and results and findings of their scientific assessments in terms of the Regulations</p>

Question / Comment	Response
any of these case studies can be independent.	
The project team was informed that the response is not a valid response, and he is not satisfied with the response provided.	<p>Nicolene Venter requested whether a response to this comment can be provided in the meeting notes and the participants agreed to the approach.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> As detailed in Chapter 1 of the BA Reports, Savannah Environmental and the specialist consultants responsible for providing specialist inputs to the BA Reports are independent from applicant. The findings and conclusions presented in the BA Reports are the result of professional investigations undertaken by respected specialists in their fields. The facts have been presented clearly and professionally and aim to provide the DFFE with all information required to make an informed decision on the projects.</p> <p>The independence of the EAP is declared within the Declaration under Oath provided in Appendix Q of the BA Reports.</p>
He enquired whether the Red-billed ox pecker listed and considered in the studies. The reason for this question is that in 1990 their farm together with the DFFE brought the red billed ox pecker back into the Eastern Cape after 100 years of being eradicated out of the Eastern Cape. Thereafter various reserves, Shamwari etc also brought the red billed ox pecker back and it has been a tremendous conservation success. It is believed that these proposed developments would put this bird under threat again.	<p>Lisa Opperman informed the participants that a response will be obtained from the avifaunal specialist.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting notes:</b> <b>Response from Avifaunal Specialist</b> A few Red-billed ox peckers (approximately 5 to 10 birds) were occasionally seen between the farms Hilton and Thornkloof, 15km west of Grahamstown. This was the only location that these birds were recorded. It is very unlikely that the proposed wind farms would not have a negative impact on these birds. Their threat or extinction in the Eastern Cape was highly likely because early generation dips on cattle and other stock.</p>
It was stated that the Cookhouse Wind Farm and Waainek Wind Farms cannot be mentioned in the same study as Waainek Wind Farm is a much smaller wind farm than Cookhouse.	Nicolene Venter confirmed, with Matthew Keeley, that the comment has been noted.
<b>Zandisile Twani</b>	



Question / Comment	Response
<p>The project team was informed that consultation with the Ward Councillor needs to take place as she will ensure that the information reached the communities, especially in the farming and rural areas.</p> <p>He also mentioned that I mainly foreigners outside the community are employed to work at wind farms and it was asked what the approach would be taken to ensure that the local community members are offered jobs on these projects.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged Zandisile's recommendation and confirmed that the team is in consultation with the Councillor to ensure that information regarding this project reached the occupiers on farms as well as community members.</p> <p>Matthew Keeley responded that it is a requirement that a percentage of the total employment must be local community members. He also informed the attendees that it is recommended that suitable channels be followed to ensure that employment is done fairly, especially where skills are available.</p>
<b>Lynda Watson</b>	
<p>She commented that reading the EIA assessment it seems that the Martial Eagle was not found within the assessment radius. However, she informed the project team that they have a Martial Eagle breeding site on their property and to date no specialist visited their property to determine what is on the property and what not.</p> <p>She informed the project team that her study area is much wider than the 5km radius that the specialist used.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the information in the BA Reports and the map presented were based on the specialists' assessments and their monitoring data and modelling.</p> <p>She added that a response will be requested from Adri Barkhuizen, the avifauna specialist.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting notes:</b>  <b>Response by Avifaunal Specialist</b>  It would be appreciated if any new nest/s of this species can be revealed to the specialist. With such the knowledge based would increase and buffers can be adjusted to include these location/s. Contact would be made with the I&amp;AP to arrange a visit to the farm.</p>
<p>Another issue of concern that was raised is water source. It is mentioned in the report that 60mL of water will be used during construction.</p> <p>The project team was informed that addition to the water source, it is a concern that as there is already a water source problem i.e. the communities do not have water, a project of this magnitude would severely impact the extremely limited water source in the area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman indicated that a response regarding water sources will be obtained from the developer.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b>  As detailed in Chapter 2 of the BA reports, water will be required for the construction phase. Water will be sourced from existing boreholes in the area. Volumes required are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Garden - approximately 19014.12kl in total for the construction activities and 12686.98kl for human consumption</li> <li>• Fronteer - approximately 14313.19kl in total for the construction activities and 10140.24kl for human consumption</li> </ul>

Question / Comment	Response
	Appendix R(6) – Water Feasibility provides information regarding the water availability of the boreholes
<p>She asked how the assessment was done by the various specialists i.e. was the assessment only done where the turbines would be located or a wider area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the assessment areas differed between specialists i.e. Visual would assess a much wider area than the ecologist.</p> <p>In terms of the avifaunal assessment area, she responded that the specific details of the assessment area will be obtained from the avifauna specialist.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b></p> <p>As detailed in the Avifauna Impact Assessment (Appendix E of the BA Reports), an extensive reference area around the wind farm sites (outside the potential impact zone of the wind farm) was surveyed and will be available for post-construction before/after comparison, for example for before/after gradient analysis. At Wind Garden, for example, a substantial area was surveyed to the south of the wind farm (as indicated in Figure 3 of the avifaunal report)</p>
<p>It was requested that copies of the specialists' CVs be provided to see what work they had done over a period of time and are they independent.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the specialists' CVs are included as a separate appendix to the BA Report (Appendix A).</p>
<p>It was asked as to why the client is not present at the meeting.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the face-to-face meetings were requested during the virtual public meeting held on Monday, 15 March 2021 and that it to be held as soon as possible. A total of four (4) face-to-face public meetings were scheduled to offer all I&amp;APs an opportunity to attend. The meetings were arranged to accommodate the stakeholders in the area. As a result, the client was unavailable to attend the meetings.</p>
<p>It was requested that a meeting be schedule where the applicant is present to respond to technical questions regarding the proposed projects. In addition, the specialists as well.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the request will be forwarded to the applicant and considered by the project team.</p>
<p>She expressed her concern regarding the studies referred to by the SEIA specialist regarding studies in SA on tourism – how was it done. It is understood that not a lot of studies</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the SEIA considered both international and South African studies and Urban-Econ had also conducted interviews with businesses in close</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>were done in South Africa that are relevant to the study area.</p>	<p>proximity to Waainek and in the viewshed of the St Frances Bay Wind Farm. However, reference has been made in the report to a study which interviewed three game farms within the same region as the Cookhouse Wind Farm. All three game farms indicated that there were no material changes to their operations as a result of the wind farm.</p>
<p>It was asked as to what Nosipho Khamani would do when there is a development on her farm i.e. will there be a job for her. There will be huge trucks entering and exiting her property with strange men, affecting her life, her husband, her children.</p> <p>The concern regarding crime for a period of four years was also mentioned.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that during construction there would be a combination of positive and negative impacts, but one positive impact is additional household income earnings over a two (2) year period for those people employed.</p> <p>On the negative side there could be the potential of short-term social conflict due to the influx of construction workers where opportunities might not be available and could contribute to the health and safety impacts to the local communities. Another negative impact would be the noise during construction, and these have also been noted and mitigation measures proposed.</p> <p>Landowner consent is required from a landowner for a proposed development on their property. Should a proposed development be approved, the affected landowner would receive an income from the development.</p>
<p>It was reiterated that a meeting be arranged with the applicant, all the specialists and the game farming industry in the study area.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter noted the request and responded that the request will be put forward to the applicant and considered by the project team.</p>
<p><b>Richard York</b></p>	
<p>It was requested, for reference purposes, that the specialists were not present at the first virtual meetings to respond to I&amp;APs questions relating to their studies.</p>	<p>It was confirmed that none of the environmental specialists were present during the virtual meetings held on 15 and 16 March 2021.</p>
<p>It was asked that apart from the Bats and Avifaunal studies, what other ecological or environmental impacts were taken into consideration i.e. animals, mammals, etc for these projects.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that not only avifaunal and bats were considered from an environmental point of view. The environmental studies also included ecology, social, etc and that a workshop was held where the specialists shared the outcome of their studies based on their field assessments undertaken.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was requested that a list of all mammals, birds, etc that formed part of the various studies be provided.</p>	<p>It was also mentioned that the ecologist looked at protected plant species, animals and reptiles, but it did not include insects.</p> <p>She informed the attendees that the identified studies to be conducted were based on what is considered to be needed for the proposed development site in the area and informed by the DFFE online screening tool.</p> <p>The list of species, as included in the avifaunal and ecologist's reports, are included as Appendices D and E of the BA Reports.</p>
<p>He asked in terms of the social studies undertaken, what was identified as the biggest economic contribution and support structure in the study area and what would the impact be on those specific contributors.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that Section 3.2 of the report provided details of the various sectors that contribute to the economy in the area and also the contribution towards employment not only in the local municipal area but also in the broader region.</p>
<p>The question was reiterated i.e. what is the biggest contributor.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley noted that at the local municipal and government level, the largest sector contributor is the "Community Sector" – this includes government supported and funded projects, healthcare, education, grant payments etc. However, at the private sector level it is the trade industry which is the biggest contributor. This includes the retail sector and elements of tourism industry as well.</p>
<p>It was mentioned that most of the occupiers living on the affected and adjacent properties do not receive grants and that cannot be seen as a contributor. However, the fact that tourism is mentioned as one of the biggest contributors is noted.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley noted the comment</p>
<p>Richard York reiterated Lynn Watson's question for clarification regarding the interviews that were conducted, i.e. were they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• international or local tourism entities;</li> <li>• who are they; and</li> <li>• what are their annual turnovers and their.</li> </ul>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded with the names of individuals listed in the Terblanche 2020 study – it was noted that these were not specified in the SEIA study, and only a reference was made to this finding.</p>
<b>Questions and comment raised on the virtual platform</b>	
<p>Hilton Petersen asked who exactly the "developer" is being referred to in the presentation.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the projects fall under separate special purpose vehicle under Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd and Fronteer (Pty) Ltd.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
Hilton Petersen commented that presumably it is meant Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd.	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd is the overall client.
Hilton Peter asked whether the controlling shareholder behind Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd could be disclosed.	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that Savannah Environmental does not have the information regarding the shareholders and are therefore unable to respond to the request.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> The Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd information is available on CIPC.</p>

## CLOSURE

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Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for making time available to attend the public meeting and for their valuable inputs into the process. The meeting was closed at 12h30.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme		

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

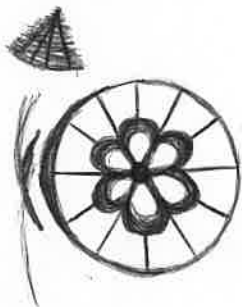
**NAME:** Bongani

**SURNAME:** Solani

**SIGNATURE:** B Solani

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER  
WIND FARM PROJECTS



MEETING DATE: Saturday, 27 March 2021

MEETING TIME: 09h00

MEETING VENUE: The Graham Hotel

PARTICIPANT:

NAME: Wesley

SURNAME: Gash

SIGNATURE: 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Cameron

**SURNAME:** McConnechie

**SIGNATURE:** 



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Chris

**SURNAME:** Pipe

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021


**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** JAMES

**SURNAME:** HARRISON

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** ZANDISILE TWANI

**SURNAME:** TWANI

**SIGNATURE:** ZC TWANI

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021


**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** James

**SURNAME:** Jordan

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021


**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Shawn

**SURNAME:** Thompson

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Gerhard

**SURNAME:** Mejnke.

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021


**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Richard

**SURNAME:** Tule

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Linda

**SURNAME:** Watson

**SIGNATURE:** 



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** GRAEME

**SURNAME:** MANN

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Chad Comley

**SURNAME:** Comley

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Ndyiswa

**SURNAME:** Ndyolashe

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Siyabulela

**SURNAME:** Khamani

**SIGNATURE:** S. Khamani

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** NOSIPHO

**SURNAME:** KHAMANI

**SIGNATURE:** A. Khama

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Nonkosi

**SURNAME:** Chama

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Monde

**SURNAME:** Galelimali

**SIGNATURE:**  \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 09h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** RYAN

**SURNAME:** HILLIER

**SIGNATURE:** 



Meeting Summary			
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	<b>11</b>		
<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>WIND GARDEN &amp; FRONTEER WIND FARMS: Public Meeting No1</b>		
<b>Meeting Start Time</b>	<b>3/26/2021, 4:34:33 PM</b>		
<b>Meeting End Time</b>	<b>3/26/2021, 8:51:10 PM</b>		
<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Nicolene Venter	3/26/2021, 4:34:33 PM	3/26/2021, 7:57:15 PM	3h 22m
Jo-Anne Thomas	3/26/2021, 4:38:38 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:43 PM	3h 18m
Lisa Opperman	3/26/2021, 4:40:17 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:44 PM	3h 16m
Guest	3/26/2021, 4:45:33 PM	3/26/2021, 5:01:46 PM	16m 12s
Matthew Keeley	3/26/2021, 4:58:00 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:41 PM	2h 58m
JamesGush	3/26/2021, 4:58:05 PM	3/26/2021, 8:51:10 PM	3h 53m
\ALETTA BROWN - BRACKKLOOF (Guest)"	3/26/2021, 5:00:58 PM	3/26/2021, 6:42:30 PM	1h 41m
Jennifer Gush (Guest)	3/26/2021, 5:02:17 PM	3/26/2021, 7:58:53 PM	2h 56m
Simon Todd (Guest)	3/26/2021, 5:12:45 PM	3/26/2021, 7:56:52 PM	2h 44m
Francois Havenga	3/26/2021, 5:32:14 PM	3/26/2021, 6:52:49 PM	1h 20m

# Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm, Eastern Cape Province

Public Meetings  
26 & 27 March 2021

1

## AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project description
- BA process
- Need and Desirability
- Results
- Way forward

2

## MEETING CONDUCT

- Please hold all questions till after presentation
- Please provide equal opportunity to all attendees
- Please raise your hand to ask a question and repeat your name
- Please switch all cell phones to silent
- Virtual participants please use chat function
- Administration

3

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

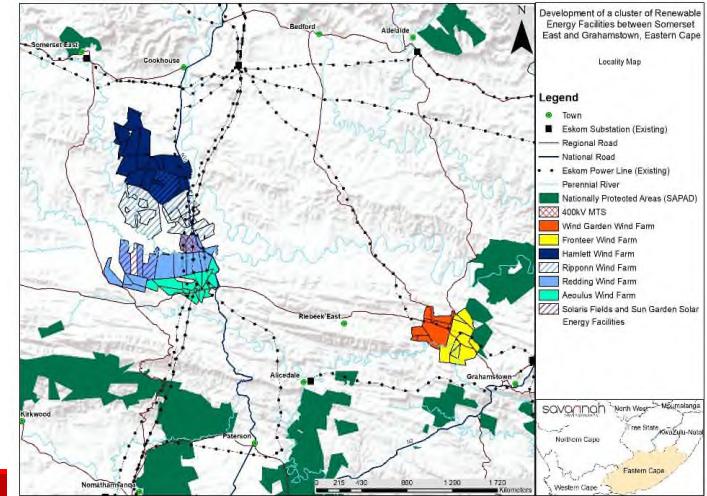
- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed project
- Summary of the BA and PP process
- Present a summary of key environmental findings
- Opportunity for you to seek clarity and obtain further information
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the final BA reports to be submitted to DEFF
- Local knowledge

4

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Lisa Opperman)

5

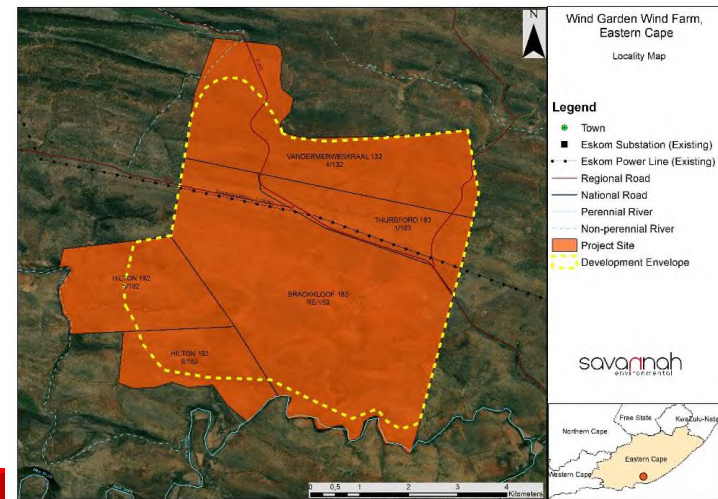


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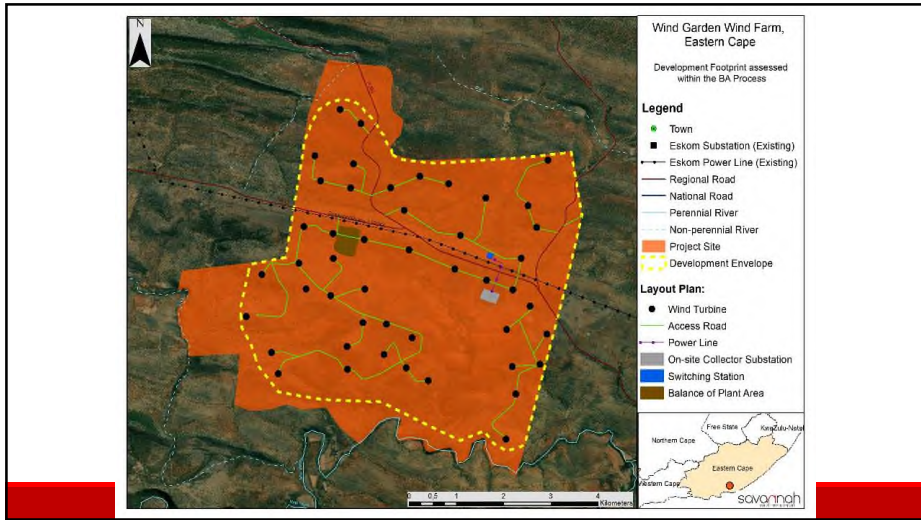
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wind Garden Wind Farm		Fronteer Wind Farm	
Applicant	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Applicant	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd
Location	17km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ	Location	12km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ
Contracted Capacity	264MW	Contracted Capacity	213MW
Infrastructure details	47 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	38 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	

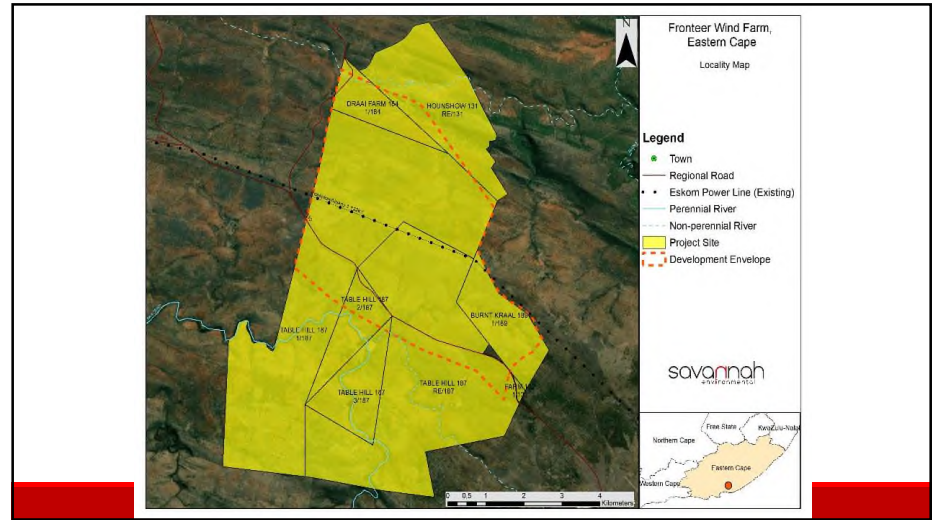
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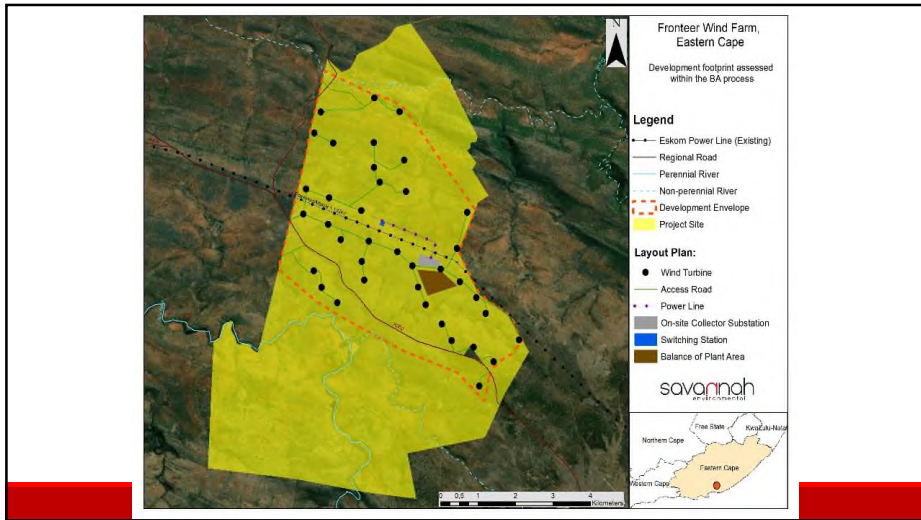
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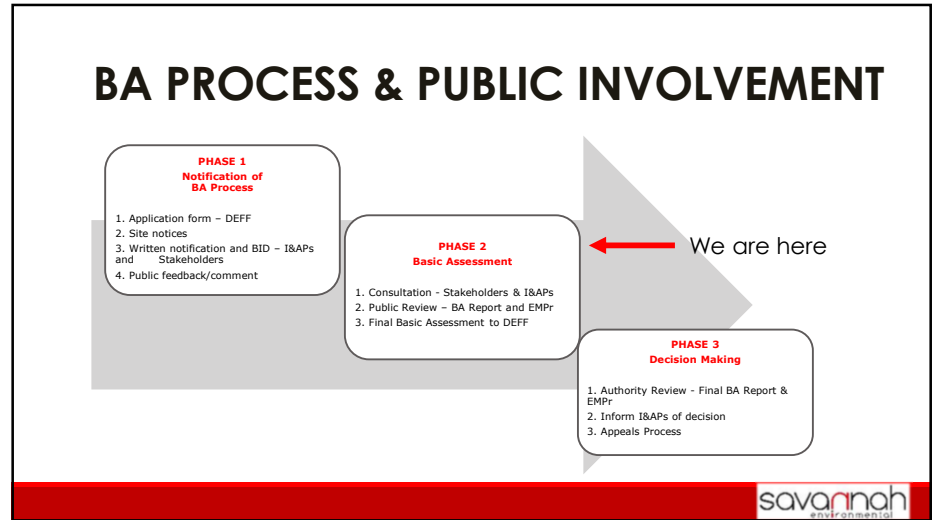
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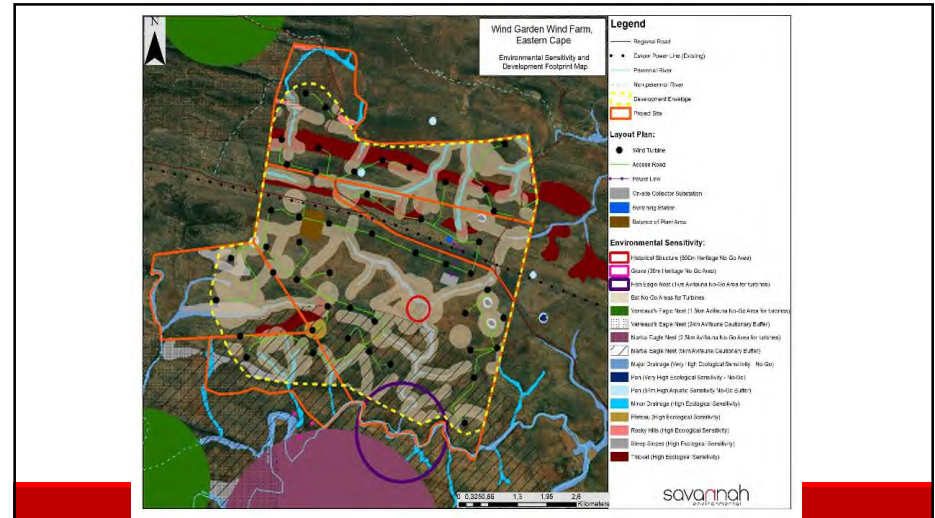
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# NEED AND DESIRABILITY

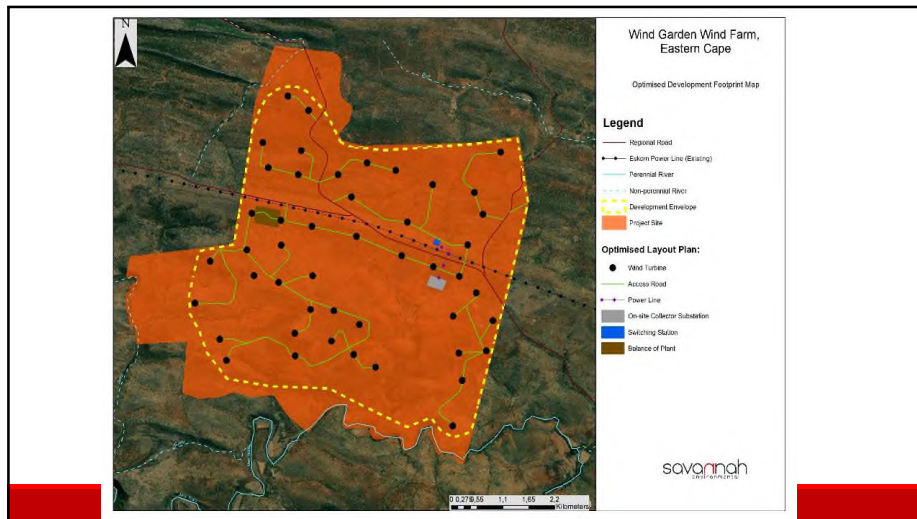
- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for 17GW from wind energy
- Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (2020) calls for massive investment in infrastructure, including energy
- Wind resource available in the project site
- Securing additional power generation capacity for private off-takers
- Reduced reliance on Eskom



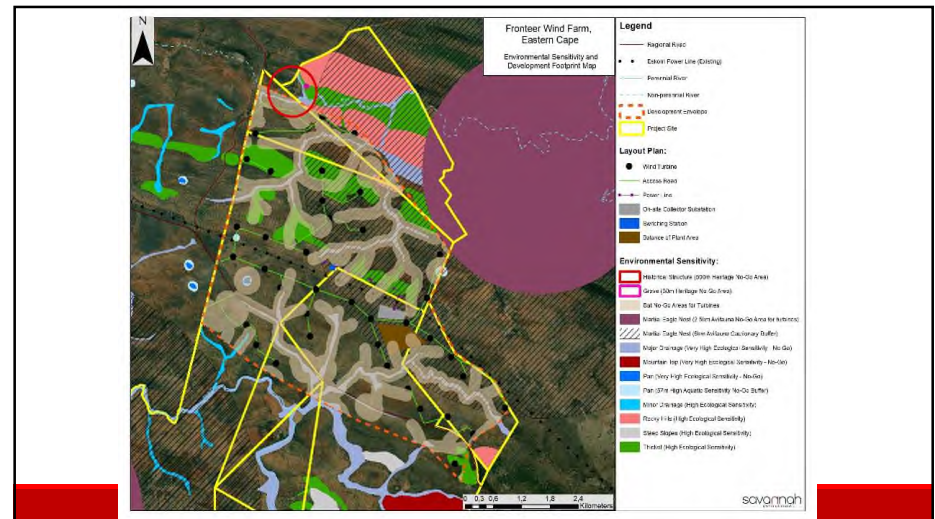
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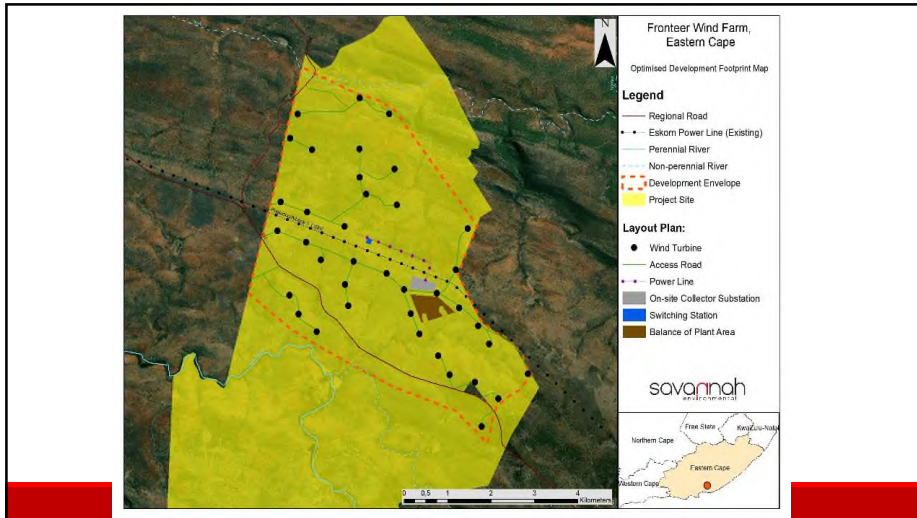
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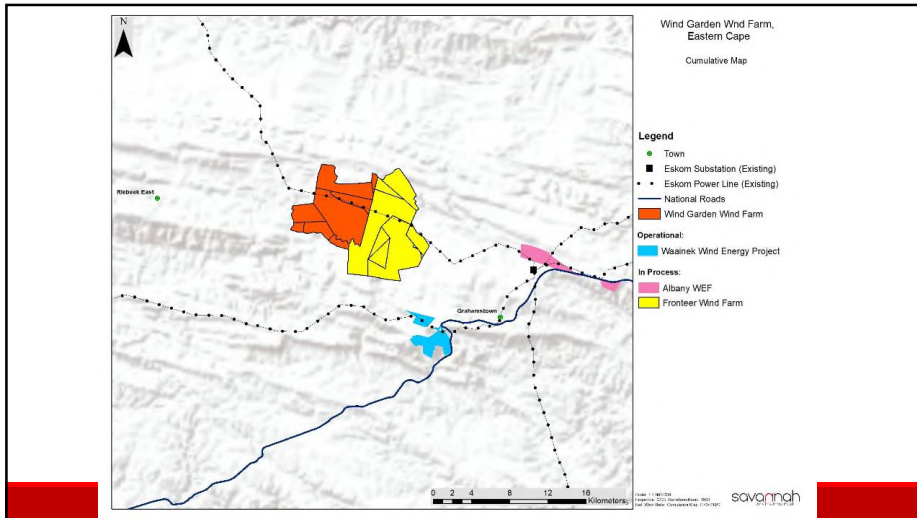


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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	Medium	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Minimal

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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High	High
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: High and Medium	Positive impacts: High and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Without Mitigation: Medium and Low	With Mitigation: Low

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## WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports: 04 March 2021 – 06 May 2021  
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DEFF for decision-making

## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nicolene Venter

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**DRAFT MEETING NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2021 AT 14H00  
VENUE: GRAHAMS HOTEL, 123 HIGH STREET, MAKHANDA**

---

**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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



## WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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#### Captured alphabetically according to surname

Name	Position	Organisation
William Fowlds	Director	Indalo Protected Environment
Lisa Graham		
Andy Hall	Manager	Addo Palace
Jackie Howes	Occupier	Farm 144
Siseko Mayinje		
Nomibongo Mnyazi (Virtual)	Director	Bongisile Holdings
Candice Momberg		
Doc Ndyawe		
Sizakele Netlane		
David Parker		Kwandwe Guest Services (Pty) Ltd
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas (Virtual)	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	
<b>Environmental Specialist</b>		
Matthew Keeley (Virtual)	Socio-economic Specialist; Urban-Econ	
Simon Todd (Virtual)	Ecology Specialist;	

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the public meeting (PM) for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Lisa Opperman provided an overview of the proposed cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and Makhanda, as well as a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment processes undertaken. She presented the following key information:

- project description for the Wind Garden Wind Farm and the Fronteer Wind Farm;
- the locality of the two proposed wind farms and their respective development footprint as assessed within the BA process;
- the BA and public participation process followed to date;
- how the development footprint has been optimised by taking the environmental sensitivities within the development footprint into consideration;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the construction and operational phases;
- cumulative impacts were also done and the results thereof; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

Nicolene Venter informed the participants that the review and comment period for the BA Reports had been extended to Thursday, 06 May 2021.

A copy of the virtual participants' attendance is attached as **Appendix A** and the presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

**DISCUSSION SESSION (including those submitted on the MS Teams conversation platform)**

**Comments captured per participants and in alphabetical order**

Question / Comment	Response
<b>William Fowlds</b>	
<p>It was stated that it seems there are gaps regarding information of the studies for these projects and the question is, is Savannah Environmental, the proponent or the chain of service beneficiaries, interested in the precautionary principle or are they saying, "if we don't know, we don't care".</p> <p>It was also stated that Savannah Environmental is a beneficiary in the process and therefore, if there are gaps in the information, Savannah Environmental has the responsibility to ensure that those gaps are filled. Actually, Savannah Environmental are legally obliged to follow the precautionary principle.</p> <p>It was requested that Jo-Anne Thomas provide her field of expertise.</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that she is a qualified EAP, registered with SACNASP and EAPASA.</p> <p>In response to the gaps in information of the studies undertaken and in particular to the noise impact on game, Savannah Environmental would go back to the specialist to get their specialist inputs.</p> <p>The importance of public participation was pointed out as it is through this process that, should there be any gaps, the project team is made aware of it.</p> <p>As an independent consultant. Savannah Environmental always take the worst-case scenario approach and it is this information that is presented to the DFEE for decision-making.</p>
<p>What is heard and understood from the response, is that there is an information gap in terms of the infrasound and that the specialist made the conclusion and reported subsequently that the impact is low.</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the noise specialist will be consulted to determine the conclusion reached as documented in the noise report. She added that she concurred with Simon Todd's response that as the turbine starts to operate and the wind is blowing, the noise from the wind is higher than that of the turbine.</p> <p>She reiterated that the team would ensure that there are no information gaps in the reports that would be submitted to the DFEE.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b></p> <p>The noise impact assessment (Appendix J of the BA Reports) briefly discusses Noise Impact on Animals in section 7.1. The following should be noted from additional information provided by the noise specialist:</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no noise limits or guidelines that can be used to determine what noise levels will impact on animals.</li> <li>• There are no published studies in reputable journals that provide support for the negative impacts of noise from wind turbines on animals.</li> <li>• Animal communication is generally the highest during no and low wind conditions. It has been hypothesised that this is one of the reasons why birds sing so much in the mornings (their voices carry the farthest and there are generally less observable wind).</li> <li>• Background noise levels in remote areas are not always low in space or time. The site is windy and this generates significant noise itself and also significantly changes the ability of fauna to hear the environmental noises around them.</li> <li>• Infrasound is present in the environment, and is generated by a wide range of natural sources (e.g. wind, waves etc.). In February 2013, the Environmental Protection Authority of South Australia published the results of a study into infrasound levels near wind farms. This study measured infrasound levels at urban locations, rural locations with wind turbines close by, and rural locations with no wind turbines in the vicinity. It found that infrasound levels near wind farms are comparable to levels away from wind farms in both urban and rural locations. Infrasound levels were also measured during organized shut-downs of the wind farms; the results showed that there was no noticeable difference in infrasound levels whether the turbines were active or inactive.</li> <li>• Wind is a significant source of natural noise, with a character similar to the noise generated by wind turbines, with a significant portion of the acoustic energy in the low frequency and infrasound range.</li> <li>• Wind turbines do not emit broad-band sound on a continual basis as the turbines only turn and generate noise when the wind speeds are above the cut-in speed.</li> </ul>

Question / Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wind turbines will only operate during periods of higher wind speeds, a period when background noise levels are already elevated due to wind-induced noises.</li> <li>• The elevated background noise relating with wind also provide additional masking of the wind turbine noise, with periods of higher winds also correlating with lower faunal activity, particularly with regard to communication.</li> <li>• This fact is also discussed in Garstang (2003)<sup>1</sup> that discuss the role that wind plays in determining the range and detection of elephant communication.</li> </ul>
<p>It was requested whether the statement that an impact assessment of noise on wildlife or any specific specie were not undertaken and that Savannah Environmental would follow the precautionary principle where any gaps were identified.</p> <p>It was further commented that this specific BA process does not acknowledge that there are gaps in the environmental assessments done and requested confirmation whether Savannah Environmental acknowledged that there is a gap in terms of the noise assessment, and if this gap was acknowledged, the question is asked what gaps there could be in the other specialists' reports.</p> <p>He also mentioned that the concern is that it took unspecialised participants to identify the gaps in the reports and if there was a gap in an impact as obviously as sound, what other gaps are there in the other reports.</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that, as previously stated, the information received through the public participation process, and any gaps identified in any of the specialists reports will be put to the relevant specialist for responses.</p> <p>Savannah Environmental does not concur with the comment that this BA process does not acknowledge there are gaps in the reporting of impacts as the BA process and reports were concluded with the information available at the time.</p> <p>However, any gaps identified during the public participation process will be submitted and discussed with the relevant specialist and the reports, where applicable, will be updated to address those gaps before the submission of the reports to the DFFE.</p> <p>The DFFE would concur with the participant's concern and will not approved the studies should any information gaps be identified.</p>
<p>The question was asked whether any other information gaps in the other specialists' reports were identified.</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that to her knowledge, no gaps in the other specialists reports were tabled.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter added that in terms of written comments received prior to the public</p>

<sup>1</sup> Garstang, M. Long-distance, low-frequency elephant communication. J Comp Physiol A 190, 791–805 (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00359-004-0553-0>

Question / Comment	Response
	meetings, none were applicable to information gaps in the reports.
<p>Confirmation was requested that no other information gaps in the specialists' reports were applicable. If any gaps were reported, how did it affect the outcome of the ratings of that specific assessment i.e. low noise rating?</p> <p>It was mentioned that if there was no information available, why was that fact not being considered as it speaks to the integrity of the study if obvious gaps in the study was not identified by the specialist and now the team were relying on the public participation process to identify those gaps.</p>	<p>Simon Todd informed the participants that from a philosophical point of view, if there were no information gaps, specialists will not have a job and the specialists would not be needed as one would have all the information. Therefore, on a more practical level there will always be information gaps and this is unavoidable, because it is impossible to know everything and one could spend a lifetime and not fill a gap. To therefore saying a study is flawed because of information gaps is not warranted, and it is for this reason that specialists do take the precautionary approach.</p> <p>He commented that when doing his studies, additional to the development footprint received from the developer, he takes his own footprint and assesses how much habitat may be lost and buffers differently for each impact to get a better understanding of the uncertainties associated with the impact.</p> <p>It was acknowledged there might be a lack of understanding regarding these uncertainties and attempts need to be made to make those uncertainties more explicit.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b></p> <p>It is important to note that one of the key purposes of public participation is to obtain inputs from I&amp;APs not only on the project but also on the BA Report and the specialists studies undertaken. The purpose of Public participation is to share information and not only to present environmental findings and it is through this critical activity of the public participation process where local knowledge and valuable information from I&amp;APs are received. Where reports are revised and substantive new information is provided, additional public participation is undertaken to afford stakeholders an opportunity to review and comment on these revised studies.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was commented that he disagrees completely with the response provided by Simon Todd, as the precautionary approach clearly states if you cannot prove it is not going to cause an impact you do nothing. It was noted that the consequences are very high in this situation and also extremely important.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked the participant for the open discussion regarding precautionary approach and the information gaps as discussed.</p>
<p>The following comments and statements were made in response to Matthew Keeley's response to the question raised by Siseko Mayinje in terms of their study results of the three (3) game farms which are in viewshed of existing wind farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific references to the 2020 study have now been made twice during this meeting and it needs to be noted that unfortunately there is a wind farm in Cookhouse with the name of Amakhala which is also the name of a game reserve located 100km away. Therefore, the people that were interviewed at Amakhala Game Reserve regarding the Amakahla Wind Farm are not relevant and the results of the interview not to be used that as a reliable source and it is a flawed study as the information based on those interviews are completely wrong. It was requested that it be discarded.</li> <li>• It was found embarrassing that the social specialist has the audacity to pose the same answer as provided at Friday evening's public meeting, as it is believed it was done due to a new audience, that you think to quote international studies on the visual impact assessment that it somewhat carries more weight than doing a local study. At the meeting held Friday evening a study was quoted done in 2012/2013 through a selection of tourist, some international and some local to the east of Grahamstown, therefore a seven- or eight-year-old study on a landscape that is void of the type of tourism of this study area. It is quite unbelievable that that is the social reference point and that assumptions are based on that quality of info.</li> </ul>	<p>Matthew Keeley thanked the participant for his comments and responded that there would most certainly be an opportunity to reach out to other landowners not previously engaged with in order to obtain business and property specific information so as to expand the SEIA information base.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was recommended that, to ensure any credibility as a social expert, the specialist need to obtained information <i>on the ground</i> and conduct interviews with the tourism industry, businesses within the viewshed of the wind farms and guests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was stated that it seems there is another information gap in a specialist report, and it is the specialist's responsibility, as an expert, to ensure that relevant information is used for their assessment.</li> </ul>	
<p>It was requested that sufficient time be given for this new information and new conclusions to be presented to the interested and affected parties so that responses can be given and that the responses are only captured in the final submission to the Department without having an opportunity to respond to the quality of the new information.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley acknowledged the request and informed the participants that it will be discussed with Savannah Environmental.</p> <p><b><u>Post meeting note:</u></b> As required in terms of Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, where significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports consulted on during the initial public participation process, such reports will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.</p>
<p>Further question regarding the 27 job opportunities raised by David Parker, it was asked how many of the 27 jobs would be required as skilled working on the wind turbine and how many would be for, as described in the report, of low to medium education level in the immediate vicinity of the development.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the modelling done and experience from other wind farm developments the indicator is that ~23% would be skilled positions and the remainder would be for semi- and unskilled positions.</p> <p>In translating the percentage into actual figures, it was responded that there would be between 6 to 8 direct jobs for skilled employees and the remainder (i.e., 18 or 19 direct jobs) would be a combination of semi- and unskilled.</p> <p>It was further responded that the study also looked throughout the economy at potential suppliers that would be employed by the wind farm on an ad-hoc basis, i.e. maintenance, local SMMEs, etc, This would be ~61 throughout the economy.</p> <p>The information regarding the figures and percentage provided are applicable only to</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	Wind Garden. Reference must be made directly to the Fronteer SEIA report for additional jobs that would be created by that specific WEF.
A summary of the content of Appendix R4 was requested.	<p>Lisa Opperman presented the content of the Appendix R(4) on screen to the participants and informed the attendees as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to community enrichment which talks to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to skills development</li> <li>• Contribution to sustainable employment creation</li> <li>• Improvement in the standard of living</li> <li>• Commitment to conservation</li> <li>• Non-wind energy skills be developed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A response as to how the content speaks to the proposed two developments would be sourced from the specialist and feedback provided in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b><u>SED Specialist's response</u></b> Information regarding the developer's proposed ED and SED spend commitment in the local economy will be ascertained and included in the update of the SEIA study</p>
It was asked what the budget is that is committed to these developments.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the information would be obtained from the developer.</p> <p><b><u>Post- meeting note:</u></b> Information regarding the developer's proposed ED and SED spend commitment in the local economy will be ascertained and included in the update of the SEIA study</p>
<p>It was noted that in the BA Report it is stated that there are substantial socio-economic benefits over and above the direct environment.</p> <p>It was said that if the word 'substantial' is mentioned it should be clearly described what it means.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the specific expenditure information is not available at this time. This will be ascertained from the developer and added to the updated SEIA study.</p>
It was asked what the socio-economic benefits would be for these projects.	<p>The SEIA report details a variety of short-term and long-term positive economic impacts that are expected to arise from the project. These include, but are not limited to:</p>



Question / Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of new direct, indirect and induced employment opportunities</li> <li>• Increase in government taxes</li> <li>• Increase in production and GDP_R</li> <li>• Sustainable rental revenue for farms where wind farms are located</li> <li>• Improved standards of living for benefiting households</li> <li>• Provision of electricity for future development</li> </ul> <p>Additional positive impacts are summarised in the SEIA report.</p>
It was asked what the percentage of the revenue generated would be committed to the socio-economic benefit for these projects.	Matthew Keeley responded that specific expenditure information regarding the turnover is not available to the project team. The team will confirm this with the SED specialist.
It was asked whether there is a socio development plan which focuses specifically on these projects and not a generic plan.	The information regarding the Socio-economic Development Plan is included in updated economic report (Appendix L of the <u>Revised</u> BA Reports).
It was asked who are the people that would benefit within that footprint.	
It was asked who the services providers would be that would be providing those benefits.	
It was asked what value would be committed to that process. It was stated these need to be spelled out as promises have been made on other wind farm developments and the evidence outside Bedford is there.	
<p>As representative of Indalo Protected Environment, it was commented, they as an organisation have a clear understanding of benefits in terms of land-use and informed the project team that there are socio-economic risks caused by the placement of the wind farm. He reiterated that they are not against renewable energy – but the placement of this particular farm they believe will have great socio-economic impacts and that needs to be quantified by these studies as the current conclusions and information are far too vague.</p> <p>It was asked that the socio-economic impact currently rated as low was compared to. The concern is that the comparison is made with</p>	

Question / Comment	Response
<p>the farm on which the turbines would be constructed.</p>	<p>sentiments towards the windfarm. These findings are aligned to the extensive literature review research undertaken regarding the impacts of windfarms on the broader tourism industry (in SA and globally). However, the SEIA concludes that there is a possibility that the development of the proposed wind farms may decrease the number of visitors to the region. The impact is described as being 'probable' with a medium significance. It is found that the significance could be reduced to 'low' over time, as visitors become more accustomed to the views of the turbines. Further, mitigation measures are also suggested in the visual impact study report such as implementing strobing light technology to avoid visual impacts at night.</p>
<p>It was mentioned that the project team previously stated that there would be 27 people employed on the wind farm versus the 15 people that are currently employed on the farm.</p> <p>It was stated that the real impact could take place around those wind farm properties particularly those within the viewshed of the wind turbines.</p> <p>It was again asked what the impacts are being compared to i.e. the actual farms or the surrounding farm – this needs to be made clear.</p> <p>If a comparison is not made with the surrounding properties, a formal response needs to be provided as to why not.</p>	<p>Impacts are not provided for on a farm-level, but rather a cumulative broader study area and national level. This is the standard approach for a SEIA study.</p>
<p>It was clearly stated that responses need to be provided and another meeting must take place where the result of the new information is presented.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team.</p>
<p>In terms of the 27 jobs mentioned of which 20 would be for lower skilled people, which could be from the rural communities with a multiplier effect of 3 to 1, does this result in 60 jobs created within the surrounding economy.</p>	<p>The SEIA specialist would welcome the sharing of the studies mentioned.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was stated that the above is a very low multiplier for job creation.</p> <p>He informed the project team that there are studies conducted by Wits Economics that show that the multiplier mentioned are far too high.</p>	
<p>It was reiterated that a socio-economic report which does only includes interviews with the directly affected landowners cannot be accepted as an independent report.</p>	<p>The comment is noted.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> The SEIA team is in the process of obtaining broader representative feedback and reaching out to potentially affected landowners. A revised SEIA will be provided as part of the revised BA Report which will be made available for review and comment.</p>
<p>It was recommended that the project team familiarise themselves with various socio-economic studies done by Rhodes University, Wits University, etc.</p>	<p>The SEIA specialist welcomes the sharing of the studies mentioned.</p>
<p>Additionally, there is also the Addo - Great Fish Biodiversity corridor which cites specifically the danger of wind energy facilities on biodiversity of this landscape.</p> <p>He stated that these are science that exist and not the NIMBY approach.</p>	<p>The SEIA specialist welcomes the sharing of the studies mentioned.</p>
<p>It was asked whether all the revenue involved in the wind generation industry vs the nature-based industry how much of that revenue stays in the local economy and how much leaves the local economy.</p>	<p>The information is included in updated economic report (Appendix L of the <u>Revised</u> BA Reports).</p>
<p>The project team was informed that 90% of the revenue generated by nature-based industry is foreign currency coming into the economy. Although some of the nature-based properties are owned by overseas people, it can be confirmed that none of the revenue generated leaves South Africa.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the project team.</p>
<p>The weighting and results of various environmental impacts that were presented as low is a concern and it was commented that it is assumed that the specialists have not familiarised themselves with the study area.</p>	<p>All specialists have undertaken field assessments as detailed in the specialist studies included as part of the BA Reports.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Random information has been collected from desk-top studies and even internal studies have been reference and none of the studies related to the area.</p>	
<p>In terms of avifaunal assessment, it was commented that no mention was made regarding the siting of the Black Harrier and therefore no mitigation measures are being proposed.</p> <p>It was mentioned that it is the understanding that the assessment was done on the affected properties and not on the surrounding properties.</p>	<p>The Black Harrier is included as a priority species within the Avifauna Impact Assessment included as Appendix E of the BA Reports.</p>
<p>It was asked why the socio-economic studies did not assess the impact on property values.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the impact on property values is included in the SEIA Report in Section 7.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the report indicated whether the property values increased or decreased as a result of the wind farms.</p>	<p>Yes, the SEIA has a dedicated chapter specifically considering property value impacts.</p>
<p>It was commented that the measurements regarding property values was a flawed measurement process as the assessment needs to be localised, i.e. the farms adjacent to the proposed development sites and not property values outside the immediate study sites.</p> <p>The baseline should be the same i.e. game farm values.</p> <p>It was stated that the correct dataset to use for evaluating property values is the Indalo Social Studies as the economic turnover of the neighbouring properties are included in this dataset.</p>	<p>The SEIA specialist welcomes the sharing of the studies mentioned.</p>
<p>He reiterated the reasons as to why the participants at the Friday evening's meeting emotions were high as the projects would affect their livelihoods.</p>	<p>The comment was noted by the project team.</p>
<p>Appreciation was expressed regarding Nicolene Venter and Lisa Opperman for the efforts to arrange the multiple meetings. However, the meeting held was not according to standard due to the following reasons:</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comments and requests submitted and informed the participant that these would be submitted to the project team for discussion.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b></p>

Question / Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All specialists must be available to respond to assessment questions raised, whether on-line or in person;</li> <li>• Technical issues with online participants caused attendees frustrations and these need to be sorted out prior to the meetings as it causes frustration for the participants;</li> <li>• A dedicated person to attend to technology;</li> <li>• With the specialist not being available, numerous questions are still unanswered and the participants need to wait for written responses as to the response could be provided at the meeting;</li> </ul> <p>It was requested that a round of meetings be arranged to present the revised studies and where the above points have been addressed.</p>	<p>In response to the comment raised regarding technology it can be confirmed that arrangements were made with the Grahams Hotel prior to securing the venue that a technician will be on site to attend to any technical issues.</p> <p>Unfortunately, unforeseeable technical issues do occur which is out of the control of the facilitator. .</p>
<b>Lisa Graham</b>	
<p>In terms of the response provided by Savannah Environmental that to date no studies have been conducted on noise impacts on wildlife species i.e. within the study area, it is clear that there is a gap in industry regarding the impact of noise generated by wind turbines.</p> <p>She stated that it is an obligation that Savannah Environmental, as a company, needs to take on to fill the gap and not only for noise but any other studies that have not yet been undertaken.</p>	<p>Simon Todd responded that there is audible noise that is heard by humans but not animals and then the ultrasound (higher frequencies) that are heard by animals but not human.</p> <p>Ambient noise level depends on the size and technical features of a turbine model, and this fade away the further one moves from the turbine/s. He stated that some animals are wary of the blades and the noise and move away. He acknowledged the fact that there are a lot of uncertainties regarding noise impacts on animals.</p> <p>It is important to note that the sound of wind blowing over grass has a much higher ultrasound level that the wind turbine and additional to that, if the wind blows, the sound generated by the wind turbine could not be heard.</p> <p>It was found that some animals move towards the turbines to stand or lie down in the shade the tower of the turbine provides while other will move away due to the rotation of the blades or the ultrasound.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p><b><u>Post meeting note:</u></b></p> <p>The noise impact assessment (Appendix J of the BA Reports) briefly discusses Noise Impact on Animals in section 7.1. The following should be noted from additional information provided by the noise specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no noise limits or guidelines that can be used to determine what noise levels will impact on animals.</li> <li>• There are no published studies in reputable journals that provide support for the negative impacts of noise from wind turbines on animals.</li> <li>• Animal communication is generally the highest during no and low wind conditions. It has been hypothesised that this is one of the reasons why birds sing so much in the mornings (their voices carry the farthest and there are generally less observable wind).</li> <li>• Background noise levels in remote areas are not always low in space or time. The site is windy, and this generates significant noise itself and also significantly changes the ability of fauna to hear the environmental noises around them.</li> <li>• Infrasound is present in the environment, and is generated by a wide range of natural sources (e.g. wind, waves etc.). In February 2013, the Environmental Protection Authority of South Australia published the results of a study into infrasound levels near wind farms. This study measured infrasound levels at urban locations, rural locations with wind turbines close by, and rural locations with no wind turbines in the vicinity. It found that infrasound levels near wind farms are comparable to levels away from wind farms in both urban and rural locations. Infrasound levels were also measured during organized shut-downs of the wind farms; the results showed that there was no noticeable difference in infrasound levels whether the turbines were active or inactive.</li> <li>• Wind is a significant source of natural noise, with a character similar to the noise</li> </ul>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>generated by wind turbines, with a significant portion of the acoustic energy in the low frequency and infrasound range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind turbines do not emit broad-band sound on a continual basis as the turbines only turn and generate noise when the wind speeds are above the cut-in speed.</li> <li>• The wind turbines will only operate during periods of higher wind speeds, a period when background noise levels are already elevated due to wind-induced noises.</li> <li>• The elevated background noise relating with wind also provide additional masking of the wind turbine noise, with periods of higher winds also correlating with lower faunal activity, particularly with regard to communication.</li> <li>• This fact is also discussed in Garstang (2003)<sup>2</sup> that discuss the role that wind plays in determining the range and detection of elephant communication.</li> </ul>
<p>It was commented that as Savannah Environmental is paid for the studies being undertaken that it is Savannah Environmental's responsibility to initiate studies that have not yet been done.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that Savannah Environmental, as the independent EAP, are being paid by the client to undertake the BA process and the associated environmental studies.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter responded, in confirmation with Jo-Anne Thomas, that as per the response provided by Lisa Opperman, Savannah Environmental's payment is not dependent on the authorisation outcome.</p> <p><b><u>Post meeting note:</u></b> Studies required as part of the impact assessment are informed by the DFFE online screening tool, the project team's experience on similar projects and the inputs from the public participation.</p>
<p>In addition to the question raised by Siseko Mayinje, it was stated that a comparison cannot be made between a B&amp;B which does not rely on the natural landscape and where money is being spent at that service, while at</p>	<p>The comment was noted by the team.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Garstang, M. Long-distance, low-frequency elephant communication. J Comp Physiol A 190, 791–805 (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00359-004-0553-0>

Question / Comment	Response
a wildlife eco-tourism facility, their visitors rely on photographic potential and visual experience	
It was asked what does the SED investment entail.	The attendees were informed that the basic information regarding the SED is available in the BA Report, Appendix R4.
It was commented that another round of public meetings needs to take place where all the specialists are present.	The comment has been acknowledged.
<b>Jackie Howes</b>	
It was asked when will construction start.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the first step in the process is the planning phase which is the BA process and the process towards construction is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit the final BA Reports to the DFFE;</li> <li>• DFFE has 57 days to make a decision;</li> <li>• thereafter there is an appeal period;</li> <li>• the developer then needs to do micro siting and the specialists do their walk through to inform the final layout;</li> <li>• grid connection permission from Eskom is required;</li> <li>• generation license obtained; and</li> <li>• financial close to be reached.</li> </ul> <p>After the above, then construction could commence.</p> <p>She informed the participants that it is difficult to give a precise timeline.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter added that generally, taking the process above into consideration, construction would only commence after a year or two.</p>
It was asked how long the construction period is.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that it is expected that construction would last 36 months, and the wind farms will be operational for 20 years.</p> <p>Technology is constantly upgraded and if applicable, the wind farms could be in operation for a longer period of time.</p>
<b>Siseko Mayinje</b>	
It was noted that the impact table indicates that most of the environmental impacts are categorised as low and it was asked with what	Lisa Opperman responded that there are no comparisons. The assessment considers the area as a whole and identifies those



Question / Comment	Response
<p>the natural environment was compared with to reach that outcome as tabled.</p>	<p>environmental factors that are sensitive in terms of its features. One also takes the activities associated with construction into consideration and how its fits into the development as a whole.</p> <p>The impacts are not comparable as these are specific to the site and what was found on site.</p> <p>From an ecologist point of view, Simon Todd informed the participants that in order to come up with an assessment one looks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how diverse the area is;</li> <li>• what kind of eco-system is present;</li> <li>• what kind of and how many plants are present and how localised these are;</li> <li>• how many of these are threatened or endangered; and</li> <li>• where it occurs in the landscape.</li> </ul> <p>The above features are mapped within the study area.</p> <p>These features are not compared to other features in the natural environment, but assessed according to their importance to the area, or landscape.</p> <p>The assessment is not only site specific but also considers the wider landscape, eco-systems, etc.</p>
<p>It was asked whether it was fair to compare a B&amp;B in Jeffrey's Bay to an establishment such as Kwandwe, where visitors gain a proper African experience.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that this is not a true direct comparison between a tourism guest house and a visitor visiting the area for a wildlife experience such as some of the reserves in the area.</p> <p>However, it needs to be appreciated that there are limited published articles and datasets available that consider specific perceptions of game farm visitors. There are also a limited number of game farms currently operating around the country in close proximity to WEFs that have been developed. The SEIA team will endeavour to engage with additional game</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	farms in other regions of the country to solicit responses.
In the presentation it was indicated that the socio-economic benefit is high. is this a fair assessment looking at the job opportunity of 27 people.	Matthew Keeley responded that the operation of wind farms is quite low in employment opportunities. However, as mentioned earlier there would also be job opportunities in terms of the economic development and the SED spend.
It was asked who part of the 27 people would be i.e. how would it be explained to the local community as the figure seems very low.	Nicolene Venter responded that as per the response provided by the social specialist, this number is for direct jobs. There would also be spin-offs i.e. secondary industries.
It was asked whether the project has received environmental authorisation.	Lisa Opperman responded that the project has not received environmental authorisation as it was still in its public participation phase and the Department would only issue the Environmental Authorisation after receiving the final BA Reports.
<b>Doc Ndyawe</b>	
It was asked how the impact of noise affects the animals, including birds.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that specific studies were conducted for the impact on bats and a separate study on birds especially in terms of possible collision with the turbines.</p> <p>Terrestrial studies, including ecology, was also conducted where impacts on mammals, reptiles and amphibians were assessed.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b></p> <p>The noise impact assessment (Appendix J of the BA Reports) briefly discusses Noise Impact on Animals in section 7.1. The following should be noted from additional information provided by the noise specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no noise limits or guidelines that can be used to determine what noise levels will impact on animals.</li> <li>• There are no published studies in reputable journals that provide support for the negative impacts of noise from wind turbines on animals.</li> <li>• Animal communication is generally the highest during no and low wind conditions. It has been hypothesised that this is one of the reasons why birds sing so much in the</li> </ul>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>mornings (their voices carry the farthest and there are generally less observable wind).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background noise levels in remote areas are not always low in space or time. The site is windy and this generates significant noise itself and also significantly changes the ability of fauna to hear the environmental noises around them.</li> <li>• Infrasound is present in the environment, and is generated by a wide range of natural sources (e.g. wind, waves etc.). In February 2013, the Environmental Protection Authority of South Australia published the results of a study into infrasound levels near wind farms. This study measured infrasound levels at urban locations, rural locations with wind turbines close by, and rural locations with no wind turbines in the vicinity. It found that infrasound levels near wind farms are comparable to levels away from wind farms in both urban and rural locations. Infrasound levels were also measured during organized shut-downs of the wind farms; the results showed that there was no noticeable difference in infrasound levels whether the turbines were active or inactive.</li> <li>• Wind is a significant source of natural noise, with a character similar to the noise generated by wind turbines, with a significant portion of the acoustic energy in the low frequency and infrasound range.</li> <li>• Wind turbines do not emit broad-band sound on a continual basis as the turbines only turn and generate noise when the wind speeds are above the cut-in speed.</li> <li>• The wind turbines will only operate during periods of higher wind speeds, a period when background noise levels are already elevated due to wind-induced noises.</li> <li>• The elevated background noise relating with wind also provide additional masking of the wind turbine noise, with periods of higher winds also correlating with lower faunal activity, particularly with regard to communication.</li> </ul>

Question / Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This fact is also discussed in Garstang (2003)<sup>3</sup> that discuss the role that wind plays in determining the range and detection of elephant communication.</li> </ul>
<p>The impacts on the bigger animal species i.e. elephants, giraffes, etc especially in terms of ultrasound, were tabled.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that a noise study was conducted but the focus was mainly from a residential aspect, or where activities are taking place that could be a nuisance.</p> <p>There is a section in the noise report that speaks to the noise impact on animals but not reference to a specific specie. In terms of noise impact studies on animals, these are currently no research material available, and it was agreed that a response will be obtained from the noise specialists and included as a post-meeting note in the meeting notes.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter informed the participants that this concerned was also raised at previous meetings.</p> <p><b><u>Post-Meeting note:</u></b></p> <p>The noise impact assessment (Appendix J of the BA Reports) briefly discusses Noise Impact on Animals in section 7.1. The following should be noted from additional information provided by the noise specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no noise limits or guidelines that can be used to determine what noise levels will impact on animals.</li> <li>There are no published studies in reputable journals that provide support for the negative impacts of noise from wind turbines on animals.</li> <li>Animal communication is generally the highest during no and low wind conditions. It has been hypothesised that this is one of the reasons why birds sing so much in the mornings (their voices carry the farthest and there are generally less observable wind).</li> <li>Background noise levels in remote areas are not always low in space or time. The site is windy and this generates significant noise</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Garstang, M. Long-distance, low-frequency elephant communication. J Comp Physiol A 190, 791–805 (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00359-004-0553-0>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>itself and also significantly changes the ability of fauna to hear the environmental noises around them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrasound is present in the environment, and is generated by a wide range of natural sources (e.g. wind, waves etc.). In February 2013, the Environmental Protection Authority of South Australia published the results of a study into infrasound levels near wind farms. This study measured infrasound levels at urban locations, rural locations with wind turbines close by, and rural locations with no wind turbines in the vicinity. It found that infrasound levels near wind farms are comparable to levels away from wind farms in both urban and rural locations. Infrasound levels were also measured during organized shut-downs of the wind farms; the results showed that there was no noticeable difference in infrasound levels whether the turbines were active or inactive.</li> <li>• Wind is a significant source of natural noise, with a character similar to the noise generated by wind turbines, with a significant portion of the acoustic energy in the low frequency and infrasound range.</li> <li>• Wind turbines do not emit broad-band sound on a continual basis as the turbines only turn and generate noise when the wind speeds are above the cut-in speed.</li> <li>• The wind turbines will only operate during periods of higher wind speeds, a period when background noise levels are already elevated due to wind-induced noises.</li> <li>• The elevated background noise relating with wind also provide additional masking of the wind turbine noise, with periods of higher winds also correlating with lower faunal activity, particularly with regard to communication.</li> <li>• This fact is also discussed in Garstang (2003)<sup>4</sup> that discuss the role that wind plays in determining the range and detection of elephant communication.</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Garstang, M. Long-distance, low-frequency elephant communication. *J Comp Physiol A* 190, 791–805 (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00359-004-0553-0>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>The concern was raised that the current investments that the local and surrounding communities are benefitting from the game farm and tourism industry in the area would be lost should there be a wind farm development in the area which could deter visitors from coming to the area.</p> <p>It was requested that the social specialist address these impacts.</p>	<p>Information regarding such community initiatives will be obtained and included within the updated SEIA reports.</p>
<p>It was asked how long the wind farm would be in operation.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded the wind farms would be operational for 20 years with maintenance. However, technology is constantly upgraded and if applicable, the wind farms could be in operation for a longer period.</p>
<p>It was asked what the process after the lifespan of the wind farm is, i.e. what would happen to the infrastructure.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded the project would be decommissioned and all the infrastructure will be removed, and the area will be reinstated to its original stage. This process forms part of the rehabilitation plan that would be submitted to the Department at the time of decommissioning.</p>
<p>It was commented that it not understood as to why the development is being proposed if the local community members and economy does not benefit from it.</p>	<p>The information regarding the Socio-economic Development Plan is included in updated economic report (Appendix L of the <u>Revised</u> BA Reports).</p>
<p><b>David Parker</b></p>	
<p>As per the presentation, it was noted that the long-term visual impact was rated as high and asked what the economic impact would be on the surrounding tourism industries.</p>	<p>The impacts on tourism are assessed within the SEIA report.</p>
<p>It was asked what the long-term i.e. sustainable, job opportunities be for the local communities. He confirmed that he is not referring to the construction phase but to the operational phase.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the study did not only assess the 24 – 36 short term job potential but also considered direct long-term job creation potential for each of the projects.</p> <p>For the Wind Garden study, it was determined that the total job creation of 27 sustainable direct jobs is applicable which would extend to 61 throughout the economy, accounting for induced and indirect opportunities.</p> <p>In terms of Fronteer the numbers would be slightly lower.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>It was enquired that comparing the 27 long-term job opportunities with the potential job loss in the eco-tourism industry.</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded that the 'on farm' job creation potential does not include the social investment - that is part of the developer's obligation to share such details within the EIA process.</p>
<p>It was requested whether the 27 long-term jobs are sufficient to compensate for the larger number of potential jobs losses in the eco-tourism industry due to the fact that the tourist number could decline.</p>	<p>The study has concluded that there is a possibility that the development of the proposed wind farms may decrease the number of visitors to the region. The impact is described as being 'probable' with a medium significance. Impacts are anticipated to be most prominent during the planning phase and during construction. However, the long-term potential reduction of tourists is not anticipated to be absolute, i.e., the study has not found any definitive empirical evidence to suggest notable job losses will ensue in the area as a result of the development.</p>
<p>In terms of the output of the power to be generated by the proposed wind farms, it was asked as to how much of the power would be distributed to the direct area and how much externally, i.e. elsewhere.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the electricity is planned to be sold to private off-takers and not to Eskom. Industries that will receive electricity from these developments, should it be approved and constructed, include mining. There will not be any direct electricity provided to the surrounding area.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> By providing electricity to private off-takers would result in electricity from the Eskom grid network would become available for other users.</p>
<p>As a follow-up to the response provided regarding the distribution of the power generated by the proposed wind farms, it was commented that all the negatives would be experienced by those in the study area but none of the benefit.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman reiterated that the power generated would not be sold or made available to the surrounding area. However, it would be fed into the national grid network to get the power to the off takers as per the power agreement with Eskom.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> By providing electricity to private off-takers would result in electricity from the Eskom grid network would become available for other users.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the 27 jobs that would be created would be available to the local</p>	<p>Matthew Keeley responded the 27 job opportunities mentioned are available directly</p>

Question / Comment	Response
community or where the power is being transferred to.	within the study area. This is specific to the Wind Garden WEF.
Adding to the concern and requested raised by Doc Ndyawe, the proposed 27 and 60 job opportunities would have a negative knock-on on the currently employment figure in the area and the question was asked whether these figures can really be compared.	The study has not found any definitive evidence to suggest notable job losses will ensue in the area as a result of the development.
It was recommended that the impacts on property values must include the adjacent properties.	There is a specific property value impact chapter within the SEIA, which describes the various components and elements that contribute towards attributing a property value on a specific property.
It was mentioned that an interview was conducted with the tourism industry in Jeffrey's Bay in 2020, and it was asked whether the studies were actually done prior to 2020 as the information would be skewed as travelling was not allowed for most of 2020.	The studies were conducted during 2020, with respondents specifically requested to make reference to tourism dynamics in the area prior to the outbreak of COVID-19.
<b>Questions and comment raised on the virtual platform</b>	
Nomi Nnyazi informed the project team that her interest is around the Socio-economic Development and due to the sound issue, the information as presented could not heard.	The participant was informed that the social specialist, Matthew Keeley, was online and that she could post her questions on the discussion function.
Nomi Nnyazi noted that one of the attendees at the meeting had some good points / questions regarding the allocated budgets and revenue etc so to avoid repeating the same question, she indicated that she would wait for the meeting notes and if necessary, will submit comments and/or questions.	The comment was acknowledged, and the participant was informed that the comments must please be sent to <a href="mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com">publicprocess@savannahsa.com</a> and she could also contact Nicolene Venter on 060 978 8396 and that the review period ended on 06 May 2021.

## CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for making time available to attend the public meeting and for their valuable inputs into the process. The meeting was closed at 16h35.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

B&B	Bed and Breakfast	NIMBY	Not in my back yard
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	SED	Socio-economic Development
EA	Environmental Authorisation	SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner		



**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

**ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER  
WIND FARM PROJECTS**

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021


**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Doc

**SURNAME:** ndyawe

**SIGNATURE:**  \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Sizakhe NTCANE

**SURNAME:** NTCANE

**SIGNATURE:** NTCANE



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** David

**SURNAME:** Parker

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Jackie

**SURNAME:** Howes

**SIGNATURE:** Howes

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Andy Hatt

**SURNAME:** Hatt

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** William

**SURNAME:** FIELDS

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Siseko

**SURNAME:** Mayinje

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Candice

**SURNAME:** Momborg

**SIGNATURE:** Momborg



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 14h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** LISA WRAMAN

**SURNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** 

# Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm, Eastern Cape Province

Public Meetings  
26 & 27 March 2021

1

## AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project description
- BA process
- Need and Desirability
- Results
- Way forward

2

## MEETING CONDUCT

- Please hold all questions till after presentation
- Please provide equal opportunity to all attendees
- Please raise your hand to ask a question and repeat your name
- Please switch all cell phones to silent
- Virtual participants please use chat function
- Administration

3

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

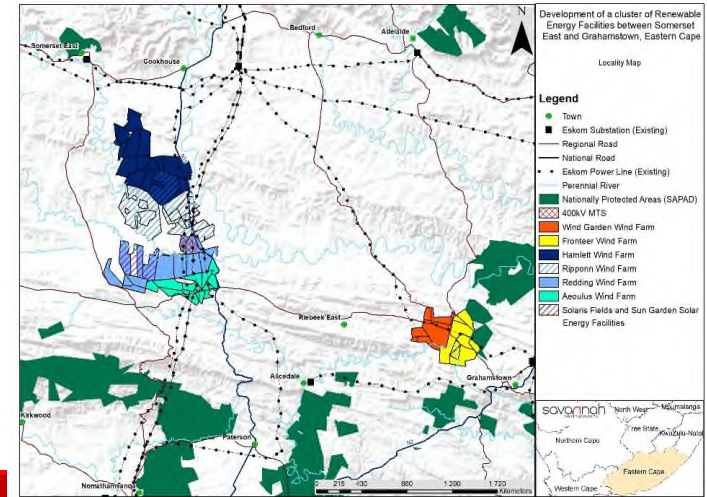
- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed project
- Summary of the BA and PP process
- Present a summary of key environmental findings
- Opportunity for you to seek clarity and obtain further information
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the final BA reports to be submitted to DEFF
- Local knowledge

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Lisa Opperman)

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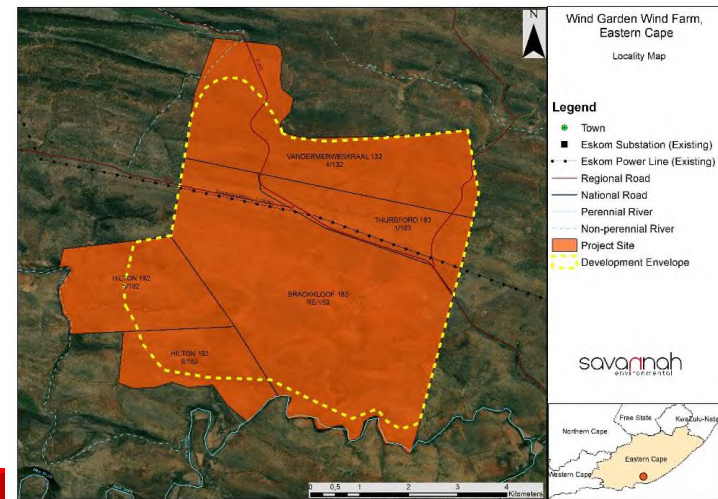


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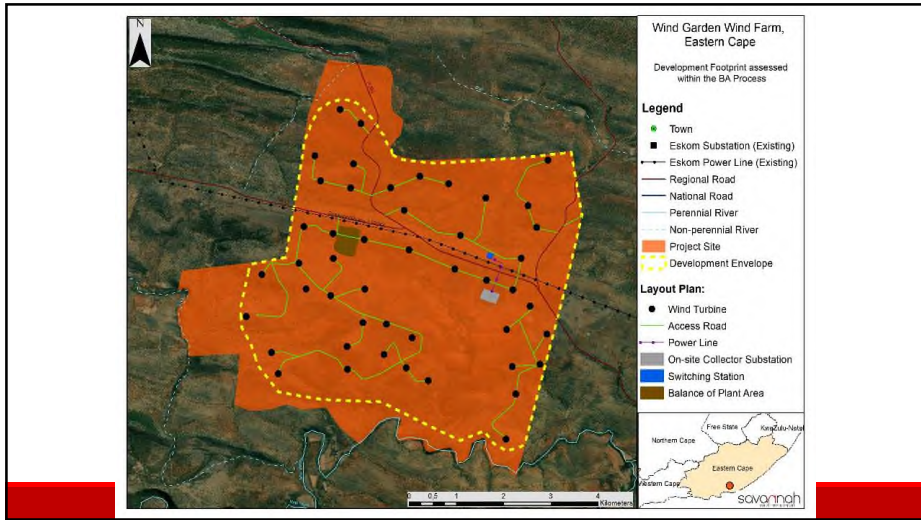
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wind Garden Wind Farm		Fronteer Wind Farm	
Applicant	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Applicant	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd
Location	17km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ	Location	12km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ
Contracted Capacity	264MW	Contracted Capacity	213MW
Infrastructure details	47 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	38 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	

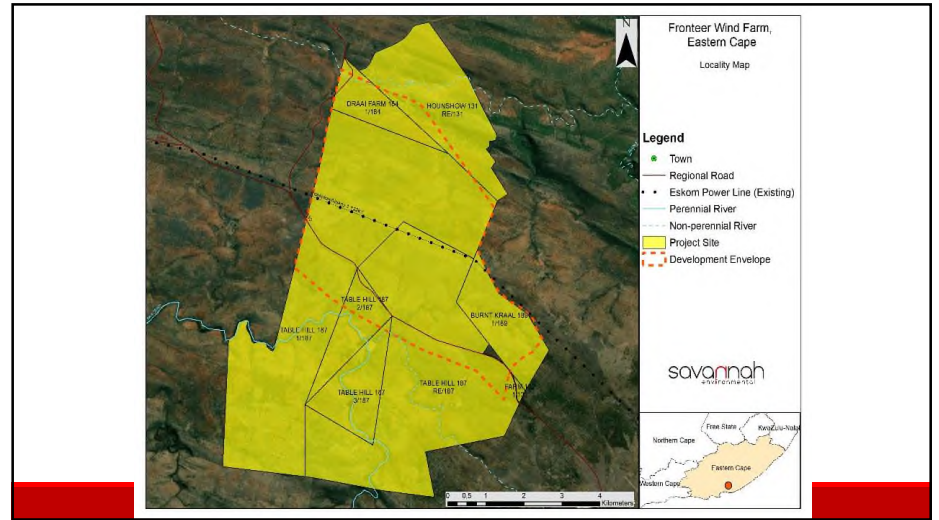
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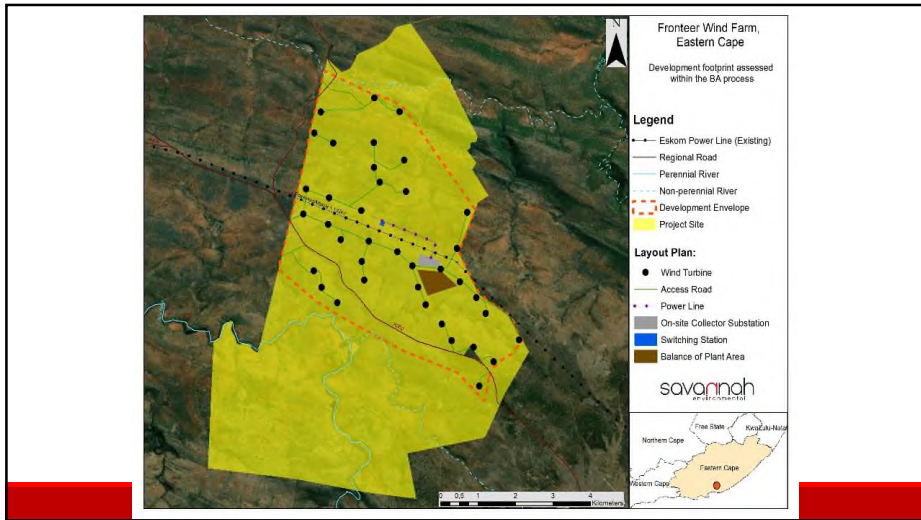
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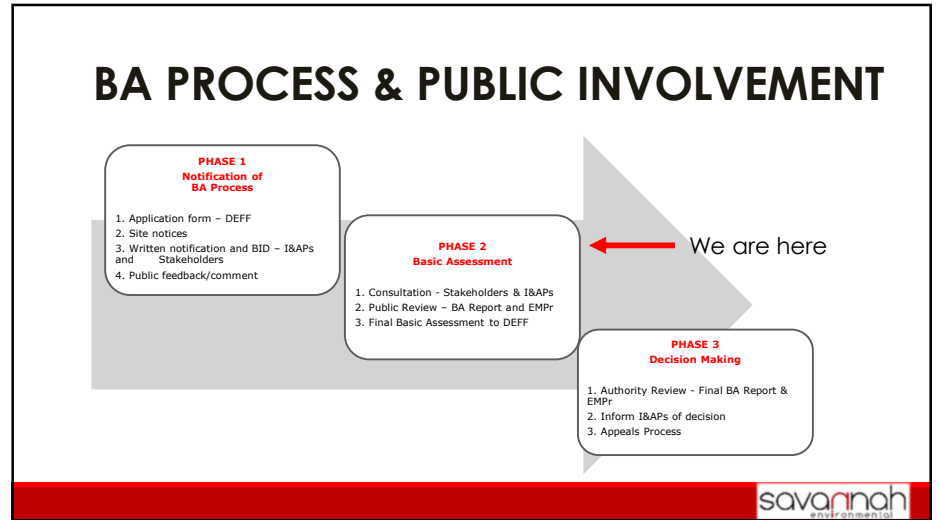
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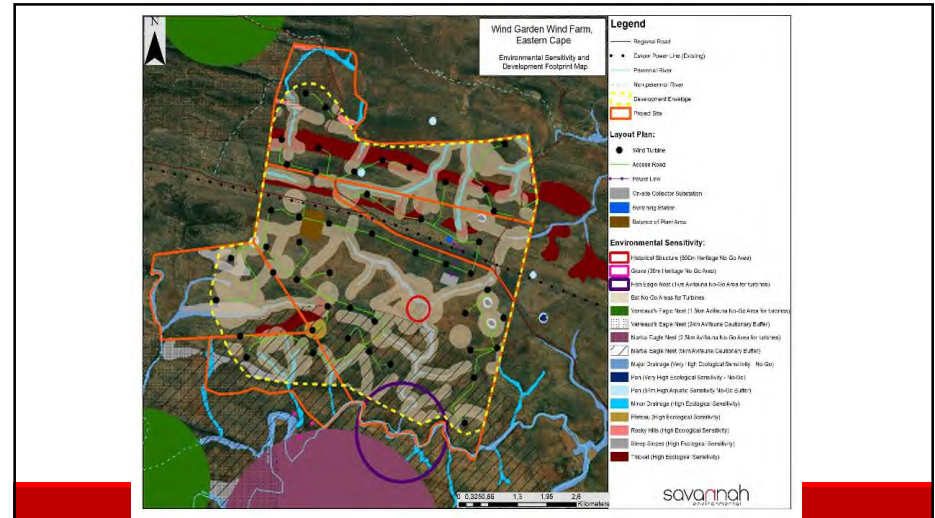
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# NEED AND DESIRABILITY

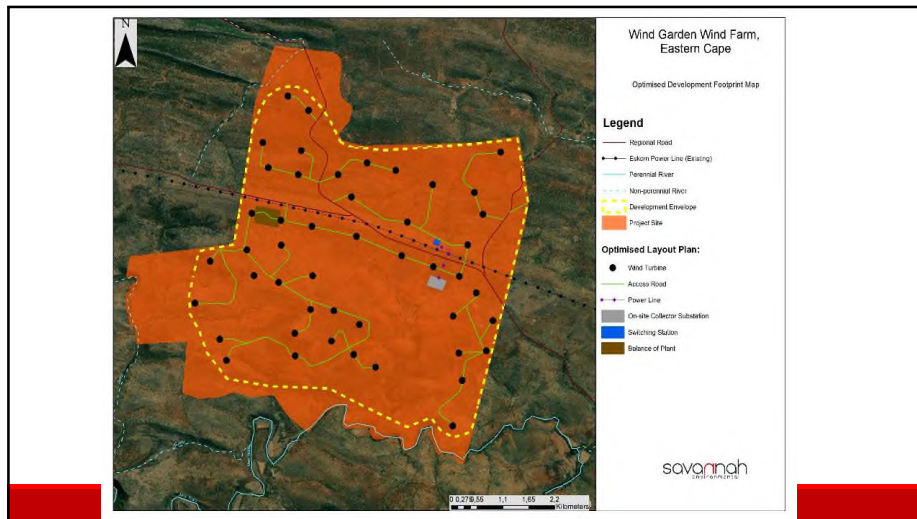
- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for 17GW from wind energy
- Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (2020) calls for massive investment in infrastructure, including energy
- Wind resource available in the project site
- Securing additional power generation capacity for private off-takers
- Reduced reliance on Eskom



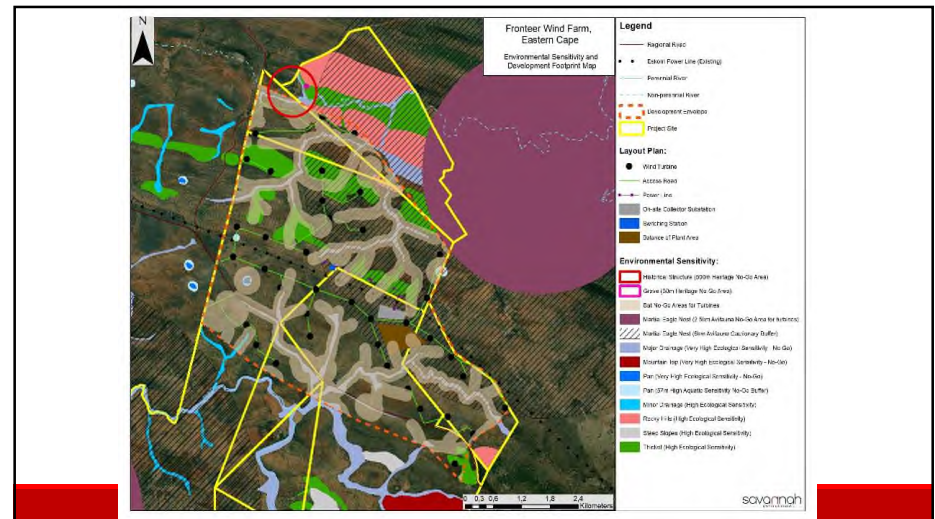
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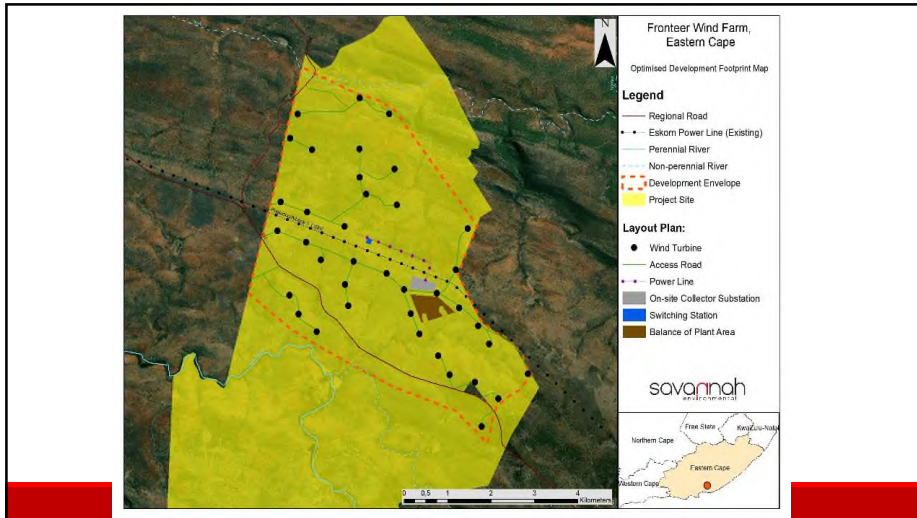
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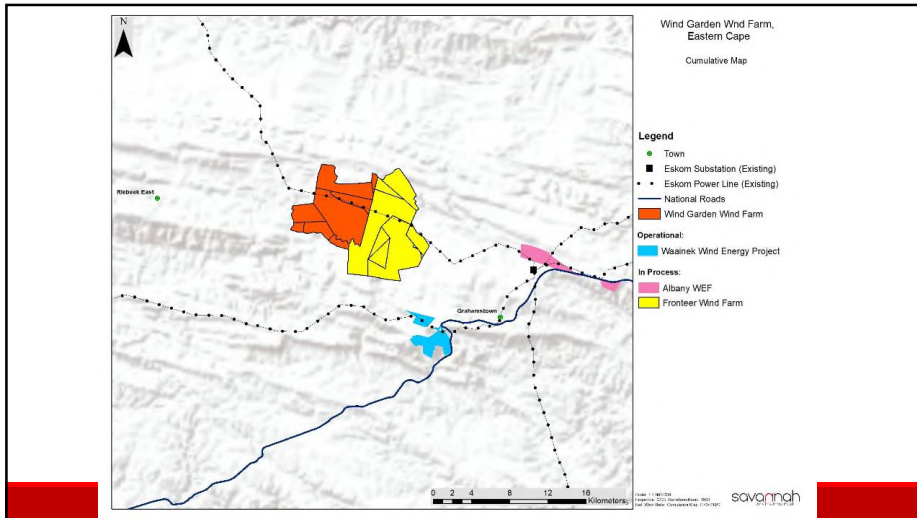


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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	Medium	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Minimal

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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High	High
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: High and Medium	Positive impacts: High and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Without Mitigation: Medium and Low	With Mitigation: Low

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## WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports: 04 March 2021 – 06 May 2021  
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DEFF for decision-making



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## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nicolene Venter

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)



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**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**DRAFT MEETING NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2021 AT 18H00  
VENUE: GRAHAMS HOTEL, 123 HIGH STREET, MAKHANDA**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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



## WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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#### Captured alphabetically according to surname

Name	Position	Organisation
Nicholaas Mannion	Interested and Affected Party	
Lucy Stofberg	Interested and Affected Party	
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	
<b>Environmental Specialist</b>		
Simon Todd	Ecologist	

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the public meeting (PM) for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Lisa Opperman provided an overview of the proposed cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and Makhanda, as well as a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment processes undertaken. She presented the following key information:

- project description for the Wind Garden Wind Farm and the Fronteer Wind Farm;
- the locality of the two proposed wind farms and their respective development footprint as assessed within the BA process;
- the BA and public participation process followed to date;
- how the development footprint has been optimised by taking the environmental sensitivities within the development footprint into consideration;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the construction and operational phases;
- cumulative impacts were also done and the results thereof; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

Nicolene Venter informed the participants that the review and comment period for the BA Reports had been extended to Thursday, 06 May 2021.

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

## DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Lucas Mannion asked what the timeframes are associated with the construction and operation phase.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that it is envisaged that the construction period will be three (3) years and the operation phase of the wind farms will be 20 years.</p>
<p>Lucas Mannion asked whether local community members will be sourced and appointed for the construction and operation of the proposed development or would it be outsourced contracting.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that generally an engineering contractor will be appointed and would be required to source local labour for specific jobs, and only if the requirements cannot be met locally, would the engineering contractor source labour outside the study area.</p>
<p>Lucas Mannion asked how many potential jobs would be provide by the proposed development.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that during the construction phase, employment figures for each project are expected to be about 500 temporary jobs, with approximately 28 permanent staff required for operation.</p>
<p>Lucy Stofberg commented that the 500 temporary jobs referred to could be locally sources should the skills be available.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that a needs analysis will be done by the developer and should the skills not be available, local community members can be trained as and when required.</p> <p>A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will also be appointed, and this appointment will be a local community member. He will facilitate the communication between the contractor and the local community members.</p>
<p>Nicholas Mannion asked whether the CLO has been appointed or is it a process that will come later on.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that it is too early in the process to appoint a CLO and indicated that the appointment will only be done once the projects received authorisation and proceeding to the construction phase.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter informed the participants that although this is not part of Savannah Environmental's scope of work, that should they be aware of an organisation or a person that could fulfil such a role, they should inform the project team and the information will be forwarded to the applicant.</p>
<p>Lucas Mannion asked whether these projects would reduce the reliance on Eskom and whether the power generated will be evacuated to Grahamstown.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that these projects will not provide power to Grahamstown as they are planned to form part of an energy exchange with private companies such as industries and mining companies.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Nicholas Mannion made reference to a comment raised at a virtual meeting held on 16 March 2021 regarding three other wind energy generation projects located in Struisbaai, Richards Bay and Durban that could supply sufficient electricity to South Africa as a whole and asked why these two proposed projects are being planned in this area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the projects mentioned during the virtual public meeting are offshore energy developments and these are only at a concept stage currently. She said that it is her understanding that South Africa's coastal line is potentially not suitable for such an energy generation infrastructure as the seabed drops substantially a few kilometres from the shoreline. The feasibility of offshore wind is currently being investigated for the country.</p>
<p>Lucy Stofberg commented that, although taking the high number of temporary employments during construction into consideration, there will be a loss of employment in the tourism industry and some businesses may even go under, as guests visiting the game farms in the area do not want to see red flashing lights in the evening sky or even wind turbines during the day.</p> <p>She asked how the SIA specialist assessed this impact that the results came out as low.</p> <p>Looking at the SIA studies and assessments it does not make sense that the socio-economic impact would be low if there could be a potential loss of jobs. She also stated that it would be interesting to see where and how these studies have been done to come to such a conclusion as it does not seem to be adding up.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that unfortunately the SIA specialist could not join the meeting virtually and that the question will be posed to him for a formal response which will be included in the meeting notes.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter informed the participants that it can be confirmed that this concern was raised throughout the series of face-to-face public meetings held and can be recorded as being reiterated.</p> <p><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b></p> <p>The socio-economic impact assessments formed part of the BA Reports which were available for public review. Negative impacts are indicated as being moderate to low. Following consideration of various studies undertaken internationally, it was concluded by the SEIA specialist that <i>"From the above, it can be surmised that it cannot be ruled with confidence whether wind farms have or do not have a negative impact on tourism but, those studies that pointed to the possible negative effects report marginal and not detrimental impact on tourism"</i>.</p>
<p>Nicolas Mannion stated that he cannot understand how 500 temporary jobs during construction could replace the permanent jobs that communities currently have at the various game farms in the area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the comments submitted had been noted and would be forwarded onto the SEIA specialist.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Lucy Stofberg added to Nicholas's comment that the influx of money from the game reserves in the area goes to various communities in the area.</p> <p>Those 500 jobs would not be sustainable compared to the social and financial investment that the current employment from game farms in the area contributes not only to the employee but also their extended families and the community at large. The temporary jobs do not seem to be sustainable.</p> <p>Additionally, the community will not receive sustainable benefit i.e. electricity from these proposed developments.</p>	
<p>Nicholas Mannion informed the project team that as he recalls, studies have been done on how the noise during the operational phase of a wind farm project impact various animal species subsonic communication i.e. elephants. He enquired whether the noise impact assessed in terms of this impact has been done.</p> <p>Taking the above into consideration, how can the noise results be low if the impact on animals' subsonic communication is not known.</p>	<p>Simon Todd responded that although the noise study is not his field of expertise, he could provide some response from a fauna perspective. He indicated that there are two types of noises associated with wind turbines – i.e. one that we can hear and the infra-sound i.e. low frequency sound, which some animals can hear.</p> <p>He mentioned that studies done internationally indicated that wind blowing over plants make more noise than that of a wind turbine. It is also important to note that there is cumulative sound i.e. the wind, noise from turbine blades and wind blowing over plants. These all contribute to the infra-sound that is audible to animals, and generally they avoid those areas where noises are disturbing.</p> <p>He informed the participants that in terms of South African species that use their hearing a lot (such as bat eared fox), will move away from a wind farm area to avoid the noise. The larger animal species do not seem to be hindered / bothered by wind turbines as it was found that they move closer to stand in the wind turbine shade.</p> <p>Simon also mentioned that, as pointed out, this is not a well-studied field and may require</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	additional studies in South Africa. There is however currently no funding available for such studies.
<p>Nicholas Mannion informed the project team that the latest information from the WWF is that elephants are becoming an endangered species and these types of projects would affect their behaviour and it is therefore required that more studies be done before any more wind farms are being developed. The result of these studies need to be on paper as one cannot just 'best guess' regarding the impact on the animals during operation phase.</p> <p>He raised the concern that there is a possibility that one would lose some key stone species on game farms.</p>	This comment was noted by the team.
<p>Lucy Stofberg said, in response to Simon Todd, that if species such as the Bat Eared Foxes may move away from the development, the result would be that one is taking out a large part of the diversity out of the environment, and this is not best practice.</p> <p>Nichols Mannion reiterated that more studies regarding the noise impact on animals need to be done before the projects can go over to operation phase.</p>	Simon Todd responded that the noise impact on receptors depends on the distance they are from the wind turbines and studies have shown that the further away you are from wind turbines, the ambient noise tapers down.
<p>Lucy Stofberg asked whether the noise specialist is present and if not, that this matter be taken forward for a formal response.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that a formal response will be requested from the noise specialist and feedback will be provided in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> Section 7 of the noise impact assessment included within Appendix J of the BA Report considers the impact of noise on animals. The following is noted from a review of studies undertaken regarding this impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Animals respond to impulsive (sudden) noises (higher than 90 dBA) by running away. If the noises continue, animals would try to relocate. This is not relevant to wind energy facilities because the turbines do not</i></li> </ul>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>generate any impulsive noises close to these sound levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Animals of most species exhibit adaptation with noise, including aircraft noise and sonic booms (far worse than noises associated with Wind Turbines).</i></li> <li>• <i>More sensitive species would relocate to a quieter area, especially species that depend on hearing to hunt or evade prey, or species that makes use of sound/hearing to locate a suitable mate.</i></li> <li>• <i>Noises associated with helicopters, motor- and quad bikes significantly impact on animals.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Lucy Stofberg asked how the SIA assessment was done that the outcome, as presented, is long in the long term.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the assessment and matrix table is in the SIA Report.</p>
<p>Nicholas Mannion requested that the numbers regarding employment, in terms of local content and the sustainability of these opportunities per project, be e-mailed to him.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman confirmed that the figures will be sourced from the SIA specialist and included in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b></p> <p>As detailed in the SEIA (Section 8.1) included as Appendix L of the BA Report for Wind Garden, "The construction of the facility will create 592 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employment positions over the course of the development, however, 568 will be based in South Africa (see Table 5.1). Approximately 40% of the employment positions involve skilled Black South African construction workers, with the remaining being managers, professional engineers, and supervisors. Based on estimates by Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd, it is anticipated that 40% of the FTE positions will be filled by people from local communities."</p> <p>IN this regard, the following is relevant for Fronteer: "The construction of the facility will create 480 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employment positions over the course of the development, however, 460 will be based in South Africa (see Table 5.1). Approximately 40% of the employment positions involve skilled Black South African construction workers, with the remaining being managers, professional engineers, and supervisors. Based on estimates</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>by Fronteer (Pty) Ltd, it is anticipated that 40% of the FTE positions will be filled by people from local communities."</p>
<p>Lucy Stofberg commented that Savannah Environmental is the appointed environmental specialist and they, as I&amp;APs, need to know that someone cares about the area and the people, and as the numbers she worked out from current sustainable jobs vs those proposed by the development are very vague and does not add up.</p> <p>She stated that renewable energy is a good alternative energy source but not actually going to impact this area positively and the local communities.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that Savannah Environmental's role is the independent environmental assessment of the project. Specialists appointed for the studies on the project are also independent. The information regarding the impacts will be presented to the Department of Environment in an independent manner. All comments received will also be included in this submission.</p> <p>The decision as to whether an environmental authorisation will be granted lies with the Department based on the information provided.</p>
<p>Lucy Stofberg commented that there is a feeling of mistrust in the specialist studies undertaken as the specialists are not present to respond to the questions / concerns raised regarding the outcome of their assessments and additional to that, it is disconcerting if a specialist replies 'best guess'.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman acknowledged the notion of mistrust and informed the attendees that the meetings had been scheduled on short notice to accommodate the I&amp;APs preferences and it is for that reason that not all the specialists could be available for all four of the public meetings held. The SEIA specialist was however in attendance (by virtual platform) at the 3 other meetings held.</p>
<p>Nicholas Mannion commented that not all people have access to the reports, and it is important that community members be informed of the possible socio-economic impacts the proposed projects could have on their livelihood.</p> <p>He reiterated that the content of the SIA report needs to speak to local impacts and not reference overseas studies. It is important the social specialist interact with the local people as the various lodges and game farms have invested heavily in the social upliftment of not only their employees but also that of the community.</p> <p>He said that it is important that the sustainable system that has been built over the years not be impacted negatively by these proposed developments.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman acknowledged the comments made.</p> <p>She informed the participants that consultation is taking place with the Councillor (Ward 1) to ensure that information reached the communities within her constituency.</p>

## CLOSURE

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Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for making time available to attend the public meeting and for their valuable inputs into the process. The meeting was closed at 19h15.

### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CLO	Community Liaison Officer	WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment		
SEIA	Socio-economic impact assessment		



## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 18h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Lucy

**SURNAME:** Stofberg

**SIGNATURE:** 

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### ATTENDANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTIER WIND FARM PROJECTS

**MEETING DATE:** Saturday, 27 March 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 18h00

**MEETING VENUE:** The Graham Hotel

**PARTICIPANT:**

**NAME:** Nicholas

**SURNAME:** Mannion

**SIGNATURE:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX A**  
PRESENTATION

# Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm, Eastern Cape Province

Public Meetings  
26 & 27 March 2021

## AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project description
- BA process
- Need and Desirability
- Results
- Way forward

1

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## MEETING CONDUCT

- Please hold all questions till after presentation
- Please provide equal opportunity to all attendees
- Please raise your hand to ask a question and repeat your name
- Please switch all cell phones to silent
- Virtual participants please use chat function
- Administration

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed project
- Summary of the BA and PP process
- Present a summary of key environmental findings
- Opportunity for you to seek clarity and obtain further information
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the final BA reports to be submitted to DEFF
- Local knowledge

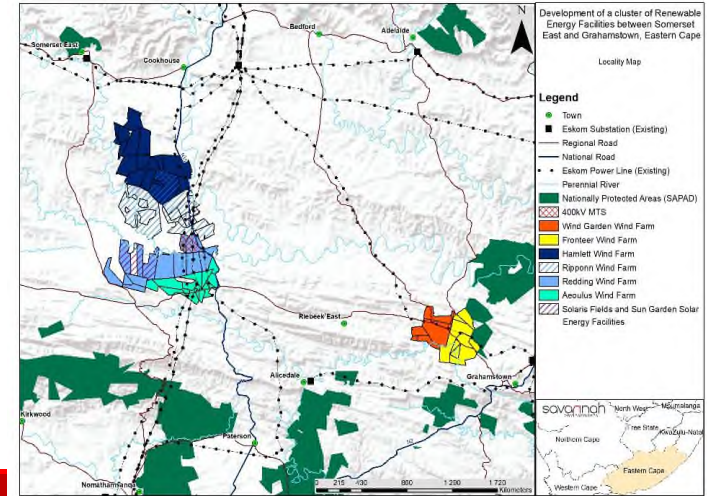
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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Lisa Opperman)

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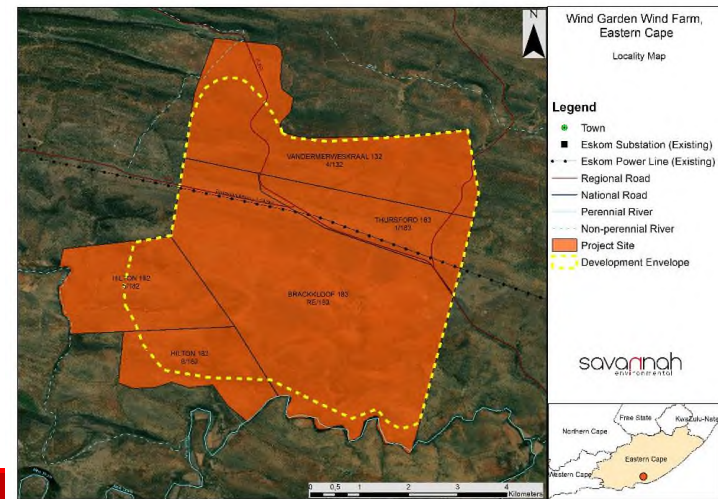


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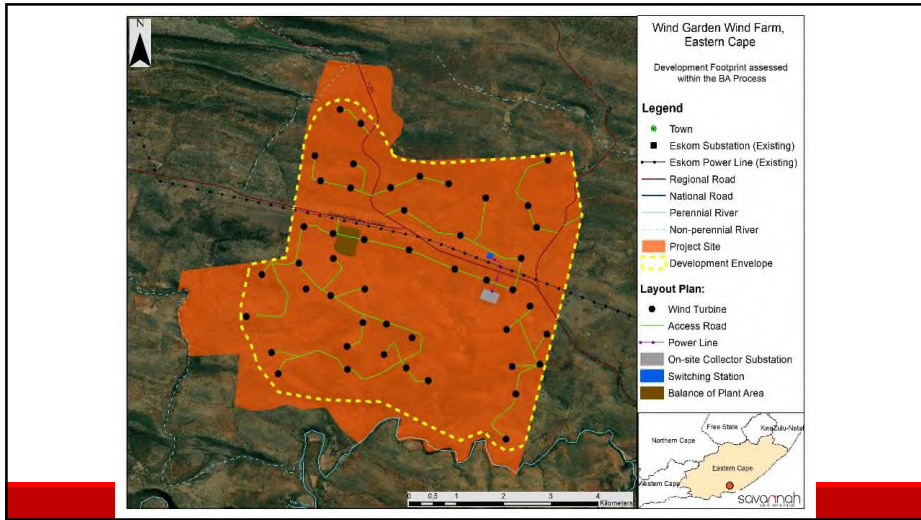
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wind Garden Wind Farm		Fronteer Wind Farm	
Applicant	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Applicant	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd
Location	17km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ	Location	12km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ
Contracted Capacity	264MW	Contracted Capacity	213MW
Infrastructure details	47 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	38 wind turbines - Hub height of up to 120m - Tip height up to 200m  Grid: - 132kV switching station & 132/33kV on-site collector substation - 132kV overhead power line (twin turn dual circuit) - Poseidon – Albany 132kV power line  Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,	

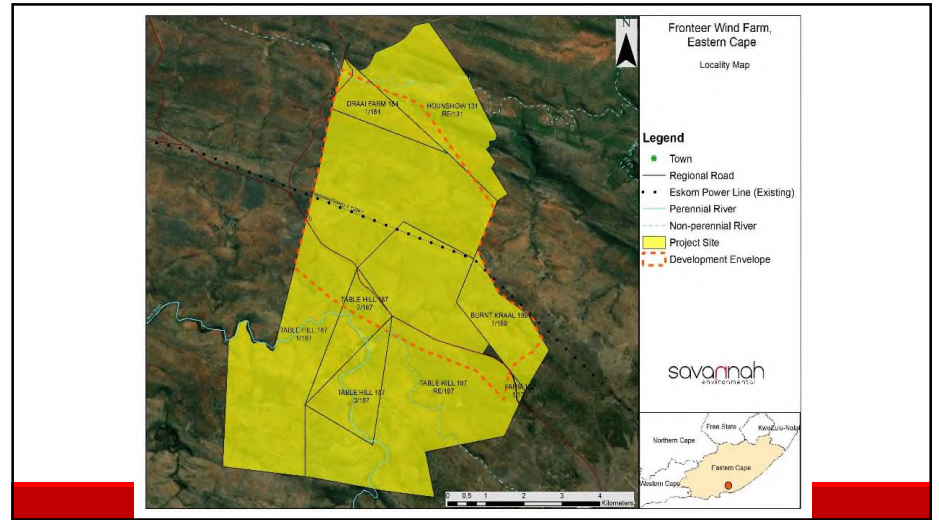
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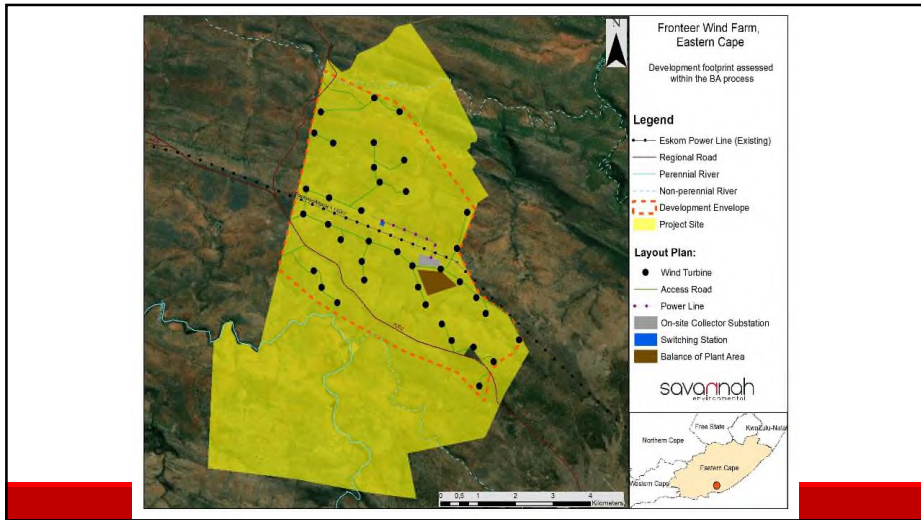
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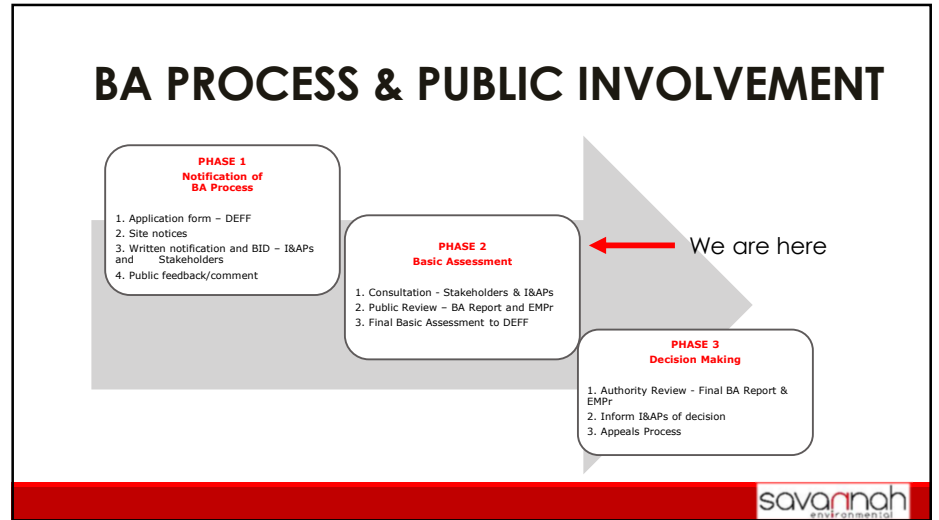
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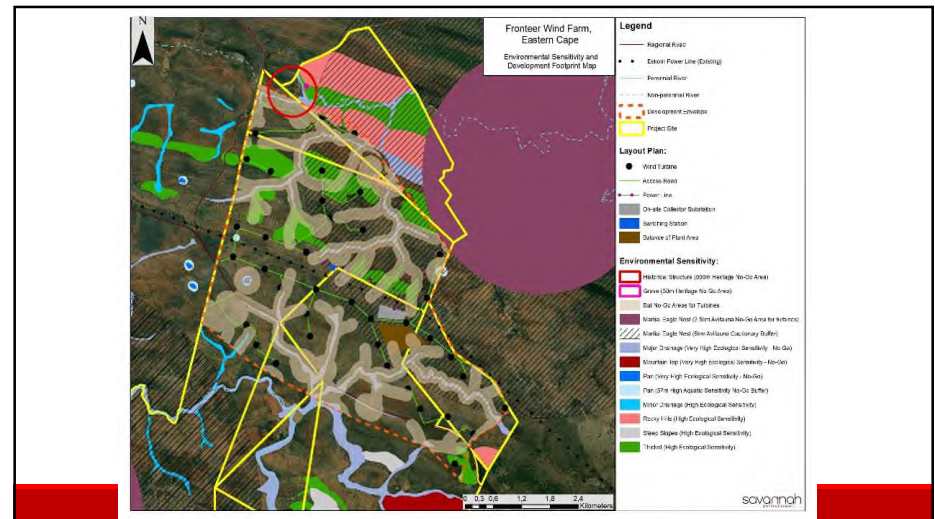
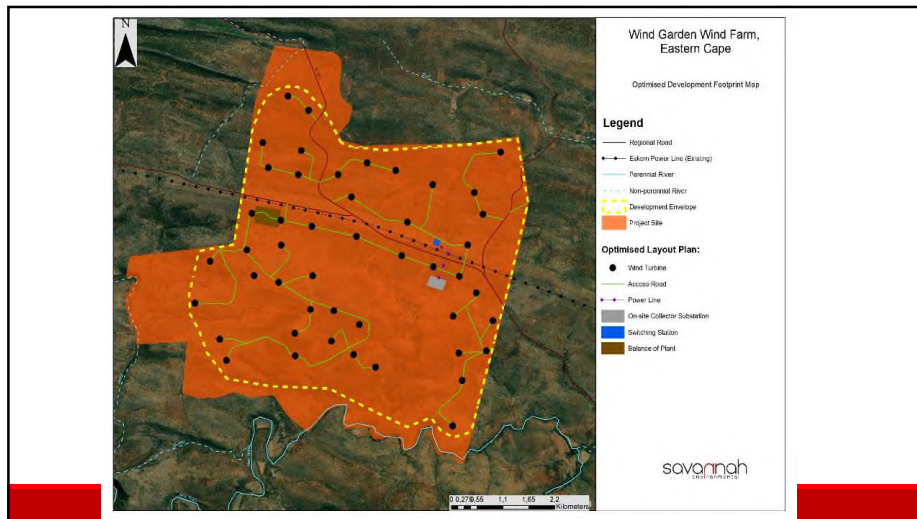
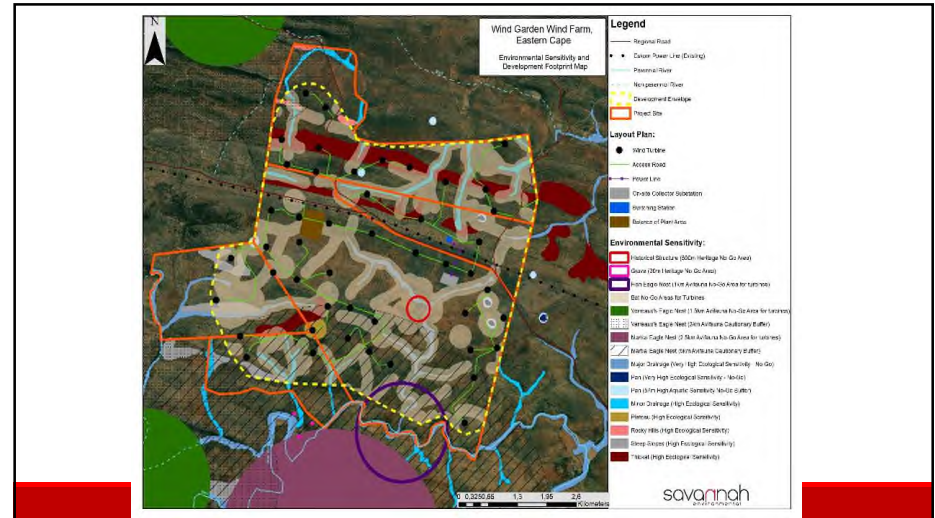
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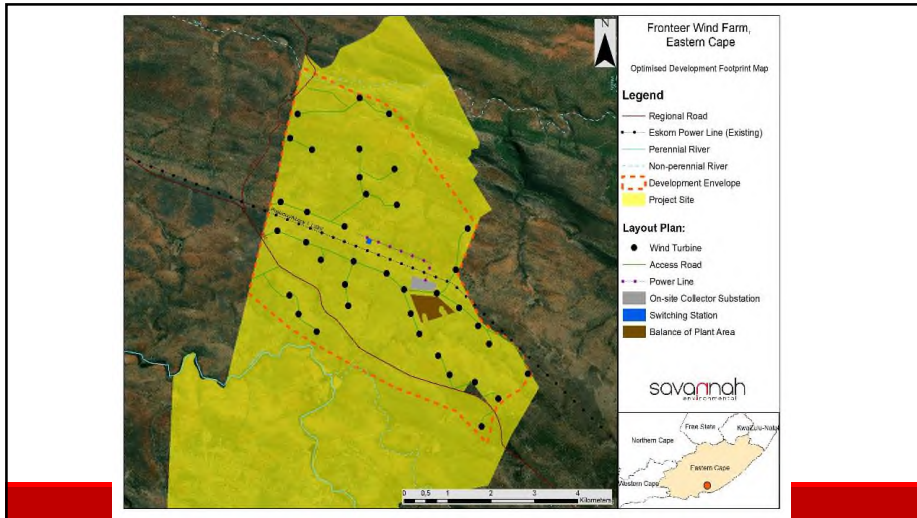


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# NEED AND DESIRABILITY

- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for 17GW from wind energy
- Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (2020) calls for massive investment in infrastructure, including energy
- Wind resource available in the project site
- Securing additional power generation capacity for private off-takers
- Reduced reliance on Eskom



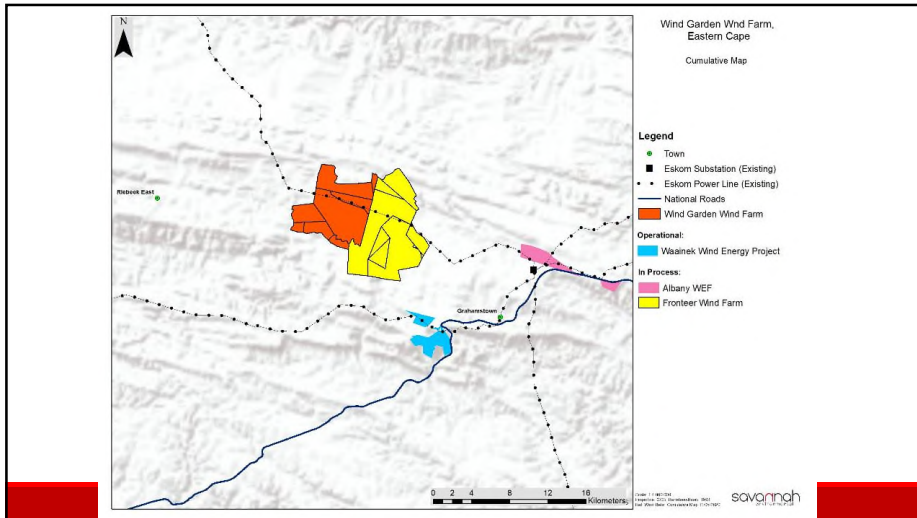


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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	Medium	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Minimal

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## RESULTS

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High	High
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: High and Medium	Positive impacts: High and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Without Mitigation: Medium and Low	With Mitigation: Low

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## WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports: 04 March 2021 – 06 May 2021  
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DEFF for decision-making



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## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nicolene Venter

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

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Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)



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**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM  
NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2314 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2315  
respectively)**

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**DRAFT MEETING NOTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP  
HELD ON MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021 AT 14H00  
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING USING MICROSOFT TEAMS PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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

## WIND GARDEN WIND FARM AND FRONTEER WIND FARM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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#### Captured alphabetically according to surname

Name	Position	Organisation
Bradley Gibbons	African Crane Conservation Programme	EWT
Zamikhaya Magogotyia		SAWS
Webster Ngoepe		SAWS
Bernard Petlane		SAWS
Sam Ralston-Paton	Manager	BirdLife South Africa
Xola Swepu		Eastern Cape DEDEAT
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>		
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online public meeting (PM) for the Wind Garden and Fronteer Wind Farms located near Makhanda within the Makado Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Lisa Opperman provided an overview of the proposed cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and Makhanda as well as a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment processes undertaken. She presented the following key information:

- project description for the Wind Garden Wind Farm and the Fronteer Wind Farm;
- the locality of the two proposed wind farms and their respective development footprint as assessed within the BA process;
- the BA and public participation process followed to date;
- how the development footprint has been optimised by taking the environmental sensitivities within the development footprint into consideration;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the construction and operational phases;
- cumulative impacts were also done and the results thereof; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

Nicolene Venter informed all participants that the review and comment period for the BA Reports has been extended until Monday, 10 May 2021.

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

**DISCUSSION SESSION (comments and questions submitted on MS Teams conversation platform)**

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton informed the project team that in the avifaunal impact report reference is made to a project named CHOJE and asked how this project relates to these two being proposed.</p> <p>It needs to be noted that this reference appears frequently in the report.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that it was the original naming of the projects prior to the commencement of the BA process and relates to the larger development.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton commented that in terms of the maps of the avifaunal report and appendices, it is difficult to position where the proposed turbines are located relative to the distribution maps. She requested consistency regarding the maps, i.e. proposed turbine positions in relation to predicted distribution areas.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that feedback will be requested from the avifaunal specialist regarding this matter.</p>
<p>Webster Ngoepe commented that the SAWS radar network could be impacted by these proposed wind farms.</p> <p>The SAWS owns a large number of weather radars in the country. In the Eastern Cape Province, these are located in East London, Port Elizabeth, and the DR radar which is close to Makanda.</p> <p>If information was not yet shared with the SAWS, it was requested to do so as a matter of urgency to simulate the impacts associated with these types of infrastructure.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the SAWS was notified of the projects and that a copy of the notification letter will be made available.</p> <p>The .KMZ files for each of the wind farm developments have been e-mailed to Mr Ngoepe on Friday, 16 April 2021.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton informed the project team that BirdLife SA is concerned about the duration of monitoring i.e. the number of years, the number of hours per vantage point/s, etc.</p> <p>The above information in the avifaunal report does not comply with BirdLife SA's best practice guidelines.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team and will be referred to the avifaunal specialist.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton informed the project team that similarly, BirdLife SA formally registered the concern that the buffer width that are proposed in the report are not compliant / in line with the most recent information and guidelines. The specialist is referred to a recent</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team and will be referred to the avifaunal specialist.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>paper by Murgatroyd <i>et-al</i> which was published earlier in 2021 which indicates that the initial buffer for Verreux's Eagle is completely inadequate.</p>	
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton commented that the avoidance rates used for Verreux's Eagle are not precautionary. For Verreux's Eagle BirdLife SA are very confident that they are at very high risk of colliding with turbines, even beyond those buffers. BirdLife SA therefore recommends that the specialist revisit the avoidance rates that they have used.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team and will be referred to the avifaunal specialist.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton commented that the nest for Martial Eagles similarly it is not aligned with what is currently recommended by other specialists including experts on this species and BirdLife SA encourage the specialist to re-look at the data and consult the experts.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team and will be referred to the avifaunal specialist.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton asked for a point of clarification as to how far are the two development sites from the nearest Cape Vulture roosts.</p> <p>During a quick scanning of the report, 2km was mentioned and if so, it is rather close. If it is 2km, BirdLife SA is requesting much more detailed information i.e. is it seasonal, how many birds are there, etc.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the information will be sourced from the specialist and a response will be provided to BirdLife SA and included in the meeting notes.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> As indicated in Section 2.1 of the avifauna impact assessment report, the nearest known vulture roost is more than 40km from the site at Agieskloof / Lichtenstein.</p>
<p>Xola Swepu informed the project team that he had experienced technical difficulties with joining the meeting and enquired whether there would be another meeting being held on Tuesday. If not, he requested that information regarding the project be shared with him.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter informed Xola Sweput that unfortunately this is the only Key Stakeholder Workshop being held for the project. However, should he require an additional meeting, to please notify Savannah Environmental to arrange such a meeting.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the presentation will be e-mailed to all participants and distributed with the meeting notes.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton requested that the project team described the proximity to protected areas and the desired state of the proposed projects in terms of conservation planning.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that the information regarding formally registered conservation areas was as per the DFFE protected area database which is their most recent version. To the north-east of Fronteer Wind Farm is the Kwandwe Nature Reserve.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	<p>Lisa also indicated that in terms of other biodiversity planning, there are CBAs within both project sites. Fronteer Wind Farm site has no CBAs directly impacted, mainly ESAs and other natural areas. In terms of the Wind Garden Wind Farm site there are CBA 1 &amp; 2 areas. The ecologist motivated the reasoning as to why the turbines can be placed in the areas proposed in his report.</p>
<p>Sam Rolston-Paton responded to Lisa Opperman's feedback that often the link between the desired state of an environment particularly if it is largely natural and CBAs the avifaunal impacts are not always made as strongly, people, including BirdLife SA, tends to focus only on the threatened species and it is important to remember that a phenomenal of diversity of birds are killed by wind turbine collisions and one is looking around 42%.</p> <p>It was commented that the local level of impact on biodiversity could still be important if the desired state of that environment stays at its natural state.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman thanked Sam for the insight provided.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton informed the project team that for the Fronteer project there was a secretary bird nest mapped and asked for confirmation.</p> <p>Secretary birds are a concern and BirdLife SA would need nests to be buffered as those at Fronteer look uncomfortably close to proposed turbine positions.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the matter will be forwarded to the specialist for a formal response.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> As detailed in the avifauna impact assessment, two secretary bird territories were identified in close proximity to the Fronteer Wind Farm. These are likely breeding on site but no definite nests were found.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton requested information of the applicant's commitment regarding operation phase mitigation.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the general approach taken by the specialist for the operation phase is that where turbines are placed within the cautionary buffers, especially around the nests, these buffers needed to have one blade painted black. The client is committed to investigate this mitigation and comments and inputs will be sourced from the CAA.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton reiterated the concern raised earlier as to whether adequate data has been collected to assess the impact and</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team and will be referred to the client.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>based on the preliminary information BirdLife SA is confident that there is a significant risk of fatality of threatened species. From BirdLife SA perspective, avoidance would be first prize.</p> <p>Avoidance could be strengthened. For the operational phase mitigation, the developer will have to look at some commitment to shut down on demand. Should Vultures be occasional visitors to the site, the applicant must be committed to remove animal carcasses, and again, shut down on demand would be quite important.</p> <p>She said that often developers agree to the shut down without really understanding the implications thereof. She said that it important the shutdown is included as a requirement and must be pro-actively implemented rather than "let's wait and see' and once fatalities occur, then spending a couple of years debating whether something needs to be done or not. BirdLife SA and the industry know enough now and is confident that it is going to be a requirement on a site like this.</p>	
<p>Bradley Gibbons reiterated the concern raised by Sam Ralston-Paton that not sufficient time has been spent on observation to ensure that the data collected are sufficient.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team and will be referred to the avifaunal specialist.</p>
<p>Xola Swepu informed the project team that their Department will submit formal written comments on the BA Reports.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team.</p>
<p>Sam Ralston-Paton requested that Savannah Environmental provides BirdLife SA with clearer maps to enable the organisation to make informed comments.</p>	<p>This comment was noted by the team. Clear maps have been included in the Basic Assessment Reports made available for the projects.</p>
<p><b><u>Submission on conversation platform</u></b></p> <p>Webster Ngoepe: Has the details of the development been made available to the SAWS for impact assessment to the radar network?</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the SAWS was notified of the projects and that a copy of the notification letter will be made available.</p> <p>The .KMZ files for each of the wind farm developments have been e-mailed to Mr Ngoepe on Friday, 16 April 2021.</p>

## **CLOSURE**

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Nicolene Venter and Lisa Opperman thanked all the participants for making time available to attend the virtual Key Stakeholder Workshop and for their inputs. The meeting was closed at 15h00.

### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	DEDEAT	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area	DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area	SAWS	South African Weather Services
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust		



# Wind Garden Wind Farm and Fronteer Wind Farm, Eastern Cape Province

Key Stakeholder Workshop  
March 2021

# AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project description
- BA process
- Need and Desirability
- Results
- Way forward

# MEETING CONDUCT

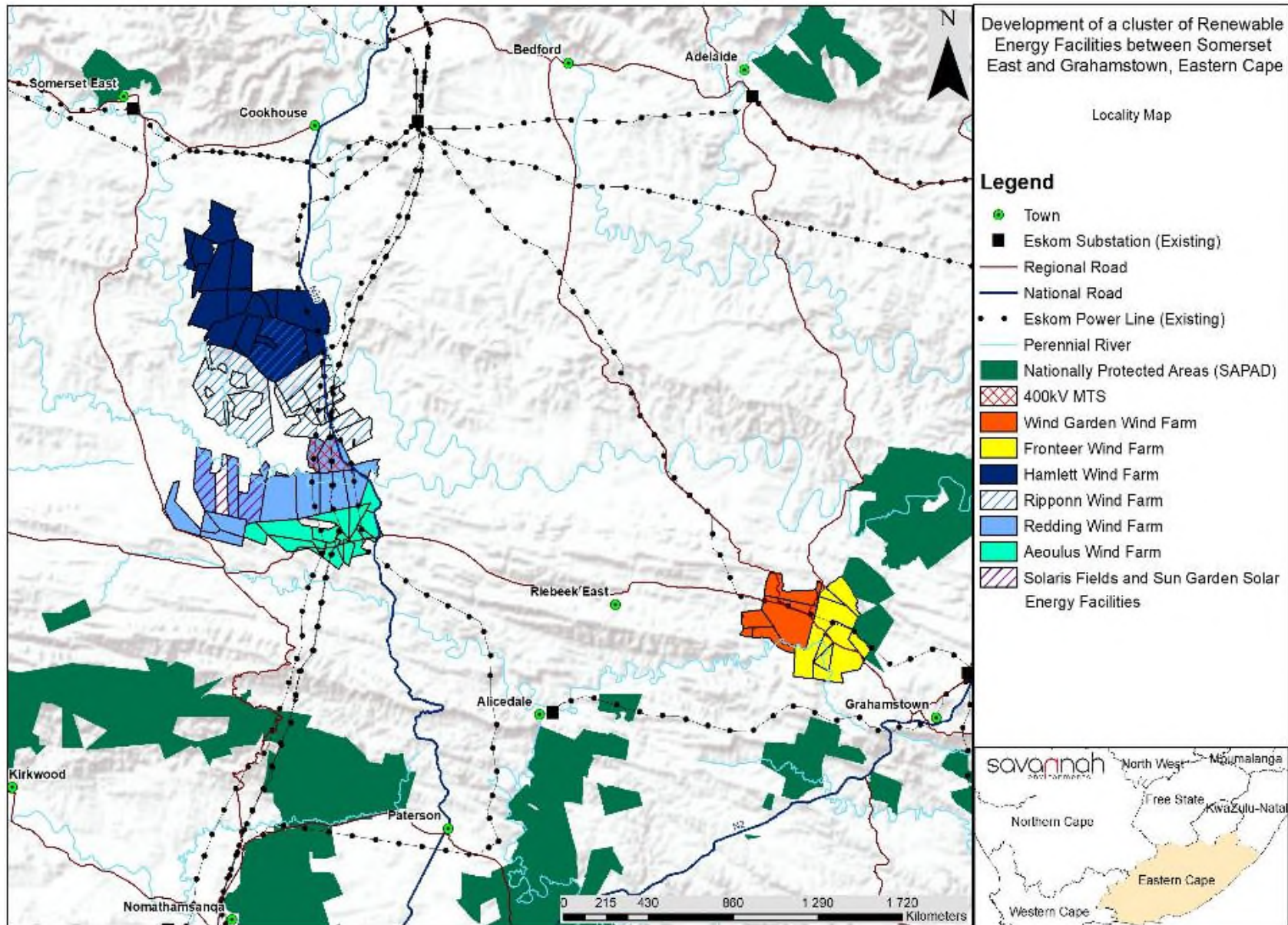
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- Administration

# PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed project
- Summary of the BA and PP process
- Present a summary of key environmental findings
- Opportunity for you to seek clarity and obtain further information
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the final BA reports to be submitted to DEFF
- Local knowledge

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Lisa Opperman)



# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wind Garden Wind Farm		Fronteer Wind Farm	
Applicant	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Applicant	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd
Location	17km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ	Location	12km north-west of Makhanda Makana Local & Sarah Baartman District Municipalities Cookhouse REDZ
Contracted Capacity	264MW	Contracted Capacity	213MW
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	Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,		Foundations, hardstands, temporary laydown areas, cabling, access roads, temporary concrete batching plant, temporary staff accommodation and O&M buildings,



# Wind Garden Wind Farm, Eastern Cape

Locality Map

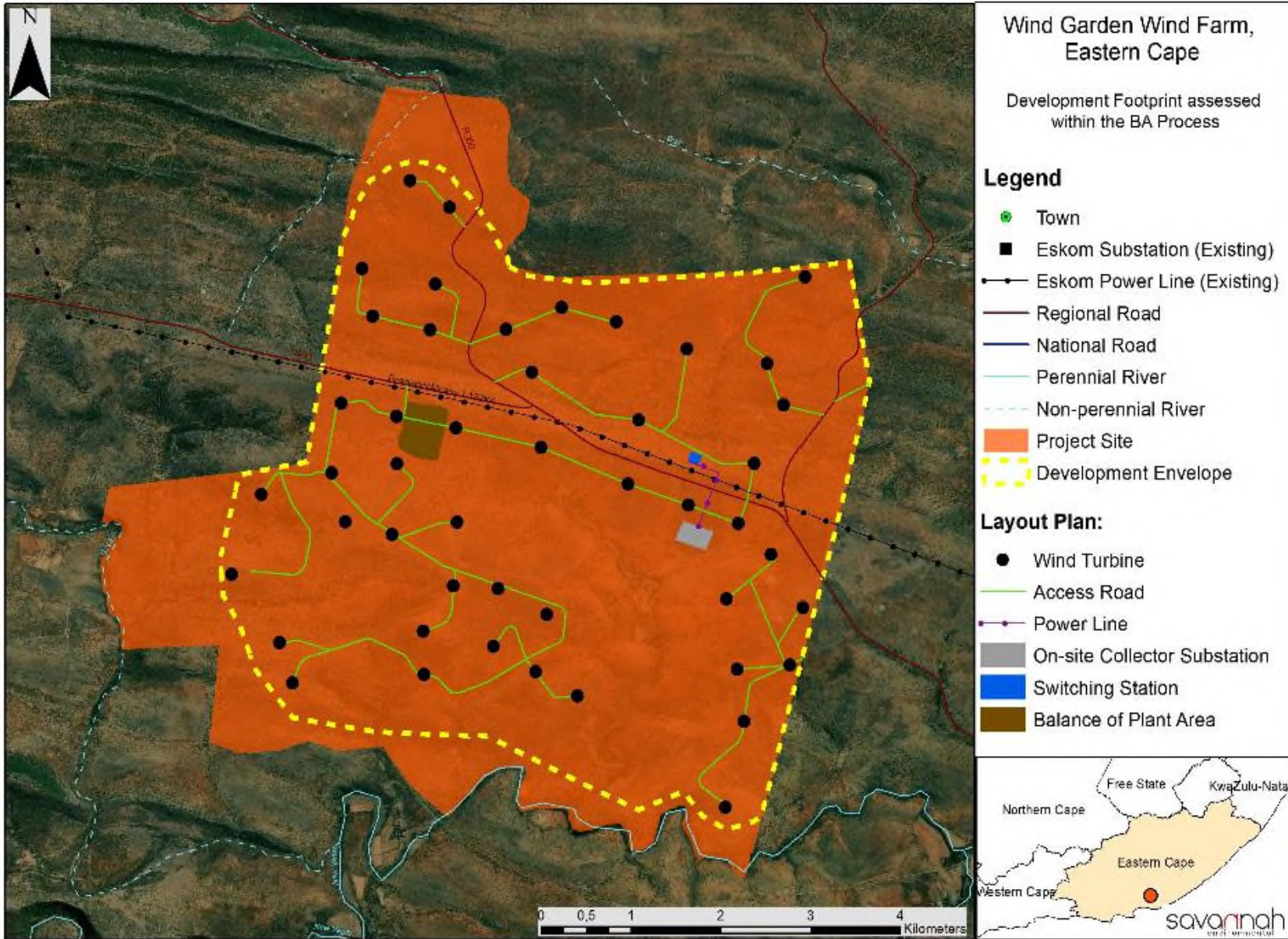
## Legend

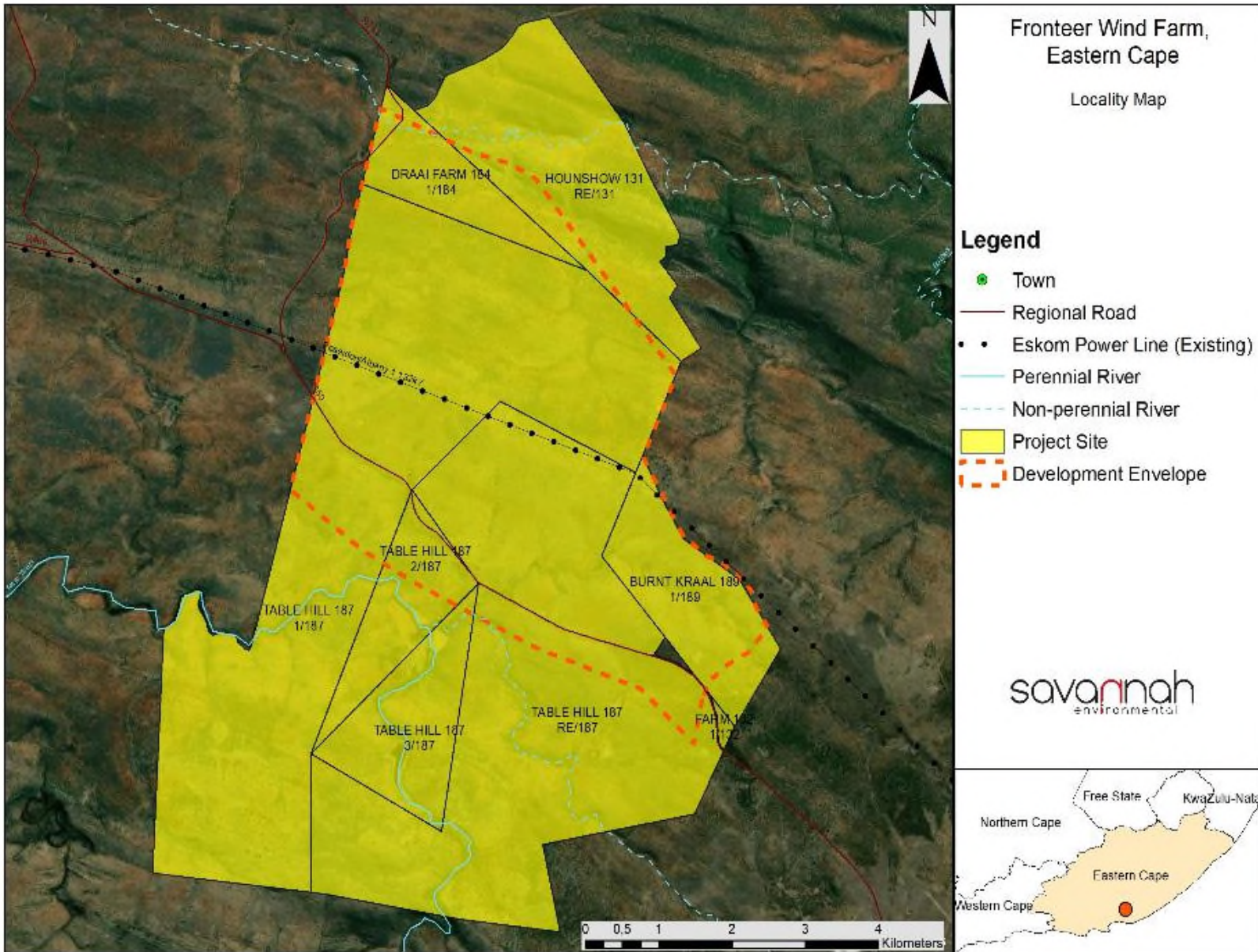
- Town
- Eskom Substation (Existing)
- Eskom Power Line (Existing)
- Regional Road
- National Road
- Perennial River
- - - Non-perennial River
- Project Site
- - - Development Envelope

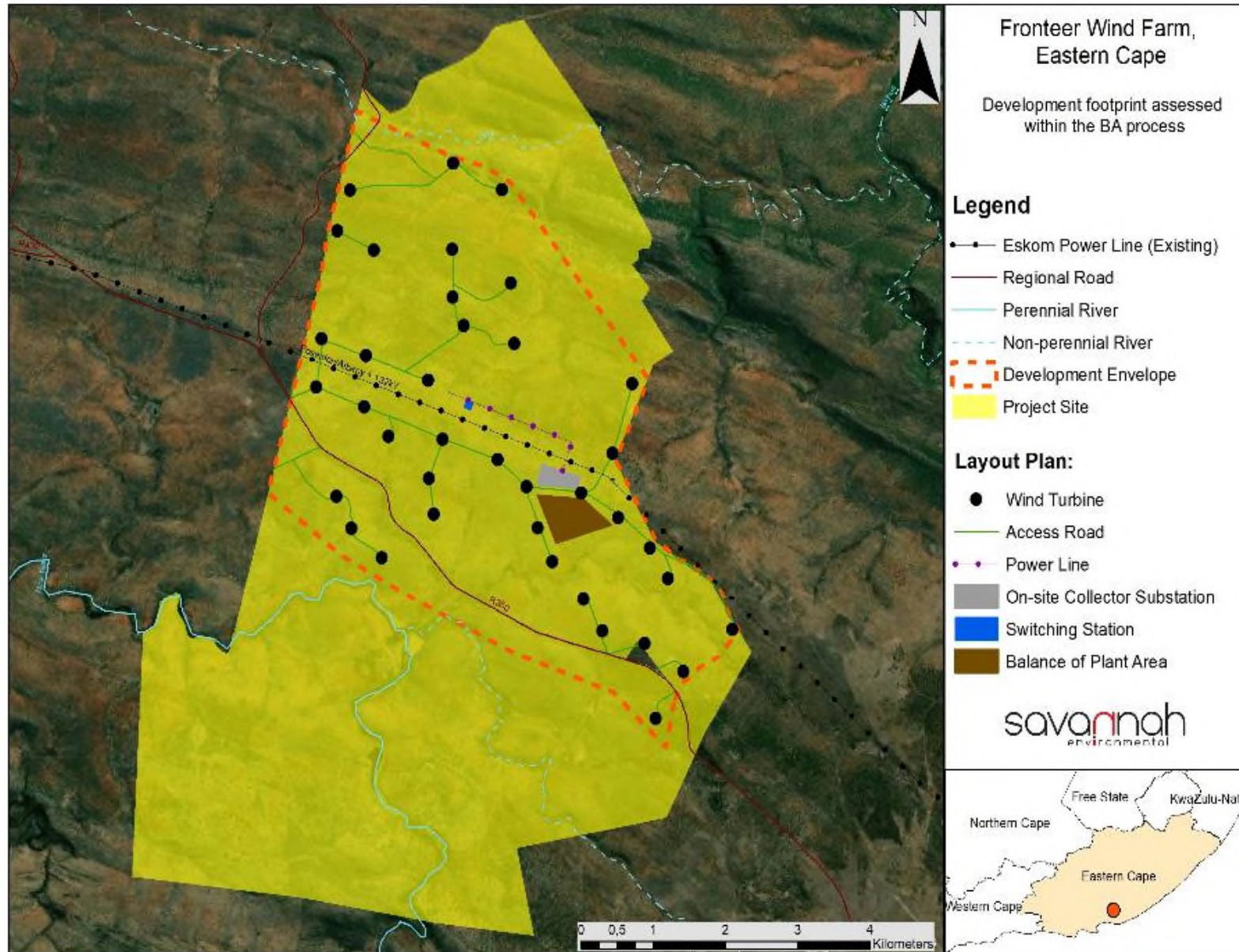
savannah  
environmental



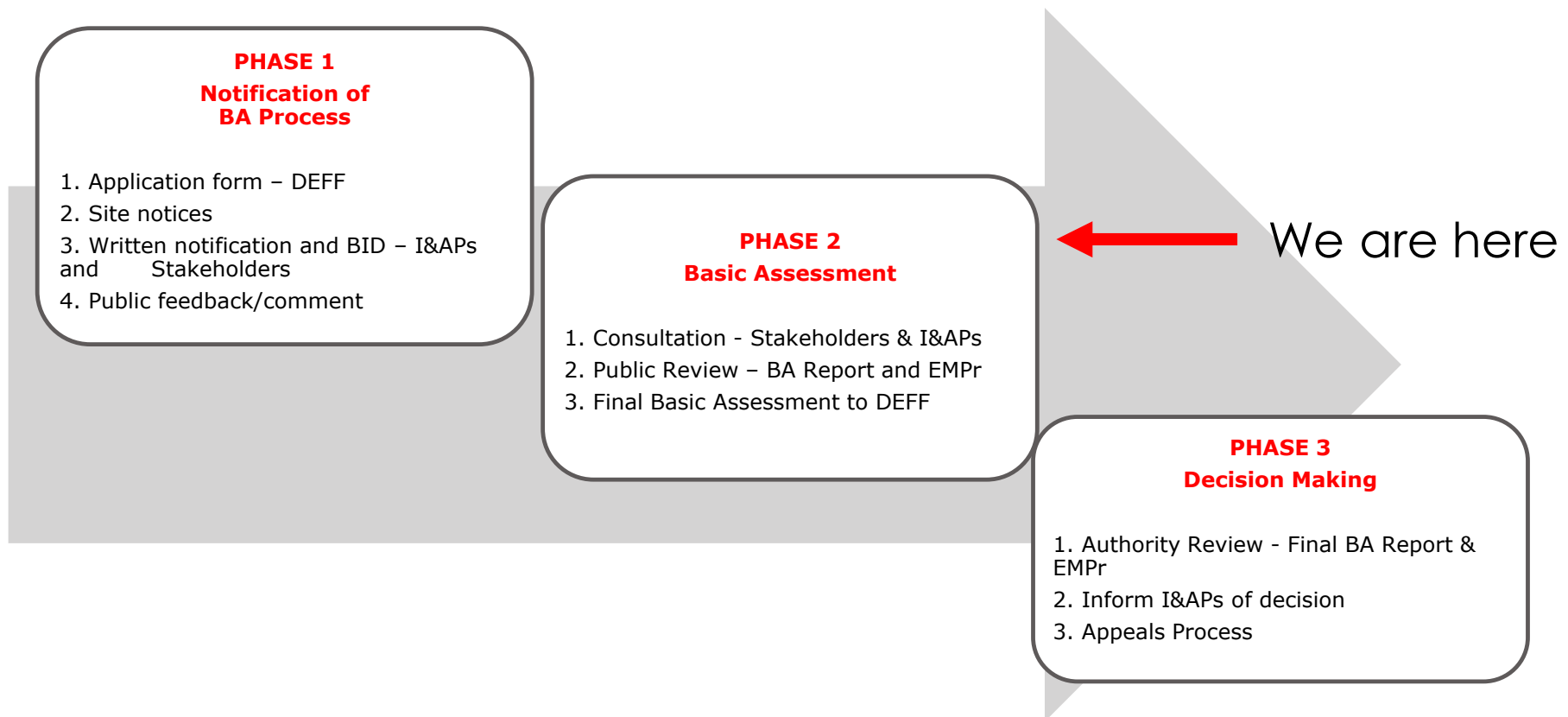






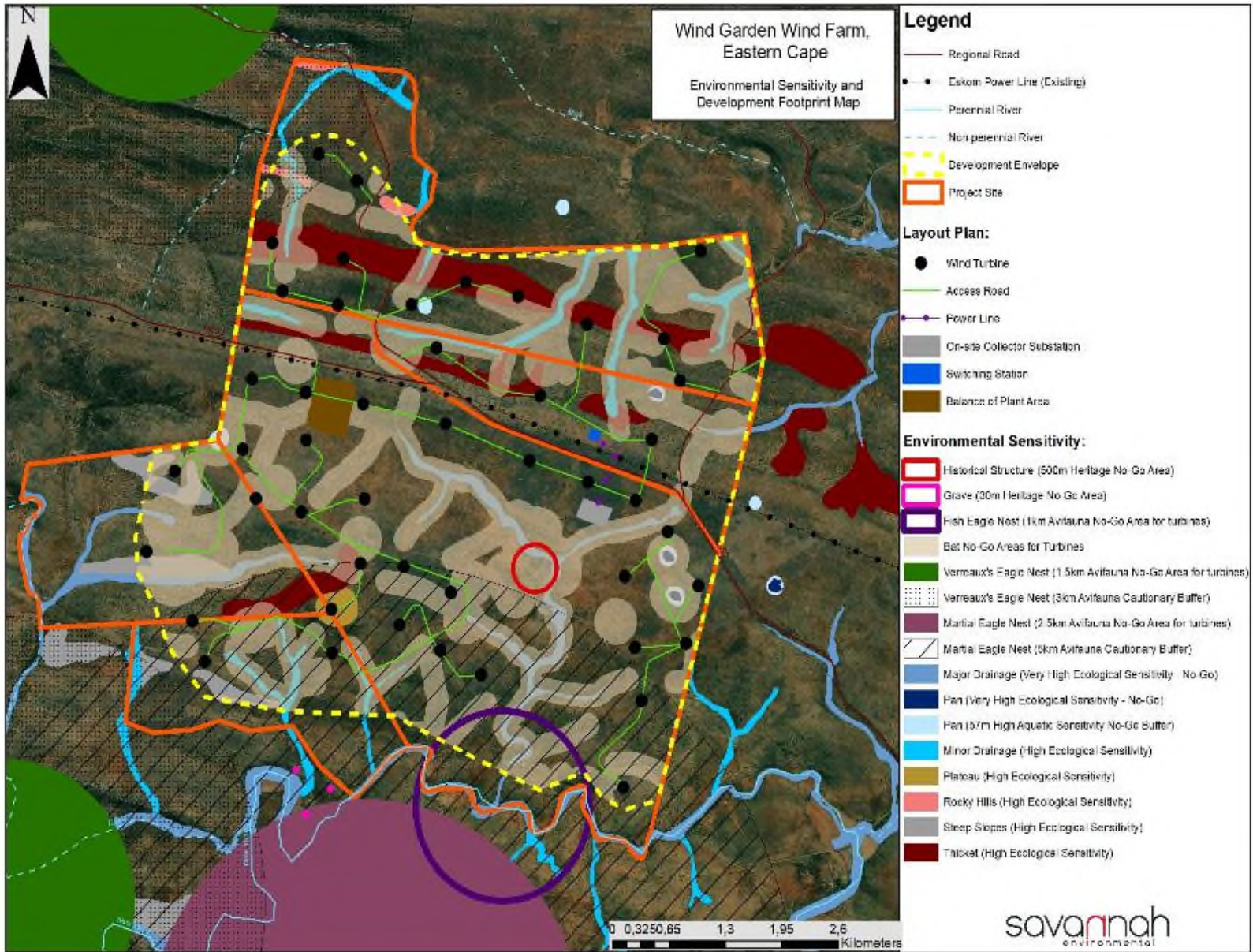


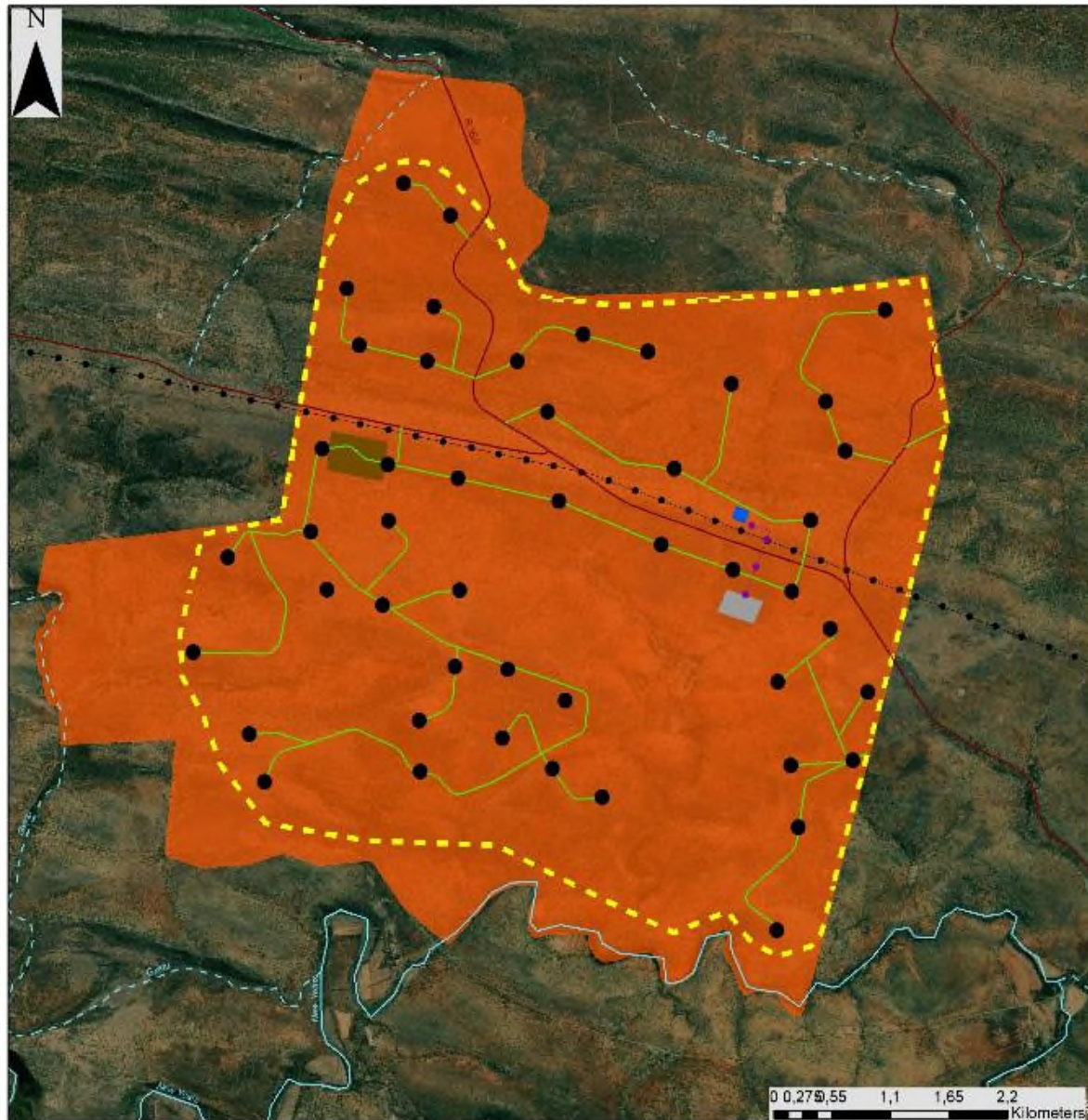
# BA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



# NEED AND DESIRABILITY

- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for 17GW from wind energy
- Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (2020) calls for massive investment in infrastructure, including energy
- Wind resource available in the project site
- Securing additional power generation capacity for private off-takers
- Reduced reliance on Eskom





# Wind Garden Wind Farm, Eastern Cape

Optimised Development Footprint Map

## Legend

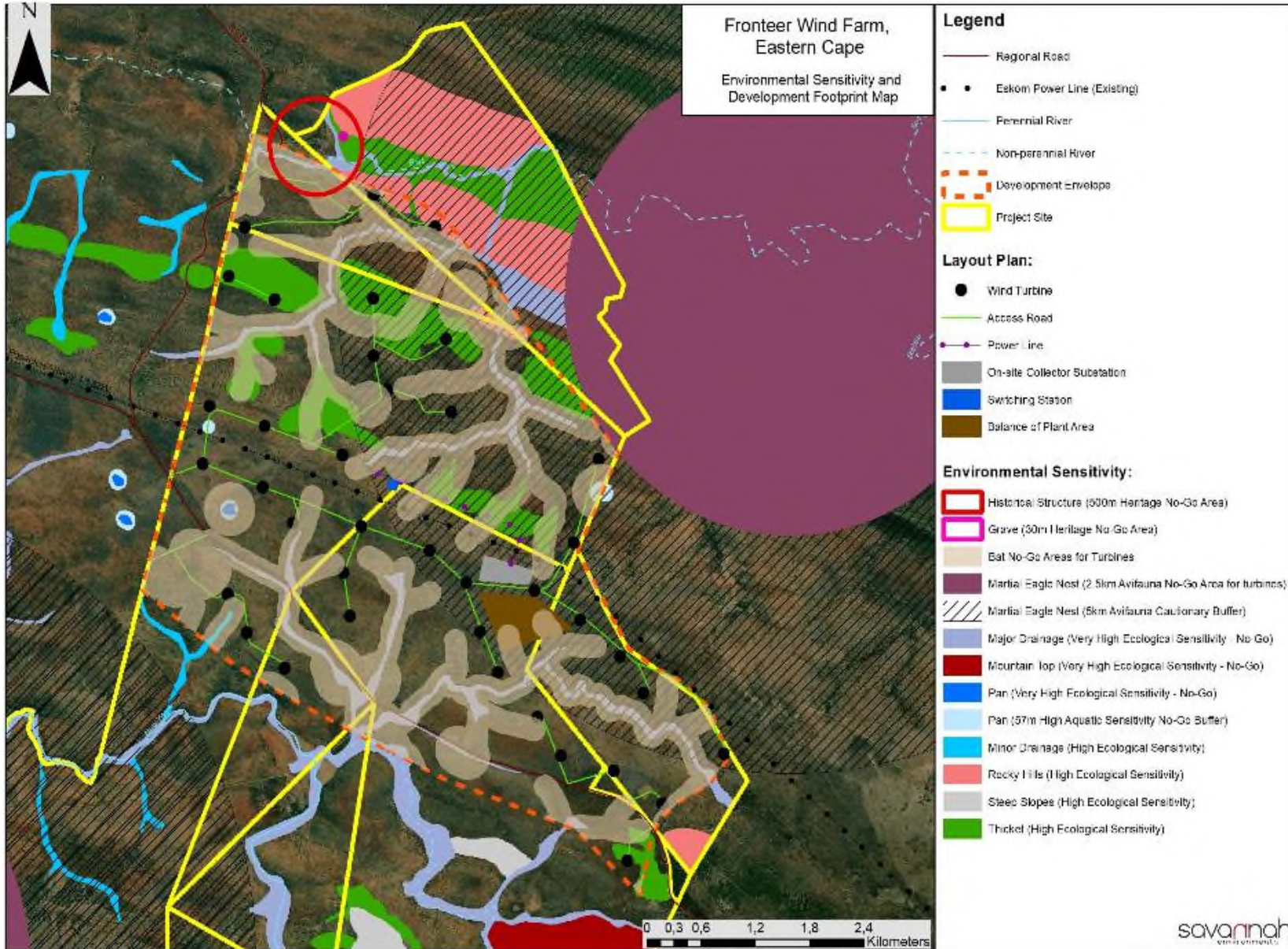
- Regional Road
- Eskom Power Line (Existing)
- Perennial River
- Non-perennial River
- Development Envelope
- Project Site

## Optimised Layout Plan:

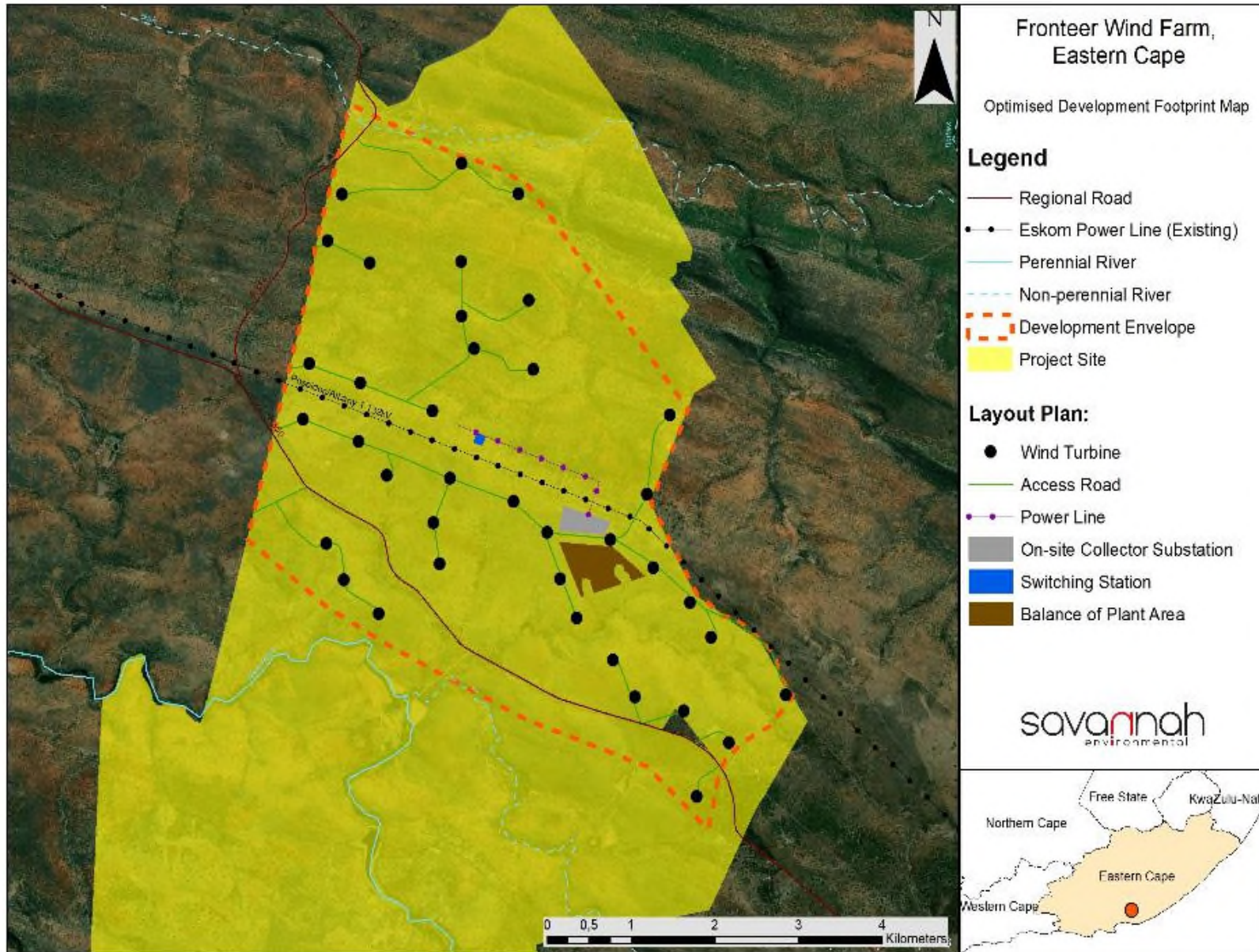
- Wind Turbine
- Access Road
- Power Line
- On-site Collector Substation
- Switching Station
- Balance of Plant

savannah  
environmental

0 0,275 0,55 1,1 1,65 2,2  
Kilometers

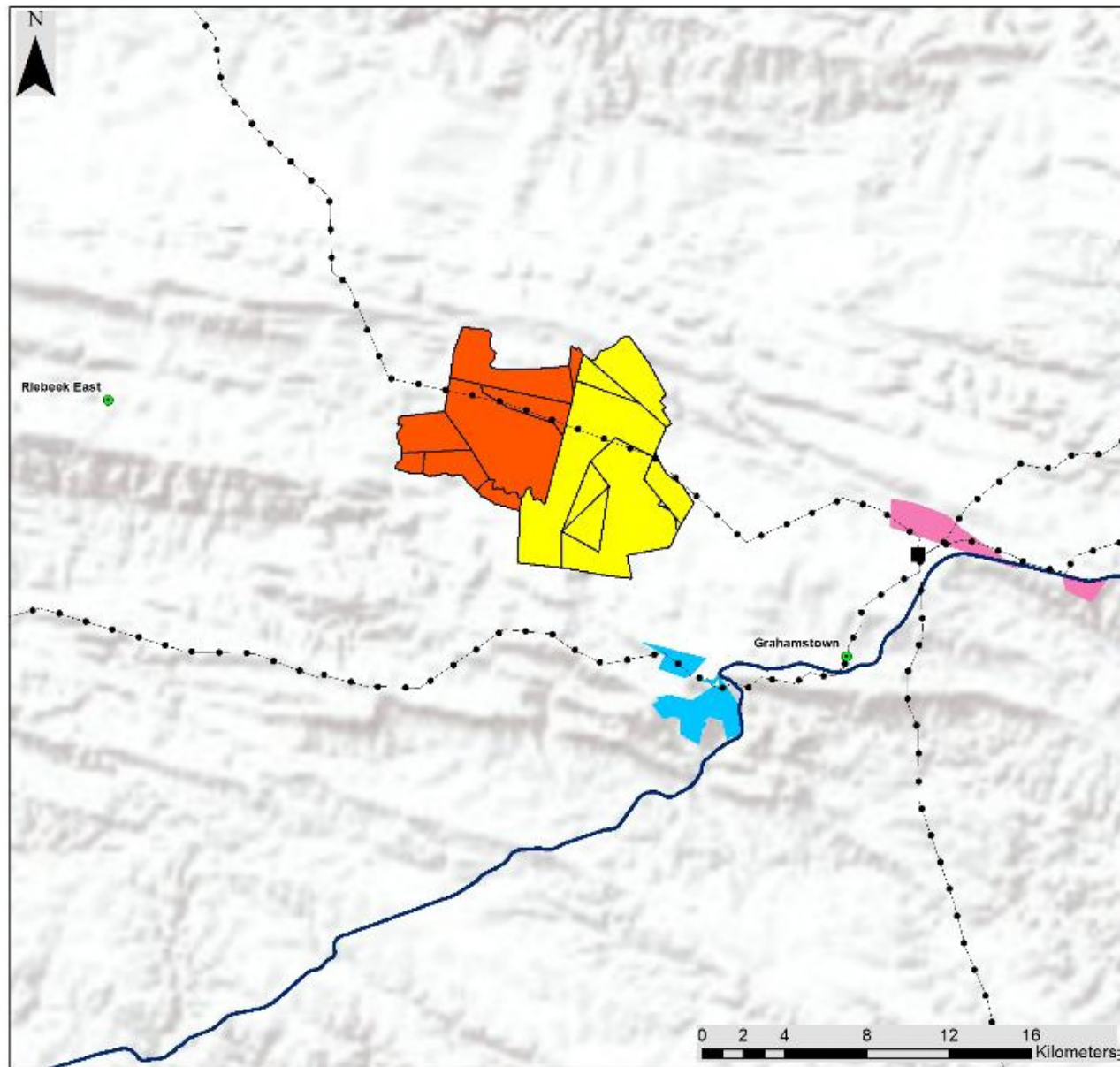






# RESULTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	Medium	High, Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Minimal



Wind Garden Wnd Farm,  
Eastern Cape

Cumulative Map

**Legend**

- Town
  - Eskom Substation (Existing)
  - Eskom Power Line (Existing)
  - National Roads
  - Wind Garden Wind Farm
- Operational:**
- Waainek Wind Energy Project
- In Process:**
- Albany WEF
  - Fronteer Wind Farm

Scale: 1:4 000 000  
 Projection: UTM, Mercaator, 1961  
 File Name: Cumulative Map 11/05/10

# RESULTS

Specialist Field	Cumulative Impact Significance	
	Overall significance of impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	Cumulative significance of impact of the project and other projects in the area
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Medium and Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Noise	Low	Low
Visual	High	High
Socio-Economic	Positive impacts: High and Medium	Positive impacts: High and Medium
	Negative impacts: Medium and Low	Negative impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Without Mitigation: Medium and Low	With Mitigation: Low

# WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports: 04 March 2021 – 06 May 2021  
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DEFF for decision-making

# WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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