



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA 0001 · Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2698

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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

ACCEPTANCE OF SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED BETHEL SOLAR PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON FARM 431 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM 466 LOCATED SOUTH OF LOUIS TRICHARDT IN THE MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated 25 April 2025 and received by the Department on 09 June 2025, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR, and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2025 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) For activities listed under Listing Notice 3, please ensure that the specific name of the protected area in proximity to the proposed project is clearly indicated in the activity description.
- (ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Also ensure to choose the



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others

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correct and relevant sub listing. Additionally, note that 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. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.

- (iii) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, 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>.
- (v) 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 affected Critical Biodiversity Areas and protected areas are fully assessed in the EIAr.

(b) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iii) Copies of comments received must be submitted to the Department. Copies of responses provided to all comments received must also be submitted. In addition, the EIAr must also include proof that responses were sent to Interested and Affected Parties.
- (iv) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments 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 as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. 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 I&AP's comments. Please ensure that the comments and trail report is in the format provided by the department. This must include all comments received on this application.
- (v) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (vii) The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final EIAr.
- (viii) All evidence of public participation must be included in the final EIR including site notices and newspaper articles

(c) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) The EIR must include cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts and must be refined to indicate the following.

- 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.

(d) Specialist assessments

- (i) The specialist studies must include the following:
 - A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
 - Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - Regarding cumulative impacts:
 - Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - A detailed process flow 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.
 - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - The 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.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iii) It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal

- species), have come into effect. Should this study be required, the specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.
- (iv) The screening tool output:
 - The screening tool and the gazetted protocols (GN R320 of 20 March 2020 and GN R 1150 of 30 October 2020) require a site sensitivity verification to be completed to either confirm or dispute the findings and sensitivity ratings of the screening tool.
 - It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm the list of specialist assessments and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist studies including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.
 - (v) Additionally, the protocols specify that an assessment must be prepared by a specialist who is an expert in the field and is SACNASP registered for e.g. an aquatic assessment must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP, with expertise in the field of aquatics sciences.
 - (vi) Please be reminded that section 2(3) of NEMA requires developments to be socially, environmentally and *economically* sustainable, while section 2(4)(i) of NEMA requires the social, *economic* and environmental impacts of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, to be considered, assessed and evaluated.
 - (vii) Specialist findings and recommendations must be separated per project.
 - (viii) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:

Specialist Study
Agricultural Compliance Statement
Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment
Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment
Palaeontology Impact Assessment
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
Avian Impact Assessment
Civil Aviation Compliance Statement
Defence Compliance Statement
Geotechnical Assessment
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
Plant Species Compliance Statement
Animal Species Impact Assessment

(e) Locality, Site Layout and Sensitivity Maps

The draft EIAR must provide the following maps that includes:

- (i) A clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - PV facility and all associated infrastructures such as, substation, access road etc;
 - Internal road infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area and auxiliary buildings, etc.
- (ii) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed project infrastructure.
- (iii) A copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;

- Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams, and water crossings of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on-site e.g. CBAs, ESA, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites, including their entire footprint;
 - Location of access and service roads;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, ;
 - All “no-go” areas; and
 - A north arrow and legend/key, to enable the Department to interpret the layout map.
- (iv) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmentally sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (v) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(f) Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for the overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 of the EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used over and above the EMPr for the facility. Accordingly, there needs to be a generic EMPr for the substation, powerline and separate EMPr for the facility.
- (ii) Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the EIAr and specialist reports are also incorporated into the EMPr.
- (iii) In addition, ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Please also include in the EMPr, a recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and EMPr, and for the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.
- (v) EMPr must include an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (vi) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- (vii) EMPr must include measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

(g) General

- (i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.
- (ii) Recommendations of conditions to be included in the EA, must be done per project.
- (iii) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies must be indicated.

- (iv) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, solar panels and associated infrastructure is to be located.
- (v) Please also ensure that the 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.
- (vi) Kindly ensure that, the appendices of the EIAR are properly packed and grouped. For example, you must create a folder that relate to public participation process and all information regarding the public participation process must all be included in that folder. The same must be done also to Specialist report, maps, EMPr(s) and other files.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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.

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.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Nyiko Nkosi

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 23/07/2025

cc:	Andrew Pearson	Bethel Solar PV (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
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Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
Pule Joseph Lenong Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Email correspondence: 07 February 2022	On behalf of the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State, I hereby would like to acknowledge receipt your e-mail with kindness. The contents are receiving attention. In future, if you do not mind, please send your EIA directly to this office. Mr George Nel is copied here and myself	The comment raised by the DWS has been noted. In addition, George Nel has been added onto the database for all future correspondence.

Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	
Area of PV Array	
Number of inverters required	
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations	
Capacity of on-site substation	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	
Proximity to grid connection	
Height of fencing	
Type of fencing	



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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2699

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Telephone Number: 044 874 0365
Cellphone Number: 082 448 9225
Email Address: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED 240-MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS DRAAILOOP SOLAR PV, ON PORTION 1 OF FARM 425, REMAINDER OF FARM 430 AND FARM 431 LOCATED SOUTH OF LOUIS TRICHARDT IN THE MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated 06 June 2026 (**administrative error on the year written in the FSR**) and received by the Department on 09 June 2025, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated **06 June 2026** and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following is required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Coordinates

- (i) Please provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous turning points, at each turning point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end



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point of all linear activities (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

(b) Alternatives

- (i) Please note that Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(x) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires that "if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such" must be included in the draft EIAr. You are therefore required to provide a motivation should other alternative sites, routes, layouts, and technologies not be considered.

(c) Locality, Site Layout and Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The draft EIAr must provide the following:
- A clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area and auxiliary buildings, dangerous goods facility etc.
 - All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed solar PV infrastructure.
 - A copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams and water crossings of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, ESA, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Location of access and service roads;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation;
 - All "no-go" areas; and
 - A north arrow and legend/key, to enable the Department to interpret the layout map.
 - An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
 - A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(d) **Public Participation**

- (i) On the comments and response table, you must respond to each issue raised by interested and affected parties and use a clear and readable font. It is preferable to compile a table with three columns for the date of comment, name of organization/I&AP, issue or comment raised, and response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist.
- (ii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (DEDET), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), Limpopo Province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Birdlife South Africa, Limpopo Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Eskom Holdings (Pty) Ltd, Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District Municipality and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).
- (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments (pre- and post-submission of the draft EIAR) received 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&APs comments.
- (v) Please ensure that the EIAR indicates when and where the draft SR and EIAR were made available for a 30-day review and comment period.
- (vi) 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.

(e) **Specialist assessments**

- (i) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iii) It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), are in effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

(f) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used over and above the EMPr for the PV facility. Accordingly, there needs to be a generic EMPr for the on-site substation, a generic EMPr for the overhead powerline, and a third, separate EMPr for the PV facility.
- (ii) Please ensure that any specific mitigation measures identified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the on-site substation and powerline are incorporated into the site-specific section of the generic EMPrs.
- (iii) Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the PV facility are also incorporated into the EMPr for the PV facility. In addition, please ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Please also include in the EMPrs, a recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and EMPr, and the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.

(g) General

- (ii) Please ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post-construction monitoring requirements finalised, as per Appendix 3(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iii) Confirmation of the availability of services (e.g., sewage, water, etc. if required) must be included in the EIAr.
- (iv) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as an amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 23/07/2025.

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Draailoop Solar PV (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
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Annexure 1: Table of Technical Details

- The EIA must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format, as well as their description and/or dimensions, as per the sample below.

Sample of minimum technical details required for the proposed facility

Component	Description/dimensions
Height of PV structures	
Capacity of the PV facility	
Surface area to be covered by the facility (i.e., the area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas, including PV array area and associated infrastructure such as roads)	
Proximity to grid connection	
Number of overhead power lines required and voltage of overhead power lines	
Height of the Power Line	
Number of substations required and voltage of substations	
Area occupied by inverter/transformer stations/substations	
Area occupied by buildings	
Number of access roads, including length and width	
Length and width of internal roads	
Additional Infrastructure	



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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 240 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS KLIPPUT SOLAR PV ON PORTION 1 OF FARM 425, PORTION 1 OF FARM 466 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM 466 LOCATED SOUTH OF LOUIS TRICHARDT IN THE MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated 25 April 2025 and received by the Department on 09 June 2025, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated 25 April 2025 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following is required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Project description and Listed Activities



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- The project infrastructure as presented on page v to vi and page 7 to 8 of the final SR is hereby noted. You are reminded to ensure that all the dimensions/sizes of associated infrastructure (i.e. roads, pipelines, etc) are presented.
- The final SR indicated that a revised application form will also be submitted with the draft EIAR to reflect the updated descriptions as per the comments on draft SR. Please note that the comments regarding the listed activities on draft SR still stands.
- It has been noted that activity 11 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 has been applied for, however, the length of the proposed grid connection infrastructure is not specified. You are advised to provide the length of the proposed grid connection.
- Activities 12 of LN1 have been applied for, however the physical footprint of the infrastructure or structures is not specified. Please ensure the details are provided in the amended application form and draft EIAR.
- For activity 24 and 56 of LN1 it is not clear whether the road will have a reserve or not. In addition, the use of the word “may” in the description does not confirm that these activities are applicable to the proposed development. Therefore, you are advised to refrain from using the word may.
- It has been noted on page 50 of the final SR that *“the project development will not impact on any CBAs and falls entirely in an ONA (Other Natural Area)”*. It is also noted that activities 4, 12, 14, and 18 of LN3 have been applied for. However, the relevant site sensitivities as per sub activities are not specified. As such, you are requested to specify the applicable sensitivities/geographical areas, and this information must be clear in the EIAR.
- The use of words such as “*may be*” and statements such as “*the relevance of this activity will be determined in the impact assessment phase*” is hereby noted. However, **kindly be advised that listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach. Please ensure that all the listed activities in the amended application form and EIAR are clear, are the same and final for decision making purposes. Should it not be clear that listed activity is triggered, such activity will not be considered in the decision-making process.**
- Please ensure that all relevant activities listed are applied for are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. In addition, 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 and the EIAR. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the EIAR. 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>.

(b) Coordinates

- Please provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous turning points, at each turning point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities (indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site). The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

(c) Alternatives

- Alternatives as included on page 29 to 36 of the final SR are hereby noted. You are required to provide all the alternatives considered for this development as per Appendix 2 (2) (1) (g) (i) (v) (vi) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in the EIAR. Furthermore, the preferred options for all assessed alternatives must be determined and be clear throughout the EIA report.
- Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2. However, note that no development will be allowed within sensitive area, mitigation hierarchy should be considered to avoid impacts on sensitive environment.

(d) Layout and Sensitivity Maps

- The layout map included as Appendix D of the final SR must be amended to include the following:
 - The PV development area.
 - Position of all associated infrastructure e.g., panels, BESS, on-site substations, powerline, etc.
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as permanent laydown area and auxiliary buildings, dangerous goods facility etc.
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure.
 - Buffer areas;
 - All “no-go” areas.
 - A north arrow and legend/ key, to enable the Department to interpret the layout map.
- All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments.
- A combined map showing all the Cluster Projects (Bethel Solar PV, Draailoop Solar PV, Klipput Solar PV and Makoppa Solar PV).
- Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructure. i.e., items must be easily distinguishable on the legend.
- Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

(e) Public Participation Process (PPP)

- Please ensure that all comments from all identified and relevant competent authorities as well as stakeholders have been responded to, addressed and incorporated to the EIAR. The identified stakeholders must include but are not limited to the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Mineral Resources, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), Birdlife South Africa, South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), Square Kilometer Array (SKA), Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS), Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Eskom, SA National Defence Force and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFPE): Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness and Biodiversity Conservation Directorates (BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za), and the relevant heritage authorities.
- The PPP must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- A Comments and Responses trail report (C&RR) must be compiled, continuously updated throughout the EIA process for this proposed development starting with the draft SR. The C&RR must be a separate document from the main report and must be in the table format, which reflects the details of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), the date comments were received (actual comments received) and responses provided.
- Comments made by I&APs must be 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.
- Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the CA of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- Please ensure that the EIAR indicates when and where the draft SR and EIAR were made available for a 30-day review and comment period.

- 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.

(f) Screening Tool Report

- It has been noted that the screening tool reports dated 13 March 2025 for Klipput Solar PV and powerline alternatives 1, 2 and 3 submitted with the application form and the final SR are not signed by the compiler. You are advised to ensure that all signed screening tool reports are submitted with the amended application form and the EIAR.

(g) Specialist Assessments

- According to page 5 of 15 of the screening tool report dated 13 March 2025 for Klipput Solar PV, the defence theme is rated as very high in terms of sensitivity, while the agriculture and civil aviation themes are rated high in terms of sensitivity. The animal species and palaeontology themes have medium sensitivity. The aquatic biodiversity, archaeology and cultural heritage, plant species, and terrestrial biodiversity themes are rated low in terms of sensitivity. In addition, you are advised to ensure that themes for all powerline alternatives are considered, site sensitivity reports and studies are undertaken accordingly.
- Site sensitivity verification reports that have been submitted are hereby noted. According to the SSVr and page 113 of the final SR, the following specialist assessments will be undertaken and included in the EIAR:
 - Agricultural Compliance Statement
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment.
 - Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment.
 - Plant Species Impact Assessment.
 - Animal Species Impact Assessment.
 - Avifaunal Impact Assessment
 - Heritage Impact Assessment (including Cultural Heritage, Archaeology and Palaeontology)
 - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
 - Agricultural Compliance Statement.
 - Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.
 - Geotechnical Assessment.

The following Compliance Statements will be undertaken by the EAP:

- Defence Compliance Statement
- Civil Aviation Compliance Statement.
- All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), are in effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

(h) Environmental Management Programme

- It is noted that activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 has been applied for. Please ensure that the generic EMP that complies with the GN 435 of March 2022 is used for the management of impacts of the substation and power line that will be constructed for this development and are submitted to the CA.
- Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMP must be completed, and a copy of an originally signed generic EMP must be submitted with the EIAR. Please ensure that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 match the details of the Applicant as contained in the amended application form and EIAR.

- If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage such impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Section C of the generic EMPr.
- The EMPr for the facility must comply with the requirements of Appendix 4 in the EIA Regulation, as amended.

(i) Cumulative Assessment

- Noting that this project is part of the cluster and there may be any other similar projects 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:
 - The cumulative impacts assessment must consider the existing, authorised but not yet developed, the proposed similar development and powerline in the area.
 - 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.

(j) General

- The technical checklist included in the final SR must be amended to provide the technical details for the proposed facility as per the sample below.

Sample of minimum technical details required for the proposed facility.

Component	Description/dimensions
Height of PV structures	
Capacity of the PV facility	
Surface area to be covered by the facility (i.e., the area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas, including PV array area and associated infrastructure such as roads)	
Proximity to grid connection	
Number of overhead power lines required and voltage of overhead power lines	
Height of the Power Line	
Number of substations required and voltage of substations	
Area occupied by inverter/transformer stations/substations	
Area occupied by buildings	
Number of access roads, including length and width	
Length and width of internal roads	
Additional Infrastructure	

- Please ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post-construction monitoring requirements finalised, as per Appendix 3(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- Confirmation of the availability of services (e.g., sewage, water, etc. if required) must be included in the EIAR.
- Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as an amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Letter signed by: Mr Mahlatse Shubane

Designation: Deputy Director (Acting): Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Date: 17 July 2025

cc:	Mr. Andrew Pearson	Klipput Solar PV (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 021 685 3240 Cell: 084 7224855	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
	Matodzi Rathumbu	Limpopo: Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (DEDET)	Tel: 015 293 8648 Cell: 079 3410018	Email: RathumbulM@ledet.gov.za/harmses@ledet.gov.za
	Ms Nokwanda Nkosi	Makhado Local Municipality	Tel: 015 519 3003	Email: municipal.manager@makhado.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2701

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

Telephone: (012) 399 9405 **E-mail:** TNyalunga@dffe.gov.za

Mr Dale Holder
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners
PO Box 2070
GEORGE
6530

Telephone Number: 044 874 0365
Cell phone Number: 082 448 9225
Email Address: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED UP TO 74 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS MAKOPPA SOLAR PV, ON PORTION 1 OF FARM 465 LOCATED SOUTH OF LOUIS TRICHARDT IN THE MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated April 2024 and received by the Department on 09 June 2025, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated April 2025 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following is required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Coordinates



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

- (i) Please provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous turning points, at each turning point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities. Please indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. The co-ordinates must be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

(b) Alternatives

- (i) Please note that Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(x) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires that “*if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such*” must be included in the draft EIAR. You are therefore required to provide a motivation should other alternative sites, routes, layouts, and technologies not be considered.

(c) Locality, Site Layout and Sensitivity Maps

The draft EIAR must provide the following:

- (i) A clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area and auxiliary buildings, dangerous goods facility etc.
- (ii) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed solar PV infrastructure.
- (iii) A copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams and water crossings of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, ESA, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Location of access and service roads;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation;
 - All “no-go” areas; and
 - A north arrow and legend/key, to enable the Department to interpret the layout map.
- (iv) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (v) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(d) Public Participation

- (i) On the comments and response table, please respond to each issue raised by interested and affected parties and use a clear and readable font. It is preferable to compile a table with three columns for the date of comment, name of organization/I&AP, issue or comment raised, and response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist.

- (ii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (DEDET), Makhado Local Municipality, and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments (pre and post-submission of the draft EIAr) received 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&APs comments.
- (v) Please ensure that the EIAr indicates when and where the draft SR and EIAr were made available for a 30-day review and comment period.
- (vi) 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.

(e) Specialist Assessments

- (i) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (iii) It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), are in effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

(f) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used over and above the EMPr for the PV facility. Accordingly, there needs to be a generic EMPr for the on-site substation, a generic EMPr for the overhead powerline, and a third, separate EMPr for the PV facility.
- (ii) Please ensure that any specific mitigation measures identified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the on-site substation and powerline are incorporated into the site-specific section of the generic EMPrs.

- (iii) Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the EIAr and specialist reports for the PV facility are also incorporated into the EMPr for the PV facility. In addition, please ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Please also include in the EMPrs, a recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and EMPr, and the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.

(g) General

- (i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format, as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- (ii) Please ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post-construction monitoring requirements finalised, as per Appendix 3(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iii) Confirmation of the availability of services (e.g., sewage, water, etc. if required) must be included in the EIAr.
- (iv) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as an amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

Designation: Deputy Director: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 21/07/2025

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Makoppa Solar PV (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
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From: Lydia Kutu <LKutu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 10:22
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Zama Langa; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2698

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 240 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS BETHEL SOLAR PV, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 09 June 2025. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: Lydia Kutu <LKutu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 10:27
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Lunga Dlova; ElAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2699

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 240 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS DRAAILOOP SOLAR PV, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 09 June 2025. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: Lydia Kutu <LKutu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 10:30
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Makhosi Yeni; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2700

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 240 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS KLIPPUT SOLAR, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 09 June 2025. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: Lydia Kutu <LKutu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 10:34
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Thulisile Nyalunga; ElAadmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2701

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 240 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS MAKOPPA SOLAR PV, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 09 June 2025. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2698

Enquiries: Ms Zamalanga Langa

Telephone: (012) 399 9389 **E-mail:** zlanga@dffe.gov.za

Mr Dale Holder
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners
PO Box 2070
GEORGE
6530

Cell Number: 044 874 0365
Email Address: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za / francois@cape-eaprac.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED BETHEL SOLAR PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON FARM 431 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM 466 LOCATED SOUTH OF LOUIS TRICHARDT IN THE MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated April 2025 and received by the Department on 24 April 2025, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the Final Scoping Report:

(a) Listed activities

- The project descriptions provided for some of the listed activities applied for cannot be directly linked to the respective listed activities, as the required thresholds or capacities have not been included. You are required to amend the project descriptions for Activities 11, 12, and 28 of Listing Notice 1 to include the capacity/threshold of the proposed infrastructure that triggers each listed activity. For example, for Activity 11, you must specify the infrastructure that triggers this listed activity, such as a substation or powerline, and indicate their capacity in kilovolts (kV).
- For the listed activities applied for under Listing Notice 3 (Activities 4, 12, 14, and 18), you must select the applicable geographical sensitivity area triggered by the proposed project, as you have not selected the relevant sub-listed activity.
- 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 project description. Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.
- It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the Scoping and EIA process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also the potential impacts on the affected respective geographical areas (such as Critical Biodiversity Areas, and Protected Areas) indicated in Listing Notice 3 must be assessed.

(b) Screen tool report

- It has been noted that the screening tool report on page 1 requires a compiler signature. Please submit the signed screening tool report with the final SR.

(c) Public Participation Process

- 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 (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR.
- Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- Proof of the newspaper advertisement must be included in the final SR.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments 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. 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 I&AP's comments.
- The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

(d) Specialist Assessments

Please kindly ensure that the terms of reference for all specialist studies to be conducted includes the following requirements:

- A detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicating the locations and descriptions of PV positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. Please ensure that all specialist studies that are conducted have been commissioned in the right season, and providing that as a limitation will not be accepted.
- If the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- Regarding cumulative impacts:
 - Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - A detailed process flow 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.

- Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
- The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please ensure that specialist assessments are conducted in accordance with these protocols, except where the applicant provides proof to the competent authority that the specialist assessment affected by these protocols had been commissioned before the date on which the protocols came into effect, in which case Appendix 6 of the Environmental impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, will apply to such applications. Please indicate in the report whether the protocols were applied.
- Please note that the protocols require certain specialist’s to be SACNASP registered. As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organization registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- Please take note that for the themes that have been identified as medium and low, after having conducted the site verification the protocols requires that compliance statements be submitted together with the EIR. please ensure that these specialists must be identified as specialist to be conducted who compliance statements are to be included in the EIAR.

(e) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- The layout map included in the SR must be amended to include the following:
 - The PV development area.
 - Position of all infrastructure e.g., panels, BESS, on-site substations, powerline etc.
 - laydown area footprint Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network; and
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected.
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All “no-go” areas.
- All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- A combined map showing all the Cluster Projects (Bethel Solar PV, Draailoop Solar PV, Klipput Solar PV and Makoppa Solar PV)
- Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructure. i.e., items must be easily distinguishable in the Legend.
- Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

(f) Cumulative Impacts

- As this proposed project (Bethel Solar) forms part of a cluster of similar projects (Draailoop Solar PV, Klipput Solar PV and Makoppa Solar PV) situated in farm portions located next to each other, the assessment of cumulative impacts must include all the other proposed facilities linked or related to this proposed cluster development in this project area. Further, should there be any other similar projects

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:

- 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.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

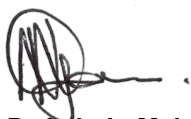
"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation 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).

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.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

Signed by: Ms Nyiko Nkosi

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisations Projects

Date: 21/05/2025

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Bethel Solar PV (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
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From: Lydia Kutu <LKutu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2025 10:43
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Zama Langa; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2698

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 240 MEGAWATT (MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, KNOWN AS BETHEL SOLAR PV, VH, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 24 April 2025. 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,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

Francois Byleveld

From: Dale Holder
Sent: Thursday, 24 April 2025 15:07
To: EIA Applications
Subject: Submission of Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for the proposed Bethel Solar PV and associated Grid Connection Infrastructure.
Attachments: Document control form Bethel Solar PV.docx

Dear EIA Applications

Kindly find the attached document control form and screenshot for the submission of the application for the Proposed 240 Megawatt (MW) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and associated electrical grid connection infrastructure, known as Bethel Solar PV, on Farm 431 and the Remainder of Farm 466 located South of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

The pre application reference number in respect of this application is 2025-02-0006.

Dale Holder
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER
Cape EAPrac
NDip Nat.Con
EAPASA Reg. 2019/301

Dale Holder

Subject: 2025-02-0006
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Mon 2025/03/03 11:00
End: Mon 2025/03/03 12:00

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Dale Holder
Required Attendees: Zama Langa; Francois Byleveld; Megan Dennis; Luke Attenborough
Optional Attendees: Nyiko Nkosi; Mahlatse Shubane; Olivia Letlalo; Bathandwa Ncube; Masina Morudu; Thabile Sangweni; Sindiswa Dlomo; Lunga Dlova; Makhosi Yeni; Thulisile Nyalunga; Ephron Maradwa

Dear Zama

Thank you very much for the confirmation of the time and date for the pre application meeting for the Mulilo Tabor Solar Project as per the abovementioned reference.

Please find MS Teams Calendar Invite for this meeting.

Kind Regards,

Dale

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 386 482 652 853

Passcode: LP6Nz3V8

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

From: Zama Langa <ZLANGA@dffe.gov.za>

Sent: Friday, 14 February 2025 10:27

To: Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>

Cc: Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>; Mahlatse Shubane <MSHUBANE@dffe.gov.za>; Olivia Letlalo <OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za>; Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za>; Masina Morudu <memorudu@dffe.gov.za>;

Thabile Sangweni <TSANGWENI@dffe.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDLOMO@dffe.gov.za>; Lunga Dlova <LDlova@dffe.gov.za>; Makhosi Yeni <MYeni@dffe.gov.za>; Thulisile Nyalunga <TNYALUNGA@dffe.gov.za>; Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: RE: 2025-02-0006

Dear Dale

Your pre application requested received on 05 February 2025 refers,

Please note that the department is available to meet on **03 March 2025 at 11h00**. Kindly arrange a MS Teams meeting and provide a link.

Regards,

Ms Zamalanga Langa

*Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
National Infrastructure Projects
Cell: 072 146 4308
Tel: 012 399 9389*



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 09:46

To: Zama Langa <ZLANGA@dffe.gov.za>; Lunga Dlova <LDlova@dffe.gov.za>; Makhosi Yeni <MYeni@dffe.gov.za>; Thulisile Nyalunga <TNYALUNGA@dffe.gov.za>

Cc: Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>; Mahlatse Shubane <MSHUBANE@dffe.gov.za>; Olivia Letlalo <OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za>; Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za>; Masina Morudu <memorudu@dffe.gov.za>; Thabile Sangweni <TSANGWENI@dffe.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDLOMO@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: FW: 2025-02-0006

Dear all

Please note that you have been added to the cluster project for Zama.

@Zama please make sure you invite them when you arrange for the meeting

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: EIA Applications
Sent: Wednesday, 05 February 2025 12:30
To: Zama Langa <ZLANGA@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>; Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>
Subject: 2025-02-0006

Dear Zama.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;
Reference Number: 2025-02-0006;
Date Received: 05/02/2025;
Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAadmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email

From: Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 February 2025 10:20
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: Request for pre-application meeting - Proposed Mulilo Tabor PV projects.

Dear EIA Applications

Kindly find the attached request for pre-application meeting for the proposed Mulilo Tabor PV projects in the Limpopo province.

Kind regards/Vriendelike groete

Dale Holder
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER
Cape EAPrac
NDip Nat.Con
EAPASA Reg. 2019/301

T: 044 874 0365
17 Progress Street, Geo
PO Box 2070, George 65





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Please Note: When registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), you consent to the lawful processing of personal information for the intended purposes, as described by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013). Your information will be used for this project, including the initial application as well as subsequent related appeals, amendments or audits, or any future project where you are identified as an I&AP. You also agree that by submitting comment to inform this process, your contact details will, where required by a public body, be reflected in our regulated reports that must be compiled and submitted to the general public, registered stakeholders, organs of state as well as the competent authority for consideration and decision-making.

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