



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2721

Enquiries: Mr Jay-Jay Mpelane

Telephone: (012) 399 9404, E-mail: Jmpelane@dff.gov.za

Mr Lance Blaine
Mura 1 (Pty) Ltd
Unit B2, Mainstream Centre
Main Road
Hout Bay
CAPE TOWN
7806

Tel number: 021 790 1392
Email address: surina@red-cap.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Blaine

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MURA ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) CORRIDOR LOCATED BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND PIXLEY KA SEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES.

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 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 abuses or compromises 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.

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@dfre.gov.za

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083

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.dfre.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dfre.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 06/07/2023

Cc:	Ms Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com
	MJ Penxa	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: jacksonp@beaufortwestmun.co.za
	Gavin Benjamin	Western Cape: DEA&DP	Email: gavin.benjamin@westerncape.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.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MURA ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) CORRIDOR LOCATED BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES.

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND
PIXLEY KA SEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY.

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2721
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Mura 1 (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces: within Ward 7 (Beaufort West Local Municipality) and Ward 3 (Ubuntu Local Municipality) between Loxton and Beaufort West towns.

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—

MURA 1 (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Lance Blaine
Mura 1 (Pty) Ltd
Unit B2, Mainstream Centre
Main Road
Hout Bay
Cape Town
7806

Tel number: 021 790 1392

Email address: surina@red-cap.co.za

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u></p> <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</p>	<p>The site is currently zoned as agricultural land and falls outside the urban area. The Mura EGI Corridor will include ~70km of overhead 132kV lines (~40km will be single overhead 132kV lines and ~30km will be up to two overhead 132kV lines running in parallel running between the switching stations) supported by monopole pylons with a max height 38m.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u></p> <p>The development of-</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more,</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse,</p> <p>(c) within 32 meters of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p>	<p>Drainage lines are scattered along the proposed corridor. Existing roads will be used as far as possible to minimise any new impacts on these systems but will have to cross watercourses to ensure access to the grid. No pylons are to be placed within the delineated watercourses, but some may occur within 32m of a watercourse. Therefore, more than 100m² disturbance within 32m of a watercourse would occur.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 14:</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The EGI corridor would erect a temporary fuel (and lubricants) and powder cement storage facilities during the construction phase. The combined storage capacity of all of the above facilities/infrastructure will exceed 80m³ but will be below 500m³.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u></p> <p>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 meters from a watercourse.</p>	<p>Drainage lines are scattered along the proposed corridor. Existing roads will be used as far as possible to minimise any new impacts on these systems but will have to cross watercourses to ensure access to the grid thus more than 10m³ of soil, sand, shells, shell grit,</p>

	pebbles or rock will be infilled or dredged, excavated, removed or moved from a watercourse.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27(i):</u></p> <p>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-</p> <p>(i) undertaking of a linear activity.</p>	<p>The switching stations, pylons and temporary site camps associated with the Mura EGI Corridor will occupy on area of 19ha. This area will be fully transformed.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28(ii):</u></p> <p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</p>	<p>The land is zoned as agricultural and will continue to be used for agricultural purposes should the proposed project receive environmental authorisation. The project extent of Mura EGI Corridor Facility is 52ha. This area will be fully transformed.</p>

As described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated May 2023 at:

Mura EGI Corridor Affected Farm Portions:

- Leeuwkloof Farm 43- C00900000000004300000,
- Bultfontein Farm 13- C00900000000001300000,
- Portion 4 of Duiker Kranse Farm 45- C00900000000004500004,
- RE of Portion 3 of Duiker Kranse Farm 45- C00900000000004500003,
- Portion 12 of Bultfontein Farm 387, C00900000000001200000,
- Aangrensend Abramskraal Farm 11- C00900000000001100000,
- RE of Abrams Kraal Farm 206 C080000000000020600000,
- Sneeuwkraal Farm 46- C00900000000004600000,
- RE of Duiker Kranse Farm 45 C00900000000004500000, and
- Portion 2 of Paardeberg Farm 49, C00900000000004900002.

Mura EGI Corridor Coordinates (Map: Annexure 1)		
	Longitude	Latitude
A (starting point)	22°28'58.03"E	31°49'6.67"S
B (starting point)	22°29'41.01"E	31°49'35.53"S
C (mid-point)	22°32'12.73"E	31°49'45.74"S
D (mid-point)	22°32'39.03"E	31°53'8.96"S
E (end point)	22°35'38.07"E	31°48'31.64"S
F (end point)	22°36'26.66"E	31°48'49.54"S

- for the construction of the Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor located between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces, hereafter referred to as "the property."

Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor contain the following:

- Overhead lines and pylons:
 - 70km of overhead 132kV lines (~40km will be single overhead 132kV lines and ~30km will be up to two overhead 132kV lines running in parallel running between the switching stations supported by monopole pylons with a max height 38m).
- Switching stations:
 - Up to eight switching stations,
 - Located adjacent to the solar farm substations within the solar area footprint,
 - Maximum height of 12m, and
 - Footprint of up to 150m x 75m.
- Other Switching stations:
 - Up to four up to 150m x 75m switching stations located within the EGI corridor.
- Other infrastructure:
 - Access tracks.
 - Temporary laydown areas (including temporary fuel (and lubricants) and powder cement storage facilities).

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The construction of the Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor located between Loxton And Beaufort West in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces, 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 must only be conducted 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.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal.

8. 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.
9. The notification referred to must–
 - 9.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 9.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;

- 9.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request;
and,
- 9.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

10. The authorised activity must 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

11. A final site layout plan for the 132kV Powerline, Collector Substation and 132kV Switching Stations for the Mura Solar PV Facilities and all associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting of the powerline route and pylon structures, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 11.1. The 132kV Powerline, Collector Substation and the 132kV Switching Stations;
 - 11.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 11.3. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - 11.4. All associated infrastructure within the assessed study area. The dimensions of the structures must be indicated;
 - 11.5. All sensitive environmental features that will be affected by the development; and
 - 11.6. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
12. Part C (Site Specific Environmental Attributes) of the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the 132kV Powerline, Collector Substation and 132kV Switching Stations for the Mura Solar PV Facilities, submitted as Appendix H of the BAR dated May 2023, is not approved. Part C must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions

of this environmental authorisation. Part C of the generic EMPs must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the generic EMPs must be submitted to the Department for written approval of Part C prior to commencement of the activity. Part C of the generic EMPs must be amended to include the following:

- 12.1. Measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting;
 - 12.2. Heritage Chance Find Procedure;
 - 12.3. Pre-construction heritage, avifauna, protected fauna and flora walkdown of final pylon positions;
 - 12.4. Plant Search Rescue and Relocation Plan;
 - 12.5. Faunal Search and Rescue and Relocation Plan;
 - 12.6. Post construction monitoring plan for priority collision-prone and red data bird species;
 - 12.7. Alien Invasive Plant Management Plan;
 - 12.8. Stormwater management plan;
 - 12.9. Rehabilitation Management Plan;
 - 12.10.A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be developed to outline specific traffic management measures across all phases of the development. The focus of the TMP will be the construction phase since this is when the traffic movements and risks are most significant.
13. Once approved the generic EMPs must be implemented and adhered to. They must be seen as dynamic documents and shall be included in all contract documentation for the development.
 14. Changes to the approved EMPs must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
 15. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPs, should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMP.

16. The EMP must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 27 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMP.
17. The updated EMP must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
18. The updated EMP 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 EMP must

have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.

19. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
20. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

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

Recording and reporting to the Department

22. All documentation e.g., audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
23. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the

environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

24. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
25. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
26. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
27. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

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

Operation of the activity

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

Site closure and decommissioning

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

Specific conditions

31. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
32. Permit from relevant authorities must be obtained prior commencement of any construction activities for the disturbance or removal of any nationally or provincially protected species.

33. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g., grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams).
34. Vegetation clearing prior and during construction must be limited to the footprint of the proposed development. Furthermore, the applicant must ensure that Laydown yards, camps and storage areas are placed within project area.
35. 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.
36. Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

General

37. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 37.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
- 37.2. to anyone on request; and
- 37.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
38. 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: 06/07/2023



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director, Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries & 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 -

- The triggered listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 03 March 2023.
- The information contained in the BAR dated May 2023.
- The necessity for the Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI).
- The infrastructure proposed falls within the Mura EGI Corridor.
- The information contained in the specialist studies and mitigation measures contained within the BAR dated May 2023 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Agricultural Compliance Statement.	Soil Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat.).	8 April 20 23.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement.	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.	November 2022.
Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment:	BlueScience (Pty) Ltd.	April 2023.
Plant Species Compliance Statement.	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.	November 2022.
Animal Species Compliance Statement.	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.	November 2022.
Avifaunal Impact Assessment.	WildSkies Ecological Services.	October 2022.
Heritage Impact Assessment.	ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd.	December 2022.
Palaeontological Heritage Study.	Natura Viva cc.	November 2022.
Traffic Impact Assessment.	Athol Schwarz.	7 May 2023.
Visual Impact Assessment.	Quinton Lawson Architect.	December 2022.
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report.	Independent Economic Researchers.	January 2023.

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 Mura Electrical Grid Infrastructure.
- c) The BAR dated May 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated May 2023 and the specialist studies have been 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.

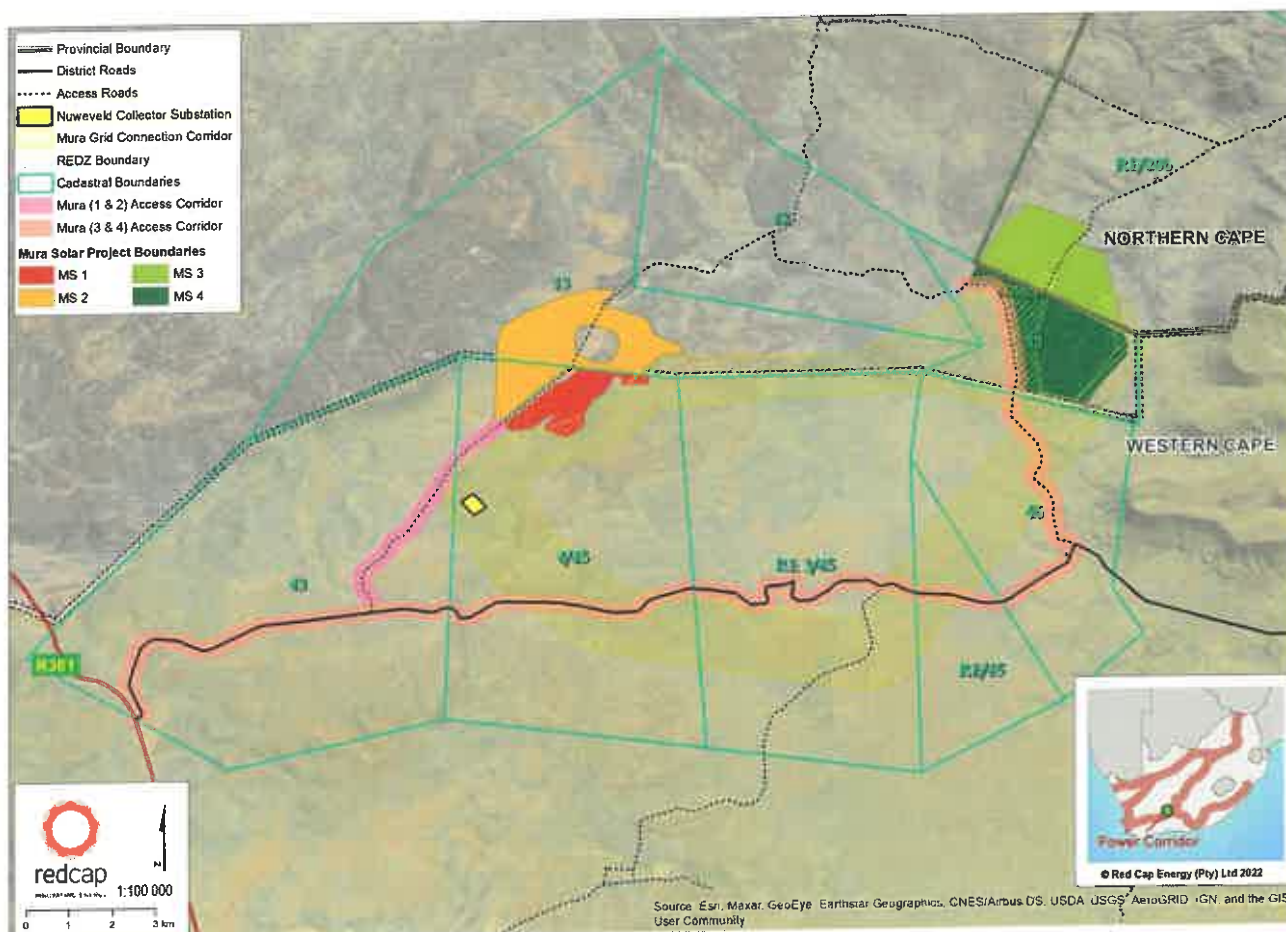
3. Findings

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 BAR dated May 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 information contained in the BAR dated May 2023 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed curtails the identified impacts.

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

Annexure 2: Locality Plan



Mura Grid Coordinates

