



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1816/1

Enquiries: Ms Masina Litsoane

Telephone: (012) 399 9375 E-mail: MLitsoane@environment.gov.za

Mr. Eugene Marais
South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 45063
CLAREMONT
7735

Telephone Number: 021 657 4052
Email Address: eugene.marais@mainstreamrp.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Marais

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE SUTHERLAND WIND ENERGY FACILITY (IPP ON-SITE SUBSTATION), IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to split the EA issued on 07 March 2018 and 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 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 decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 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, 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.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 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

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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@environment.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@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 03/11/2021

cc:	Arlene Singh	Nala Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: arlene@veersgroup.com
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**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

**FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE
ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE SUTHERLAND WIND
ENERGY FACILITY (IPP ON-SITE SUBSTATION), IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Namakwa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1816/1
Last amended:	Second issue
Holder of authorisation:	SOUTH AFRICA MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER DEVELOPMENTS (PTY) LTD
Location of activity:	The Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150 Within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province

This 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment 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 Eugene Marais

PO Box 45063

CLAREMONT

7735

Telephone Number: (021) 657 4052

Cell phone Number: (073) 871 5781

E-mail Address: eugene.marais@mainstreamrp.com

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kV."</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction and installation of the IPP portion of the onsite substation towards the western end of the 132kV distribution line.</p> <p>The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The IPP portion of the on-site substation (which will include a laydown area and an operational maintenance (O&M) building and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will cover an approximate area less than 20ha. This constitutes infrastructure and structures with a physical footprint of more than 100m² that will possibly be constructed within or within 32m of watercourses found on site.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 19:</u></p> <p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from 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>The proposed project will entail the excavation, removal and moving of possibly more than 10m³ of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from the nearby watercourses. The proposed project will also entail the infilling or depositing of more than 10m³ of material into the nearby watercourses. This infilling and excavation of the material will occur as a result of the proposed IPP portion of the on-site substation, laydown area, Operation and Maintenance Building and BESS infrastructure.</p>

<p>(e) <i>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><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 27:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation is required for:</i> (i) <i>the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> (ii) <i>maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan."</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction of the IPP portion of the on-site substation (including a laydown area, Operation and Maintenance Building and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)), which will cover an approximate area of less than 20 hectares. As a result, more than 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation could possibly be removed for the construction of these structures. The presence of indigenous vegetation on site, as well as legislative requirements surrounding its potential removal, is determined in the Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment that has been undertaken as part of the BA process.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 28:</u> <i>"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:</i> (ii) <i>will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area. It is understood that the land is currently used for agricultural purposes. The proposed project, which is considered to be a commercial/industrial development, will entail the construction of the IPP portion of the on-site substation, laydown area, an O&M Buildings and BESS infrastructure. This will constitute infrastructure with a physical footprint of more than 1ha.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 12:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purpose undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan."</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will entail the construction of the IPP Portion of the on-site substation, service road, laydown area, Operation and Maintenance Building and BESS infrastructure. As a result, more than 300m² of indigenous vegetation will possibly be</p>

<p>(g) Northern Cape: (ii) <i>Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</i></p>	<p>removed for the construction of these structures. There is a definitive variation in vegetation and habitat between upper level terrain associated with the plateau.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 14:</u> "The development of- (ii) <i>infrastructures or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such development occurs-</i> (a) <i>Within a watercourse;</i> Excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour (g) Northern Cape: (iii) <i>Outside urban areas, in:</i> (ff) <i>Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the component authority or in bioregional plans.</i>"</p>	<p>The project will entail the construction and installation of the IPP portion of the on-site substation towards the western end of the authorised 132kV powerline. The IPP portion of the on-site substation (which will include a laydown area, an Operation and Maintenance Building and BESS infrastructure) will cover an area less than 20ha. This constitutes infrastructure and structures with a physical footprint of more than 10m² that will possibly be constructed within or within 32m of watercourses found on site. The Aquatic Ecology (Freshwater) Impact Assessment that has been undertaken as part of the BA process identified three main rivers with associated Riparian characteristics, the investigation area. These included the Riet, Vanwyks and Juk Rivers, along with their associated tributaries, and their applicable riparian zones. In addition, unnamed tributaries of the Portugals River were identified in the western portion of the investigation area, although the Portugals River itself is not located within the investigation area.</p>

as described in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and the Part 1 Amendment Application dated June 2021 at:

Northern Cape Province

Farm name and number: Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150

Nearest town: Sutherland

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The proposed Sutherland IPP portion of the on-site substation	Latitude	Longitude
Corner 1	32°38'30.18"S	20°54'43.49"E
Corner 2	32°38'30.02"S	20°55'2.56"E
Corner 3	32°38'38.09"S	20°55'2.53"E
Corner 4	32°38'38.12"S	20°54'43.39"E

- for the construction of the electrical grid infrastructure to support the Sutherland Wind Energy Facility in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with IPP Portion of the on-site substation and associated infrastructure includes:

Name	IPP Portion of the on-site substation and associated infrastructure
IPP Portion of the On-site Substation	100m x 100m (10 000m ²)
Battery Energy Storage Infrastructure	A Battery Energy Storage System with a footprint of 2 ha in extent within the existing authorised extent of the laydown area and authorised on-site substation footprint. The BESS technology will consist of Lithium Ion Batteries with an export capacity of approximately 500KWh and a total storage capacity of 100MW."
Laydown area	100m x 100m (10 000m ²)
O&M Building	120m x 120m (14 400m ²)
Fencing of the on-site substation	

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Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed electrical grid infrastructure to support the Sutherland Wind Energy Facility in the Northern Cape Province as described above is hereby approved.
2. The proposed IPP portion of the on-site substation, BESS infrastructure, Laydown area and O&M Building to support the Sutherland Wind Energy Facility in the Northern Cape Province as described above is hereby approved.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of EA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1816 i.e.: the EA lapses on 07 March 2028. 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.
9. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. 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.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

12. 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended 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

13. The Generic Environmental Management Programme's (EMPr) for the IPP portion of the on-site substation submitted as part of the Application for Amendment (June 2021) is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and adhered to during the construction, operation and rehabilitation phases of the activity. The EMPr will be seen as a dynamic document.
14. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
15. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIA be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

16. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 23 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.
17. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
18. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. 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.
19. 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 the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. 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.
20. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

21. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced 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.
 - 21.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 21.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 21.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.

- 21.4. 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

22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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 the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
25. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit 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.
26. 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.
27. 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

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

29. 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.
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Site closure and decommissioning

30. 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

Conditions for Non-operational aspects

31. Copies of all permits required for the construction of the proposed infrastructure must be kept on site by the ECO for record keeping purposes and make it available to the Department upon request.
32. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
33. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
34. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
35. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
36. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
37. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs. Reclamation activities shall be undertaken according to the EMPr.
38. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
39. Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.
40. All construction vehicles must remain on properly demarcated roads. No construction vehicles should be allowed to drive over the vegetation except where no cleared roads are available. In such cases a single track should be used and multiple paths should not be formed. Where temporary access roads are created, they should be rehabilitated as outlined in the rehabilitation plan after completion of construction.
41. Excavations must be inspected regularly in order to rescue trapped animals.
42. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities should be removed to a safe location by a suitably qualified person.
43. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
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44. The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated October 2017 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
45. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

General

46. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 46.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
- 46.2. to anyone on request; and
- 46.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
47. 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 the first issue of the EA is: 07 March 2018

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 03/11/2021



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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 listed activities as applied for in the application form received on September 2021.
- b) The information contained in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and the Part 1 Amendment Application dated June 2021.
- c) The comments received from the interested and affected parties as included in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and the Part 1 Amendment Application dated June 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and the Part 1 Amendment Application dated June 2021.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017.

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 project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed wind energy facility to be connected to the grid.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

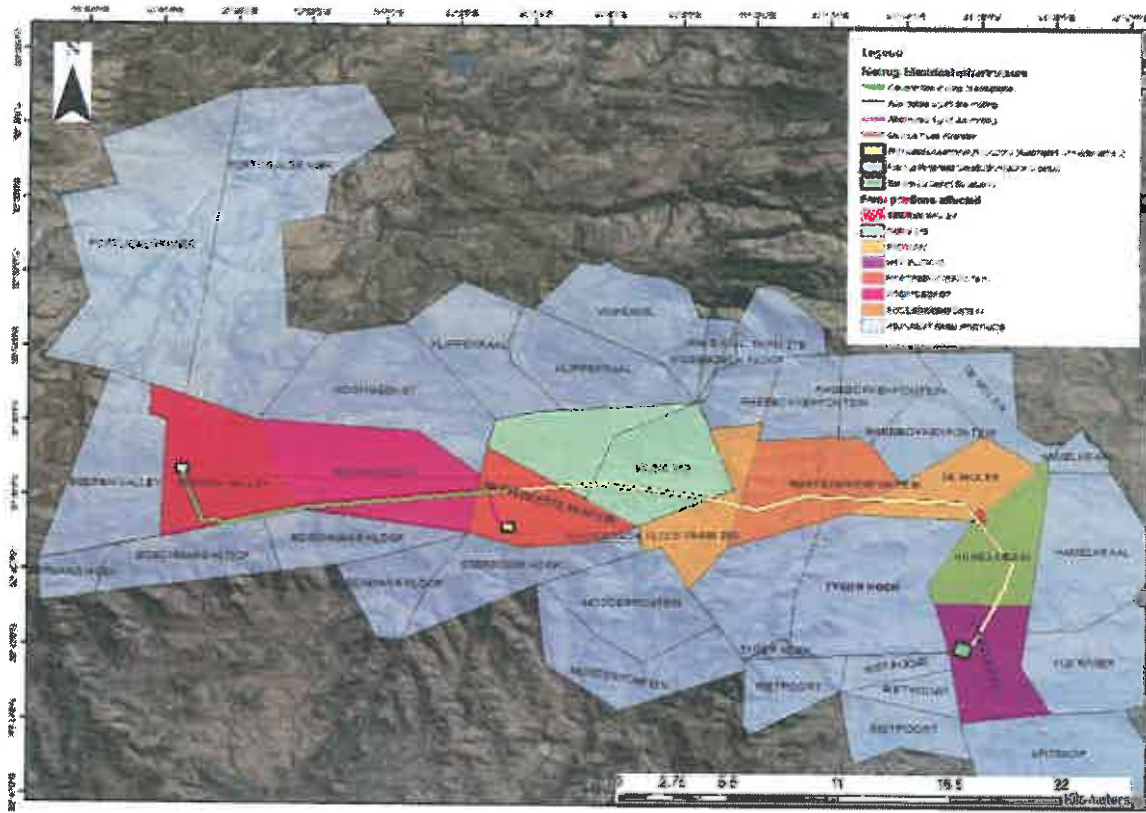
3. Findings

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 final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The information contained in final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 and the Part 1 Amendment Application dated June 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr 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.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan



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