

APPENDIX C7:
Comments Received

Comments received on EIA Report
(To be included in the final EIA Report)

SCOPING PHASE



Mvelaphande Trading
P/A C Schutte
3 La Motte
Bayswater
Bloemfontein
9301

Enquiries: Chris Schutte
Telephone: 078 741 5862
E-mail: Schutce5@telkom.co.za

Our Ref no: CRHC0634-21

Your Ref: Kwana Solar PV Facility

04 November 2021

SAVANNAH ENVIROMENTAL
PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

FOR ATTENTION: Nicolene Venter

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to your above- mentioned application, I hereby confirm that the proposed work installation is approved in terms of Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act No. 36 of 2005 as amended.

No infrastructure of our Client (Openserve) will be affected by this proposal. **We did our utmost to ensure that we indicate our route as accurate as possible and should you discover any of our cables that is not on the sketch please stop and contact us immediately to arrange a site meeting. In the event that our cables are exposed and damaged/stolen by a third party the damages will be repaired at the customer's account. Please make use of pilot holes in order not too damage our infrastructure.** Therefore any damages occurred during construction of work will be repaired at the customer's account.

Although we are not affected by this proposal, Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738 from our Network Field Services. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work.

Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval.

Any changes/deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

On completion of this project, please certify that all requirements as stipulated in this letter have been met. Please note that should any of our Client (Openserve) infrastructure has to be relocated or altered as a result of your activities the cost for such alteration or relocation will be for your account in terms of section 25 of the Electronic Communication Act.

Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.

Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval. Any changes / deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

Please notify this office and forward an as built plan, within 30 days of completion of construction.

Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.

Yours sincerely



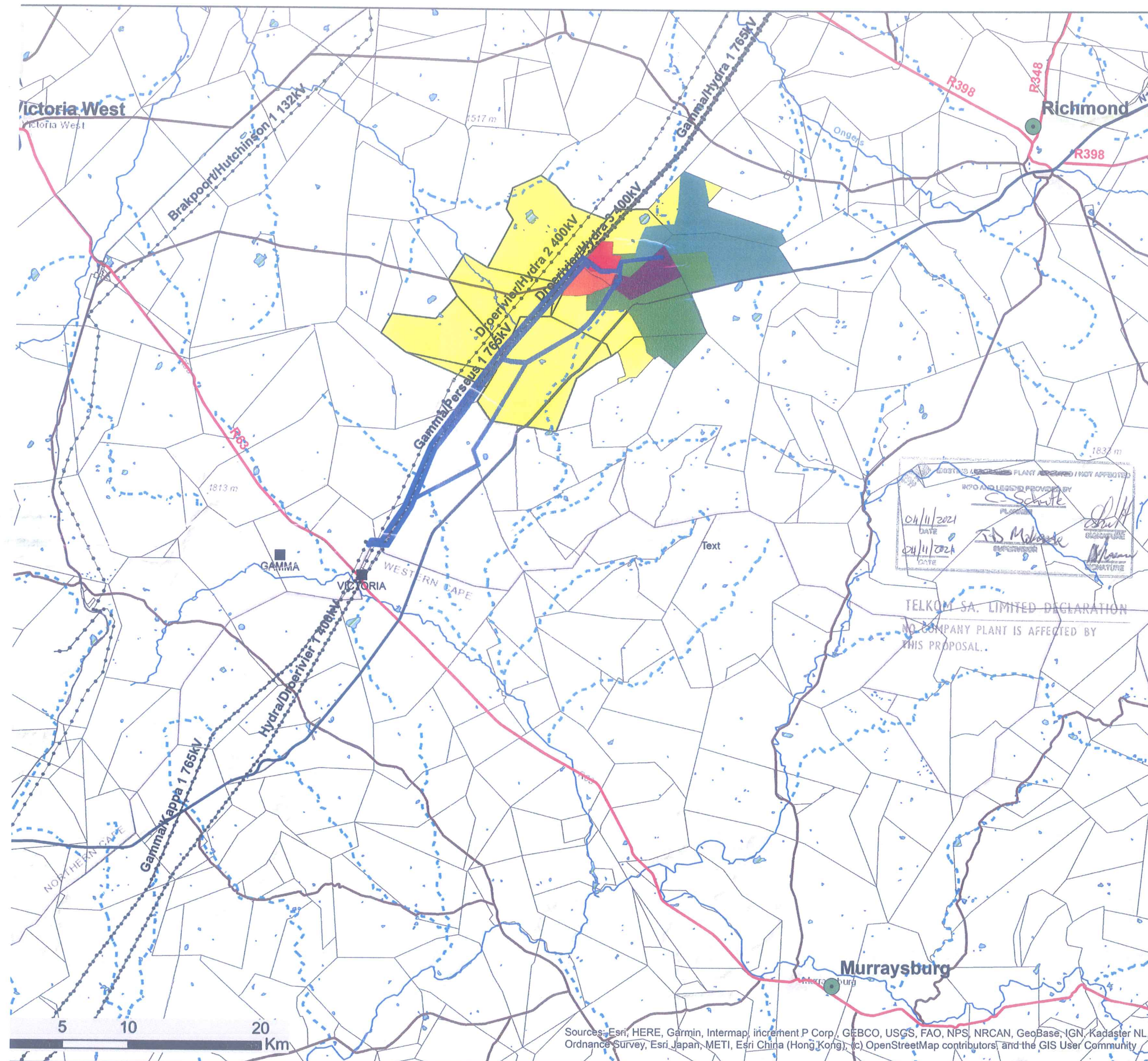
CHRIS SCHUTTE

Proposed Greater Karoo Renewable Energy Cluster, Richmond, Northern Cape Prov

Locality Map

Legend

- Towns
- Eskom Substation
- Existing Power Line
- Main Road
- National Road
- Regional Road
- - - Non-Perennial River
- Perennial River
- NFEPA Wetlands
- Great Karoo Development A
- Grid Connection Corridor 3C
- Angora Wind Energy Facility
- Merino Wind Energy Facility
- Nku Solar PV
- Moriri Solar PV
- Kwana Solar PV
- Farm Portions

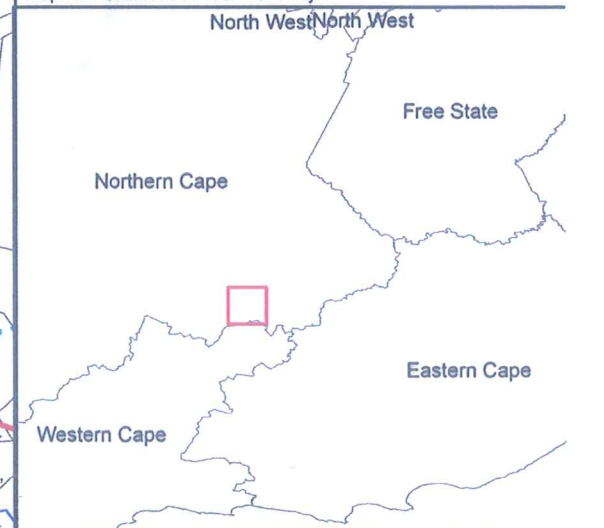


EXISTING LEGISLATION PLANT AFFECTED / NOT AFFECTED
 INFO AND LEGEND PROVIDED BY
 C. Schulte
 PLANNING
 04/11/2021
 DATE
 04/11/2021
 DATE
 J.S. Malonde
 SUPERVISOR
 M. M...
 CHAIRMAN

TELKOM SA. LIMITED DECLARATION
 NO COMPANY PLANT IS AFFECTED BY
 THIS PROPOSAL.



Scale: 1: 278 171
 Projection: WGS_1984
 Map Ref: Great Karoo REF - Locality



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Sunday, 14 November 2021 15:07
To: 'Nick Fox Sibuya Game Reserve'
Subject: SE3125: GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Locality Map & Website link
Attachments: Great Karoo BID Locality Map.rev3.pdf

Dear Nick,

There was a technical matter with our website and this has been resolved.

To download the Scoping Report and Appendices herewith the link <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/the-great-karoo-cluster-of-renewable-energy-facilities/> and the release code is VtUvOs4x

Please find attached the locality map.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social
Consultant

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Processing of personal information / POPIA compliance

We respect your privacy and acknowledge that this e-mail will contain Personal Information, which may belong to you, others and/or to your organization and which we will process. The processing of your personal information by Savannah Environmental may be included in reports submitted to governmental departments or on our public platforms, which processing will be done in accordance with our processing notice housed on our website - <https://savannahsa.com/privacy-policy-privacy-policy-page/>. By sending and/or receiving this message, you hereby expressly give us consent to process the Personal Information contained herein which processing will be done in accordance with POPIA Act 4 of 2013.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and automatically archived by **Mimecast SA (Pty) Ltd**, and is believed to be clean.

From: Nick Fox Sibuya Game Reserve <nickfox@sibuya-gamereserve.co.za>
Sent: Friday, 12 November 2021 12:34
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of Availability of Scoping Reports

Hi

I am having a problem accessing the downloads despite code
Can you please send an area map

Kind regards,

Nick Fox

SIBUYA GAME RESERVE & LODGE (PTY) LTD
PO Box 31 Kenton-on-Sea 6191 South Africa
Tel: +27(0)46 648 2020 Fax: +27 (0)46 648 2114
Cell: 083 648 2020
nickfox@sibuya.co.za www.sibuya.co.za



From: Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: 10 November 2021 05:01 PM

To: Nick Sibuya <nickfox@sibuya-gamereserve.co.za>

Subject: GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of Availability of Scoping Reports

**GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFE Reference Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities and associated infrastructure, ~35km South-West of the town of Richmond along the N1 and 80km South-East of Victoria West along the R63 in the Northern Cape Province. The cluster consists of three (3) 100MW solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities, and two (2) 140MW wind farms.

Please find attached for your perusal the notification letter informing you of the availability of the Scoping Reports for your review and comments. The Scoping Reports are available for downloading from our website [click here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding these projects.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout the Basic Assessment Process.

Kind regards,

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t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter

Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: Great Karoo Cluster RE
Enquiries: Ms. Aulicia Maifo/Mrs. Portia Makitla
Telephone: 012 399 9411/9627 **E-mail:** pmakitla@environment.gov.za

Ms Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: +27 (11) 656 3237
Email Address: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms., Venter

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the report.

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the report and does not have any objections to the Draft Scoping Report & Plan of Study provided that all relevant National and Provincial biodiversity guidelines will be considered in the final report.

NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully

Mr Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 10/12/2021



Batho pele- putting people first

Department of Water and Sanitation

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2021 09:11
To: 'Ackerman Pieter'
Cc: Nondumiso Bulunga; Tumelo Mathulwe
Subject: SE3125: GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Response re WUL

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'Ackerman Pieter'	
	Nondumiso Bulunga	Delivered: 2021/11/17 09:11
	Tumelo Mathulwe	Delivered: 2021/11/17 09:11

Dear Pieter,

Thank you for your e-mail below.

The water use authorisation application process will be initiated once positive Environmental Authorisations (EAs) have been received and the projects are selected as Preferred Bidder under the Renewable Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP) or similar programme.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Participation and Social
Consultant

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

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Processing of personal Information / POPIA compliance

We respect your privacy and acknowledge that this e-mail will contain Personal Information, which may belong to you, others and/or to your organization and which we will process. The processing of your personal information by Savannah Environmental may be included in reports submitted to governmental departments or on our public platforms, which processing will be done in accordance with our processing notice housed on our website - <https://savannahsa.com/privacy-policy-privacy-policy-page/>. By sending and/or receiving this message, you hereby expressly give us consent to process the Personal Information contained herein which processing will be done in accordance with POPIA Act 4 of 2013.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and automatically archived by **Mimecast SA (Pty) Ltd**, and is believed to be clean.

From: Ackerman Pieter <AckermanP@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 11 November 2021 07:35
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of Availability of Scoping Reports

Hi
Please apply for water use authorisation where necessary.
Attached is the Section 21 c and I water uses checklist
Regards

Pieter Ackerman (PrLArch)
Chief Landscape Architect
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), South Africa
Sub Directorate Instream Water Use
Tel: 012 336 8217
Cell: 082 807 3512
Fax: 012 336 6608



water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Taking a five-minute shower a day
instead of a bath, will use a third
of the water, saving up to 400 lit
of water a week.**

From: Savannah Environmental Public Process [<mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com>]

Sent: 10 November 2021 04:59 PM

To: Ackerman Pieter <AckermanP@dws.gov.za>

Subject: GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of Availability of Scoping Reports

**GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE
NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Reference Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities and associated infrastructure, ~35km South-West of the town of Richmond along the N1 and 80km South-East of Victoria West along the R63 in the Northern Cape Province. The cluster consists of three (3) 100MW solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities, and two (2) 140MW wind farms.

Please find attached for your perusal the notification letter informing you of the availability of the Scoping Reports for your review and comments. The Scoping Reports are available for downloading from our website [click here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding these projects.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout the Basic Assessment Process.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



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Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17540

Date: Friday December 03, 2021
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a commercial wind farm and associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 35km south-west of Richmond and 80km south-east of Victoria West, within the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. A preferred project site with an extent of ~29 909ha and a development area of ~5 516ha within the project site has been identified by Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd as a technically suitable area for the development of the Merino Wind Farm with a contracted capacity of up to 140MW that can accommodate up to 45 turbines. The development area consists of the three (3) affected properties, which include: Portion 1 of Farm Rondavel 85 Portion 0 of Farm Rondavel 85 Portion 9 of Farm Bult & Rietfontein 96 Portion 0 of Farm Vogelstruisfontein 84 The Merino Wind Farm project site is proposed to accommodate the following infrastructure, which will enable the wind farm to supply a contracted capacity of up to 140MW: Up to 45 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of up to 170m. The tip height of the turbines will be up to 250m. Concrete turbine foundations to support the turbine hardstands. Inverters and transformers. Temporary laydown areas which will accommodate storage and assembly areas. Cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical. A temporary concrete batching plant. 33/132kV onsite facility substation. Underground cabling from the onsite substation to the 132kV collector substation. Electrical and auxiliary equipment required at the collector substation that serves that wind energy facility, including switchyard/bay, control building, fences, etc. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Access roads and internal distribution roads. Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage. The wind farm is proposed in response to the identified objectives of the national and provincial government and local and district municipalities to develop renewable energy facilities for power generation purposes. It is the developer's intention to bid the Merino Wind Farm under the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMRE's) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme, with the aim of evacuating the generated power into the national grid. This will aid in the diversification and stabilisation of the country's electricity

Proposed Merino Wind Farm which forms part of the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility development near Richmond in the Northern Cape

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17540

Date: Friday December 03, 2021
Page No: 2

supply, in line with the objectives of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Merino Wind Farm set to inject up to 140MW into the national grid.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed establishment of the Merino Wind Farm on Rondavel 85 Portion 0 of Farm Rondavel 85, Portion 9 of Farm Bult & Rietfontein 96 Portion 0 of Farm Vogelstruisfontein 84, near Richmond, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations. The proposed activities include the construction of up to 45 wind turbines with concrete foundations, invertors and transformers, temporary laydown areas, cabling between turbines to be laid underground where practical, a 33/132 kV onsite substation, switchyard, control building, fences, battery energy storage system, access roads and internal distribution roads, site office, maintenance buildings and workshop area.

CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of the NEMA and section 38(3) and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2021. Heritage Screener: Proposed Merino Wind Farm which forms part of the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility development near Richmond in the Northern Cape

The proposed project footprint has not been previously subjected to heritage assessments and therefore gaps in the knowledge of the heritage in the area exist. The surrounding areas are known to contain Stone Age lithic occurrence, rock art, historical farming heritage resources and colonial history. Additionally, it is very likely that the proposed development will have a negative impact on the cultural and scenic value of the landscape. The SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map shows the proposed project footprint is located in an area of moderate and very high sensitivity for palaeontological resources.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Archaeological field surveys must provide sufficient ground-coverage of the areas to be developed to be able to determine the nature of the resources likely to be impacted. Palaeontological and cultural landscape field surveys will target sensitive geological and cultural landscape features.

Interim Comment

Proposed Merino Wind Farm which forms part of the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility development near Richmond in the Northern Cape

Our Ref:



an agency of the
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T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17540

Date: Friday December 03, 2021
Page No: 3

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources and requests that the assessment comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) must contain an archaeological component that must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.

The proposed development is located within an area of very high and moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Previous comments regarding buffers from scenic routes in the Northern Cape must be taken into consideration during the assessment on the cultural landscape or viewsapes, and the results of the Visual Impact Assessment must be incorporated into the HIA.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and the draft EIA with all appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer

Proposed Merino Wind Farm which forms part of the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility development near Richmond in the Northern Cape

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17540

Date: Friday December 03, 2021
Page No: 4

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/588963>



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2114

Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 **E-mail:** HAlberts@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number: 011 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERINO WIND FARM IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2021 and received by the Department on 12 November 2021, refer.

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

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- (ii) The listed activities represented in the final SR and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.
- (iv) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) All preferred turbine positions must be clearly numbered. The turbine position numbers must be consistently used in all maps to be included in the reports.
- (iii) The final SR must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- (iv) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - a) The envisioned area for the wind energy facility, i.e. placing of wind turbines and all associated infrastructure;

- b) Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
 - d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
 - f) All existing infrastructure on the site.
- (v) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
- a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - b) Buffer areas; and,
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (vi) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

(c) Alternatives

- (i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).
- (ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

(d) Public Participation Process

- (i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity & Conservation Section), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.
- (ii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and as per the approved PP Plan.
- (iv) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- (v) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.
- (vi) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly the Western Cape Department of Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and the District and Local Municipalities.
- (vii) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.

(e) Specialist Assessments

- (i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).
- (ii) The final EIAr and all the attached specialist studies must indicate and adequately assess a consistent number of turbines.
- (iii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
 - f) **Bird and Bat specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa and SABAA.**
 - g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (iv) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (v) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.
- (vi) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (vii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) If there are any other similar facilities within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must indicate the following:
 - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.

- d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(g) Specific comments

- (i) Please provide a clear indication of who the contact person for the Applicant is.
- (ii) The approved PP plan with the approval email must be submitted with the final SR and must be included as an Appendix under the Public Participation Process.

(h) General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: *“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”*

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach
Designation: Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 06 December 2021

cc:	Debere Maphosa	Ubuntu Local Municipality	E-mail: maphosa.d@gmail.com
	Bryan Fisher	NC DAEARDLR	E-mail: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Romaya Dorasamy	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: romaya@greatkarro.energy
	Tobias Hobbach	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: tobias@greatkarro.energy

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT KAROO CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Ref. No.: To be Issued)

Registration & Comment Form

October 2021

Return completed registration and comment form to: Nicolene Venter / Tumelo Mathulwe of Savannah Environmental

Phone: 011 656 3237 / Mobile (incl. 'please call me'): 060 978 8396 / Fax: 086 684 0547

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com Postal Address: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Your registration as an interested and/or affected party will be applicable for this project only and your contact details provided are protected by the POPI Act of 2013

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:	JAN PICKARD		
Organisation:	RATELFONTEIN FARMAS		
Designation:	DIRECTOR		
Postal Address:	P.O. BOX 84, RICHMOND		
Telephone:		Fax:	
Mobile:	082 569 8282		
E-mail:	info@ratelfontein.com		

I would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) on the following project's database (please tick the relevant box)

Nku Solar PV Facility		Moiriro Solar PV Facility		Kwana Solar PV Facility	
Angora Wind Energy Facility	X	Merino Wind Energy Facility	X		
Electrical Grid Infrastructure					

In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the BA process for the projects and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application (add additional pages if necessary):

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL
WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ANY SOLAR DEVELOPMENT, ANY WIND ENERGY FACILITY WILL GREATLY AFFECT THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF RATELFONTEIN FARMAS WHICH INCLUDES RATELFONTEIN HUNTING SAFARIS AND BLOEMHOF-KAROO GUEST HOUSE.

Please list your comments regarding your project selection above (add additional pages if necessary):

ANY WIND ENERGY FACILITY WILL INTERFERE WITH:

- 1) VISUAL IMPACT (VISITORS COME TO EXPERIENCE NATURE AND OPENNESS OF SPACE - 220M TURBINES WILL HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT.
- 2) TURBINES ARE NOT SITUATED OUTSIDE 5,2KM OF ACTIVE VERREUX GEESE NESTS - WILL DESTROY MANY BIRDS

A DETAILED OBJECTION TO FOLLOW.

Please provide contact details of any other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

Name & Surname:	
Postal Address:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
E-mail:	