

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT & DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PV FACILITY AND BESS ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM BAS BERG 88, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM KOPPY ALLEEN 83 AND PORTIONS 6, 11, 16 & 17 OF THE FARM KAREE KLOOF 85.

DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

The comments and responses captured in the table below are captured verbatim as per the department’s requirements. The comments are furthermore captured in chronological order on the date they were received (most recent comments at the beginning of the table)¹.

Mathlodi Mogorosi: Chief Directorate Integrated Environmental Authorisations, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment – 19 April 2024	
Comment	Response
(a) Specific comments	
(i) Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the layout.	<p>The layout attached in Appendix D has been designed to avoid the following sensitive features identified by the participating specialists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aquatic Sensitivities (including watercourse and watercourse buffers)² - Avifaunal Sensitive Areas (including Drainage Features, Wetlands, Dams, Rocky Ridges and Steep Slopes) - Visually Sensitive Areas, and - Heritage Sensitive Areas (including a stone age site). <p>The layout plan attached in appendix D shows the preferred layout (Layout Alternative 3) in relation to these sensitive features.</p> <p>Please note that Appendix D also includes an additional plan with zoomed in insets of infrastructure that is closest to the sensitive features identified by the specialists.</p>

¹ In instances where multiple correspondence was exchanged in a single email thread, the date reflected is that of the first email received.

² An existing access road crosses one of the watercourses, this existing crossing will be improved by the inclusion of a causeway or bridge.

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Comment	Response
(ii) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.	The guidelines considered in the preparation of this Report are detailed in section 3.4. These have been utilised to inform the mitigation measures and environmental impact management objectives outlined in this report. To the EAP's best knowledge, these are the most applicable and recent guidelines.
iii) Please ensure that the final EIAR complies with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	Please refer to the table on the preceding pages (pgs viii – xi) which shows how the final EIR complies with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
(iv) A copy of the final preferred layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR, and all available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads.	The site layout plan of the preferred alternative (Layout Alternative 3) is attached in Appendix D. This plan shows all site specific biodiversity features identified by the participating specialists. This plan includes all existing infrastructure, including existing dwellings, existing HV Powerlines and existing public and access roads. Please note that the regional biodiversity information (such as Vegetation Types, CBA's, NPAES and NFEPA) is included as part of the biodiversity overlays in appendix B.
(b) Listed Activities	
(i) The relevant authorities with jurisdiction in respect of geographically designated areas in terms of GN R. 985 (Listing Notice 3) Activities must be continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process. Written comments (or proof of consultation) must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the Critical Biodiversity Areas that may be affected are fully assessed in the EIAR.	The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform were provided with an opportunity to comment on both the Draft Scoping Report as well as the Draft Environmental Impact Report. At the time of submission of the Final EIR, comment had not been received from this Department. Please refer to Appendix F4 and Appendix F6 for the proof of consultation with the provincial Department. The project does overlap with an Ecological Support Area (ESA). The terrestrial biodiversity specialist has however confirmed that there are no specific terrestrial features that are linked to the ESA (e.g. specific habitat types or fauna populations), and the vast majority of the ESA encompassed ecosystems that are considered to be of Least Concern. Please refer to the biodiversity overlays attached in Appendix B. The impact of these potential impacts has been fully assessed by the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist (Please refer to Appendix E1)
(ii) It is noted that in the description provided in the application form and the draft EIAR, for the triggers of Listed Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1, there are three (3) on-site substations with a capacity of up to 300MVA each. This must also be reflected in the project description in which the associated infrastructure is listed, in both the application form and the EIAR. Further to this, a determination must be made if the proposed on-site substations do not trigger Listed Activity 9 of Listing Notice 2. If they do trigger, the application form and the EIAR must be amended accordingly.	Each of the 3 onsite substations will transform the electricity from the PV Facility from 33kV to 132kV. Although there are 3 substations proposed as part of this project, none of the infrastructure installed for these substations will exceed the threshold outlined in Activity 11 of listing notice 1. The description under this listed activity has been revised to clarify this. A revised application form is also attached in Appendix J.

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(iii) In the description for Listed Activity 12 that you have applied for, it is stated that “Some of the project infrastructure, such as internal cabling may be routed within 32m of the Aquatic features identified by the aquatic specialist. The relevance of this activity will be determined in the Environmental Impact Reporting phase after layouts are finalised and assessments completed.” Kindly ensure that the relevance of this activity is reflected in the final EIAR. Furthermore, the type of infrastructure together with the threshold/footprint to be developed with the overall project must be included in the description in both the application form and final EIAR. The same information is required for Listed Activity 48 of Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	The description of the applicability of Listed Activity 12 and 48 has been amended to reflect the outcome of the specialist studies and the avoidance of these features by the vast majority of the project infrastructure. These activities however remain applicable as Road Access Point 3 follows an existing road and crosses this watercourse. This road will need to be upgraded to include the installation of a Causeway or Bridge over this watercourse.
(iv) Kindly expand the description provided of the trigger for Listed Activity 14 of Listing Notice 1 to include the threshold/capacity of the BESS proposed. The same applies to Activity 4 of Listing Notice 2.	<p>The EIR proposes three different BESS Technologies that could be deployed as part of the project, these are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solid State Technologies (e.g. Lithium Ion technologies) 2. Redox Flow Technologies (e.g. Vanadium Redox Flow – VRB) 3. Liquid Metal Technologies (e.g. Ambri). <p>All three technologies have been found to be acceptable, subject to the implementation of certain setbacks (already incorporated into the Preferred Layout) and the implementation of certain Management and Mitigation measures (as outlined in the BESS Risk Assessment in Appendix EA).</p> <p>The applicant intends deploying either one, or a combination of the technologies. Depending on the final configuration of the Battery Technologies deployed, Activity 14 of Listing Notice (“LN”) 1 or Activity 4 of LN 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 could all be triggered. For example (worst case) – If ALL batteries deployed are non-containerised Vanadium Redox Flow Technologies then Activity 4 in listing notice 2 will be triggered (as the total electrolyte for all of the batteries would be approximately 288000 cubic meters – which exceeds the 500 cubic metres in Activity 4 in listing notice 2). If a combination of technologies are deployed (i.e. some constituting the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods and others not) then volumes could be below the threshold of Activity 4 in listing notice 4 and as such only trigger Activity 14 of Listing Notice 1, of the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>The description in these listed activities have been clarified and a revised application form is attached in Appendix J.</p>
(v) The activity description provided for Listed Activity 18 of Listing Notice 3 must be expanded to include the length and width of the main and internal access roads.	The descriptions provided for Listed Activity 18 in Listing Notice 33 have been updated to include the information requested by the Department. A revised application form is also attached in Appendix J.
(vi) The application form must be amended accordingly to reflect the changes mentioned in the above paragraphs and must be signed by the applicant.	A Revised application form signed by the applicant is attached in appendix J.

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Comment	Response
(c) Public Participation Process	
(i) The final EIAr must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report dated 13 December 2023. Please ensure that the Department's comments are addressed in the report as well as in the comments and response table.	Please refer to the table on pg's xi – xiv for details on how the Final EIR complies with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report dated 13 December 2023. The Departments comments are addressed in the Final Report (i.e. this table) and included in the comments and responses report in Appendix F2.
(ii) Please ensure that the final EIAr includes proof that the key stakeholders received written notification of the proposed activity, as well as of the resubmission of the application and the draft EIAr. Comments made by interested and affected parties (I&APs) must be comprehensively captured and responded to clearly and fully in the comments and response report.	Proof of correspondence with key stakeholders is included in Appendices F4 and F6. They have also been captured verbatim and comprehensively responded in the Comments and Responses report in Appendix F2.
(d) Environmental Management Programme	
(i) There are three on-site substations proposed for the up to 900MW PV solar facility. However, only one Generic EMPr has been attached as part of the draft EIAr. It is unclear if the single generic EMPr is intended to include all three on-site substations.	This environmental process is being facilitated as a single environmental process and as such contains a single environmental management programme, including a single Generic EMPr to cover all 3 substations. The Generic EMPr has been updated to include a statement in this regard.
(ii) Kindly ensure that the Generic EMPr(s) for the three 300MVA on-site substations are signed (subsection 3) and dated.	The Generic EMPr attached as part of the overall EMPr in Appendix H has been signed and dated by the applicant.
(iii) It is further noted that under Part B: Section 2 of the Generic EMPr which requires "site-specific" information and declaration" has not been completed. Kindly note that this section must be completed and included in the final EIAr. Furthermore, should the site contain no specific environmental sensitivities or attributes required under Part C of the Generic EMPr, kindly ensure to make note of such in the completed Generic EMPr. It is imperative that the requirements of the Generic EMPr are fully complied with.	Part B: Section 2 of the Generic EMPr has been updated to include the site specific information. The Generic EMPr forms part of the overall EMPr for the facility in appendix H. The overall EMPr includes a requirement that the Generic EMPr for substation infrastructure be fully complied with.
(iv) Please also include in the Generic EMPr, the recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and Generic EMPr (for the construction and postconstruction monitoring phases), as well as the frequency for the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.	This has been updated to align with the recommendations for the overall facility, i.e.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within 6 months of commencement of construction, 2. Within 1 month of completion of construction, 3. Within 1 year of commencement of operations and 4. Every 3 years thereafter.

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(v) Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.	Page 4 of the EMPr in Appendix H includes a checklist, in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.
General	
Please ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	<p>Please refer to section 2.1.2 on page 33.</p> <p>Due to the uncertainty regarding the timing of the procurement programmes, the competent authority is herewith requested that the validity period of the environmental authorisation (if authorised) be granted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commencement of Construction Activities within 10 Year's from the date of the Environmental Authorisation. - Completion of all non operational aspects of the Environmental Authorisation within 10 years of commencement of construction activities
You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority - (a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report, and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have 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."	This final EIR is submitted within the timeframes outlined in section 23(1).
Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAr or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised	No notification of extension in terms of section 23(1)(b) has been lodged.

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documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.	
Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.	This Final Environmental Impact report is submitted within the timeframes allowable by the Department.
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 before an Environmental Authorisation is granted by the Department.	The applicant and the EAP are aware of the requirements in terms of Section 24F.
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate – 18 April 2024	
Comments	Response
The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the draft report. It has been noted that the proposed Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS is located within three vegetation types, all listed as Least Threatened but poorly protected. None of the infrastructure is located in a threatened ecosystem or national protected expansion area. The project is located in an Ecological Support Area (ESA) and no plant Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) are expected to occur on site. The ESAs are mainly due to watercourses on site which have been avoided. The project area is situated entirely within the "Platberg-Karoo Conservancy" Important Bird Area (IBA).	The Departments understanding of the Biodiversity context of the site is correct and confirmed.
The Terrestrial Biodiversity theme of the screening tool report was rated as Very High sensitivity. However, based on the Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV), this could not be confirmed and is rather considered to be of low-medium sensitivity in relation to the proposed development. There are no specific terrestrial features that are linked to the ESA (e.g. specific habitat types or fauna populations), and the vast majority of the ESA encompassed ecosystems that are considered to be of Least Concern.	The Departments understanding of the Terrestrial Biodiversity context and sensitivity is correct and reflects the outcome of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment.
The Avifauna sensitivity theme of the screening tool was rated as "Low" for the entire study site. The Avifauna Specialist has disputed the low sensitivity classification in the screening tool to high due to the possible (and confirmed) presence of 5 Species of Conservation concern.	The Departments understanding of the Avifauna (animal species theme) context and sensitivity is correct and reflects the outcome of the Avifaunal and Animal Species Assessment.
Most of the project is located in grasslands on flat plains and gently sloping hills that are considered to be moderately sensitive. The drainage areas, wetlands and rocky ridges	This is correct, the total development footprint has been positioned in such a way as to avoid all features, with a High and Very High Sensitivity, most notably, the drainage areas, wetlands and rocky ridges with associated steep slopes.

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with associated steep slopes are considered to be sensitive and have been avoided for placement of PV arrays, laydown areas and associated infrastructure.	
Given the above, the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not have objections to the proposed development. However, to minimize possible loss to biodiversity it is recommended that the comments must be obtained from SA Birdlife and all the prescribed mitigation measures in the report and studies are adhered to and implemented throughout the phases.	The Departments confirmation of no objection is noted by the EAP. Comments were requested from Birdlife South Africa during both the Scoping and Impact Reporting Phase of the Environmental Process. At the time of submission of the Final EIR, comments had not been received from Birdlife South Africa. Notwithstanding, all the mitigation measures and Impact Management Actions and Outcomes identified by the Avifaunal Specialist (as well as other specialists) have been incorporated into the EMPr for the proposed facility.
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@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.	Mr Seoka Lekota at the email provided will remain registered as a key stakeholder for the remainder of the environmental process and will be notified of the outcome of the decision making process.
Comment	Response
13 November 2023: Ms Mmatlala Rabothata - Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity Conservation.	
The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the draft report and doesn't have any objections to the scoping report and the Plan of Study.	The Departments statement is noted. The Environmental Impact Reporting activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Plan of Study, once approved by the Department.
However, it has been noted that the project area is situated entirely within the "Platberg-Karoo Conservancy "Important Bird Area". Comments must be obtained from Bird Life Africa	This Statement is correct. Birdlife South Africa did not provide comment on the Draft Scoping Report, but will be provided with a further opportunity to do so as part of the Environmental Impact Reporting phase of the Environmental Process. Furthermore, the Avifaunal specialist will provide an assessment on the potential impact on this IBA.
The PV Facilities must not be placed in such a way that they avoid highly sensitive biodiversity areas. The layout plan overlaid with the biodiversity sensitivities must be included and submitted during the next phase of the EIA	Please refer to sections 2.10 and 2.11 of this report to show how the preferred site and alternative layout has been selected taking into account environmental sensitivities identified by the participating specialists.
The Final Scoping Report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on the on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.	Please refer to section 5.11 where evidence of compliance with sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act is provided
All Public Participation Process Documents related to Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Director: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCADMIN@environment.gov.za for Attention Mr Seoka Lekota	Mr Seoka Lekota will remain registered as a key stakeholder for the remainder of this environmental process.
08 November 2023 - Petrus Scheepers - ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd.	
Would you be so kind and register me as I&AP on the Kareekloof PV & BESS project.	Registration confirmed.
06 November 2023 - Lydia Kutu - Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Priority Infrastructure Developments Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	
(a) Listed Activities	
(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific, and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in	The correct and relevant listed activities including the thresholds and sub activities are included in section 3.1.2 of this report. These activities align with those included in the application form that

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the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.	was submitted with the Draft Scoping Report. Please note, that based on the outcome of the detailed assessments, certain of these activities may be removed from the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process. In such a case, the application form will be updated accordingly.
(ii) The project description must be expanded to include thresholds, footprints, and capacities of the associated infrastructure, particularly those that trigger a listed activity.	The project description in section 2 of this report has been updated with the relevant footprints, thresholds and capacities as contained in the technical checklist at the beginning of the report.
(iii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.	Comment was not received from the Provincial Department during the comment period on the Draft Scoping Report. This Department will be provided with a further opportunity to provide comment during the Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process. Proof of consultation with all State Departments and Organs of State are attached in Appendix F4.
(iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms .	The activities in the Application and the Final Scoping Report do not differ. Please note, that based on the outcome of the detailed assessments, certain of these activities may be removed from the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process. In such a case, the application form will be updated accordingly.
(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps	
(i) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positions of the proposed facility, the BESS, as well as all other associated infrastructure; - Permanent and temporary laydown area footprints; - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed); and - All existing infrastructure on the site. 	The Site Layout Plan of the currently preferred alternative is attached in Appendix D9. This layout plan will be further refined and additional information provided as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report.
(ii) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map which indicates the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The location of sensitive environmental features on-site e.g., CBAs, NPEAS focus areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, etc. that will be affected; - Buffer areas; and, - All "no-go" areas. 	Please refer to the overlays in section 5.11 of this report. As mentioned above, once the final preferred layout alternative is determined (based on the outcome of the specialist impact assessments), an updated SLP overlain onto all sensitive features will
(iii) A cumulative map showing the proposed development in relation to similar neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure must also be provided.	This Cumulative map is attached in Appendix D1.

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(iv) Please note that Google Maps will not be accepted.	The maps attached in appendices B, C and D are all GIS based Maps.
(c) Public Participation Process	
(i) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR.	All comments received are attached in Appendix F5. The comments and responses report, where all comments have been addressed is attached in Appendix F2.
(ii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts made to obtain comments.	Please refer to appendix F4 for copies of all correspondence with stakeholders.
iii) The final Scoping Report must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.	Please refer to Appendix F4 which shows that all relevant competent authorities (most notably, the Department of Water and Sanitation and South African Heritage Resources Authority) have been provided with an opportunity to comment.
(iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	Please refer to section 7 of this report, read in conjunction with Annexures F1 – F5. Table 22 in section 7 provides evidence of compliance with Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
(v) Proof of the newspaper advertisement must be included in the final SR.	A copy of the newspaper advertisement is included in Appendix F3.
(vi) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments received (pre- (if any) and post-submission of draft SR) for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.	The comment and Responses Report in the format outlined by the Department is attached in Appendix F2.
d) Specialist Assessments	
(i) Please note that the protocols require certain specialists to be SACNASP registered. As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	Please Refer to Appendix G4. The Terrestrial Biodiversity, Avifaunal, Aquatic Biodiversity and Agricultural Specialist are all SACNASP registered.

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<p>(ii) It is noted that Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) reports were included for only the themes that were rated as High – Very High by the screening tool report. Please note that site sensitivity verification must be undertaken by the specialist or EAP for all the themes. As such, you are requested to ensure that the final SR includes detailed SSV (these can also be consolidated into one report) for all the Medium to Low-rated themes as well. The SSV must categorically state whether or not the EAP or specialist confirms or disputes the finding of the screening tool and on what basis. The findings of the site sensitivity verification reports will assist the department in the review of the final SR and also will aid the department when deciding on whether or not the final SR can be accepted.</p>	<p>The specialist site sensitivity verification reports are attached in appendices E1 to E7. The consolidated site sensitivity verification report (compiled by the EAP) is attached in appendix H and is summarised in section 5.11 of this Final Scoping Report.</p>
<p>(iii) In addition, you are required to include, as part of the final SR, a table summarising the specialist studies required by the Screening Tool and the sensitivity rating of the Screening Tool (very high, high, medium, low), a column indicating the sensitivity of the site after the EAP/Specialist conducted the Site Sensitivity Verification Assessment (a dispute or confirmation of the finding by the Screening Tool), and a column indicating whether these studies will be conducted or if a compliance statement or motivation will be submitted during the EIAR phase, as per the requirements of the protocols.</p>	<p>The confirmation or dispute of the sensitivities identified in the screening tool is included in section 5.11.3 of the report. As requested by the Department, a Table summarising the outcomes has also been included in section 5.11.3.</p>
(e) Cumulative Assessment	
<p>(i) Should there be any other similar developments proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land. - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures, and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 	<p>The plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment in Section 6 of this report has been updated to include these requirements in the Environmental Impact Reporting stage of the Environmental Process.</p>

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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".	This Final Scoping Report has been submitted within the 44 day allowable period outlined in Regulation 21(1) and has been subjected to a comment period of more than 30 Days.
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.	Please refer to the table at the beginning of this report, where evidence of compliance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations is provided.
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).	This Final Scoping Report is submitted within the allowable timeframes as per Regulation 45.
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.	The applicant and EAP are aware of this requirement. No physical actions in furtherance of activities in this environmental application process have taken place on site.
20 October 2023: Pierre vd Berg - TAFELKOP TRUST	
Hallo Dale, could you please send me the scoping report registration forms for VREDE/LOUISVILLE project.	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>I have attached the main report to the email.</p> <p>All additional appendices are available for download at either our website (www.cape-eaprac.co.za) or via a dropbox download link (https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/2ttavus6cuvo7b5nkpt3g/h?rlkey=ear88b9ptr8j03982zgwso48c&dl=0)</p> <p>I confirm that I have added you to our database and registered you as an interested and affected party for this process.</p>

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Comment	Response
	You are more than welcome to send any comment through via email and there is no need to complete a specific registration form.
18 October 2023: Stephan Menne- Neighbouring Property Owner	
I am a neighbour. Has problem because more than 10% of land is developed.	This concern has been submitted to the agricultural specialist for consideration and comment in terms of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act. The terms of reference of the agricultural specialist is to consider the impact on agricultural resources and includes assessment of the impact of transforming more than 10 percent of the agricultural land portions. Input from the specialist will be provided in the impact assessment phase of the environmental process.
18 October 2023: Ludwig Menne – Neighbouring Property Owner	
As an I&AP who is a direct neighbour I unfortunately must say that the format of this development will impact negative on the socio economics of this area.	A Social Specialist has been appointed to consider the potential economic impact of the facility on the area. The terms of reference for the social impact assessment have been updated to ensure that the social specialist engages with adjacent landowners and considers socio-economic impacts on the surrounding area. Input from the specialist will be provided in the impact assessment phase of the environmental process.
13 October 2023: Natalie Uys - Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)	
Please send the kmz/ shapefile	KMZ and Shapefile provided.
12 October 2023: Janine Bryden – Leads to Business	
I came across a Environmental Assessment notice for "Kareekloof Solar PV Facility and Battery Energy Storage System" I do not have any objections but would like to please be registered as an interested party. Please use the email address projects@l2b.co.za for registration. I follow building and construction related projects from conceptual / feasibility up until completion.	Registration confirmed.