



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/807/AM4

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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Dr Hagemann

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 29 JANUARY 2016 FOR THE KARREEBOSCH WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE KAROO HOOGLAND AND LAINGSBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 29 January 2016 as amended, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 22 August 2022, the acknowledgement email dated 30 August 2022, comments on the draft amendment report dated 19 September 2022 and the final amendment report received on 14 October 2022, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 25 April 2022 as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment of the EA Holder on Page 1, 2 and 3 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Karreebosch Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd</i>	<i>Karreebosch Wind Farm RF (Pty) Ltd</i>

Reason for amendment:

The Amendment being applied for is to update the name of the EA Holder to ensure that the information contained in the EA is up to date and accurate. This amendment request is administrative in nature and therefore no disadvantages are foreseen.

15.

Amendment 2: Amendment to the Farm names on Page 2 of the EA

From:	To:
Farm Appelsfontein 201	Farm Roode Wal No. 187
Remainder of Ekkraal 199	Farm Appels Fontein No. 201
Portion 1 of Ekkraal 199	Portion 1 of Farm Ek Kraal No. 199
Portion 2 of Ekkraal 199	Portion 2 (Nuwe Kraal) of Farm Ek Kraal No. 199
Remainder of Karreebosch 200	Portion 1 of Farm Klipbanks Fontein No. 198
Remainder of Karreekloof 196	Remainder of Farm Klipbanks Fontein No. 198
Remainder of Klipbanksfontein 198	Remainder of Farm Wilgebosch Rivier No. 188
Portion 1 of Klipbanksfontein 198	Farm Rietfontein No. 197
Farm Kranskraal 189	Remainder of Farm Karreebosch No. 200
Farm Oude Huis 195	Portion 1 of Farm Karreebosch No. 200
Farm Rietfontein 197	Farm Oude Huis No. 195
Farm Roode Wal 187	Portion 1 of Farm Karree Kloof No. 196
Portion 2 of Standvastigheid 210	Remainder of Farm Brandvalley No. 75
Remainder of Wilgebosch Rivier 188	
Farm Aprils Kraal 105	
Remainder of Bon Espirange 73	
Portion 1 of Bon Espirange 73	

Reason for amendment:

The Amendment being applied for is to update the property information to ensure that the information contained in the EA is up to date and accurate as per the final layout. This amendment request is administrative in nature and therefore no disadvantages are foreseen. The proposed amendment applied for is located within the original assessed area and the originally approved development footprint which has been subject to the final walk-downs and specialist assessments as part of the final layout and EMPR approval process.

Amendment 3: Amendment to the SGD codes on page 8 of the EA

From:	To:
C0430000000007300000	C0720000000018700000
C0430000000007300001	C0720000000020100000
C0430000000001050000	C0720000000019900001
C0720000000001870000	C0720000000019900002
C0720000000001880000	C0720000000019800001
C0720000000001950000	C0720000000019800000
C0720000000001880000	C0720000000018800000
C07200000000019600001	C0720000000019700000
C0720000000001970000	C0720000000020000000
C0720000000001980000	C0720000000020000001
C07200000000019800001	C0720000000019500000
C0720000000001990000	C0720000000019600001
C07200000000019900001	C0430000000007500000
C07200000000019900002	
C0720000000002000000	
C07200000000020000001	
C0720000000002010000	
C07200000000021000002	

Reason for Amendment:

The Amendment being applied for is to update the property information to ensure that the information contained in the EA is up to date and accurate as per the final layout. This amendment request is administrative in nature and therefore no disadvantages are foreseen. The proposed amendment applied for is located within the original assessed area and the originally approved development footprint which has been subject to the final walk-downs and specialist assessments as part of the final layout and EMPR approval process.

Amendment 4: Amendment of the coordinates on Page 8 and 9 of the EA**From:**

Wind Farm boundary corners	Latitude	Longitude
1	32° 43' 10.25" S	20° 30' 56.22" E
2	32° 43' 54.98" S	20° 32' 23.96" E
3	32° 43' 58.50" S	20° 33' 42.64" E
4	32° 45' 49.76" S	20° 32' 27.91" E
5	32° 48' 47.44" S	20° 36' 57.76" E
6	32° 50' 9.78" S	20° 36' 40.16" E
7	32° 51' 34.59" S	20° 35' 52.85" E
8	32° 52' 51.47" S	20° 33' 40.51" E
9	32° 55' 34.23" S	20° 35' 31.86" E
10	32° 55' 51.13" S	20° 35' 29.79" E
11	32° 55' 51.48" S	20° 35' 52.83" E
12	32° 56' 12.14" S	20° 35' 50.58" E
13	32° 56' 10.49" S	20° 35' 27.30" E
14	32° 56' 34.77" S	20° 35' 24.24" E
15	32° 57' 23.11" S	20° 34' 19.95" E
16	32° 56' 29.81" S	20° 29' 57.44" E
17	32° 56' 23.69" S	20° 26' 18.32" E
18	32° 56' 8.94" S	20° 25' 52.10" E
19	32° 55' 33.27" S	20° 25' 3.22" E
20	32° 54' 46.59" S	20° 23' 49.71" E
21	32° 54' 8.73" S	20° 24' 21.43" E
22	32° 50' 44.73" S	20° 24' 24.34" E
23	32° 50' 40.50" S	20° 24' 14.19" E
24	32° 49' 43.33" S	20° 25' 2.08" E
25	32° 48' 7.71" S	20° 25' 18.36" E

26	32° 48' 15.26" S	20° 23' 14.63" E
27	32° 47' 3.78" S	20° 23' 8.12" E
28	32° 45' 55.53" S	20° 23' 32.91" E
29	32° 44' 23.13" S	20° 26' 22.17" E
30	32° 45' 58.70" S	20° 27' 15.57" E
31	32° 44' 34.23" S	20° 28' 46.99" E

To:

Wind Farm boundary corners	Latitude	Longitude
1	32°43' 10.25" S	20°30'56.22" E
2	32°43' 54.98" S	20°32' 23.96" E
3	32°43' 58.50" S	20°33' 42.64" E
4	32°45' 49.76" S	20°32' 27.91" E
5	32°46'8. 49" S	20°30'22.20"E
6	32°47'28.35"S	20°32'13.45"E
7	32°48'54.95" S	20°33'5.07"E
8	32°47'41.47"S	20°34'40.10"E
9	32°48'47.90"S	20°36'57.87"E
10	32°50'10.85"S	20°36'39.35"E
11	32°51'34.75"S	20°35'52.67"E
12	32°52'53.30"S	20°33'40.05"E
13	32°53'58.77"S	20°32'31.52"E
14	32°53'10.40"S	20°32'4.72"E
15	32°52'19.01"S	20°30'44.60"E
16	32°52'16.97"S	20°30'16.52"E
17	32°54'3.02" S	20°30'0.97"E
18	32°55'36.56"S	20°30'49.83"E
19	32°56'30.33"S	20°29'57.62"E
20	32°56'24.62"S	20°25'3.38"E
21	32°55'32.40"S	20°25'3.38"E
22	32°54'49.12"S	20°23'56.71"E
23	32°54'11.01"S	20°24'22.74"E
24	32°50'48.83"S	20°24'23.37"E

25	32°50'41.52"S	20°24'13.75"E
26	32°49'44.55"S	20°24'59.34"E
27	32°48'8.53"S	20°25'18.95"E
28	32°48'16.33"S	20°27'10.93"E
29	32°45'55.77"S	20°27'14.83"E
30	32°44'34.75"S	20°28'46.21"E
31	32°56'37.58"S	20°29'42.21"E

Reason for amendment:

The Amendment being applied for is to update the WEF boundary co-ordinates to ensure that the information contained in the EA is up to date and accurate as reflected in the final layout. This amendment request is administrative in nature and therefore no disadvantages are foreseen. The proposed amendment applied for is located within the original assessed area and the originally approved development footprint which has been subject to the final walk-downs and specialist assessments as part of the final layout and EMPR approval process.

Amendment 5: Removal of Powerline from EA on Page 9 of the EA

The powerline with the coordinates as listed in the table below is hereby removed from the EA:

Alternative 1a	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point	32° 51' 39.91" S	20° 28' 42.54" E
Middle point	32° 52' 5.72" S	20° 33' 14.49" E
End point	32° 55' 59.31" S	20° 35' 29.25" E

Reason for amendment:

The Amendment being applied for requires the co-ordinates of the originally approved powerline to be removed as this alignment is no longer valid. A new powerline alignment is being applied under a separate application (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2608). This amendment request is administrative in nature and therefore no disadvantages are foreseen.

Amendment 6: Amendment to the project description on page 9 and 10 of the EA as amended:

From:	To:
<p>The Karreebosch Wind Farm will have an energy generation capacity of up to 140 MW, and will include the following infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 65 wind turbines (2MW to 5.5MW in capacity each) with a foundation of 25m in diameter and 4m in depth; The hub height of each turbine will be 125 metres, and the rotor diameter 160 metres; Blade length approximately 70m. Permanent compacted hard standing areas / crane pads for each wind turbine (70mx50m); 	<p>The Karreebosch Wind Farm will have an energy generation export capacity of up to 140 MW, and will include the following infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 40 turbines (up to 7.5 MW in capacity each) with a foundation of 30m in diameter and 5m in depth with additional steel or concrete support piles where necessary. The hub height of each turbine will be up to 140 metres, and the rotor diameter up to 170 metres; Blade length up to 85m.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical turbine transformers (690V/33kV) at each turbine (2m x 2m) footprint typical but up to 10m x 10m at certain locations; • Internal access roads up to 12 m wide; • Approximately 25km of 33kV overhead power lines linking the wind turbines to each other and to the on-site substations; • Up to two electrical substations on-site (33/132 kV substations with a footprint of 100m x 200m each); • Underground cabling between turbines buried along the internal access roads, where feasible; • Extension of the existing 400kV Komsberg Substation with several electrical components to be defined by Eskom (e.g. additional feeder bay, transformer bay) on the existing substation property; • An operations and maintenance building (O&M building); • Wind Measuring Mast Height within a range up to and including 125m; • Temporary infrastructure required during the construction phase includes construction lay down areas and a construction camp up to 9ha (footprint size 300m x 300m); and • A borrow pit for locally sourcing aggregates required for construction (~3ha). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent compacted hard standing areas / crane pads for each wind turbine (of up to 1.2ha); • Electrical turbine transformers (690V/33kV) at each turbine (3m x 6m) footprint typical but up to 10m x 10m at certain locations; • Internal Access roads up to 12m wide (turns will have a radius of up to 55m) with additional yet associated servitudes/ reserve for above/underground cabling installation and maintenance where needed. 200m wide road corridor along the internal access roads for micro-siting during construction. Internal 4x4 tracks associated with the 33kV and 132Kv OHPLs will be up to 4m wide and substation access roads of up to 9m wide; • Approximately 34km of 33kV buried and/or overhead power lines linking the wind turbines to each other and to the on-site substation; • One substation with a footprint of up to 150m x 200m (3ha) (Option 1 - Southern Alternative); • Above/underground cabling between turbines alongside internal access roads where feasible, with sections of overhead 33kV lines as needed across steeper terrain and valleys; • Extension of the existing 400kV Komsberg Substation with several electrical components to be defined by Eskom (e.g. additional feeder bay, transformer bay) on the existing substation property; • An operations and maintenance building (O&M building); • Up to 4 Wind Measuring Masts with a height range between 90m and 140m; • Temporary infrastructure required during the construction phase includes construction lay down areas and a construction camp up to 14ha.; and • A batching plant required for construction (~3ha) will be located within the construction camp area. Aggregate material for construction will be sourced from existing licensed borrow pits or a separate application will be lodged with the DMRE for a new mining permit. |
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Reason for amendment:

These updates are all based on the dimensions included in the Final layout which has been walked down by the specialists as part of the final layout & EMPr approval process. As confirmed by the specialists and EAP, there are no disadvantages associated with the amendment of the EA in terms of new dimensions for the associated infrastructure. The proposed amendment applied for is located within the original assessed area and the originally approved development footprint which has been subject to the final walk-downs and specialist assessments as part of the final layout and EMPR approval process.

The increase in generation capacity per turbine to a maximum of up to 7.5MW will result in a reduced number of turbine positions being utilised on-site. The increased maximum allowable size of the hard-standing areas will allow for these changes, should they be required. As confirmed by the specialists and EAP, there are no disadvantages associated with the amendment of the EA in terms of reduction in the number of turbines. The reduction in the number of turbines will result in advantages such as the reduced requirement for vegetation clearing and the associated impacts on biodiversity as well as the reduced risk for bat and avifauna collisions and fatalities. Wind turbine generators are constantly under development to increase the potential energy output per wind turbine. These amendments are proposed in order to increase the efficiency of the facility and consequently the economic competitiveness thereof, in turn reducing the electricity tariffs to be charged by the facility which would benefit electricity consumers at large. The increase in the size of the turbine foundations is required for the larger turbine models. The increase in generation capacity per turbine to a maximum of up to 7.5MW is as a result of the advances in turbine technology. The benefit of increasing the generation capacity of each turbine results in the need to utilise fewer turbine positions than originally authorised. As confirmed by the specialists and EAP, there are no disadvantages associated with the amendment of the EA in terms of generation capacity per turbine. The increased capacity will potentially result in the Environmental Authorisation Limit and IFC Guideline of 45 dB(A) being exceeded at NSA 27 for sound power levels of the turbines at 111.0dB(A) and 113.0dB(A), when modelled on the worst case scenario. It must however be noted that the wind noise will provide a masking effect and the exceedance is only marginal (0.2 dBA and 2.2dBA). Sporadic complaints may be expected but is unlikely as the wind masking effect will mitigate the noise impacts and the model considers the receiver to be outdoors at all times, therefore the indoor noise levels are likely to be lower. The noise specialist concluded that it is unlikely that the receiver will be negatively impacted and therefore no significant disadvantage is noted. Furthermore, the IFC limit of 45 dB (A) is a night-time limit.

Amendment 7: Amendment to the Technical Specifications of the proposed facility on Page 10 and 11 of the EA as amended:

Component	Description/ Dimensions (From)	Description/ Dimensions (To)
Number of turbines	Up to 65 turbines (generation capacity of up to 140MW)	Up to 40 turbines (installed capacity is 149.9 MW and export capacity will be 140MW)
Hub height	125m	Up to 140m
Blade length	~ 70m	~ 85m
Rotor Diameter	160m	Up to 170m
Area occupied by transformer stations / substation	>> Two 33/132kV Substation 100m x 200m >>Extension of the existing 400kV substation at Komsberg	>> one 33/132kV substation 150m x 200m (3ha) >> Extension of the existing 400kV substation at Komsberg

	>>Transformer art each turbine: total area < 1500m ² (2m ² at some locations	>>Transformer at each turbine: 6m x 3m= 720m ² total area (up to 10m x 10m at some locations)
Capacity of on-site substation	132 kV	33/132 kV
Area occupied by construction camp	300 x 300m = 90 000m ²	Areas occupied by construction camp and laydown areas up to 14ha
Area occupied by laydown areas	Operation: (70 x 50) x 71 = 248 500 m ²	Turbines and crane pads will be up to 41ha in total
Areas occupied by buildings	~10 000 m ²	~10 000m ² and will be located within the construction camp for use during the operational phase
Length of (new) internal access roads	~40 km	~76 km of new internal access roads and up to ~13km of 4x4 access tracks . ~30km of existing access roads which are 4m wide will be widened by up to 9m.
Width of internal roads	Up to 12 m	Internal Access roads up to 12m wide (turns will have a radius of up to 55m) with additional yet associated servitudes/ reserve for above/underground cabling installation and maintenance where needed. 200m wide road corridor along the internal access roads for micro-siting during construction. Internal 4x4 tracks associated with the 33kV and 132Kv OHPLs will be up to 4m wide and substation access roads of up to 9m (wide).
Height of fencing	Up to 3m	Up to 4m
Type of fencing	Steel or wire mesh	Steel or wire mesh

Reason for amendment:

The increase in generation capacity per turbine to a maximum of up to 7.5MW will result in a reduced number of turbine positions being utilised on site. The increased maximum allowable size of the hard-standing areas will allow for these changes, should they be required. As confirmed by the specialists and EAP, there are no disadvantages associated with the amendment of the EA in terms of reduction in the numbers of turbines. The reduction in the number of turbines will result in advantages such as the reduced requirement for vegetation clearing and the associated impacts on biodiversity as well as the reduced risk for bat and avifauna collisions and fatalities. Wind turbine generators are constantly under development to increase the potential energy output per wind turbine. These amendments are proposed in order to increase the efficiency of the facility and consequently the economic competitiveness thereof, in turn reducing the electricity tariffs to be charged by the facility which would benefit electricity consumers at large. The increase in the size of the turbine foundations is required for the larger turbine models the increase in generation capacity per turbine to a maximum of up to 7.5MW is as a result of the advances in turbine technology. The benefit of increasing the generation capacity of each turbine results in the need to utilise fewer turbine positions than originally authorised. As confirmed by the specialists and EAP, there are no disadvantages associated with the amendment of the EA in terms of generation capacity per turbine.

Amendment 8: amendment to condition 2 page 11 of the EA:

From	To
Substation Alternative 1 is hereby approved. One 33/132kV substation will collect all cables at one central point to the south of Turbine 27.	Substation Option 1 is hereby approved. One 33/132kV substation will collect all cables at one central point to the south of Turbine 22.

Reason for amendment:

The amendment is requested such that the condition reflects the preferred alignment as per the separate Grid Basic Assessment Process underway as well as reflecting the Final Layout which has been walked down by the specialists as part of the final layout & EMP approval process.

Amendment 9: Removal of Condition 3 on Page 14 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

“Power line option Alternative 1 is hereby approved and will be routed southeast from the Alternative 1 Substation and thereafter towards the R354 connecting to the new 400kV substation to be located adjacent to the Komsberg Substation”.

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested as this powerline is no longer feasible and a new powerline alignment is the subject of a new and separate EA application and Grid Basic Assessment Process that is currently being undertaken.

Amendment 10: Removal of Condition 19.2 on Page 14 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

“The grazing withdrawal area agreement as per condition 37”.

Reason for amendment:

This recommendation was included in the EA after the initial assessment undertaken by Todd (2014) and suggested the establishment of a 1,300h exclusion area (restricting sheep grazing) and to maintain the area for a period of 20 years. This recommendation was reviewed by two independent specialists (Balfour and Logie, 2022) and was found to be poorly justified and an impractical intervention for promoting conservation of biodiversity in response to perceived agricultural and grazing practices in the area (which found no indication of overgrazing but presented under stocking) which also have no connection to the development of the WEF itself. Logie (2022) concludes that the recommendation by Todd (2014) has been founded on weak scientific evidence, if any at all, causing the nongrazing plan to be a fatally flawed mitigation strategy and ecological management philosophy. As such, it is the considered opinion of Logie (2022) that there are exceptionally strong grounds for the removal of the nongrazing plan requirement (as per conditions 19.2 and 37 of the EA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/807) from the Environmental Authorisation in totality. Balfour (2022) concludes that the recommendation to establish a 1,300h sheep-fenced exclusion area and to maintain it for 20 years is a weakly justified and impractical intervention and that it should be removed from the Environmental Authorisation. The recommendation is based on weak evidence and scientific logic. As such it is the opinion of the specialist that the requirement for a non-grazing plan should not form part of the Environmental Authorisation (EA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/807) and that the following conditions (19.2 and 37) should be removed from said Environmental Authorisation in their totality. Fencing has not been favoured in general as it can restrict the movement of fauna. Please refer to the specialist opinion letters (Balfour and Logie, 2022) attached in Appendix F and Appendix G for a detailed motivation.

Amendment 11: Removal of Condition 37 on Page 18 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

"The grazing withdrawal area recommended by the Ecological Specialist must form part of the Lease Agreement between the holder of this authorisation and the landowners. A minimum of 1300 ha must be set aside for the grazing withdrawal area; this area must be fenced and not grazed by livestock for at least 20 years. A copy of this agreement must be included in the EMPr".

Reason for amendment:

The recommendation to establish a 1,300h sheep fenced exclusion area and to maintain it for 20 years is a weakly justified and impractical intervention and that it should be removed from the Environmental Authorisation. The recommendation is based on weak evidence and scientific logic. As such it the opinion of the specialist that the requirement for a non-grazing plan should not form part of the Environmental Authorisation (EA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/807) and that the following conditions should be removed from said Environmental Authorisation in their totality. Fencing has not been favoured in general as it can restrict the movement of fauna. Please refer to the specialist opinion letters (Balfour and Logie, 2022) attached in Appendix F and Appendix G for a detailed motivation.

Amendment 12: amendment of condition 19.6 on page 15 of the EA:

From	To
A storm water and wash water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water runoff.	<i>"A stormwater management plan must be implemented during construction and operation"</i>

Reason for amendment:

This plan has been provided as part of the Hydrological (Floodline Assessment) and SWMP which has been included in the Final EMPr.

Amendment 13: Removal of Condition 35 on Page 18 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

"Turbine position 17 must be excluded from the proposed development as per the recommendation of the Avifaunal Impact Assessment; copy of this agreement must be included in the EMPr bringing the total number of turbines approved to 65".

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested as Turbine 17, which was included in the original proposed 66 Turbine Layout in 2015, was already removed as per the 2018 Part 2 EA amendment process and the current Final Layout 4 still adheres to this requirement. Therefore Turbine 17 is thus no longer relevant.

15.

Amendment 14: Amendment to condition 39 on page 18 of the EA:

From	To
<i>During construction the applicant must restrict the construction activities to the footprint area. No access to the remainder of the property is allowed.</i>	<i>During construction the applicant must restrict the construction activities to the footprint area and make use of designated access routes.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more accurate to areas being utilised on site. Mitigation measures to this effect are included in the Final EMP. The proposed amendment applied for is located within the assessed and approved development footprint.

Amendment 15: Amendment of condition 43 on page 18 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams). 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. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anticollision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines.</i>	<i>"The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anticollision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anti-collision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines."</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more specific, as the powerline (132kV) is being assessed as part of a separate application with a specific avifaunal assessment to ensure impacts are reduced and mitigated.

Amendment 16: Amendment of condition 46 on page 18 of the EA as amended:

From	To
<i>Power lines linking wind turbines to each other and to the internal substation must be buried where feasible.</i>	<i>33kV lines will be buried alongside internal access roads where feasible, with sections of 33kV overhead lines as needed across steeper terrain and valleys to connect at the Karreebosch substation. The 132kV powerline will be an overhead powerline.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more specific and covers the exact scope of work being applied for and to be undertaken on site.

Amendment 17: Amendment of Condition 49 on Page 19 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be kept by the ECO.</i>	<i>Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be kept by the ECO.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to reflect the correct authority now responsible for the issuance of permits required in terms of the National Forest Act.

Amendment 18: Amendment of Condition 53 on Page 19 of the EA:

From:	To:
<i>The holder of this authorisation must ensure that all the "No-go" and buffer areas are clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences.</i>	<i>The holder of this authorisation must ensure that all the "No-go" and buffer areas are clearly demarcated (using appropriate demarcation and signage) before construction commences.</i>

Reason for amendment:

The amendment request for the removal of the use of fencing for demarcation of No-go areas, as this will be impractical and expensive. Furthermore, fencing is not preferred from an ecological/biodiversity point of view as it adds additional and unnecessary barriers to movement of fauna on-site and requires additional linear footprints to be disturbed.

Amendment 19: Amendment of Condition 55 on Page 19 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Where roads pass right next to major water bodies, provision shall be made for fauna such as toads to pass under the roads by using culverts or similar structures.</i>	<i>Where roads pass over major water bodies, provision shall be made for fauna such as toads to pass under the roads by using culverts or similar structures.</i>

Reason for amendment:

Major water bodies will be avoided as far as possible, including the 1:100-year flood extent. In instances where water bodies or drainage lines must be crossed or existing road crossings upgraded, appropriate culvert structures will be installed where necessary which have been suggested in the SWMP and floodline assessment and will be supervised by an appropriate engineer.

Amendment 20: Amendment of Condition 59 on Page 19 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Wetlands, rivers and river riparian areas must be treated as "no-go" areas and appropriately demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for rehabilitation work in these areas.</i>	<i>Wetlands, rivers and river riparian areas must be treated as "no-go" areas and appropriately demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for the use of and/or construction or upgrades to authorised road crossings in line with the water use license issued by DWS.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more specific and covers the mitigations suggested by the specialist for the actual work to be undertaken on-site.

Amendment 21: Removal of Condition 67 on Page 20 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

"Freshwater ecosystems located in close proximity to the site must be inspected on a regular basis (but especially after rainfall) by the ECO for signs of sedimentation and pollution. If signs of sedimentation or pollution are noted, immediate action must be taken to remedy the situation and, if necessary, a freshwater ecologist must be consulted for advice on the most suitable remediation measures"

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested as it is an exact duplicate of Condition 63.

Amendment 22: Amendment of Condition 68 on Page 20 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Existing road infrastructure must be used as far as possible for providing access to the proposed turbine positions. Where no road infrastructure exists, new roads should be placed within existing disturbed areas or environmental conditions must be taken into account to ensure the minimum amount of damage is caused to natural habitats.</i>	<i>Existing road infrastructure must be used as far as possible for providing access to the proposed turbine positions. Where no road infrastructure exists, new roads should be placed within existing disturbed areas where possible or environmental conditions must be taken into account to ensure the minimum amount of damage is caused to natural habitats</i>

Reason for amendment:

The amendment is requested to specify the condition for the use of existing disturbed areas for new roads where possible in that disturbed areas may not always be near or within planned road networks and thus including existing disturbed areas on site for roads may not always be feasible. The impacts of the new roads proposed as per the final layout have been assessed and deemed acceptable by all specialists and the mitigations suggested by the specialist have been included in the final EMPr.

Amendment 23: Amendment of condition 73 on page 20 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Construction vehicles carrying materials to the site must avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.</i>	<i>Construction vehicles carrying materials to the site must avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations, where possible and as per the findings of the detailed traffic assessment.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested as it is dependent on the detailed traffic assessment which is required to be undertaken prior to construction.

Amendment 24: Amendment of condition 79 on page 21 of the EA:

From	To
<i>The holder of this authorisation must ensure that all equipment and machinery are well maintained and equipped with silencers.</i>	<i>The holder of this authorisation must ensure that all equipment and machinery are well maintained and equipped with silencers, where possible.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested as it is not practical nor necessary to have a silencer on every machine.

Amendment 25: Removal of condition 84 on page 21 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

“A lighting engineer must be consulted to assist in the planning and placement of light fixtures in order to reduce visual impacts associated with glare and light trespass”

Reason for amendment:

This condition should be removed as this is being undertaken in consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the Air Traffic Navigation Service (ATNS) and the specific recommendations of the Visual Specialist included in the final EMPr.

Amendment 26: Amendment of condition 106 on page 23 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Anti-erosion measures such as silt fences must be installed in disturbed areas.</i>	<i>Anti-erosion measures such as silt fences must be installed in disturbed areas where needed, and as informed by the Stormwater Management Plan.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more specific and covers the mitigations suggested by the specialist for the actual work to be undertaken on-site.

Amendment 27: Amendment of Condition 107 on Page 23 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.</i>	<i>Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities, as needed</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition takes the water scarce nature of the project area into account and is done as needed to ensure compliance with the final EMPr.

Amendment 28: Amendment of Condition 108 on Page 23 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Appropriate dust suppression techniques must be implemented on all exposed surfaces during periods of high wind. Such measures may include wet suppression, chemical stabilisation, the use of a wind fence, covering surfaces with straw chippings and revegetation of open areas.</i>	<i>Appropriate dust suppression techniques must be implemented, as needed, on all exposed surfaces during periods of high wind. Such measures may include wet suppression, chemical stabilisation, the use of a wind fence, covering surfaces with straw chippings and re-vegetation of open areas.</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition takes the water-scarce nature of the project area into account and is done as needed to ensure compliance with the final EMPr.

Amendment 29: Amendment of Condition 111 on Page 23 of the EA:

From	To
<i>All buffers and no-go areas stipulated in this report must be adhered to for both the facilities and all roads and power lines.</i>	<i>"All buffers and no-go areas stipulated in this report must be adhered to for both the facilities and all roads and power lines, except where water crossing infrastructure is permitted in terms of an approved WULA/GA"</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more specific and covers the mitigations suggested by the specialist for the actual work to be undertaken on-site.

Amendment 30: Removal of Condition 113 on Page 23 of the EA:

The following condition is hereby removed from the EA:

"All construction and maintenance crew and vehicles (except small vehicles which may use existing farm tracks) should be kept out of the buffer zones".

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested as the restriction of movement is sufficiently covered in Condition 39 and Condition 111 which require that construction activities should be restricted to the footprint area and make use of designated access routes. The avoidance of buffer zones is referenced in Condition 111.

Amendment 31: Amendment of Condition 116 on Page 24 of the EA:

From	To
<i>Removal of alien invasive Species or other vegetation and follow-up procedures must be in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983).</i>	<i>Removal of alien invasive Species or other vegetation and follow-up procedures must be in accordance with an approved alien invasive vegetation management plan</i>

Reason for amendment:

This amendment is requested to ensure that the condition is more specific and to align with the Final EMPr.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 29 January 2016 as amended.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013) which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

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

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the 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 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@dffe.gov.za

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

or

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal 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.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za

Yours faithfully



Ms Millicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 07/12/2022

cc:	Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com
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forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
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Ms. Milicent Solomons
Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

**APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD 01 NOVEMBER 2022 – 16 DECEMBER 2022**

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations, for the period of 01 November 2022 – 16 December 2022 whilst Mr Sabelo Malaza is fulfilling his temporary reassignment function at the Forestry Branch.

All the correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standard, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of these legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of Departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Devinagie Bendeman
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and
Sector Monitoring)

Date: 31 October 2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~
appointment as Acting Chief
Director: Integrated Environmental
Authorisations

Signed:

Date: 31/10/2022.