



Volume III: Public Participation Report

Final Scoping Report for DFFE Decision
Public Comment

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FINAL FOR DFFE DECISION

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Proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and Associated Grid Infrastructure, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Final Scoping Report for DFFE Decision
0684401



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1. INTRODUCTION

Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is applying for EA to construct and operate the up to 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (WEF) ('the proposed Rochdale WEF') and its auxiliary infrastructure, which includes one on-site substation, with capacity of up to 132 kV, to facilitate the connection between the WEF and the electricity grid. As well as an up to 132 kV over-head powerline of approximately 31.5 km (300 m corridor), traversing twenty-one (21) land parcels, be constructed to connect the proposed WEF to the Eskom Uitkoms Substation.

The proposed development is located approximately 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process for Environmental Authorisation.

2. THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Engaging with external stakeholders on the project and associated Public Participation Process (PPP) is a key part of the overall S&EIA process. The PPP is key in that it provides the public the opportunity to have meaningful input into the decision-making process. The primary aims of the PPP are:

- To inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- To identify and respond to issues, comments and concerns as raised by I&APs;
- To promote transparency of the project and its potential consequences and ensure I&APs understanding of the proposed development;
- To facilitate open dialogue and liaise with all I&APs;
- To assist in identifying potential environmental (biophysical and socio-economic) impacts associated with the proposed development; and
- To ensure that all I&AP issues and comments are accurately recorded, addressed and documented in a Comments & Response Report.

This Public Participation Report has been compiled as Volume III to the respective Volume I – Final Scoping Report. This report has been updated to include all comments received throughout the application process up until submission of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) to Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for decision.

The sharing of I&AP information complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI Act 4 of 2013). The following steps have been and will continue to be undertaken throughout the PPP to ensure compliance:

- The contact details, e-mail address and postal address of the public will not be made available for public review, however this will be made available to the Department and to any I&AP who may wish to appeal; and

- The contact details, e-mail address and postal address of I&APs will be blacked out in the Comments and Responses Report and Public Participation Documents.

3. METHODOLOGY

The PPP follows the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), as well as the Public Participation Guidelines in terms of NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014.

3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The I&AP database (Appendix A) was created by ERM, in consultation with the Applicant and was used as the baseline for the pre-identified I&APs list.

Pre-identified / Registered I&APs included:

- Pre-identified I&APs who are identifiable affected landowners and surrounding landowners. Landowners and surrounding landowners will also be requested to inform the occupiers of their properties regarding the project.
- Government organisations, NGOs, relevant municipalities, ward councilors and other key stakeholders and organ of states that might be affected.
- Registered I&APs who responded to the advertisements (i.e., newspapers, notices, and e-mails) and requested to be registered or request to register any other person/s.

This database will be updated throughout the duration of the scoping process and will continue to be updated through to the EIA phase. Anyone with an interest in the proposed development and/or associated EIA process are encouraged to register.

3.2 INITIAL NOTIFICATION PHASE

Initial Notification was conducted prior to the completion of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR). Notification during this phase was undertaken in the following manner:

- Site notices were erected on the site boundary in July 2023;
- Notices were erected in the towns of Ermelo, Amsterdam and Sheepmoor in July 2023;
- Advertisements were placed in the Highveld Newspaper and the Mpumalanga News Newspaper in July 2023; and
- Initial notification e-mails were distributed on to all pre-identified I&APs, including the affected landowner and occupiers of the site, municipal councillor(s), ratepayers in the area, affected district and local municipalities, and organs of state. I&APs who responded to the newspaper and notices were also sent an initial notification email.

The public notices and initial notification contained sufficient information on the proposed application and afforded pre-identified and interested I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues / queries / concerns and indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered. The contact person at ERM, contact number and email details were clearly stated on the notifications.

3.3 SCOPING PHASE

3.3.1 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (DSR) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Notification regarding the availability of the DSR for public review and comment (Appendix D) were sent to all registered I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial period, as well as affected landowners, surrounding landowners and their occupiers) via e-mail. SMS notifications were sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who did not have an email. The written notification also advised registered I&APs of the following:

- How and where they could access the DSR (electronic and hardcopy);
- The duration that the DSR was made available for public comment, and the date by when comments must be submitted; and
- To submit their comment / questions / queries / concerns regarding the development and content of the DSR.

The table below presents the respective locations the DSR was made available for public review and comment from **22 August 2024 until the 21 September 2024 (both days inclusive)**. **The commenting period was 30 days, as per the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)**.

Location	Physical Address
Hard Copy Location	
Ermelo Public Library	Msukaligwa Municipality Civic Centre, corner of Church and Smuts street, Ermelo, 2350, Mpumalanga
CD copies were available upon request.	
Electronic Copy Locations	
ERM Website	https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/
Electronic Transfer	Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) could request for copies to be shared via a One Drive folder.

3.3.2 SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT (FSR)

Notification regarding the submission of the FSR to DFFE for a decision will be sent all registered I&APs in the following manner:

- Written Notification (English and / or Afrikaans) will be sent to all registered I&APs via e-mail. SMS notifications will be sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have an email address.
- If written notification cannot be sent to an I&AP, notification will be provided telephonically.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PHASE PP PROCESS

During the EIA phase, the following tasks will be undertaken for public participation:

- Written Notification regarding the application process (English and / or Afrikaans) will be sent to all registered I&APs via e-mail. SMS notifications will be sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have a postal or email addresses.
- If written notification cannot be sent to an I&AP, notification will be provided telephonically.
- Notification to inform registered I&APs of the availability of the Draft EIA Report for public review and comment (which is a mandatory 30 days);
- A public event will be held in order to explain the findings of the EIA, if requested;
- The Comments and Reponses Report will be updated, to record comments and / or queries received and the responses provided. This report will be included in a Final EIA Report for submission to the DFFE;
- Authority review and decision; and
- Notification of all registered I&APs, key stakeholders, and organs of state of the decision by the DFFE and the appeal procedure.

Focus Group Meetings or One-on-One meetings will be held if necessary, throughout the EIA process. Furthermore, I&APs will also be able to register throughout the duration of the EIA process. Once registered, I&APs will be informed about the EIA process as it progresses.

5. DECISION AND APPEAL PHASE

All registered I&APs will be provided with access to the decision on the EIA Report and the reasons for such decision. Registered I&APs will also be notified of the appeal process and that appeals can be lodged against the decision in terms of the NEMA, 1998, National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Notifications regarding the DFFE decision will be provided in the following manner to all registered I&APs:

- Via e-mail, which will include an attachment of the decision, reasons for the decision, and appeal procedure;
- Via SMS, which will be sent to I&APs and land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have a postal or email addresses. The SMS will advise the I&AP

that access to the decision, reasons for the decision, and appeal procedure must be accessed from the ERM website: <https://www.erm.com>; and

- Courtesy telephone calls will be made to those who cannot be contacted by either of the above-mentioned methods to advise them of the decision made by the DFFE and to confirm if and / or how they wish to receive access to the decision, reasons for decision, and appeal procedure.

I&APs will be provided with access to the decision, reasons for the decision by the DFFE and the process for appeals within 14 days of date of receipt of the decision.

6. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

During the initial notification phase, no comments / queries / questions / concerns were received from I&APs.

During the DSR PPP comment were received from the DFFE, DARDLEA, MTPA, other authorities and I&APs. Follow-up e-mails were sent to all registered I&APs, stakeholder and authorities, and no further comments were received.

Responses to comments received during the PP period is provided in Section 7, Table 7.1 below, with EAP / specialist / applicant responses, and the original comment and responses has been appended to the PP report which will be submitted with the FSR for DFFE decision.

7. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

This comments and responses table has been updated throughout the duration of the scoping process and comments has been collated by thread and not by date.

TABLE 7-1 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE FOR IAPS ON DRAFT SCOPING PHASE 22 AUGUST 2024 (RESUBMISSION)

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
1.	Nrateng Mashiloane Aviation Environmental Compliance Department	22 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 2:16 PM To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/ . A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	The EAP acknowledges that the SACAA has transferred all application responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS). The applicant confirms that a formal application has been lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted.

2.	Sindy Mbuyane DARDLEA	23 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day Stephanie,</p> <p>Thank you for the resubmission notification. Are the reports submitted to our Office the updated versions or we need to await submission of the updates before considering receipt of such reports? I recall an email by Lloyd that there will be updates on the reports.</p> <p>Kind Regards, SIndi</p>	<p>Good day Sindy,</p> <p>Thank you for your query.</p> <p>The report content of the versions you have has not changed with the resubmission, other than the amendment of the dates of public participation (PP), and thus the versions you have can be used to confirm receipt if you are happy to do so. Additional copies of the reports (including the amended dates for PP) have been couriered to you and should be with you soon.</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any queries regarding the above.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
3.	Pamela Madondo Environment Compliance Specialist	26 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges that the SACAA has transferred all application responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS). The applicant confirms that a formal application has been lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted.</p>

				<p>I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/ . A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</p> <p>Kind regards, Pamela Madondo</p>	
4.	<p>Tebego Kgaphola</p> <p>Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation</p>	<p>26 August 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>Kindly note that our comments still stands.</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges that Biodiversity and Conservations comment still stands.</p>
5.	<p>Salome Mambane</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)</p> <p>Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>26 August 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>EAP acknowledges receipt of the comment from the Department on the Draft Scoping Report for the Rochdale WEF.</p>

[REDACTED]

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ,MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 August 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an

				<p>application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Salome Mambane</p>	
6.	Mpilo Masondo NTCSA	2 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Good day,</p> <p>Please could you send the kmz files of the proposed projects to see whether any of our current or future projects will be affected.</p> <p>Regards, Mpilo</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Please see attached KMZ files as requested.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

7.	<p>Josua Meyer Interest and Affected Party</p>	<p>10 September 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE</p> <p>Dankie vir uit maar EIENDOM GRENSE word nie getoon nie. Uitleg dus nutteloos aangesien grense noodsaaklik is om enige kommentaar te lewer voor periode daarvoor verstryk (20/9/24) VERSOEK DUS DRINGEND UITLEG WAT EIENDOM GRENSE EN PAAIE DUIDELIK TOON Vertrou op u spoedige reaksie By voorbaat dank</p>	<p>Good day Josua,</p> <p>I have attached a copy of the form for your perusal, please do complete and send back to me so that I am able to capture your data. Attached are the shapefiles of the land parcels of affected Land Owners. I confirm that you are a registered I&AP. The development is within its comment period and any comments made by you in this period will be captured accordingly.</p> <p>You will also receive further communication regarding the development as it moves through its different phases.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
8.	<p>Josua Meyer Interest and Affected Party</p>			<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE</p> <p>Het ongelukkig nie toegang tot Aida nie Kan u vorm asb aanstuur Wys u egter daarop dat as aangrensende eienaar aan u beoogde ontwikkeling registrasie outomaties deur u ontwikkelaar gedoen moet word. Graag verneem ek of sodanige registrasie wel gedoen is aangesien nog geen korrespondensie in die verband ontvang is nie Vertrou op spoedige en gunstige reaksie op bogemelde</p>	<p>Good day Josua,</p> <p>I have attached a copy of the form for your perusal, please do complete and send back to me so that I am able to capture your data. Attached are the shapefiles of the land parcels of affected Land Owners. I confirm that you are a registered I&AP. The development is within its comment period and any comments made by you in this period will be captured accordingly.</p> <p>You will also receive further communication regarding the development as it moves through its different phases.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

				<p>Please may you register my details in signature below for any Mpumalanga projects - including Amsterdam - we are developing a wind farm near Ermelo named Zephyr.</p> <p>Thanks very much</p> <p>Ryan David-Andersen</p>	
11.	Robyn Luyt DARDLEA	17 Septembe r 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: SR Comments Rochdale WEF Amsterdam Cluster Dear Stephanie,</p> <p>Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Rochdale WEF and Grid Connection.</p> <p>Comments for Sheepmoor to follow.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	The EAP acknowledges receipt of DARDLEAs comment on Rochdale WEF.

12.	Celia De Waal MTPA	18 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.</p> <p>Dear Ms. Gopaul</p> <p>Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility (WEF) with 23 wind turbines and Auxiliary infrastructure.</p> <p>Your reference number: Project 0684401 (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593)</p> <p>Our EIA registration/reference number is LUA 24/3967 (kindly use this number in any further correspondence to us regarding this project)</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia de Waal</p>	<p>Hi Celia,</p> <p>Thank you for providing comment on the Sheepmoor WEF facility. Are you able to please indicate when we can expect comment on the remaining 2 facilities, namely Rochdale and Emvelo.</p> <p>Kind regards Lucien</p>
13.	Celia De Waal MTPA	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 11:07 AM</p>	<p>Hi Celia,</p> <p>Thank you for the update,</p>

				<p>To: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>Regarding your enquiry below, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comments for the Emvelo project (our ref: LUA 24/3966) is currently at the Acting Manager: Scientific Service for review). The signed copy might be released today, which will be send to you as soon as I receive it. The commenting scientist is currently still busy commenting on the Rochdale project (LUA 24/3965). <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia</p>	<p>Regards</p>
14.	Josua Meyer Interested and Affected Party	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject:</p> <p>[ATTACHMENT SKM_C250i24091906550]</p> <p>APPENDIX A</p>	<p>Hi Josua,</p> <p>Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed WEF cluster. We appreciate your input. Your comments will be considered during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.</p> <p>As part of the process, we will assess potential changes to the wind turbine layout and work to avoid sensitive areas to minimize any negative impacts. Your feedback appreciated and we will keep you updated as the EIA progresses.</p>

			<p>COMMENTS ON ROCKDALE, EMVELO AND SHEEPMOOR WIND FARMS</p> <p>The following problems are foreseen with development of above-mentioned wind farms</p> <p>1. DISTURBANCE OF CLIMATE AND Rainfalls</p> <p>The escarpment has a unique rainfall pattern where the east wind introduces moisture into layers and condenses as rain and/or precipitates as fog and dew once it moves in over the plateau. The fog and dew that comes in along with the east wind is critically important and prevents pollination problems especially during mid-summer droughts. Turbulence of rotary turbine rotors increases vertical mixing of heat and water vapor which adversely affects meteorological conditions downwind, including rainfall. Wind turbines further cause significant desiccation of soil by pulling the warmer upper air down to the ground in order to increase soil temperatures. Turbines therefore change local wind patterns that have negative impacts on rainfall, soil moisture and even micro climate with long-term effects on fertility and productivity of agricultural soils and grasslands. THE PLACEMENT OF THE WIND TURBINES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ESCARPMENT WILL THEREFORE BE FATAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT'S CLIMATE AND VEGETATION WHICH WILL ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT MV FARMING PROSPECTS IN THE LONG TERM.</p> <p>2. Bird LIFE IS THREATENED</p> <p>Area consists of unique grassland that provides ideal habitat for several rare and endangered bird species. It also hosts large diverse small grassland species that are not even mentioned here.</p>	<p>Kind regards,</p>
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			<p>Number of several threatened and/or protected species found here include :</p> <p>Breekop arende (eagles). Breeding pair successfully hatched chick this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sekretaris Voels. Several old as well as active nests enter the area. As recently as May '24, a pair with a chick were spotted at Waaihoek. <p>Mahem is found widely spread throughout area which is also actively breeding. A chick is often spotted with adults.</p> <p>Blou Kraanvoels are on the rise with at least one chick observed annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fish eagles also regularly visit the ponds in the area.- Veldpou occurs but is currently becoming rare. Nests in the field were also spotted already. <p>Kalkoen Ibus is common with several active breeding colonies.</p> <p>There are positive signs that Aasvoels are also moving back. Breeding colonies are active at Smithfield, not far from the area.</p> <p>Various owl species that may not be extinct but are extremely necessary to ensure ecological balance are also present in large numbers</p> <p>AI the bird species, as well as bats and insects, are essential to maintain balance in the ecology and are in danger of either being killed or relocated to other areas due to this.</p> <p>Fatal collision with turbine blade</p> <p>Habitat disturbances by increased soil temperatures.</p> <p>Air pressure changes voar turbines as well as the vertebrae behind turbines.</p> <p>Very sensitive to low frequency electromagnetic pressure causing waves by wind turbines that act adversely on hui</p>	
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			<p>Eradicating nests and even killing them to eliminate approval barriers as has already been proven with the shooting of a break-headed eagle.</p> <p>3. ANIMAL LIFE IS THREATENED The following rare and protected nursing animals are found here Oorbietjie Bruinhiena Mieshoop Tier Aardwolf The animals are in danger of moving away by habitat destruction, vibration and noise caused by turbines. Dirty electricity produced by wind power can pass through cables and into the ground. The soil stream has a detrimental effect on the productivity and reproduction of mammals.</p> <p>4. NOISE AND VIRTUAL POLLUTION Wind turbines produce sound waves (pressure waves) by the rotating blades and are heard as rumbling and/or detectable as infra-sounds as well as electromagnetic waves generated upon conversion of wind energy into electricity. The conversion produces poor quality power (dirty electricity and ground current) which is detrimental to human and animal health. The shade flickering of turbines is also contributing factor to health problems. There is a definite link between the 'ground current' produced by turbines and cancer. It has been documented that childhood leukemia has increased by 300% due to it. However, the above can activate several other clinical health conditions in humans. In animals and insects that perceive low frequency sounds and vibrations better than humans, there is great danger of moving out of territory and thus disappearing altogether.</p>	
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IN LIGHT OF THE FACTS, A TURBINE AND CABLE Free BUFFER ZONE OF AT LEAST 1.5 KM FROM My PROPERTY'S BOUNDARY WIRES MUST BE REHABILITATED.

The number of how turbines contributes to virtual pollution of nature.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

The improved infrastructure will lead to increases in movement and inflow of undesirable elements which will drastically increase crime. Stock theft at my farm has stopped since I stopped scraping district road to Sheepmoor because it has become difficult to pass.

During the construction phase, labour unrest can be expected due to expectations created in local populations.

The fact that no turbines are allowed on my property will not indemnify my property from the negative side effects of the 3 wind farms. THOROUGH FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED BEFORE APPROVAL IS GRANTED TO PROJECT BY THE AUTHORITY

- LONG-TERM INFLUENCE OF PLANNED WIND FARMS ON AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE AND RAIN FALL.
- IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENTS OF ENDANGERED AND PROTECTED Bird SPECIES AS WELL AS WHERE NESTS OCCUR, ACTIVE AND OLD NESTS.
- IDENTIFICATION OF THE RARE MAMMALS AS WELL AS THEIR MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA.

Foresees adverse long-term prospects for agriculture and environment and therefore cannot UNRESERVEDLY support development of wind farms.

Sincerely,
On behalf of JOSHUA MEYER TRUST

15.	Kirsten Jones Interested and Affected Party	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP</p> <p>Hi there,</p> <p>Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
16.	Kirsten Jones Interested and Affected Party	20 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP</p> <p>Thanks Lucien,</p> <p>Will you be uploading the FSR onto the website (and notifying I&APs) once it has been submitted to DFFE?</p> <p>Kind regards Kirsten</p>	<p>Hi Kristen,</p> <p>That is correct.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
17.	Josua Meyer	20 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges receipt of IAPs Aida response form as well as attached file.</p>

<p>Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>Aida Form</p>	<p>To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Subject: What's your name? Josua Last Name Meyer Who do you represent? Organisation – Josua Meyer Trust Designation - Trustee Your Email – [REDACTED] Your Phone Number – [REDACTED] Alternative Phone Number – n/a Your Address Street Address – Plaas Ondwerwacht Street Address Line 2 – Plaas Waaihoek City - Ermelo State/Province - Mpumalanga Zip Code – n/a Country - RSA What is your interest in the projects? – Plaas Eenaar Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website? Please copy and paste the link onto a browser (https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/) No What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster? Verwys na bylaag A aangeheg Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013</p>
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				<p>Do you consent to your information being published in the public domain, and being used as part of the Public Participation Process? Yes</p>	
<p>18.</p>	<p>Moya Odendaal Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>21 September 2024 Aida Form</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>Dear AidaForm user,</p> <p>Your form "Stakeholder Engagement Form" has a new response.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>1. What's your name? Moya Odendaal</p> <p>2. Who do you represent? Heya Lidri Pty Ltd Odendaal</p> <p>3. Your Email h [REDACTED]</p> <p>4. Your Phone [REDACTED]</p> <p>5. Alternative Phone Number [REDACTED]</p> <p>6. Your Address [REDACTED]</p> <p>7. What is your interest in the projects? Environment</p> <p>8. Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website? Yes</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the EIA phase of the proposed WEF Cluster.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

				<p>9. What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster? It will change the environment forever</p> <p>10. Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013 No (0)</p>	
19.	Rone Odendaal Interested and Affected Party	21 September 2024 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>Dear AidaForm user,</p> <p>Your form "Stakeholder Engagement Form" has a new response.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>1. What's your name? Rone Odendaal</p> <p>2. Who do you represent? Individual Affected party</p> <p>3. Your Email [REDACTED]</p> <p>4. Your Phone Number [REDACTED]</p> <p>5. Alternative Phone Number [REDACTED]</p> <p>6. Your Address [REDACTED]</p> <p>7. What is your interest in the projects? Strongly oppose</p> <p>8. Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website? No</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the EIA phase of the proposed WEF Cluster.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

		Per Email		<p>To: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly receive two of the letters as requested</p> <p>I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.</p> <p>Regards</p>	
22.	Celia De Waal MTPA	01 October 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly receive the draft comments from Mr. Krige of LUA 24-3965. As soon as we have a signed copy, I will forward it to you.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	Thanks Celia!
23.	Celia De Waal MTPA	02 October 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Hi Celia</p> <p>Signed copy well received</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>



Subject: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 -
Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind
Energy Facility near Ermelo

Good day

Kindly receive the attached comments from the
MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the
240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near
Ermelo.

Your reference number is: 0684401

Our EIA registration/reference number is: LUA
24/3965

Kind regards

Celia de Waal

TABLE 7-2 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM DFFE (24 SEPTEMBER)

Application Form			
No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
1.	Please confirm that the postal code for the EAP's address is correct.	Application form has been updated. EAP's address has been updated.	Please refer to Application form.
2.	The screening tool report attached as Appendix 14 of the application form must be signed by the compiler.	Signature has been added to Appendix 14.	Please refer to Application form.
3.	Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application form. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.	Listed activities in the application form corresponds to those listed in the Final Scoping Report.	Please refer to Application form and Table 3.1 in this Final Scoping Report.
4.	If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.	Listed activities in the application form mirror those listed in this Final Scoping Report.	Please refer to Application form.
5.	Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom	The proposed development is not near to an Eskom Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and therefore does not trigger the need	Not Applicable.

Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution substation. Should this gazette apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.

for consent from Eskom in terms of GN 4143. However, the applicant confirms that it will engage Eskom further during the EIA phases and during the confirmation of the final layout to ensure all relevant set back requirements are met.

Specialist Assessments			
No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
6.	Page 4 of the meeting minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 26 April 2023 refers to the applicant undertaking a Geotechnical Assessment; however, this study is not included in the Specialist Plan of Study (PoS). All required specialist studies must be conducted as part of the EIA process. If there are development design constraints, a desktop Geotechnical Assessment must be included as part of the Specialist PoS.	The EAP is of the opinion that a Geotechnical Assessment for the development can and will only be undertaken prior to the commencement of the construction phase. A desktop geotechnical assessment has already been conducted as part of the EIA phase studies and will be included in the EIA documentation. Furthermore a detailed geotechnical assessment will be completed prior to the start of construction.	Not Applicable.
7.	The Civil Aviation Theme has a "Medium sensitivity" rating, as per the outcome of the screening tool provided. According to the protocols, a Civil Aviation Compliance Statement must be included in the PoS. Should a compliance statement not be included as part of the PoS, a motivation/explanation for its exclusion, must be provided	Please note that an obstacle assessment will be undertaken prior to construction. An application has been submitted to ATNS to evaluate the preliminary WEF layout and final approvals will be received prior to construction.	Not Applicable.

	[including proof of request for comments from the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)].		
8.	You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for all specialist studies conducted. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department template).	Specialist Declarations have been included in Volume II.	Please refer to Volume II – Specialist Studies.
9.	Please note that in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), it is a requirement for specialists to be registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in their respective fields.	SACNASP certifications has been included in Volume II.	Please refer to Volume II – Specialist Studies.
10.	The Heritage Survey, which has been included as part of this SR, must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).	All requested documentation will be uploaded to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). Should comment be received following submission of the FSR, the comment will be sent to the Department for consideration.	Not Applicable.

Public participation process

No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
11.	The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The public participation process for the Rochdale WEF has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	Refer to Section 9 of the FSR and Volume III – Public Participation Report.
12.	The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES). Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows: i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za ii. Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda Email: TNethononda@dffe.gov.za	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR have been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. Comments have been provided from BCAdmin and comments from Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness will be obtained during the EIA phase.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
13.	Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR has been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. The Project Details of the FSR - Volume I, reflects the changes made from DSR to FSR.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
14.	Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are	Original comments received from I&APs and organs of state have been included in Volume III – Public Participation Report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.

	submitted to the Department with the final SR.		
15.	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	This has been provided for in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) of the FSR. Any correspondence with relevant organs of state and stakeholders has been included in the comments and response table. Where no correspondence has been received, the proof of attempts to retrieve a comment has been provided.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
16.	All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR has been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. The Project Details of the FSR - Volume I, reflects the changes made from DSR to FSR.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
17.	The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.	The C&R report is included in the PP Report (Volume III) of the FSR and is therefore separate from the main report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
18.	Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	Comments from each individual has been responded to individually in the C&R report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.

19.	Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.	Comments received have been adequately addressed and have not been summarised in the C&R report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
20.	The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.	Please refer Volume III – Public Participation Report.
21.	Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.	Please refer Volume III – Public Participation Report.
22.	Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.	Please refer Volume III – Public Participation Report.
General			
No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
	<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p>"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must,</p>		

	<p>within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</p> <p>You are are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	
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TABLE 7-2 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM MPUMALANGA TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY (1 OCTOBER 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	The applicant needs to look for an alternative less sensitive development site to develop the wind energy facility.	The current site was chosen based on a combination of favourable wind conditions, land availability, environmental considerations, Eskom Grid capacity and grid access considerations. Alternative sites (particularly to the north and north west) were

Ref	Comment	Response
		<p>reviewed during the pre-feasibility phase and the Project location was found to be the most viable.</p> <p>As the EIA progresses, further assessment of the environmental sensitivity of the site will be conducted.</p>
2	<p>The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area</p>	<p>The layout will be revised during the EIA phase, to avoid Key Biodiversity Areas where possible and to avoid No-go areas identified by the project specialists. Furthermore, features within aquatic buffer zones will be resolved during the EIA phase. Your concern for the southeastern part of the study area is noted, and will be discussed with the relevant specialists.</p>
3	<p>The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area (IBA) and the status of globally Endangered bird species such as the Martial Eagle Is of a concern</p>	<p>Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern and further investigations regarding habitat suitability modelling will be conducted through during the EIA phase of the project. Areas of concern will be avoided during the EIA phase.</p> <p>During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland and grassland species will be conducted.</p> <p>Flight risk models were also developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines (Martial Eagle), and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.</p> <p>As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's). Furthermore, it must be noted that IBA's are not No-go areas for Development, and indeed a number of WEF development are operational in or near IBA's in South Africa.</p>
4	<p>Road network and its impact must be Indicated and must be placed away from the sensitive zones</p>	<p>The road layout and design is not yet finalized during this scoping phase. Once final turbine positions are determined during the EIA phase studies, then the placement of access roads will be carefully considered to minimize impacts on sensitive areas.</p>
5	<p>A 1km buffer from the CBA Rivers must be applied. Wherever wetland and river crossings are needed, the EIA regulations must be followed</p>	<p>A 1 km buffer from CBA rivers will be applied where feasible, and any deviations will be assessed through specialist studies. Where river or wetland crossings are unavoidable, all applicable EIA and NWA regulations , as well as the requirements of the National Water Act</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
		(e.g. water use license applications etc.) will be adhered to and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize environmental impacts.
6	The potential risk and threat of infrastructure-induced fires occurring on grasslands and impacting Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) must be incorporated into the risk assessments.	This will be incorporated in the Impact Assessment.
	<p>Proliferation of renewable energy applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While South Africa's energy needs highlight the urgency of shifting from coal to renewable energy, it is crucial to consider the scale of investments and the rapid growth of renewable energy projects, especially in Mpumalanga. The drive to approve nearly all renewable applications must be carefully balanced with proper planning and sustainability, ensuring that the transition aligns with environmental, economic, and social factors specific to the region. The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully, especially on areas that are not part of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted. 	The concerns are noted. The project has/will made/make every effort to avoid the sensitivities and ensure that appropriate planning and sustainability is incorporated into the design and application processes. It must be noted that not all approved projects will be constructed as the amount of WEF development in Mpumalanga is constrained by the available grid capacity.

Ref	Comment	Response
	<p>Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure such as the laydown structure and grid connections are in environmental sensitive areas (CBA Irreplaceable 1,399.9, CBA Optimal Intact grassland areas, Priority Focus Area and Key Biodiversity Areas). The MTPA is also not satisfied with the alternative proposed development sites as they are still placed within the environmental sensitive areas, with the grid connections traversing over the Important Bird Areas (IBA) and the buffer of the Martial Eagle Nest. 	<p>This comment has been noted. Further ground truthing will be undertaken during the EIA phase to survey the Intact Grassland Patches and confirm CBAs. Habitat mapping will be looked at to see where site verification might conclude that it potentially may not be intact grassland.</p> <p>Avifaunal turbine exclusion zones and all infrastructure exclusion zones should be adhered to. IBA, KBA, Grassland Patch and CBA areas as well as Martial Eagle High Risk buffers of avoidance are to be considered and taken into account by the Applicant/Developer when finalizing the layout.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility is less than 1 km from an Important Bird Area (IBA), and it is important to note that Birds of Sec were recorded in the broader area, therefore the proposed project might impact these Birds of Sec. 	<p>Avifaunal turbine exclusion zones and all infrastructure exclusion zones are still to be finalized by the specialist following the EIA phase. Once final, these areas should be adhered to. Intact Grassland Patches and CBA areas of avoidance will be considered by Applicant/Developer.</p> <p>As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBAs are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). Furthermore, it must be noted that IBAs are not No-go areas for Development, and indeed a number of WEF developments are operational in or near IBAs in South Africa.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the vantage points provided, some of the proposed wind turbines are not visible from the vantage point and, although additional vantage points and transect count monitoring was conducted near the Martial Eagle nest. However, with the possibility of the presence of Species 23, and a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the threatened birds confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier, Denham's Bustard, Secretary bird, White- 	<p>During the additional vantage point monitoring conducted to record Martial Eagle flight behaviour, the flights of all other priority species were also recorded and factored into the analysis.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that to date no dedicated site surveys were conducted for Sensitive Species 23 as yet – these will be conducted during the EIA phase. Furthermore, detailed habitat modelling for Species 23 will also be conducted to ascertain its potential to occur on the Project site.</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	<p>bellied Bustard, Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Lanner Falcon Greater Flamingo, Southern Bald Ibis, Cape Vulture, and Yellow-breasted Pipit. The MTPA is concerned that the survey effort is not sufficient to adequately find possible breeding and nest sites of species 23 and to assess cumulative impacts and Identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures for the threatened and vulnerable species. Therefore, the MTPA requests the applicant, to do additional vantage point monitoring not only for the martial eagle, but to ascertain if species 23 is present or not this must be done to satisfy and honour the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.</p>	<p>The other species listed are all noted and will be thoroughly assessed in the avifaunal impact assessment.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity Importance. These intact grasslands are "source" areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches. Proposed Turbine 8 falls within the intact grassland patches, 140 Ha is identified as an area with intact grassland. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Therefore, the MTPA sees the need to protect the little intact grassland still occurring, therefore turbine 8 should be excluded. 	<p>The proposed development should avoid the high sensitivity areas, therefore the layout will be revised during the EIA phase.</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of proposed project area mainly falls within the Eastern Highveld Grassland (Endangered). A high proportion of this vegetation type is threatened and is generally poorly protected. Hence, it should be carefully managed for the persistence of biodiversity; large areas of natural habitat are needed for many bird species, plants, and numerous wetlands that the Mesic Highveld Grassland supports. The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area. Wind farms should not be placed in intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas. Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability. It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats. 	<p>Further consideration to sensitivities, avoidance and mitigation measures as well as both on and off-site habitat conservation measures and initiatives will be considered.</p> <p>The project is in the scoping phase and sensitivities will be further refined and considered in the EIA phase.</p>
	<p>Avifaunal concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence of 32 priority bird species for wind energy developments and of the 32, 12 priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the 	<p>Agreed, as per the findings of the Avifaunal Specialist Study</p> <p>Shaped turbine exclusion zone has been delineated based on modelled flight activity. The modelling workflow incorporated all the flight data collected within the area during the pre-construction monitoring. The model identifies high-risk flight areas by</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	<p>footprint area and 19 priority species were also recorded, of which the Southern Bald Ibis were nesting with chicks.</p>	<p>considering associations between the underlying habitat and topography in relation to the recorded Southern Bald Ibis flight data and proximity to roosts.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Martial Eagle nest (Endangered) occurs within the footprint area. These are South Africa's largest eagles and travel over vast areas. They are also susceptible to collision with turbines and wind farms are of serious concern, therefore according to the Endangered Wildlife Trust a 5km buffer must be applied and adhered to throughout the wind facility life cycle. Four of the proposed turbines (3, 4,13 and 14) are within the buffer of the Martial Eagle therefore these turbines need to be excluded. • Southern Bald Ibis colonies, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Secretary bird nest occur within footprint area. Therefore, the applicant needs to consider that birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths adequate buffers must be assigned. • This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status. • The water bodies in the area are important for migrating birds such as flamingos for bathing and drinking, therefore they need to be buffered on either side for the entire duration of the project life cycle. 	<p>A site specific, non circular and detailed set of Martial Eagle Nest Buffers has been created by the specialist using extensive on site observational data. The turbines within the applicable Martial Eagle nest no-go buffer will be removed, hence a revised layout will be produced during the EIA phase.</p> <p>Shaped turbine exclusion zone has been delineated based on modelled flight activity for the Southern Bald Ibis.</p> <p>High Sensitivity wetland and grassland habitat will be defined through detailed habitat modelling and then appropriately buffered, movement corridors will also be determined and buffered to accommodate for nocturnal movement and migration for Sensitive Species 23 (as listed by the National Screening Tool). This will be conducted during the EIA Phase of the Project.</p> <p>All wind turbines must have one blade painted according to a CAA approved pattern to reduce the risk of raptor collisions. No turbines (including the rotor swept area) should be located in turbine exclusion zones. Pro-active mitigation in the form of shutdown on demand (SDoD) or automated curtailment must be implemented in the medium risk zones.</p> <p>All wetland No-Go areas as identified by the Aquatic Specialist should be buffered by an additional 110m (i.e. 210m in total) on either side to reduce the risk of turbine collisions and to prevent the disturbance of priority species breeding and roosting in these areas. Final sensitivities will be concluded during the EIA phase and the layout updated accordingly.</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	<p>Site Sensitivity Verification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High/High in grassland and wetland habitat ◦ Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as High Sensitivity ◦ Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity ◦ Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity ◦ Bat Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity ◦ Avifaunal Assessment as Vey High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity 	<p>The sensitivity verification has been undertaken by the various specialists and these have/will been/be taken into account during the layout refinement process.</p>
12	<p>Additional concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all the infrastructure has been Included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact. The length of internal roads must be Included, and the impact be declared. 	<p>A refined layout, including all internal roads and other infrastructure, will be submitted following the specialist inputs on the EIA phase.</p>
	<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Vantage points must be conducted to establish if species 23(Critically endangered) is present or not to provide more details regarding the potential Impacts on the critical species. 	<p>Extensive site work has been conducted including adequate VP monitoring. Monitoring is not the ideal method for surveying for Species 23, a cryptic wetland species seldom observed flying. It is acknowledged that to date no dedicated site surveys were conducted for sensitive species 23 as yet, because detailed habitat modelling for this species is first required (and is in progress). Site surveys for this species will then be conducted during the EIA phase, once suitable habitat areas have been identified through the specialist modelling.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be an Oribi management plan in place. The plan should include how this area can be utilized as a sanctuary for the Oribi. 	<p>An Orbi census plan will included in the Final EIA Report.</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EWT's recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest Is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle. 	<p>The 5 km buffer is a standard recommendation, that is not written into any guideline or legislation, and best practise is to use this buffer in the absence of more detailed information. This project has such detailed information, and a detailed flight risk model has been developed to define a high-risk turbine exclusion buffer around the nest. The flight risk model will be further refined during the EIA phase. Tracking data currently collected by the endangered wildlife trust will be used to better inform the spatial and temporal use of the eagles in the area around the nest to better inform the buffer and further refine the implementation of mitigation measures. The current buffer is based on focused monitoring of the nest and the birds movements.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location of all but 3 turbines Is in avifaunal exclusion zones. However, according to the MBSP proposed turbine 5 is in an CBA Irreplaceable area. Therefore only two proposed turbines ,turbine 15 and 14 are in Heavily Modified or Moderately Modified Areas ,however with some of the SCC roosting and nesting in trees of alien invasive species ,and cultivated/vegetated lands which might be utilized for feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern such as white bellied bustard(Vulnerable)recorded on the broader area, therefore even the Heavily Modified or moderately Modified Areas might not be suitable for the placement of the proposed turbines as they might also be utilized by the birds. 	<p>All high quality grassland areas will be avoided as far as possible. Following the EIA phase study and confirmation of specialist no go areas, the layout will be updated accordingly.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (i)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With additional monitoring done 	<p>Further assessment and refinement of high and medium risk buffer zones will be considered during the EIA phase of the project.</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	<p>appropriate buffers must be applied, and all the associated infrastructure such as roads and lay down structures removed from the sensitive areas, the MTPA cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the proposed footprint area.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines. 	<p>Further assessment and refinement of high and medium risk buffer zones will be considered during the EIA phase of the project.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved In Mpumalanga. 	<p>This comment is duly noted. Other areas of the country were looked at for WEF development. The site was selected based on the available grid capacity, good wind resource, and no obvious fatal environmental flaws. Furthermore, social economic considerations and the need for renewable energy in the province to support the just energy transition, was also noted.</p>
	<p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure poses a significant threat to the Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. If we need to rely on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, then it is in our opinion that this project is fatally flawed. When considering the cumulative impact of the entire Rochdale Wind Energy Facility the anticipated environmental impacts on biodiversity, particularly on the avifauna, this project becomes a significant concern. The MTPA suggests that the applicant explores alternative locations, that are less 	<p>We appreciate the departments inputs as to the potential risks and impacts associated with the current layout. As noted above, and in our meeting with the yourselves on the 11th of September 2024, the sensitivities identified by the various specialists are being taken into account during the review of the layout that is currently underway. Any additional sensitivities identified will be incorporated into the layout to ensure that the direct and cumulative impacts of the project are minimized.</p> <p>During the upcoming comment phase on the draft EIA reports, the Department will be afforded a further opportunity to comment and to review the updated layouts. We look forward to further engagement.</p>

Ref	Comment	Response
	environmental sensitive as it crucial before proceeding with this project.	

TABLE 7-3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM DARDLEA (17 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CSA Irreplaceable and Optimal (over 66%), Intact Grassland Patches, Key Biodiversity Areas (79.7%), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered), and the northern, southern, and western borders of the site fall close to three different Important Bird Areas.	The layout will be revised during the EIA phase, to avoid Key Biodiversity Areas and No-go areas following site verification and confirmation by the relevant specialist.
2	The proposed development is within a 30km radius of four (4) nature reserves i.e. Ahlers, Langcarel, Josua Moolman, and Laughing Waters Private Nature Reserves. The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is within 5km of the proposed site.	The cumulative impact of the proposed development is being assessed by the various specialists as part of the EIA Phase, and the result of this will be incorporated into the EIA Report.
3	The proposed Rochdale WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered), Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable), Secretary bird (Globally	Agreed, as per the findings of the Avifaunal Impact Assessment. During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland habitats not used for breeding but for

	<p>Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable), White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened), Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable), Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened), Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable), Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered), and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).</p>	<p>movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p> <p>Modelled Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd’s Lark habitat areas are considered No-Go zones. These high-quality grassland areas were identified to prevent displacement of birds due to disturbance and habitat destruction. The Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd’s Lark model output represents the habitat patches most suitable for the species' using a multi-year assessment of imagery indices etc. spanning 2019–2023. This is to account for variability related to drivers of habitat suitability for grassland habitat specialist species such as these endemic larks and pipit. Primary drivers of variability include seasonal rainfall across years, burning/fire, and grazing intensity. The model boundaries will extend beyond suitable habitat into other habitats (forest edge, roads, etc.) in some areas as we have accounted for typical blade swept area (BSA) by buffering the habitat output. This output should be considered high sensitivity and avoided (no-go) given habitat loss/degradation is the primary issue. Although Botha’s Larks were not observed on site during the extensive surveys conducted, further investigations regarding habitat suitability will be conducted through modelling during the EIA phase of the project.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the location of the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated Infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance With the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.</p>	<p>While the departments concern is noted, the development of a wind energy facility would allow the IPP to directly enhance the conservation landscape of the area through the implementation of recommendations from the various specialists to improve the ecology of the landscape. As such, we feel that the proposed development could support the biodiversity values of the CBAs. Furthermore, it should be noted that typically, the actual on ground footprint of a WEF represents <1.5% of the area of the farms used.</p> <p>All possible/available mitigation measures are however being considered.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Furthermore, intact grassland patches are located within the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritization of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their</p>	<p>These high-quality grassland areas already contain many transformed habitats. The proposed development should avoid the high sensitivity areas that will be confirmed during the EIA phase, therefore the layout will be revised during the EIA phase.</p>

	<p>dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such coonstraints Identified In the specialist reports to date Include: the laydown areas in bat .sensitive areas; the location of the substation and O&M buildings In sensitive aquatic areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though, that these 3 turbines are all still located In Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and one of them (WTG5) is in a CBA Irreplaceable area. Furthermore, all associated Infrastructure (laydown areas, transmission lines, substation) is located in KBAs, and the laydown areas are In CBA Irreplaceable areas. The location of turbines and associated infrastructure in KBAs and CBA irreplaceable areas is not supported.</p>	<p>We appreciate the departments inputs as to the potential risks and impacts associated with the current layout. As noted above, and in our meeting on the 11th of September 2024, the sensitivities identified by the various specialists are being taken into account during the review of the layout that is currently underway. Any additional sensitivities identified will be incorporated into the layout to ensure that the direct and cumulative impacts of the project are minimized.</p> <p>Avifaunal turbine exclusion zones and all infrastructure exclusion zones will be finalized in the EIA and should be adhered to. KBA, Grassland Patch and CBA area avoidance to be considered by Applicant/Developer.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be Viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorized. or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorized and In-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni</p>	<p>As per the DFFE guidelines related to cumulative impacts, all specialists will be requested to provide an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed project, and all other renewable energy projects within the prescribed radius, on the environment. These cumulative impact assessments will be incorporated into the EIAR for adjudication during the EIA comment period.</p>

	<p>WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), Mukondeleli WEF (authorised) as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Emvelo WEF, the cumulative assessment must, inter alia, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative Impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.</p>	
8	<p>Roads must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated In the impact analysis.</p>	<p>A refined layout, including all internal roads and other infrastructure, will be submitted following the specialist inputs on the EIA phase.</p>
9	<p>The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following: 9.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity. • Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (i.e, how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low- 	<p>The Terrestrial Impact assessment will consider the listed requirements.</p>

	<p>quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied. • The Impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analyzed i.e, fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity. 	
	<p>9.2 Avifauna, DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" Identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, In the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:</p>	<p>This comment has been duly noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and</p>	<p>The monitoring protocol implemented was guided by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of NEMA when applying for Environmental Authorisation (Gazetted October 2020) • Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements for environmental impacts on avifaunal species by onshore wind energy generation facilities where the electricity output is 20MW or more (Government Gazette No. 43110 – 20 March 2020). • Jenkins, A.R., Van Rooyen, C.S., Smallie, J.J., Anderson, M.D., & A.H. Smit. 2015. Best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa. Produced by the Wildlife & Energy Programme of the Endangered Wildlife Trust & BirdLife South Africa. Hereafter referred to as the wind guidelines. <p>Monitoring at the WEF sites and a Control Site were conducted by a team of experienced avifaunal field specialists during the following time envelopes:</p>

	<p>provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 February–03 March 2022 • 21–27 April 2022 • 01–16 June 2022 • 06–21 October 2022 • 14–17 January 2023 • 05–09 May 2023 • 28–30 June 2023 • 22–26 August 2023 <p>Additional Vantage Point and Transect Count monitoring was conducted near the identified Martial Eagle nest to gain a better understanding of their flight behaviour. Five surveys were conducted, in addition to the seven surveys completed as part of the pre-construction monitoring.</p> <p>The five additional surveys were conducted during the following time envelopes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17–22 October 2023 • 15–23 November 2023 • 30 November–05 December 2023 • 17–22 January 2024 • 14–20 February 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of Impact zones applicable to avifauna.</p>	<p>MTPA intact grassland patches will be examined further during the Eia phase, and confirmed no-go areas will be avoided both from a terrestrial and avifaunal perspective.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features - confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage</p>	<p>The additional 110m (i.e. 210m in total) is to account for the rotor-swept area of the turbines.</p>

	<p>lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviors (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).</p>	<p>During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland habitats not used for breeding but for movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.</p>	<p>During the EIA phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland and grassland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland and grassland habitats not used for breeding but for movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p> <p>No dedicated site surveys were conducted for Sensitive Species 23 as yet – these will be conducted during the EIA phase, including additional investigations for Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd's Lark.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis It appeal's that only 45-50% of the site Is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.</p>	<p>Vantage points were selected based on their accessibility and the ability to observe the maximum area of the site. The locations of these vantage points were also chosen to cover the three WEF sites collectively, achieving a combined coverage of 76%, which meets the minimum requirement stipulated by the BLSA guidelines. Additionally, the vantage point observations were supplemented by five further surveys (total of 60 hours) conducted at various on-site locations to record detailed information on the flight activity of Martial Eagles. During these surveys, the flight behavior of all species of conservation concern was noted and recorded, thereby enhancing the overall coverage and observations from the vantage points on site.</p> <p>The specialist is satisfied that the level of survey effort and coverage were more than acceptable for an impact assessment of the Project.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".</p>	<p>Agreed, and Blade patterning (painting) as well as SDoD will be a compulsory requirement during the operational phase. Additionally adaptive management for the implementation of additional mitigation measures will also be a requirement during the operational phase.</p> <p>Night-time vs. Daytime impact ratings will be done separately during the eia phase. Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for nighttime mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.</p> <p>Nocturnal surveys were not undertaken, however Grass Owl habitat will be modelled as part of the wetland sensitive areas to avoid during the EIA phase.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>The night flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds,</p>	<p>Flamingo presence and mitigation will be revisited in more detail in the EIA phase. It should be noted that a number of operational WEF are operating in areas where flamingoes occur with some regularity, and very few mortalities have been recorded to date.</p> <p>Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for night-time mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.</p>	<p>Extensive tracking studies are typically not within the scope of an EIA process. The Martial Eagle female is however being satellite tracked to better understand spatial and temporal use of the landscape with the aim of further refining the buffer zones and mitigation measures.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.</p>	<p>Extensive tracking studies are typically not within the scope of an EIA process. But all available data sources will be investigated and integrated in the EIA phase of the project.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by Birdlife South Africa in 2012 does not include most</p>	<p>Priority species definitions and considerations for the EIA phase will be revisited and where possible all wetland species will be taken into account with a particular focus on species of conservation concern.</p>

	wetland species, and did not Include Mpumalanga),	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on within and as part of the EIA process, which must then be incorporated into the Impact analysis. 	Collision Risk Modelling to be conducted during EIA phase.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialist and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise, this must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area. 	A detailed flight risk model has been developed to define a high-risk turbine exclusion buffer around the nest. The flight risk model will be further refined during the EIA phase. Tracking data currently collected by the Endangered Wildlife Trust will be used to better inform the spatial and temporal use of the eagles in the area around the nest to better inform the buffer and further refine the implementation of mitigation measures.
9.3	<p>Bat Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis. Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e., Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower level bat species (e.g., Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade/rotor Sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur. 	The feedback regarding the Bat specialist report is noted and these concerns will be addressed in the Final Bat EIA Report.

9.4	<p>Microclimate Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA. 	<p>We are unaware of any local studies on Microclimate that have shown the same impacts in the South African context. Should you be aware of any local study that has identified land surface warming as an impact of wind energy facilities, please direct us to the appropriate published document.</p>
10	<p>All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, Birdlife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.</p>	<p>All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR have been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. Additionally, all the I&APs listed are, or have been added to the I&AP database.</p>
11	<p>The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance With Regulations 39-44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended),</p>	<p>The public participation process for the Rochdale WEF has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>
12	<p>Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.</p>	<p>Due to the tight time constraints associated with the EIA regulations, we will not be able to afford DARDLEA an opportunity to re-comment prior to Final Scoping Report Submission. Any additional comments on our responses can be submitted directly to DFFE should they deem them appropriate.</p>

		During the upcoming comment phase on the draft EIA reports, the Department will be afforded a further opportunity to comment and to review the updated layouts. We look forward to further engagement.
13	We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.	We appreciate the departments inputs as to the potential risks and impacts associated with the current layout. As noted above, and in our meeting on the 11 th of September 2024, the sensitivities identified by the various specialists are being taken into account during the review of the layout that is currently underway. Any additional sensitivities identified will be incorporated into the layout to ensure that the direct and cumulative impacts of the project are minimized.

TABLE 7-3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (13 AUGUST 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	<p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Reports and the Plan of Study for EIA. Kindly note that the EIA report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges the comment from the Department and notes their response in terms of compliance with EIA regulations and Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p>

The Environmental Impact Assessment report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.

In conclusion, all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

TABLE 7-4 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE (PREVIOUSLY WITHDRAWN APPLICATION)

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
1	Nrateng Mashiloane Aviation Environmental Compliance Department	23 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p>	

				<p>I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/ .</p> <p>A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	
2	John Geeringh National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)	23 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Dear John, Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF. Thank You Kind Regards</p>
3	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>EAP acknowledge that this was an unintended error of acknowledgement. DFFE had subsequently attempted to redact this message.</p>

Environment
(DFFE)
Integrated
Environmental
Authorisations



Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CARLETONVILLE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON REMAINDER OF FARM TWYFELVLAKTE NO. 105, MERAFAONG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity

				<p>to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority. Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
4	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND</p>	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the Draft Scoping report to the department

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

				<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>
5	<p>Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>24 July 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591 Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

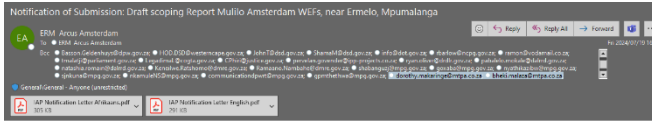
Kind Regards,

6	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p>	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the Draft Scoping report to the department
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				<p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
7	Tebego Kgaphola Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment	29 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p>

				<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Tebego Kgaphola (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.</p> <p>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	
8	Josua Meyer Aida Form entry	30 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Fwd: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE VERSOEK VORM OM TE REGISTREER AS BELANGHEBBENDE PARTY OP BOGEMELDE PROJEKTE sodat kommentaar gelewer kan word. Het nie rekening op aida om aanlyn te registreer nie en die foon nommer 011-798 5400 is foutief. Waardeer</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE Good day, Thank you for your comment, you will now be added to the I&AP database. Below is a link to the Aida form, there will be no need to register in order to fill out the form: https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form Thank you,</p>

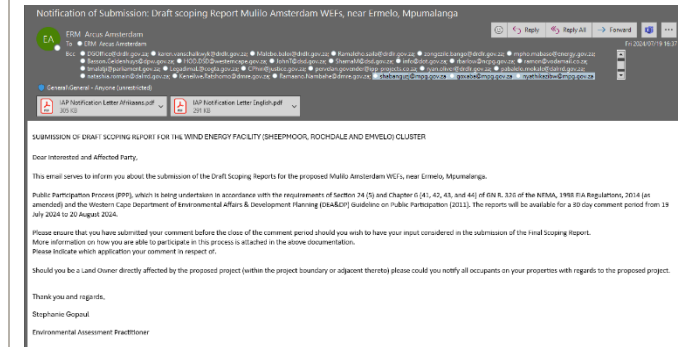
9	John Geeringh National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)	31 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation.</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Hi John,</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>The layout will be revised, taking into account the WTG's that are within the proximity of the existing transmission lines. We will ensure that these turbines are 3x the Tip height from existing Electrical infrastructure.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>
10	Josua Meyer Interested and Affected Party	31 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE Plasing, groottes van turbines onduidelik Versoek duidelike kaart waar turbines geplaas gaan word. Eiendom grense en distrikspaaie moet duidelik getoon word.</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE Good day,</p> <p>Kindly see attached Layout of Proposed WEF's. Additional information on the project can be found in the link below:</p> <p>https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>

11	<p>Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA</p>	<p>03 August 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Report</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Importance: High Good day Ms Gopaul,</p> <p>It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shepmoore WEF 2. Emvelo WEF 3. Rochdale WEF <p>Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good day Robyn,</p> <p>Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:</p>  <p>SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER</p> <p>Dear Interested and Affected Party,</p> <p>This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulio Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.</p> <p>Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (1) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 535 of the NEMA, 1998 (IA Regulations), 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DFA&DP) Guidelines on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.</p> <p>Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report. More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation. Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.</p> <p>Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.</p> <p>Thank you and regards, Stephanie Gopaul Environmental Assessment Practitioner</p>
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application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindi Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE



If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mervyn Lotter</td> <td>Manager: Biodiversity Planning</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> <td>[REDACTED] 618</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frans Krige</td> <td>Land Use Advisor</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Khumalo Malele</td> <td>Land Use Advisor</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Celia de Waal</td> <td>EIA Data Capturer LUA</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 618	Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Khumalo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 618																		
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]																		
Khumalo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]																		
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]																		
12	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	06 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit Good morning</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good day Cecilia,</p>																

Kindly send us, the MTPA, hard copies of the 3 Wind Farm reports, for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:

To: [REDACTED]

My contact details are: [REDACTED]

Kind regards

Celia de Waal

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi there

Christophe sent me the attached KML file and the below links. I see these are links to scoping reports dated 19 July 2024. They seem to have started with the application process while not yet consulting us.

Celia, could you please write to ERM to request copies of the three wind farm documents for comment.

Robyn/Sindy, you may want to do the same.

Thank you for your email. The reports are on their way to the below address as we speak.

Kind Regards,

I have updated our webmap with these latest boundaries from the KML file.

Best wishes
Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi Mervyn,

Many thanks for reaching out.

Please find attached the kmz of the Mullilo WEF projects in Mpumalanga.

Please also find below the publicly available documents for their respective projects

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_sheepmoor-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_emvelo-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_rochdale-wef-dsr.pdf

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From:

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Hi Christophe

Thank you for writing. Would you please send me an image or shapefile for the Mulilo WEF boundaries when you get a chance?

Best wishes

Mervyn

From:

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Good afternoon everyone,

Thank you so much for your time and very valuable feedback and recommendations.

Ryan and I are now back in Cape Town and addressing your comments.

We have liaised back with our EAP and will provide you with further information shortly.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with us and for the transparency, we highly appreciate it.

I will be sending a couple of emails in the next few days in line with our engagement.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

				<p>EXTERNAL MAIL Good day All,</p> <p>Find attached for your attention.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Sindisiwe Mbuyane EAPASA Reg: 2021/3509, IAIAsa 2040304</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
13	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	06 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Thank you</p>	
14	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	10 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good afternoon, Please confirm whether you received the below email - I have deleted all graphics from the email thread to ensure this reaches you. Regards</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day Robyn,</p>

			<p>Robyn</p> <p>>>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 9:51 AM >>> Good day Stephanie,</p> <p>As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p> <p><i>Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293) Director: Environmental Impact Management Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs Mpumalanga Provincial Government Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4) Nelspruit, 1200 Tel: 013 759 4000 Email: rluyt@mpg.gov.za</i></p> <p>>>> Robyn Luyt 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>> Good day Stephanie,</p> <p>Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are not the relevant officials that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in</p>	<p>Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response.</p> <p>Kind Regards <i>NOTE:</i></p> <p><i>Post concerns expressed from DARDLEA/MTPA. The previous draft applications were withdrawn and the entire process restarted to afford all IAPs 30 days commenting period.</i></p>
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				<p>the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.</p> <p>It would not be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.</p> <p>Regards Robyn</p>
15	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	10 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Importance: High</p>

				<p>Good day,</p> <p>Please see my email response to you on 7 August as per below email thread. I have not had a response and we still await the draft reports for commenting. Please urgently advise how this is being addressed. I have just had an email from MTPA stating that you are busy sending them the draft reports. Please confirm when I will receive a link to the reports, and when our Ms Mbuyane will receive the hard copies. Please also confirm that we (both DARDLEA and MTPA) will be provided with the mandatory 30 days to comment.</p> <p>Should you wish to discuss this further please call me on 0826727868.</p> <p>Regards Robyn</p>	
16	Tebego Kgaphola Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Good day</p> <p>Kindly share the link for the below project.</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Good day Tebego,</p> <p>Please see below link to the proposed project:</p> <p>https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/</p> <p>Kindly navigate to the bottom of the page to download all reports and additional documentation related to the project.</p>

					Kind Regards
17	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Importance: High Dear Lucien,</p> <p>Our telephone discussion this morning refers.</p> <p>I just wanted to confirm what we discussed in writing, ie. that MTPA and DARDLEA are different entities, and that MTPA and DARDLEA must each get reports for commenting. You confirmed that you dispatched documents to Ms Celia de Waal in Lydenburg last week (to arrive this week). Note that as per the table below, Ms de Waal will receive the documents for MTPA. DARDLEA must therefore still be provided with the documents. Hard copies to Ms Mbuyane at our Ermelo office, and a link to be sent to me. Please also send me the shapefiles. I have understood that you will be discussing this with your client and with Ms Gopaul, and that ERM would revert to me.</p> <p>Please see page 2 of our application form attached where you will find the physical address of our Ermelo office (Gert Sibande District).</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Hi Robyn,</p> <p>Thank you for your call earlier. I wanted to inform you that we sent out the notification to all IAPs on July 19th, 2024. We are currently in the process of couriering the Draft Scoping Reports to Sindiswe Mbuyane in Ermelo.</p> <p>We would greatly appreciate it if you could review the reports within the current PPP period. Additionally, we have added you to the IAP database for the Full Scoping and EIA Phase to afford you an opportunity to comment. We are keen to have you onboard and to ensure that you are up to speed with the proposed project, we would be happy to set up a call at your convenience.</p> <p>We understand that you may not have received the reports yet, but if you could review them at your earliest convenience, it would be greatly appreciated. Below is a link to the electronic copies of the reports and attached the shapefiles of the development for your review.</p>

				<p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.</p> <p>Following our telephone conversation earlier today regarding the public participation process, please be informed that comments on the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on 22 August 2024. It is noted that there are organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.</p> <p>The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.</p> <p>MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	
19	ERM Arcus Amsterdam Mailbox	12 August 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Phase		<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:58 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p>

					<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Hi Bheki,</p> <p>Our telephonic discussion earlier refers. Understandably, you mentioned IT related issues in terms of receiving e-mails and forwarding them, hence I have copied your gmail address as requested.</p> <p>Please see below notification that was sent on the 19th of July 2024.</p> <p>SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER</p> <p>Dear Interested and Affected Party,</p> <p>This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.</p> <p>Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.</p> <p>Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period</p>
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			<p>Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Importance: High Good Morning all,</p> <p>I am extremely concerned with the agreement reached between ERM and DFFE. DARDLEA, as the Provincial Department responsible for environmental affairs in Mpumalanga Province, has to date not yet received any of the draft documents for review and comment. In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 40(1)(b), the scoping report is required to be subjected to all I&APs for a period of at least 30 days for comment. Further to this, Regulation 40(2)(b) states that the public participation process must provide access to all information ...and must include consultation with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.</p> <p>Regulation 21(1) is very clear in the requirement that a final Scoping Report must, within 44 days of submitting an application to the CA, be submitted to the CA (ie. DFFE), which report has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received. The arrangement below is not in line with this requirement, which amounts to an administrative flaw, and I fail to see how DFFE would be in a position to consider a final Scoping report that does not include the input from DARDLEA. The arrangement would also preclude the requirement for the applicant to incorporate the comments received from DARDLEA into the final Scoping report.</p>	<p>Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Dear Robyn</p> <p>Thank you for your email in response to that of Bathandwa's in the email trail. Apologies that the draft documents did not reach your desk, however these were submitted and made accessible to DARDLEA on 19th July (see email attached). Following your email on 3rd August 2024, we responded to you on 6th August (as per the email attached) and advised you that DARDLEA were in fact notified of the availability. Your email on 8th August refers: Good day Stephanie, "Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are not the relevant officials that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate. It would not be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo</p>
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			<p>As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	<p>office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.”</p> <p>We then responded to you with the links to access the documents electronically and couriered hard copies to Ms Sindi Mbuyane as per your request on 3rd August - we will follow up with the courier if these haven't been received by her as yet. MTPA received their hard copies yesterday (refer to email attached from Celia de Waa for proof of receipt).</p> <p>Importantly, in your email of 3rd August, you state that “DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities.” You also state in your email of 8th August (referenced in the para above) that “especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification”.</p> <p>I would like to point out that Ms Sindi Mbuyane was in fact involved in the pre-app meeting – please see attached the pre-app meeting minutes that Ms Sindi signed.</p> <p>Prior consultation therefore did happen and we kindly request that in light of this, you consider completing your review of the DSR to meet the public participation deadline of 22 August 2024.</p> <p>Should you be unable to provide your comments by this date, we would agree to the way forward stipulated in the email by Ms Bathandwa Ncube on 12 August 2024- ie. this would mean that the FSR would progress and get submitted without DARDLEA and MTPA comments if these are not</p>
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					<p>available at the time, and for comments from these departments to be submitted as an addendum to the FSR.</p> <p>We thank you for your engagement to date and look forward to your response.</p>
22	Tebego Kgaphola Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project</p>	<p>NOTE:</p> <p><i>Post concerns expressed from DARDLEA/MTPA. The previous draft applications were withdrawn and the entire process restarted to afford all IAPs 30 days commenting period.</i></p>
23	Mervyn Lotter	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	

Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
DDear Stephanie,

I am writing to clarify several points regarding the recent applications:

The appropriate MTPA staff members responsible for reviewing these three applications only received the links on August 6th and hard copies on August 12th.

The two MTPA staff members you contacted in July are involved in permitting processes (such as issuing permits for collecting protected species) and are not responsible for reviewing development applications. As they were blind copied, they would have been unaware if the correct staff had been included in the correspondence.

According to the minutes you provided, Ms. Mbuyane informed you on May 31, 2024, that "the MTPA is the main custodian of biodiversity in Mpumalanga and their guidelines would provide guidance on avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas." However, it appears this guidance was not sought.

Upon reviewing my email records, I found communications from Andrew Pearson, Annitta Attieh, and Verushka Snyders (all from Mulilo) regarding CBAs for other projects, indicating that Mulilo is aware that I am the appropriate contact for biodiversity planning related matters. I also have several emails to both Frans Krige and myself from ERM staff, such as Kate Hamilton from around 2016 and more recently. ERM should know who the correct staff

				<p>would be to send the EIA documents to for comment.</p> <p>We are currently managing several other development applications with similar deadlines. Given the short notice, it would be challenging to thoroughly review and apply our minds to the three applications before August 22nd.</p> <p>It is regrettable that we were not consulted earlier, despite the prior recommendation to do so. This has now placed undue pressure on our team to meet your deadline.</p> <p>Comments from authorities need to be considered and incorporated into the final EIA document. Including them as an appendix defeats the purpose of the legislated timeframes and the need to consider these inputs in the first place. This is a risk to your project.</p> <p>We can only try and do our best.</p> <p>Regards, Mervyn</p>	
24	Masina Morudu DFFE	14 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

R [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Dear Stephanie,

Following the discussion between the Provincial Department (DARDLEA) and the EAP earlier this morning, it was confirmed that the EAP did notify the province about the proposed wind energy developments but unfortunately the notification was sent to the Agriculture section within the department and the environmental section did not get the notification/draft reports. The Provincial Department was made aware of the public review of the draft scoping reports of the proposed developments by other interested and affected parties and Ms Luyt contacted ERM and requested the draft reports for comment on 03 August 2024 (see attached email). The EAP/Applicant failed to submit the requested reports until this week. The Provincial Department and MTPA must be afforded 30 days to comment as per EIA Regulations 2014 as amended otherwise the process will be viewed as being procedural flawed.

Considering the above, it is noted that the EAP will not be able to meet the regulated time frames for the submission of the final Scoping Reports (05 September 2024), and thus, the applications are going to regrettably lapse. Therefore the Department advises that the EAP withdraws the current applications and reapply. Please note that , reapplying constitutes the EIA process from the beginning.

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Dear Masina

Thank you for your emails. We will discuss with the proponent and get back to you.

				Regards, MASINA MORUDU	
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