



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2237

Enquiries: Ms Mathodi Mogorosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@environment.gov.za

Mr Richard Gordon
Great Karoo Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 23101
CLAREMONT
7735

Telephone Number: (021) 670 1423
Email Address: stephnie.kot@aced.co.za

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Gordon

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR: THE UP TO 1200MWH BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE GREAT KAROO WIND ENERGY FACILITY, KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, 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 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, of the decision, as well as of 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 stipulates 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 prescribe 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.

M.S.

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@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: 13/05/2021

cc: Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: joanne@savannahsa.com
--------------------	----------------------------------	---

M.S



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

The up to 1200MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility, Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province

Namakwa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2237</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Great Karoo Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Farm Kentucky No. 206; Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality; Namakwa District Municipality; Northern Cape Province</i>

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 –

GREAT KAROO WIND FARM (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Richard Gordon

Great Karoo Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 23101

CLAREMONT

7735

Tel: (021) 670 1423

Cell: (083) 318 3982

E-mail: stephnie.kot@aced.co.za

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12(ii)(a)(c):</u> <i>"The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse"</i></p>	<p>The BESS will have MV cabling of up to 500m across a drainage line, which will occupy a disturbance footprint of greater than 100 square metres or more.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 14:</u> <i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres."</i></p>	<p>The BESS will contain electrolyte solutions considered to be a dangerous good. Although the BESS itself is not considered to be a facility for the storage of dangerous goods (rather, the function of the BESS is to store energy), the total volume of electrolyte solution used in the BESS may exceed 80m³ but will be less than 500m³, which depending on the technology selected, may be stored temporarily on site during battery assembly. No permanent stand-alone facilities for the storage of dangerous goods external to the BESS will be developed.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u> <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>The development of buried or overhead MV cabling across a delineated drainage line on site will require the moving of soil from a watercourse or result in infilling of 10m³ or more.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous</i></p>	<p>Approximately 4ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared to accommodate the development of the</p>

<p>vegetation,”</p>	<p>BESS and associated facilities (such as an access road and MV cabling to connect the BESS to the authorised Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility (WEF) substation).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28(ii):</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> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;”</i></p>	<p>The BESS and associated infrastructure represents an industrial development outside of an urban area, and will be in excess of 1ha. The site proposed for the BESS is also currently utilised for agricultural purposes.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4(g)(ii)(ee):</u> <i>“The development of a road wider than 4m with a reserve less than 13,5m</i> <i>g. Northern Cape</i> <i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.”</i></p>	<p>The road to the BESS will be up to 8 metres in width with no reserve, and will be located outside an urban area, within a Critical Biodiversity Area. It is anticipated that the road to the BESS will branch off from the authorised Great Karoo WEF access roads.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 10(g)(ii)(iii)(ee):</u> <i>“The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</i> <i>g. Northern Cape</i> <i>ii. Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland;</i> <i>iii. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the</i></p>	<p>The BESS will contain electrolyte solutions considered to be a dangerous good. Although the BESS itself is not considered to be a facility for the storage of dangerous goods (rather, the function of the BESS is to store energy), the total volume of electrolyte solution used in the BESS will exceed 30m³, which depending on the technology selected may be stored temporarily on site during battery assembly. No permanent stand-alone facilities for the storage of dangerous goods external to the BESS will be developed. The site is located outside an urban area, within a CBA region, and may be within 100 metres from a drainage line.</p>

<p><i>competent authority or in bioregional plans.”</i></p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12(g)(ii):</u> <i>“The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation.</i> <i>g. Northern Cape:</i> <i>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.”</i></p>	<p>Approximately 4ha of vegetation will be cleared to accommodate the development of the BESS and associated facilities (such as an access road and MV cabling to connect the BESS to the WEF substation). In addition, the site is located within a Critical Biodiversity Area as indicated in the Northern Cape CBA/ESA map (Northern Cape Provincial Biodiversity Sector Plan), and more than 300m² within that CBA area will be cleared for the construction of the BESS and associated infrastructure.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14(ii)(a)(c)(g)(ii)(ff):</u> <i>“The development of—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such development occurs—</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i> <i>g. Northern Cape:</i> <i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i> <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 BESS will have MV cabling of up to 500m across a drainage line, which will occupy a disturbance footprint of greater than 10 square metres or more located outside an urban area, within a CBA region.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2021 at:

<p>Farm name and number</p>	<p>SG 21 Code</p>
<p>Farm Kentucky No. 206</p>	<p>C07200000000020600000</p>

Battery Storage System (BESS) Boundary: corner point coordinates	Latitude	Longitude
	32° 49' 2.99" S	20° 43' 18.72" E
	32° 48' 59.34" S	20° 43' 24.91" E
	32° 49' 1.88" S	20° 43' 27.00" E
	32° 49' 5.52" S	20° 43' 20.57" E

MV Cabling	Latitude	Longitude
Start	32° 49' 4.50" S	20° 43' 22.19" E
Middle	32° 49' 5.952" S	20° 43' 23.272" E
End	32° 49' 7.93" S	20° 43' 24.80" E

Access Road	Latitude	Longitude
Start	32° 49' 4.92" S	20° 43' 20.13" E
Middle	32° 49' 6.22" S	20° 43' 17.30" E
End	32° 49' 10.01" S	20° 43' 20.09" E

- for the up to 1200MWh Battery Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility (WEF) within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The facility will comprise the following:

- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) inside containers or other housing structures with a footprint of up to 4ha in extent and a maximum height of 4m. The BESS technology type will be either Lithium-ion or Redox-flow technology, depending on which is most feasible at the time of implementation;
- An access road to the BESS, up to 500m in length and 8m wide (i.e. 6m wide road surface with 1m drainage on each side of the road) branching off of the authorised WEF roads, and internal roads (up to 8m wide) within the footprint of the BESS;
- MV Cabling (underground or overhead) between the BESS and the authorised WEF substation;
- Fencing around the BESS for increased security measures;
- Possible firebreak around the BESS infrastructure, within the 4ha footprint; and
- Temporary laydown area within the 4ha footprint of the BESS.

Technical details of the Battery Storage System Facility:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
BESS Technology	Lithium-Ion or Redox-flow technology
BESS footprint	Up to 4ha in total extent, including foundation, containerised battery system and internal roads.
Capacity	Capacity of up to 1 200MWh Storage capacity of up to 6-8 hours
Access road to the BESS	This will branch off the WEF roads to the BESS and will be 8m in width (6m road surface with 1m drainage either side) and a maximum of 500m in length
Medium Voltage cabling	33kV or less (underground or overhead) between the BESS and substation.
Depth of excavation for the battery foundation and cabling	Maximum of 2m
Height of Development	Maximum of 4m
Fencing	Fencing around the entire footprint of the BESS will be installed for access restriction measures.
Laydown Area	Up to 1ha located within the BESS footprint

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The up to 1200MWh Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure using either the Lithium-Ion technology or the Redox-flow technology at the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility, within Ward 3 of the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the tables 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 ten (10) 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. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.

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, 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

12. The site layout plan/map titled: *“Layout map for the Great Karoo BESS and associated infrastructure for the Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility”* attached as Appendix I (Maps) of the BAR dated January 2021, and as Annexure 2 of this authorisation, is approved.
13. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated January 2021 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
14. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
15. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.

16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

17. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 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.
18. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of the 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

22. 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.
 - 22.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.

- 22.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 22.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 22.4. 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

23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report 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.
27. 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.
28. 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

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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


32. The holder of the EA must decide on the preferred technology or technology mixture and inform this Department prior to commencement of construction activities.
33. No activities, which require water use authorisation, must be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation.
34. A walk down of the BESS area must be undertaken prior to construction by a qualified archaeologist, to ensure that no heritage resources are to be impacted by the development. If heritage resources are identified at or near any proposed infrastructure, an assessment of the significance of the heritage resources and the impact to the identified heritage resource must be completed. A report detailing the results of the survey must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) before construction commences.
35. If any further evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during construction, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the findings, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.
36. A pre-construction walk-through survey of the development footprint must be conducted by an ecologist in order to inform search and rescue efforts for species of conservation concerned that can be translocated. A permit must be obtained from the relevant Department for the removal or destruction of indigenous,

- protected or endangered plant or animal species (if required) and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
37. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works. Mitigation measures as specified in the EMPr dated January 2021 must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
38. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
39. Construction must include 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 run-off.
40. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

41. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 41.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
- 41.2. to anyone on request; and
- 41.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
42. 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: 13/05/2021


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 16 October 2020.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2021.
- c) The comments received from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Biodiversity Conservation, and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated January 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated January 2021 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Ecological Impact Assessment	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions	September 2020
Heritage Impact Assessment	CTS Heritage	July 2020
Noise Compliance Statement	EARES Enviro Acoustic Research cc	July 2020
Agricultural Potential Compliance Statement	TerraAfrica Consult cc	September 2020

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 project was adequately addressed. Energy storage, specifically through the use of battery systems has recently gained considerable attention globally as the use of varied sources of energy becomes widespread. As electricity is not always produced at the exact time that it is needed, it then requires temporary or long-term storage to allow for a regulated supply. The Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility BESS is proposed in order to store energy generated by the authorised Great Karoo WEF for use after hours, when the facility is no longer generating electricity (i.e. when the wind is not providing energy to rotate turbines and generate electricity). The project will assist in supporting local

and national electricity supply through its contribution to the National Eskom Grid, as the BESS facility is directly linked to the authorised Great Karoo WEF. The BESS will allow energy generated by the authorised WEF to be stored and released in response to electricity demand, thus ensuring an extended energy supply window from the WEF.

- c) The BAR dated January 2021 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the Battery Energy Storage System.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated January 2021 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.

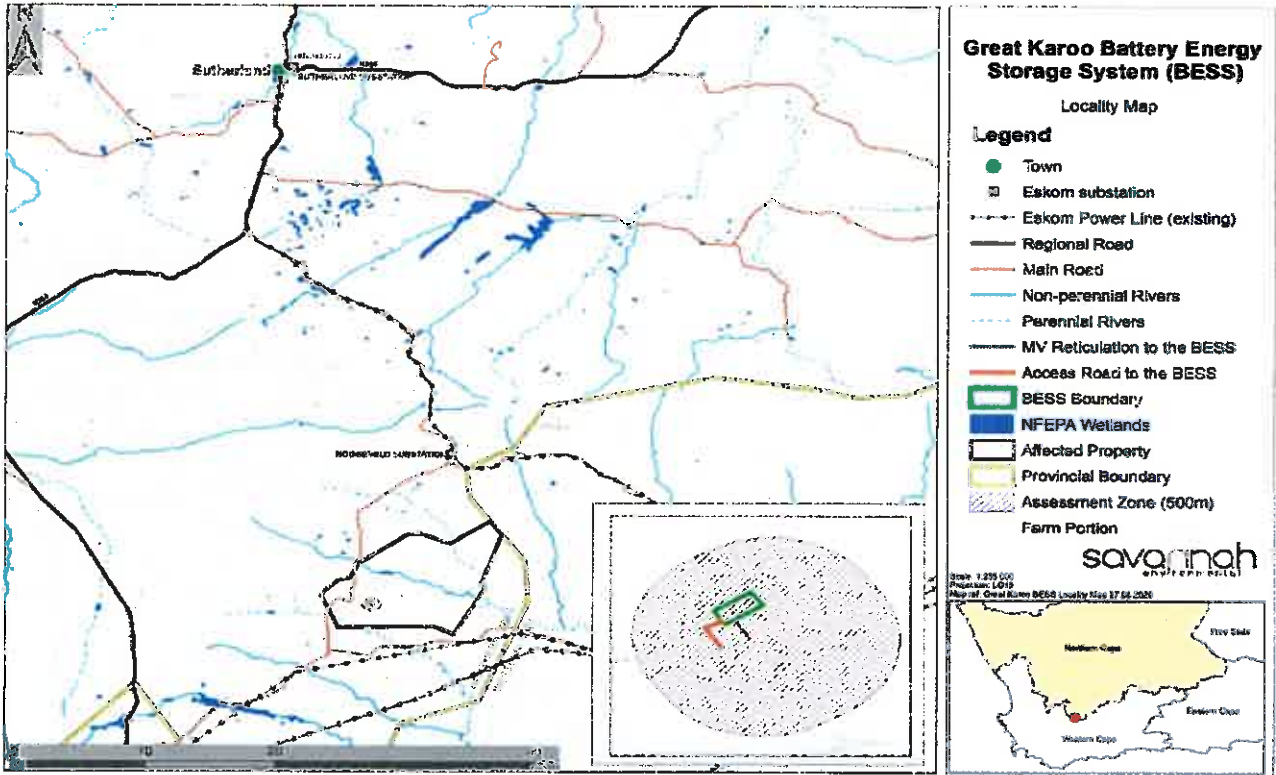
3. Findings

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

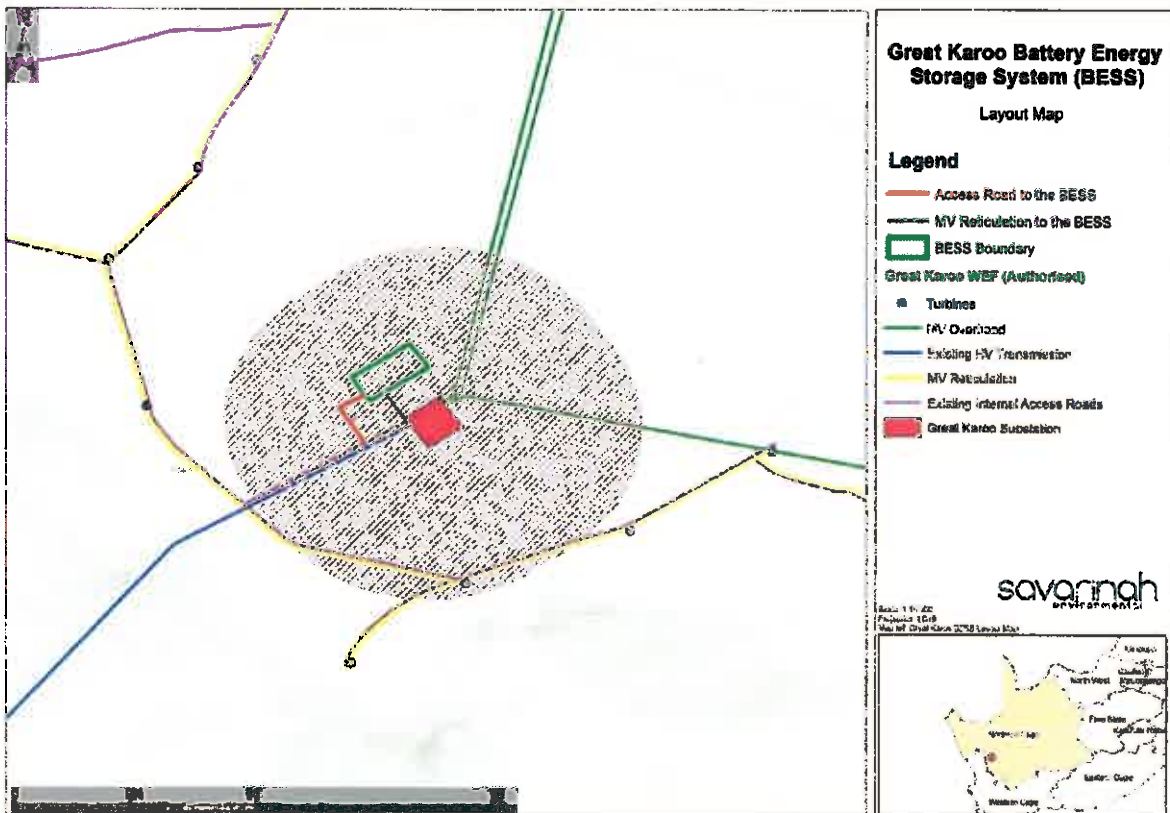
- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated January 2021 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- 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.

Annexure 2: Locality Map and Layout Plan



Locality Map showing the BESS and associated infrastructure for the authorised Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility.



Layout Map for the Great Karoo BESS and associated infrastructure for the authorised Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility.