



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000706/2017

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1814

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Mangnall

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 326, 327 AND 324: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE SUTHERLAND 2 WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) WITHIN NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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

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

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R.993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. An appellant must submit an appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party and any organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant.

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001;

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

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: Appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, please find a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals on the Department's website:

(https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).

Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 02/02/2018

cc:	Ms. Surina Laurie	CSIR	Tel: 082 468 0962	Email: SLaurie@csir.co.za
	Ms. Jessica Christie	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning	Tel: N/A	Email: Jessica.Christie@westerncape.gov.za
	Gustav von Mollendorf	Karoo-Hoogland Local Municipality	Tel: N/A	Email: munman@karoohoogland.gov.za



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended

Construction of electrical grid infrastructure to support the Sutherland 2 Wind Energy Facility (WEF) within Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province

Namakwa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1814
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	SOUTH AFRICA MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER DEVELOPMENTS (PTY) LTD
Location of activity:	NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: Within Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality

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

Decision

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

Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

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

Activities authorised

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

SOUTH AFRICA MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER DEVELOPMENTS (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Mike Mangnall

South African Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 45063

CLAREMONT

7735

Tel Number: 021 657 4045

Cell Number: 083 785 1492

E-mail: Mike.Mangnall@mainstreamrp.com

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 327 Activity 11 (i):</u> <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity:</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction and installation of an overhead 132 kV distribution line, as well as an on-site substation towards the western end of the line. The proposed distribution line will connect to a third party substation (Alternative 1, the proposed collector hub).</p>
<p><u>GN R327: Activity 12 (ii)</u> <i>The development of –</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(b) in front of a development setback; or</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i> <i>excluding:</i> <i>(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</i> <i>(bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</i> <i>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</i></p>	<p>The installation of an overhead 132 kV distribution line, as well as an on-site substation towards the western end of the line. The proposed distribution line will connect to a third party substation (Alternative 1, the proposed collector hub). Foundations for the pylons and towers of the distribution line will also be constructed. A gravel service road will also be constructed below the distribution line. For Alternative 1 of the proposed distribution line routing, the service road will extend approximately 4 – 6 m wide and 37 km long.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area;</i></p> <p><i>(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves; or</i></p> <p><i>(ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.</i></p>	
<p><u>GN R.327, Activity 19</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving -</i></p> <p><i>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</i></p> <p><i>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</i></p> <p><i>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</i></p> <p><i>(d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</i></p> <p><i>(e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the excavation, removal and moving of possibly more than 10 m³ of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from the nearby watercourses. The proposed project will also entail the infilling or depositing of more than 10 m³ of material into the nearby watercourses.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R.327, Activity 27</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with maintenance management plan</p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction of an on-site substation (including a laydown area and O&M Building), which will cover an approximate area of less than 20 ha. As a result, more than 1 ha of indigenous vegetation will possibly be removed for the construction of these structures.</p>
<p><u>GN R327: Activity 28 (ii)</u></p> <p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes, or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p>	<p>The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area, on several farm portions within the Northern Cape (Alternative 1).</p> <p>The land is currently used for agricultural purposes. The proposed project, which is considered to be a commercial or industrial development, will entail the construction of an on-site substation, distribution line (including towers and pylons), service road, laydown area and an O&M Building. This will constitute infrastructure with a physical footprint of more than 1 ha.</p>
<p><u>GNR 324 Activity 4:</u></p> <p>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13, 5 metres.</p> <p>g) Northern Cape:</p> <p>(ii) Outside urban Areas</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(ee) Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area, on several farm portions within the Northern Cape (Alternative 1). A gravel service road will also be constructed below the distribution line. For Alternative 1 of the proposed distribution line routing, the service road will extend approximately 4 – 6 m wide and 37 km long.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GNR 324 Activity 12</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearances of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p>(g). Northern Cape:</p> <p><i>(ii). Within any critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority;</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction of an on-site substation, distribution line (including towers and pylons), service road, laydown area and an O&M Building. As a result, more than 300 m² of indigenous vegetation will possibly be removed for the construction of these structures.</p>
<p><u>GNR 324 Activity 14</u></p> <p><i>The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(b) if no development setback has been adapted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p> <p>g. Northern Cape:</p> <p><i>(ii) outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus Areas</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical Biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction and installation of an overhead 132 kV distribution line, as well as an on-site substation towards the western end of the line. The proposed distribution line will connect to a third party substation (Alternative 1, the proposed collector hub).</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 at:

Substation alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)

The proposed for the Sutherland 2 wind energy facility located on Portion 1 of Tonteldoosfontein Farm 152; at the following coordinates:

Substation alternative 1 (preferred)	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Sutherland Substation	32° 37' 35.982"S	44° 40' 40.012"E.

Third party Substation alternative 1

Third party Substation Alternative 1 is the proposed 132 kV Suurplaat on-site substation, which is referred to as the proposed collector hub, the proposed collector hub is located on the Remaining Extent of Hartebeeste Fontein Farm 147 at the following co-ordinates:

Third party Substation alternative 1- Substation Alternative 1 (Suurplaat)	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Corner 1	32°38'39.68"S	21° 3'8.73"E
Corner 2	32°38'39.65"S	21° 3'27.88"E
Corner 3	32°38'55.75"S	21° 3'27.87"E
Corner 4	32°38'55.87"S	21° 3'8.69"E

Powerline alternative 1 (Preferred)

Powerline Alternative 1 of the proposed distribution line for the Sutherland 2 WEF Electrical Grid Infrastructure Project will exit the proposed Sutherland 2 on-site Substation extending to the Suurplaat Substation (collector hub) at a distance of approximately 37 km in length, traversing the following farm portions:

Portion 1 of Tonteldoosfontein Farm 152, Portion 2 of Gunstfontein Farm 151, Portion 1 of Gunstfontein Farm 151, Portion 1 of Beeren Valley Farm 150, Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150, Remaining Extent of Nooitgedacht Farm 148 and Remaining Extent of Hartebeeste Fontein Farm 147 located in the Northern Cape, approximately 23 km south of Sutherland and 50 km north of Laingsburg, under the jurisdiction of the Namakwa District Municipality and the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality. The powerline run at the following co-ordinates:

Powerline alternative 1 (Preferred)	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Start Point	32°36'35.374"S	20°45' 58.131"E.
Middle Point	32°36' 36.284"S	20°46' 54.686"E.
End Point	32° 38' 41.011"S	20° 55' 3.784"E.

- for the construction of electrical grid infrastructure to support the Sutherland 2 Wind Energy Facility (WEF) within Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- On-site substation (including O&M building and laydown area);
- Fencing of the proposed on-site substation;
- 132 kV distribution line (Alternative 1) from the proposed Sutherland 2 WEF on-site substation to the third party substation (including tower/pylon infrastructure and foundations) which will cross the following farm portions located in the Northern Cape Province:
 - Portion 1 of Tonteldoosfontein Farm 152;
 - Portion 2 of Gunstfontein Farm 151;
 - Portion 1 of Gunstfontein Farm 151;
 - Portion 1 of Beeren Valley Farm 150;
 - Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150;
 - Remaining Extent of Nooitgedacht Farm 148; and
 - Remaining Extent of Hartebeeste Fontein Farm 147.
- Connection to the third party substation; and
- Service road below the line.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The construction of electrical grid infrastructure to support the Sutherland 2 Wind Energy Facility (WEF) within Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited at the table reflected in page 7 above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.

3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of **five (5)** years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 .
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

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

Management of the activity

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved, the EMPr must be implemented and strictly adhered to

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

13. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 22 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
14. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
15. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 326. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
16. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.326. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.

17. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the EMPr at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the EMPr to the Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 326.

Monitoring

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

Recording and reporting to the Department

19. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
20. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
21. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GNR 326 of EIA Regulations.

22. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
23. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
24. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

25. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

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

Site closure and decommissioning

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

Specific conditions

28. No activities must encroach water bodies without a Water Use License Authorisation and General Authorisation.
 29. A 32m buffer from any water bodies must be implemented.
 30. No stockpile must be stored next to the river bank or any waterbodies.
 31. A 30m buffer must be implemented around any archaeological artefacts and permit from SAHRA must be obtained prior to commencement of construction activities.
 32. The applicant must cease the construction should any archaeological artefacts be found during construction and the responsible heritage resource agency must be informed immediately for the finds to be investigated to enable proper mitigation measures to be implemented.
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33. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the Avifauna specialist.
34. A walk-through must be conducted by the avifauna specialist after final layout plan of the pylons positions have been determined to define sections of the power line that will need Bird Flight Diverters.
35. The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.
36. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised for rehabilitation purposes.
37. No protected species, if any found on the site must be removed without a permit from the Department that has jurisdiction on the proposed project.
38. You are required to comply with the recommendations provided by the followings authorities on the BAR dated October 2017: Cape Nature, Western Cape Department of Environmental affairs and Development Planning, Heritage Western Cape, Catchment Management Agency, Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Nature and Conservation (DENC) and SAHRA.

General

39. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 39.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 39.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 39.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
40. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 02/02/2018


Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

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

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated October 2017;
- b) The comments received from Cape Nature, Western Cape Department of Environmental affairs and Development Planning, Heritage Western Cape, Catchment Management Agency, Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Nature and Conservation (DENC), SAHRA and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated October 2017;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated October 2017 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998).

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed Sutherland 2 Wind Energy Facility –Electrical Grid Infrastructure is to transmit electricity generated by renewable energy resource into the national grid.
- c) The BAR dated October 2017 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated October 2017.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated October 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2017 for public involvement.

3. Findings

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

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated October 2017 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the BAR dated October 2017 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

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