



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2768

Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo

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ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park
183 Main Road
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7701

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mercia Grimbeek

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED CAMDEN I SOLAR GRID CONNECTION UP TO 132KV AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO WITHIN MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE MPUMALANGA 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 fourteen (14) 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.

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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


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Date: 21/09/2023

cc:	Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com
	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Mpumalanga (MDARDLEA)	Email: mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Hilda Maganya	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: tebogom@gsibande.gov.za



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 proposed Camden I Solar Grid Connection up to 132kV Powerline and associated infrastructure near Ermelo, within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province

Gert Sibande District Municipality

Application Register Number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2768</i>
Applicant:	<i>ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Portion 1 of the farm Welgelegen 322, Ward 11, Near Ermelo, within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga 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.

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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 –

ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd

with the following contact details –

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ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd
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183 Main Road
Rondebosch
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7701

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Email Address: gideon.raath@enertrag.com



to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 11(i):</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 kilovolts”.</i></p>	<p>The proposed powerline and substation are located outside urban areas. The project entails the construction of an 132kV overhead powerline (OHPL) and associated grid connection substation, including termination works to connect the Camden I Solar PV Facility (SEF) to the Camden Common Collector substation. Grid connection corridors for all alternatives (substation corridors included) will be more than 2km in length and is not within the existing transmission line servitude.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 12(ii)(a)(c)</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; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. excluding—</i></p> <p><i>(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour,</i></p> <p><i>(bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies,</i></p> <p><i>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies; (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area,</i></p>	<p>The construction of the Electrical Grid Infrastructure will result in construction activities within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The powerline traverses watercourses. The footprint of the infrastructure within the watercourse and 32m from the watercourse extent will be approximately 15000m² (~1.5ha).</p>

(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves; or
 (ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.

Listing Notice 1, Activity 19:

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. but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—

- (a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan,
- (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies,
- (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or
- (e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.

The construction of the electrical grid infrastructure, including associated infrastructure, will result in construction activities which require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m³ from delineated watercourses along the powerline alignment. The powerline will traverse watercourses.

Listing Notice 1, Activity 24(ii)

The development of a road—
 (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres,
 but excluding a road—
 (a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014,

An access road will be required along the length of the powerline alignment. The road will be a maximum of 20m wide without reserve, and will exceed 1km in length whilst being located outside an urban area

<p><i>(b) where the entire road falls within an urban area;</i> or <i>(c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.</i></p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 27:</u> <i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</i> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>The powerlines and access roads are considered a linear activity and therefore this activity is not triggered by the proposed construction of the transmission lines or roads. However, the construction of the 132kV grid connection substations will require the clearance of indigenous vegetation of approximately 1.5ha for the grid operator substation, as well as an additional ~1.5ha for termination work upgrades required for connection into the common collector and Main Transmission Substation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 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 excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</i></p>	<p>The OHPL and substations are considered a commercial and/or industrial development and will be located on farm portions outside an urban area, used for agricultural purposes on or after 01 April 1998. The total area to be developed for the substations will exceed 1 hectare within agricultural use land</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 30:</u> <i>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</i></p>	<p>The grid connection infrastructure, including associated infrastructure, is located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld. Both ecosystems are confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (as indicated in GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011). Due to the fact that these</p>

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	<p>ecosystems are listed as threatened it is assumed that various threatened or protected species may be found within the development area. The restricted activity of "cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen" has been identified in terms of NEM:BA and is therefore applicable to the vegetation clearance that will be required to construct the development. In light of this, Activity 30 is considered applicable</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 48(i)(a)(c):</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of—</i></p> <p><i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or where such expansion 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, excluding—</i></p> <p><i>(aa) the expansion of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour,</i></p> <p><i>(bb) where such expansion activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies,</i></p> <p><i>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies,</i></p> <p><i>(dd) where such expansion occurs within an urban area; or</i></p> <p><i>(ee) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves</i></p>	<p>The construction of access roads along the powerline alignment will require the expansion of existing access roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 100m² or more within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 56:</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1</i></p>	<p>The construction of access roads along the powerline alignment will require the widening of existing access</p>

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<p>kilometre— (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres; excluding where widening or lengthening occur inside urban areas.</p>	<p>roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8 metres. The project is located within a rural area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 4(f) (i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg):</u> <i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. f. Mpumalanga</i> <i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding disturbed areas,</i> <i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i> <i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>The proposed Camden I SEF up to 132kV grid connection transmission line will be constructed on undisturbed areas. An access road up to 20m wide will be required along the powerline alignment and substation sites. The electrical grid infrastructure is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and wholly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940) (aa and gg). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development activity contemplated will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)(cc).</p> <p>In addition, and on the basis of the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the</p>

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	<p>"Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity (bb).</p> <p>Similarly, the development activity contemplated will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA)(ee).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 10 (f)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg)(hh):</u></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation,</i></p>	<p>The proposed up to 132kV grid connection transmission line and associated infrastructure will require storage of fuel (diesel & petrol), oils, paints and other necessary dangerous goods of approximately 79m³ combined. The electrical grid Infrastructure is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and partly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940) (aa and gg). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development activity contemplated will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the</p>

<p><i>(hh) Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres of a watercourse or wetland;</i></p>	<p>National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)(cc).</p> <p>In addition, and on the basis of the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity (bb).</p> <p>Similarly, the development activity contemplated will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA)(ee).</p> <p>Similarly, the development activity contemplated will be located within 100 metres of a watercourse or wetland (hh).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 12(f)(i)(ii)(iii):</u></p> <p><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 purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004,</i></p> <p><i>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; or iii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or</i></p>	<p>The construction of the up to 132kV powerline and grid connection substations will require the clearance of indigenous vegetation. Such clearance will be in excess of 300m² and be partly located within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (i).</p> <p>Similarly, vegetation clearance required for the facility will be located within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA), in excess of 300m² (ii). The Electrical Grid Infrastructure is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and wholly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322</p>

<p><i>had an equivalent zoning or proclamation in terms of NEMPAA.</i></p>	<p>(Welgelegen), which are declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940) (iii). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(f)</u> <u>(i)(aa)(bb)(dd)(ff)(hh):</u> <i>The development of—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a Physical footprint of 10 Square metres or more, 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>f. Mpumalanga</i> <i>i. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i> <i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,</i> <i>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</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 construction of the electrical grid infrastructure will result in construction activities occurring within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The powerline will traverse watercourses. The footprint of the infrastructure within the watercourse and 32m from the watercourse extent will be approximately 15 000m² (~1.5ha). The facility is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, partly within a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus area (bb) and wholly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940) (aa and hh). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p>

<p><i>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>The physical footprint of internal access roads, stormwater control infrastructure and electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the facility will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site, or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, which infrastructure will be located within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)(dd).</p> <p>The physical footprint of internal access roads, stormwater control infrastructure and electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the facility will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, located within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA)(ff).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 15 (d)(ii)</u></p> <p><i>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010.</i></p> <p><i>d. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>ii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies.</i></p>	<p>The facility is considered a commercial and/or industrial development, and will require the transformation of a footprint of approximately 19ha (within two farm portions outside an urban area, zoned for agriculture, while being wholly located on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940)(ii). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a</p>

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	<p>separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 18(f)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg):</u> <i>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i> <i>f. Mpumalanga</i> <i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i> <i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i> <i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>The construction of the access road along the powerline alignment will require the widening of up to 14m of existing access roads where no reserve exists and lengthening exceeding 1km in length. The project is located within a rural area.</p> <p>The widening and lengthening will occur partly within a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus area (bb) and wholly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940)(aa and gg). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The widening and lengthening will occur within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)(cc). Finally, such widening and lengthening will be located within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA)(ee).</p>

Listing Notice 3, Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)(f)

(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg):

The expansion of—

(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more, where such expansion occurs —

(a) within a watercourse,

(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse,

f. Mpumalanga

i. Outside urban areas:

(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,

(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,

(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg)

Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;

The construction of the access road along the powerline alignment will require the expansion of existing access roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 100m² or more within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.

The facility is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and partly within a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus area (bb) and wholly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940) (aa and gg). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.

The physical footprint of the infrastructure contemplated above will be located within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (cc).

The physical footprint of the infrastructure contemplated above will be located within Critical

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	Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA)(ee).
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as described in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 03 August 2023.

21 Digit SG Codes

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Co-ordinates for 132kV OHPL: Alternative 2 (Preferred):

Point	Latitude	Longitude
132kV OHPL: Alternative 2 (Preferred):		
A	26° 39' 35.847" S	30° 4' 26.327" E
B	26° 39' 34.298" S	30° 4' 23.029" E
C	26° 39' 31.664" S	30° 4' 12.662" E
D	26° 38' 54.853" S	30° 4' 0.172" E
I	26°38'51.28" S	30° 4'1.87" E
Alternative 2 – Preferred: Grid Substation		
S4-1	26°39'35.64"S	30° 4'31.79"E
S4-2	26°39'40.82"S	30° 4'28.93"E
S4-3	26°39'36.55"S	30° 4'18.57"E
S4-4	26°39'31.19"S	30° 4'21.27"E

- for the proposed Camden I Solar Grid Connection up to 132kV and associated infrastructure, near Ermelo, within Msukaligwa Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property."

Project Description:

The proposed project entails the construction of an up to 132kV overhead powerline and associated infrastructure from the Camden 1 solar facility to the nearby Camden Collector substation, which will connect to the Camden Power Station, which will be approximately 5km in length depending on the authorised location of the collector substation.

The onsite grid connection substation will consist of high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple (up to) 132kV feeder bays and transformers, control building, telecommunication infrastructure, access roads, etc. The area for the onsite substation will be up to 1.5ha, as well as an additional up to 1.5ha for termination work upgrades required for connection into the common collector and Main Transmission Substation. The up to 132kV powerline and substation will have a 500m corridor (250m either side of the centre line, and 250m around the

entire perimeter of the proposed substation sites), to allow for micro-siting and avoidance of sensitive features where possible. This corridor, as opposed to the line routing, is proposed for authorisation. This application additionally includes the necessary up to 132kV voltage electrical components required for connection at the Collector Substation (i.e., the termination works).

The proposed project will comprise the following key components, detailed further in the table below:

- The grid connection substation (adjacent the IPP substation), consisting of a high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple (up to) 132kV feeder bays and transformers, control building, telecommunication infrastructure, access roads, lighting and fencing.
- Construction of an up to 132kV power line (either single or double circuit) between the grid connection substation portion and that of the Camden Collector substation; and
- Termination works (up to 1.5ha), comprising the necessary up to 132kV voltage electrical components required for connection at and into the Collector Substation.
- Existing or new access and service roads (utilising existing roads where possible, with new roads developed where there are no existing roads to be utilised).

Technical details of the proposed Camden I Solar Grid Connection up to 132kV Powerline, 33/132kV Substation and associated infrastructure:

Overhead Powerline	
Infrastructure	Specifications
Powerline capacity	Up to 132kV (note this includes 132kV exactly for the avoidance of doubt)
Powerline corridors width	A grid connection corridor has been identified for the assessment and placement of the grid connection infrastructure, comprising 500m (i.e., 250m on either side of centre line). The entire corridor is proposed for development provided the infrastructure remains within the assessed corridor.
Powerline servitude width	40m
Powerline pylons:	Monopole or Lattice pylons, or a combination of both where required and as informed by detailed design
Construction clearance required (per pylon)	To allow for crane and large component access and installation, clearing required for each tower depends on local terrain, but up to 1500m ² , or where existing OHL crossings

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	are made or powerlines are constructed adjacent each other, up to 2500m ² .
Powerline pylon height	Up to a maximum of 40m
Minimum conductor clearance	8.1m
Pylon spacing	Up to 250m apart, depending on complexity and slope of terrain
Pylon designs	<p>Various pylon design types are considered (and will be determined during the detailed design engineering phase), and may include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 132kV (single or double circuit), • Intermediate self-supporting monopole, • Inline or angle-strain self-supporting monopole, • Suspension self-supporting monopole, • Triple pole structure, • Cross rope suspension, • Guyed "V" Structure, • Steel lattice structure; or • Similar pylon design at 132kV specification. <p>The above designs may require anchors with guy-wires or be anchorless. For up to 132kV structures, concrete foundation sizes may vary depending on design type up to 140m² (12m by 12m), with depths reaching up to 4m typically in a rectangular 'pad' shape.</p>
Substation (and Collector Substation connection components)	
Substation Footprint	1.5ha each, for both onsite substation and terminating works upgrade
Substation Capacity	33/132kV
Corridor width	A grid connection corridor has been identified for the assessment and placement of the grid connection infrastructure, comprising 250m around the entire perimeter of the proposed substation sites. The entire corridor is proposed for development provided the infrastructure remains within the assessed corridor

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<p>Associated infrastructure</p>	<p>The substation will consist of high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple (up to) 132kV feeder bays and transformers, control building, telecommunication infrastructure, access roads, etc, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard substation electrical equipment, including but not limited to transformers, busbars, office area, operation and control room, workshop, and storage area, feeder bays, transformers, stringer strain beams, insulators, isolators, conductors, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors, relays, capacitor banks, batteries, wave trappers, switchyard, metering and indication instruments, equipment for carrier current, surge protection and outgoing feeders, as may be needed. • The control building, telecommunication infrastructure, oil dam(s) • Workshop and office area within the substation footprint • Fencing around the substation • Lighting and security infrastructure • All the access road infrastructure to and within the substation • Further ancillary infrastructure including but not limited to lighting, lightning protection, fencing, buildings required for operation (ablutions, office, workshop and control room, security fencing and gating, parking area, concrete batching plant (if required), waste storage/disposal and storerooms).
<p>Termination works</p>	<p>All works and components required for connection at and into the Collector Substation comprising up to 1.5ha and including the necessary up to 132kV voltage electrical components, including amongst others standard substation electrical equipment as may be needed (feeder bays, transformers, busbars, stringer strain beams, insulators, isolators, conductors, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors, relays, capacitor banks, batteries, wave trappers, switchyard, metering and indication instruments, equipment for carrier current, surge protection and outgoing feeders.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Roads Infrastructure</p>	

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Road servitude and access roads	Approximately 6 meters wide, however where required for turning circle/bypass areas, access or internal roads will be up to 20m wide to allow for larger component transport. During operation, vegetation maintenance by partial clearing/maintenance in grid servitude for operation, safety and maintenance reasons.
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Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed Camden I Solar Grid Connection up to 132kV (alternative 2) and associated infrastructure, near Ermelo, within Msukaligwa Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table 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 for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within ten (10) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

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,

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- 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 Layou maps (Appendix E) submitted as part of the final BAR dated 03 August 2023 is hereby approved.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the powerline and substation submitted as part of the final BAR dated August 2023, are hereby approved.
16. 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 when approved.
17. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. 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

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 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.

20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. 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.
22. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated because 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.
23. 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

24. 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.
 - 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 24.4. 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

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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

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

Operation of the activity

32. 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

33. 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

34. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g., grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams).
35. The footprint of the development and access routes must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works.
36. Construction must only commence once the Protected Area status (Proclaimed Private Nature Reserve: Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) has been changed or de-proclaimed for the directly affected property.
37. An on-going alien vegetation removal programmes as well as the rehabilitation and revegetation of the seasonal wetlands and seasonal stream's buffer zones must be implemented.
38. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
39. 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.
40. Hazardous substances must be stored in a bunded and designated area to avoid accidental leakage into the environment.
41. 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

42. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 42.1. at the site of the authorised activity,
- 42.2. to anyone on request; and

- 42.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
43. 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: 21/09/2023



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 11 May 2023, and the amended application form submitted with the final BAR dated 03 August 2023 and revised application form submitted on 20 September 2023.
- b) The information contained in the final BAR dated 03 August 2023.
- c) The comments received from all interested and affected parties as included in the final BAR dated 03 August 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EMPr for the proposed project and the generic EMPr included in the final BAR dated 03 August 2023.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final BAR.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered 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 ties in with the national government policies, plans, and programmes which have relevance to energy planning and production.
- c) The final BAR dated 03 August 2023 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final BAR dated 03 August 2023 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 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 BAR dated 03 August 2023 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.

- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the final 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.