



Volume III: Public Participation Report

Final Scoping Report for DFFE Decision

PREPARED FOR

14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

FINAL FOR DFFE DECISION

DATE

07 October 2024

REFERENCE

0684401



DOCUMENT DETAILS

DOCUMENT TITLE	Proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and Associated Grid Infrastructure, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
DOCUMENT SUBTITLE	Final Scoping Report for DFFE Decision
PROJECT NUMBER	0684401
Date	07 October 2024
Version	2.0
Author	Sadiya Salie
Client name	Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION	REVISION	AUTHOR	REVIEWED BY	ERM APPROVAL TO		COMMENTS
				ISSUE	NAME	
1.0	00	ERM	Stephanie Gopaul	Stephanie Gopaul	03-06-2024	Draft for Client consideration
2.0	00	ERM	Stephanie Gopaul	Stephanie Gopaul	07-10-2024	Final for DFFE Decision

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

Final Scoping Report for DFFE Decision
0684401



Stephanie Gopaul

Partner and Registered EAP

ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.
1st Floor
Great Westerford
240 Main Road, Rondebosch
Cape Town, 7700
South Africa
T +27 21 681 5400

© Copyright 2024 by The ERM International Group Limited and/or its affiliates ('ERM'). All Rights Reserved.
No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior written permission of ERM.

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS	1
3.	METHODOLOGY	1
3.1	IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES	1
3.2	INITIAL NOTIFICATION PHASE	1
3.3	SCOPING PHASE	2
3.3.1	Availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for Public Review	2
3.3.2	Submission of the Final Scoping Report (FSR)	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PHASE PP PROCESS	3
5.	DECISION AND APPEAL PHASE	3
6.	SUMMARY OF COMMENTS	4
7.	COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT	5

APPENDIX A I&AP DATABASE

APPENDIX B SITE NOTICES AND POSTER PLACEMENT PROOF

APPENDIX C NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT PROOF

APPENDIX D DRAFT NOTIFICATION

APPENDIX E CORRESPONDENCE – ORIGINAL COMMENTS & RESPONSES

APPENDIX F MEETING MINUTES

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 7-1	COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE FOR IAPS ON DRAFT SCOPING PHASE 22 AUGUST 2024 (RESUBMISSION)	5
TABLE 7-2	COMMENTS AND RESPONSES ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM DFFE (24 SEPTEMBER)	25
TABLE 7-3	COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (13 AUGUST 2024)	45
TABLE 7-4	COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE (PREVIOUSLY WITHDRAWN APPLICATION)	46

1. INTRODUCTION

Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is applying for EA to construct and operate the up to 240 MW Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (WEF) ('the proposed Sheepmoor 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>[REDACTED] 2024 2:16 PM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: Pamela Madondo <[REDACTED]>; Evelyn Shogole <ShogoleE@caa.co.za> 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 must will /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: Sindy Mbuyane [REDACTED] Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 12:58 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Mervyn Lotter' <Mervyn.Lotter@mtpa.co.za> 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: Aviation Environmental Compliance [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 9:11 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] 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 must will /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 Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation</p>	<p>26 August 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za> Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 10:18 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>26 August 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: Salome Mambane [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 12:13 PM To: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>EAP acknowledges receipt of the comment from the Department on the Draft Scoping Report for the Sheepmoor WEF.</p>

complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za; Bathandwa
Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

Dear Sir/Madam

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.

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
application but must be provided an opportunity

				<p>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: Mpilo Masondo [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 9:58 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>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.	Josua Meyer Interest and Affected Party	10 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Josua Meyer <[REDACTED]> Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:22 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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.	Josua Meyer Interest and Affected Party			<p>From: Josua Meyer <[REDACTED]> Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:29 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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>

9.	Robyn Luyt DARDLEA	11 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Robyn Luyt <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] September 11, 2024 2:52 PM To: Gavin Cowden <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]</p> <p>Cc: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Attendance Register Mulilo Renewable Energies engagement</p> <p>Good afternoon everyone,</p> <p>Herewith the attendance register of physical attendees at today's meeting for your records.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	The EAP acknowledges receipt of the attendance register for the engagement meeting. The register is attached to the PPP report as Appendix A.
10.	Ryan David-Andersen Interested and Affected Party	13 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Ryan David-Andersen [REDACTED] Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 8:24 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: Registration as I&AP for Mpumalanga Projects</p> <p>Dear ERM</p>	Good day Ryan, Thank you for reaching out, your details will be captured. Kind regards,

				<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: Robyn Luyt [REDACTED] 2:45 PM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: SR Comments Sheepmoor WEF Amsterdam Cluster</p> <p>Dear Stephanie,</p> <p>Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Sheepmoor WEF and Grid Connection.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	The EAP acknowledges receipt of DARDLEAs comment on Sheepmoor WEF.
12.	Celia De Waal MTPA	18 Septembe r 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Celia de Waal [REDACTED] a></p> <p>Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:36 PM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p>	<p>Hi Celia,</p> <p>Thank you for providing comment on the Sheepmoor WEF facility. Are you able to please</p>

				<p>Cc: [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>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: Celia de Waal [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 11:07 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Hi Celia,</p> <p>Thank you for the update,</p> <p>Regards</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>	
14.	Josua Meyer Interested and Affected Party	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 1:21 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject:</p> <p>[ATTACHMENT SKM_C250i24091906550]</p> <p>APPENDIX A COMMENTS ON ROCKDALE, EMVELO AND SHEEPMOOR WIND FARMS The following problems are foreseen with development of above-mentioned wind farms</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>Kind regards,</p>

1. DISTURBANCE OF CLIMATE AND Rainfalls

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.

2. Bird LIFE IS THREATENED

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.

Number of several threatened and/or protected species found here include :

Breekop arende (eagles). Breeding pair successfully hatched chick this year.

- 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.
Mahem is found widely spread throughout area which is also actively breeding. A chick is often spotted with adults.
Blou Kraanvoels are on the rise with at least one chick observed annually.

- 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.
Kalkoen Ibus is common with several active breeding colonies.
There are positive signs that Aasvoels are also moving back. Breeding colonies are active at Smithfield, not far from the area.

Various owl species that may not be extinct but are extremely necessary to ensure ecological balance are also present in large numbers
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.
Fatal collision with turbine blade
Habitat disturbances by increased soil temperatures.
Air pressure changes voar turbines as well as the vertebrae behind turbines.
Very sensitive to low frequency electromagnetic pressure causing waves by wind turbines that act adversely on hui
Eradicating nests and even killing them to eliminate approval barriers as has already been proven with the shooting of a break-headed eagle.

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.

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.

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.

				<p>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</p>	
15.	Kirsten Jones Interested and Affected Party	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a> Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p>	<p>Good day, Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.</p>

				<p>Cc: [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>	Kind Regards
16.	<p>Kirsten Jones</p> <p>Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>20 September 2024</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 9:56 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [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.	<p>Josua Meyer</p> <p>Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>20 September 2024</p> <p>Aida Form</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 11:17 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges receipt of IAPs Aida response form as well as attached file.</p>

			<p>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 Eienaar 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 Do you consent to your information being published in the public domain, and being used as part of the Public Participation Process? Yes</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

18.	Moya 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? Moya Odendaal</p> <p>2. Who do you represent? Heya Lidri Pty Ltd Odendaal</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? 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>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>	<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>
-----	--	--------------------------------	---------------------	--	--

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 p [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>9. What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster? Negative impact on the environment and bird life.</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>
-----	--	--------------------------------	---------------------	---	--

				10. Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013 No (0)	
20.	Bathandwa Ncube DFFE	24 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Bathandwa Ncube [REDACTED] 24, 2024 6:06 PM To: Stephanie Gopaul [REDACTED]</p> <p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2612; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613</p> <p>Goodday</p> <p>Please find attached, DSR comments for the proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEF developments.</p> <p>Kind regards Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)</p>	The EAP acknowledges receipt of DFFE's comment on Mulilo WEF Cluster.
21.	Celia De Waal MTPA	01 October 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za> Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 10:35 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: Frans Krige <frans@mtpa.co.za>; Johan Eksteen <johan@mtpa.co.za> 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: Celia de Waal [REDACTED] > Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:15 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] 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: Celia de Waal [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:14 AM To: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo</p>	<p>Hi Celia</p> <p>Signed copy well received</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

				<p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo.</p> <p>Your reference number is: 0684401</p> <p>Our EIA registration/reference number is: LUA 24/3965</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia de Waal</p>
--	--	--	--	---

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

Ref	Comment	Response
Application form		
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.
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.
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.

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.
5	Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom 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.	The proposed development is not near to an Eskom Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and therefore does not trigger the need 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

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.
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 [including proof of request for comments from the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)].	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.
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.
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.

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.
----	---	--

Public Participation Process

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 Sheepmoor WEF has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
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.
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.
14	Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final SR.	Original comments received from I&APs and organs of state have been included in Volume III – Public Participation Report.
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.

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

General

	You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, 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"	
--	--	--

You 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.

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).

TABLE 7-2 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM MPUMALANGA TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY (18 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	The alternative sites, although less sensitive to the preferred site, are still located in sensitive areas.	The layout will be revised during the EIA phase, to avoid Key Biodiversity Areas and No-go areas.
2	Ground truthing and on-site studying of areas regarded as degraded or sensitive and suitable for potential wind turbines must be done considering that cultivated/vegetated lands might be feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern. The Site sensitivity verification report must include the feeding areas for SCC.	The layout will be revised during the EIA phase, to avoid Key Biodiversity Areas and No-go areas.
3	The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlap area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.	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.
4	The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area and the status of globally threatened bird species such as the Southern Bald Ibis and Secretary bird is of concern. The onsite avifaunal study must include local knowledge of the distribution of large birds especially the Blue crane that is a local migrant during the wintertime.	Agreed. As per the findings of the Avifaunal Specialist Study. 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

		<p>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 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).</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Included in the MTPA's comments are the following discussion that illustrates the need and desirability of this proposal:</p> <p>Renewable energy applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the energy needs of the country, significant emphasis is being placed on the need to transition away from coal towards renewable energy. However, the urgency and desire to approve nearly all renewable energy applications needs to be put into perspective considering the incredible investment and proliferation of new renewable energy projects within Mpumalanga. The MTPA and DARDLEA are maintaining a database of renewable energy projects, which include those in the pre-application phase. We can confirm that 61 renewable energy projects have now been submitted within Mpumalanga. Just over 50% of these have been approved to date. 18 of these are for Wind Energy Farms, which together make up for over 233 000 ha, and this amount is growing as the province is being inundated with renewable energy applications. 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. The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted. 	<p>The concerns are noted. The project has/will make every effort to avoid the sensitivities and ensure that appropriate planning and sustainability is incorporated into the design and application processes.</p>

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

- The project footprint overlaps with a significant amount of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA). 1 488.9 ha (over 28%) of the footprint area is identified as a CBA. Wind farms are not appropriate land uses within CBA areas. Two proposed wind turbines are placed in CBA Irreplaceable areas.
- The MBSP Terrestrial assessment indicates that the project footprint is within CBA: Irreplaceable, CBA: Optimal, ESA: Local Corridor, ESA: Landscape Corridor, ESA: Species Specific, Other Natural Areas, Moderately Modified, and Heavily Modified Areas.
- The MBSP Freshwater Assessment indicates that the project footprint is within ESA: Strategic Water Source Areas, and has CBA: Aquatic River, ESA: Wetland Clusters, ESA: Wetlands, ESA: Important Sub-catchments, Other Natural and Heavily Modified Areas.
- ESA: Strategic Water Source Area (SWSAs) maintain ecological integrity across the entire sub- catchment, paying particular attention to maintaining water quality, water quantity, and habitat integrity. They represent 10% of the surface area producing approximately 50% of Mpumalanga's water. The proposed WEF activity in the area might compromise the quality and quantity of the surface water resources through siltation.
- The whole of the proposed Sheepmoor wind farm falls within an Important Bird Area (IBA), which underscores the need to consider its implications on metapopulation dynamics and the need to avoid wind farms in "source" areas.
- The project area mainly falls within the Mesic 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.

- 2 143.6 ha (36 %) of the proposed wind farm is comprised of intact grassland patches. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Three proposed wind turbines are placed in intact grassland patches.
- 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.
- The identification of actual avifaunal source areas may be difficult, but as these intact grassland patches occur within an Important Bird Area (IBA) where there are several nesting and roosting avifaunal species of conservation concern, it highlights their significance and our confidence in confirming these as "source" areas. The presence of these intact grassland patches, CBAs, and the IBAs, is probably the biggest concern that the MTPA may have about the proposed wind farm.
- 84 % of the proposed study area is Important Bird Area and 9.3% of the proposed study area is a Key Biodiversity Area.
- Wind farms are not to be placed in IBAs or 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.
- The south of the project area falls within the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area (Moist Escarpment Grasslands). The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment overlaps the north of the project area and Jericho Dam Nature Reserve overlaps the eastern part of the project area.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Thirteen out of the 23 proposed wind turbines are placed within the 5 km buffer of a Martial Eagles' recommended buffer these should be removed.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. The Avifaunal Specialist agrees that these turbines need to be removed from the high risk buffer areas around the Martial Eagle nest.</p> <p>The project is in the scoping phase and sensitivities will be further refined and considered in the EIA phase.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>26% of the proposed wind turbines are not covered by vantage points.</p>	<p>Vantage points were selected based on their accessibility and the ability to observe the maximum area of the site (given time and budgetary constraints). 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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>The presence of priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area.</p>	<p>Agreed, as per the findings of the Avifaunal Study</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Two Southern Bald Ibis colonies (Vulnerable) occur within footprint area.</p>	<p>Agreed, as per the findings of the Avifaunal Study. Flight risk modelling was conducted to define and determine exclusion and mitigation buffers our these colonies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>A Secretary bird nest (Endangered) was found within this area.</p>	<p>Agreed, as per the findings of the Avifaunal Stud. Further investigations regarding appropriate buffers and mitigation measures will be undertaken during the EIA phase.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths, the current proposed buffers seem inadequate.</p>	<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"> • 	<p>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.</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. Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for</p>

		nighttime mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The artificial water bodies within the footprint area may be important for flamingos and other water- dependent birds. 		<p>Flamingo presence and mitigation will be revisited in more detail in the EIA phase.</p> <p>Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for nighttime mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.</p>
<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 in grassland and wetland habitat. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as Very High Sensitivity Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity Bat Assessment Very High/High Sensitivity Avifaunal Assessment as Very High/High Sensitivity. 		Agreed, as per the findings of the Avifaunal Study.
<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, in this case, roads. 		A refined layout, including all internal roads and other infrastructure, will be submitted following the specialist inputs on the EIA phase.
<p>Recommendations:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a thorough Oribi census plan in place, and it should be included in the final EIA report as the project area is home to many Oribi antelope. (Red data species dependant on healthy highveld grasslands). 		An Orbi census plan will included in the Final EIA Report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species 23 must be accounted for, and a management plan drawn up for it since the project area is a potential site for its occurrence. 		<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.</p> <p>The other species listed are all noted and will be thoroughly assessed in the avifaunal impact assessment.</p>

•	<p>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>	<p>Noted. 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 taking the minimum buffer area of 5km surface area into consideration. 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.</p>
•	<p>The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (I)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With more appropriate buffers, more field work, and all the associated infrastructure (such as roads), we cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the footprint area.</p>	<p>This comment has been duly noted.</p>
•	<p>Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.</p>	<p>Further assessment and refinement of high and medium risk buffer zones will be considered during the EIA phase of the project.</p>
•	<p>Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.</p>	<p>This comment has been 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> <p>The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility poses a significant threat to a Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species.</p> <p>Relying on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, it is in the MTPA's opinion that this project is fatally flawed. The anticipated impacts on biodiversity, particularly the avifauna, is too</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 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>

great to support this project. More ecological assessments and exploration of alternative locations are crucial before proceeding with this project.

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.

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 Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (over 28%), Intact Grassland Patches (36%), Key Biodiversity Areas (9.3%), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 84% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020, Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other 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 Sheepmoor 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); Secretarybird (Globally 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).	Agreed. As per the findings of the Avifaunal Specialist Study All wetland No-Go areas as identified by the Aquatic Specialist should be buffered by an additional 110m on either side to reduce the risk of turbine collisions and to prevent the disturbance of priority species breeding and roosting in these areas. Priority species in this category include African Fish Eagle, African Grass Owl, African Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Pratincole, Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Long-crested Eagle, Marsh Owl, Yellow-billed Stork, and sensitive Species Number 23 (as listed by the National Screening Tool). 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>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>
4	<p>Furthermore, Intact grassland patches make up 36% of 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 prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.</p>	<p>These high-quality grassland areas already contain many transformed habitats. The proposed development should avoid the high sensitivity areas, therefore the layout will be revised during the EIA phase.</p>
5	<p>The proposed Sheepmoor WEF development is within a 10km-30km radius of three protected private nature reserves (Ahlens, Langcarel and Josua Moolman), and the Chrissie.smear Protected Environment Is within 10km of the proposed site.</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges the response and this will be assessed during the EIA Phase.</p>
6	<p>DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid Infrastructure is</p>	<p>While the departments concern is noted, the development of a wind energy facility would allow the IPP to directly enhance the conservation</p>

	<p>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>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>7</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 constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the location of laydown areas, O&M Buildings and a substation in avian exclusion zones; the location of the substation and O&M Buildings in a sensitive aquatic area; the location of infrastructure within areas of High faunal sensitivity; the location of the Laydown Area, O&M buildings and the Alternative substation within in no-go bat areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines_in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted also that the substation, laydown area, and at least 13 turbines are located in intact grassland patches, and all but 6 turbines are located In an IBA, which Is very concerning.</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 with 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>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>8</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 authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. These Include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Umbila Emoyeni WEF</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>(authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Emvelo WEF and Rochdale 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>	
9	<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>
10	<p>The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:</p> <p>10.1 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 (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on Its own) must be assessed, • The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied. 	<p>The Terrestrial Impact assessment will consider the listed requirements.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>10.2</p>	<p>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>These comments have been duly noted.</p>
	<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 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>	<p>The monitoring protocol implemented was guided by the following: 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. 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> <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 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>The additional 110m (i.e. 210m in total) is to account for the rotor-swept area of the turbines.</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"> 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>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"> 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>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>Nighttime 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"> 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>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>

		Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for night-time mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.
•	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.	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.
•	Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.	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.
•	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 wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga),	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.
•	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.
•	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.
10.3	<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 	The feedback regarding the Bat specialist report is noted and these concerns will be addressed in the Final Bat EIA Report.

	<p>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.</p>	
10.4	<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 microclimate 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 micro- climate, 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>
11	<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>
12	<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 Sheepmoor WEF has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</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	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>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> <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>
14	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 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.

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 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.</p> <p>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.</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>
---	---	---

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>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] 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).
2	John Geeringh National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)	23 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: John [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM</p> <p>To: [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</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam</p> <p>Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 5:56 PM</p> <p>To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Dear John,</p> <p>Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.</p>

				<p>near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>Thank You Kind Regards</p>
3	<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: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:34 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>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</p>	<p>EAP acknowledge that this was an unintended error of acknowledgement. DFFE had subsequently attempted to redact this message.</p>

				<p>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> <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. 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: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:37 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> [REDACTED]</p>	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the Draft Scoping report to the department

[REDACTED]

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592

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 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.

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,

5	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:38 AM [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

				<p>commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
6	<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: Lydia Kutu [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:40 AM To: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593 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</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the Draft Scoping report to the department</p>

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>
7	Tebego Kgaphola Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment	29 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za> Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:22 AM To: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga 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: Josua Meyer [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:00 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 12:10 PM To: Josua [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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: John Geeringh [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:45 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga 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. Regards</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:24 AM To: John Geeringh [REDACTED] Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Hi John, Thank you for your email. 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. Kind Regards,</p>

10	Josua Meyer Interested and Affected Party	31 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Josua Meyer [REDACTED] Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:06 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> 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: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:45 AM To: Josua Meyer [REDACTED]; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE Good day, Kindly see attached Layout of Proposed WEF's. Additional information on the project can be found in the link below: https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/ Kind Regards,</p>
11	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	03 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za> Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 1:43 PM To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga</p>

Mpumalanga
 Importance: High
 Good day Ms Gopaul,

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:

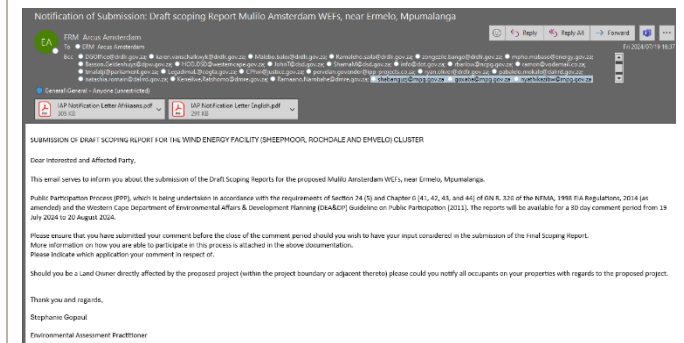
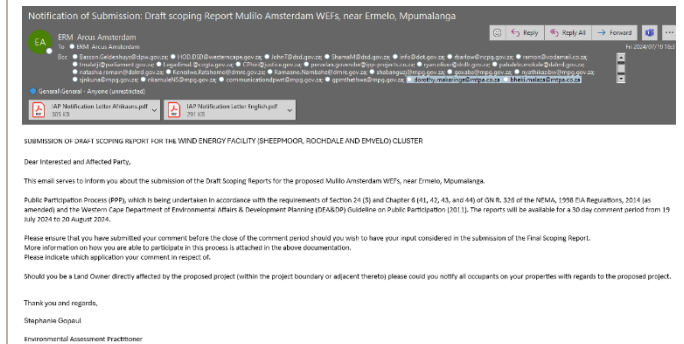
1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

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-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.

Good day Robyn,

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:



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.

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]
Sindiswe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]@mt pa.co.za	[REDACTED]
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard

				<p>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>	
12	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	06 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Celia de Waal [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:35 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit Good morning</p> <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:</p> <p>To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer) MTPA Office Building (Lydenburg) End of Morgan street Lydenburg 1120</p> <p>My contact details are: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Kind regards Celia de Waal</p> <p>From: Mervyn Lotter <mervyn@mtpa.co.za> Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 9:00 AM To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:27 PM To: [REDACTED]za>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good day Cecilia,</p> <p>Thank you for your email. The reports are on their way to the below address as we speak.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>

[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.

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

Best wishes
Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Mervyn Lotter <mervyn@mtpa.co.za>
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: Mervyn [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:25 PM
To: Christophe Pajonk <Christophe.Pajonk@edf-re.co.za>
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]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:50 PM
To: [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: Sindy Mbuyane

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:23 AM

To:

Subject: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting
and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Good day All,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind Regards,

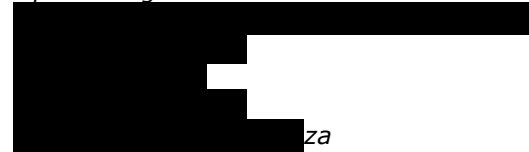
Sindisiwe Mbuyane

EAPASA Reg: 2021/3509, IAIAsa 2040304

Ermelo 2350)

13	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	06 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Celia de Waal [REDACTED] a> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:37 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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: Robyn Luyt <[REDACTED]> To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] 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 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</i></p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:23 PM To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day Robyn,</p> <p>Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>NOTE: <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>

*Department of Agriculture, Rural Development,
Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*



>>> Robyn Luyt 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>>
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 office, and the documents must be

				Regards Robyn	
16	Tebego Kgaphola Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 1:07 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:07 PM To: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 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> <p>Kind Regards</p>
17	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Robyn Luyt [REDACTED] [REDACTED] To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [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>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:06 PM To: [REDACTED] [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</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 Robyn</p>	<p>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>https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/</p> <p>Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further or if you have any questions.</p>
18	Bathandwa Ncube DFFE	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: Bathandwa Ncube [Redacted] Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:14 PM To: [Redacted] [Redacted]</p>	

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

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY
FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE,
NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND
ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY
INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID
CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE
MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR)
for Environmental Authorisation received by the
Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

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>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. [REDACTED]> [REDACTED] 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 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>
20	Celia de Waal	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	From: Celia de Waal <[REDACTED]> Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:16 AM To: Stephanie Gopaul	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the DSRs to the department

Mpumalanga
Tourism and
Parks



Subject: MTPA Acknowledgement of receipt RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Good day Stephanie

The MTPA acknowledge the receipt of the following 3 documents. It was delivered yesterday 12 August 2024.

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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

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.

As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.

Kind Regards
Robyn

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 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."

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).

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

					<p>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 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: Tebego Kgaphola [REDACTED] 12:47 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE Good day</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>

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 would be to send the EIA documents to for comment.

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.

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.

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

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.

Regards,

MASINA MORUDU



ERM

ERM HAS OVER 160 OFFICES ACROSS THE FOLLOWING
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WORLDWIDE

Argentina	The Netherlands
Australia	New Zealand
Belgium	Peru
Brazil	Poland
Canada	Portugal
China	Puerto Rico
Colombia	Romania
France	Senegal
Germany	Singapore
Ghana	South Africa
Guyana	South Korea
Hong Kong	Spain
India	Switzerland
Indonesia	Taiwan
Ireland	Tanzania
Italy	Thailand
Japan	UAE
Kazakhstan	UK
Kenya	US
Malaysia	Vietnam
Mexico	
Mozambique	

ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.
1st Floor
Great Westerford
240 Main Road, Rondebosch
Cape Town, 7700
South Africa
T +27 21 681 5400
www.erm.com