

# Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Scoping and Environmental Impact  
Assessment for the Proposed  
Development of the 279 MW Wind  
Energy Facility and associated  
Infrastructure (i.e. Kwagga WEF 1),  
near Beaufort West, Western Cape

DECEMBER 2021

## Comments and Responses Report

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## Comments and Responses Report

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**PART A: SCOPING PHASE**

The tables below include the comments and/or issues raised by stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) following the release of the Draft Scoping Report for the 30-day comment period, extending from 28 May 2021 to 28 June 2021 (excluding public holidays), together with the responses from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project team. The original comments received (emails and letters) are included in Appendix D.9 of the Final Scoping Report (CSIR, 2021<sup>1</sup>). **Please note that the comments are taken verbatim from the comments provided by stakeholders and I&APs.**

An integrated Public Participation Process was undertaken for the proposed projects, which include the three Kwagga Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) (namely; the 279 MW Kwagga WEF 1, the 341 MW Kwagga WEF 2 and the 204.6 MW Kwagga WEF 3). The comments included in this appendix only apply to the proposed 279 MW Kwagga WEF 1. Comments relating to the other Kwagga WEFs have been included for context or background purposes (where necessary). Comments and responses for the Kwagga WEF 2 and Kwagga WEF 3 projects, are included in the respective Scoping Reports. The comments received have been grouped per organisation, based on the structure recommended by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

**1. GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROJECT NEED<sup>2</sup>**

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	28/05/2021, Email, Thando Ndudula, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	<b>Please note that my email address will soon be changed to Nndudula@environment.gov.za, the landline and mobile contacts will remain as 021 9441416/ 066 374 8170.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The contact details of this stakeholder has been updated accordingly on the I&AP database and the email address provided will be used for future correspondence. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
2.	31/05/2021, Email,	<b>Good Day</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Ms Anneleen Vorster was identified as a representative of

<sup>1</sup> CSIR, 2021. Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the 279 MW Kwagga Wind Energy Facility 1 (i.e. Kwagga WEF 1) near Beaufort West in the Western Cape. Final Scoping Report. CSIR Report Number: CSIR/SPLA/SECO/ER/2021/0001/B.

<sup>2</sup> This includes requests to register on and de-register from the project I&AP database.

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NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
	Anneleen Vorster, Prince Albert Municipality	<b>Please be advised that Prince Albert Municipality wish to register as an interested and affected party pertaining the proposed Kwagga WEF 1, Kwagga WEF 2 and Kwagga WEF 3, with the contact details below.</b> <b>Regards</b>	the Prince Albert Local Municipality and an I&AP and thus included on the pre-identified project database of I&APs and Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
3.	31/05/2021, Email, Anne Flynn, Falcon Oil and Gas Ltd.	<b>Good afternoon,</b> <b>Would it be possible to provide the email address of a contact for Kwagga?</b> <b>The reason I ask is that Falcon Oil &amp; Gas Ltd. have entered into co-existence agreements with all renewable projects on the same acreage over which Falcon holds a technical cooperation permit?</b> <b>Look forward to hearing from you.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The contact details for the Project Developer, ABO Wind Renewable Energies Pty Ltd, were provided to Falcon Oil and Gas Ltd via email on 11 June 2021. Discussions regarding potential co-existence agreements are currently taking place outside of the S&EIA Process.
4.	02/06/2021, Email, Anne Flynn, Falcon Oil and Gas Ltd.	<b>Good morning,</b> <b>I just wanted to follow up on my email below?</b> <b>Look forward to hearing from you.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This was a follow up to the initial email sent by this stakeholder. Refer to the response provided above for feedback in this regard.
5.	08/06/2021, Email, Anne Flynn, Falcon Oil and Gas Ltd.	<b>Good evening,</b> <b>I just wanted to follow up on my email below?</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This was a follow up to the initial email sent by this stakeholder. Refer to the response provided above for feedback in this regard.
6.	11/06/2021, Email, Anne Flynn, Falcon Oil and Gas Ltd.	<b>Thank you Dhiveshni.</b>	
7.	07/06/2021, Email, Veronique Fyfe,	<b>Good Afternoon Lizande,</b>  <b>I hope this email finds you well.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This I&AP has been included on the I&AP database. The email address provided will be used for future correspondence. Refer

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NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	<p><b>Please could you register G7 Renewable Energies as an I&amp;AP on the Kwagga WEF 1-3.</b></p> <p><b>Please register me as the main contact person with the email address eia@g7energies.com.</b></p> <p><b>Thank you in advance.</b></p>	to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
8.	07/06/2021, Email, Veronique Fyfe, G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	<b>Thank you very much.</b>	
9.	18/06/2021, Email, Zakiya Abrahams, WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd	<p><b>Hi Lizande,</b></p> <p><b>Please may I register as an I&amp;AP for the 3 Kwagga projects near Beaufort West?</b></p>	<b>CSIR:</b> This request is noted. This I&AP has been included on the I&AP database. The email address provided will be used for future correspondence. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
10.	21/06/2021, Email, Stephanie Barnardt, Heritage Western Cape (HWC)	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>I assume the HIA has not get been formally submitted to HWC for the above projects.</b></p> <p><b>Please submit HIA to Ceoheritage Ceoheritage@westerncape.gov.za</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This inquiry is noted. This stakeholder was informed that the Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) for the proposed Kwagga WEFs 1-3 was lodged with HWC. The following NID case numbers received from HWC were also provided in the response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kwagga WEF 1: 20101914SB0211E</li> <li>• Kwagga WEF 2: 20101915SB0211E</li> <li>• Kwagga WEF 3: 20101916SB0211E</li> </ul>

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			<p>The stakeholder was also informed that the proposed Kwagga WEF 1-3 projects are currently in the Scoping phase and that the respective Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will be formally submitted during the EIA phase of the Kwagga WEFs projects, in line with the requirements of the HWC, as described in Chapter 4 of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>A link to the HWC circular, which explains the latest processes for submission of the HIA was also requested by the CSIR.</p>
11.	29/06/2021, Email, Stephanie Barnardt, Heritage Western Cape	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>The process has moved to online submission, HIA must be formally submitted to Ceoheritage Ceoheritage@westerncape.gov.za along with the proof of payment.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The online submission of the HIA to Ceoheritage@westerncape.gov.za is duly noted. The Kwagga WEF 1 HIA and proof of payment will be formally submitted to Ceoheritage via <a href="mailto:Ceoheritage@westerncape.gov.za">Ceoheritage@westerncape.gov.za</a> during the EIA phase for the Kwagga WEF 1 project.</p>
12.	08/06/2021, Email, Melanie Koen, DFFE Forestry Regulations & Support	<p><b>Dear Sir/ Madam</b></p> <p><b>Kindly note we received a text message for above development Kindly forward above development's documents and attachments in pdf format please?</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Links to the Project website and Google Drive (to which the Draft Scoping Reports, associated appendices and executive summaries of the Kwagga Wind Energy Facility (WEF) 1, Kwagga WEF 2 and Kwagga WEF 3, were uploaded in</p>

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			pdf format), were shared with the stakeholder on 14 June 2021.
13.	21/06/2021 Email, Chantal Engelbrecht, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)	<p><b>Good afternoon</b></p> <p><b>I am requesting that you kindly remove my name from this mailing list, please? You need to send the reports to the correct and relevant commenting sections in the Department and to the competent authority (i.e. the unit responsible for issuing environmental authorisations).</b></p> <p><b>We have had increasing instances of EAPs sending reports to random officers on their mailing lists and then claiming that they have engaged that particular department, with no response from said department, which is totally unacceptable.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This respective I&amp;AP was included on the pre-identified database of I&amp;APs, and has been removed from the Kwagga WEFs 1-3 database, as requested. It must be noted that the Draft Scoping Reports were submitted to various officials and Directorates of the DFFE, including the relevant Directorates that have commented on the reports (i.e. DFFE Integrated Environmental Authorisations and Biodiversity Conservation).</p>
14	31/05/2021, Email, John Geeringh, Eskom Transmission Division: Land and Rights	<p><b>Please send me KMZ files of the affected properties, proposed layouts and proposed Grid connections. Please find attached the Eskom general requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as the Eskom setbacks guideline for consideration during planning of the WEF's.</b></p> <p><b>Kind regards</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The requested KMZ file was sent to this stakeholder on 21 June 2021 via email. The proposed grid connection options for the Kwagga WEFs were described. It was also emphasised that the Project Developer, ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd, is still investigating options for the grid connection and associated 132 kV overhead transmission line routings, and therefore separate Environmental Assessment Processes will be undertaken at a later stage once the preferred grid connection and the 132 kV overhead transmission line routing for each of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1, Kwagga WEF 2 and Kwagga WEF 3 has been</p>



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			<p>confirmed, and hence does not form part of these current S&amp;EIA Processes.</p> <p>The following specifications were sent to the Project Developer for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes; and</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>The above Eskom requirements are duly noted and will be adhered to by the Project Development during the relevant project stages.</p>
15.	01/06/2021, Email, Wayleaves Western OU, Eskom	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>Please fill in attached form and send back to me with your plan to proceed with your application.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The form provided via email was entitled “ESKOM LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTERNAL WAYLEAVE REQUEST FORM”. The Project Developer, ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd, is still investigating options for the grid connection and associated 132 kV overhead transmission line routings, and therefore separate Environmental Assessment Processes will be undertaken at a later stage once the preferred grid connection and the 132 kV overhead transmission line routing for each of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1, Kwagga WEF 2 and Kwagga WEF 3 has been</p>

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			confirmed, and hence does not form part of these current S&EIA Processes. All relevant permits, such as the wayleaves applications will be applied for by the Project Developer during the design phase, after Environmental Authorisation has been issued, should such authorisation be granted.
16.	22/06/2021 Email, Lerato Mokgwatheng, Eskom	<p><b>Dear Sir/Madam,</b></p> <p><b>I am not sure if we, Eskom do have the kmz files regarding your projects.</b></p> <p><b>Can we be send the kmz files thereof. Eskom is doing a EIA study for 2nd 765Kv powerline from Gamma substation (near Victoria West) to Kappa substation (near Touwsrivier) to Sterrekus substation (near Melkbosstrand). We would like to see if the two projects do affect/impact on each other.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This request is noted. The requested KMZ files were sent to this stakeholder on 23 June 2021 via email. It was also noted that the KMZ files were sent to Mr John Geeringh of Eskom, as noted above. It must be noted that the proposed Kwagga WEF projects are located approximately 150 km from the Gamma substation (near Victoria West), 250 km from the Kappa substation (near Touwsrivier) and 400 km from the Sterrekus substation (near Melkbosstrand), and thus is not expected to significantly impact on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 765 kV power line project (i.e. Gamma – Kappa – Sterrekus).</p>
17.	23/06/2021 Email, Christo Badenhorst, Eskom	<p><b>Hi Lerato,</b></p> <p><b>It does not affect the Gamma-Kappa project. It may have an impact on the Droërivier B Project.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This was an internal discussion between Eskom officials on which the EIA project team was copied. However, it is important to note (as indicated in Chapter 1 of the Final Scoping Report), that the Eskom Droërivier Substation is ideally located within the Central Corridor of the</p>

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			<p>Strategic Transmission Corridors (as gazetted on 16 February 2018, GN R113) and approximately 55 km north of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1. It is proposed that a 132 kV overhead transmission line, which will be constructed for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 at a later stage, will extend between the proposed on-site collector substation at the Kwagga WEF 1 and the existing Droërivier–Proteus 400 kV line that runs parallel to the N12 in a north-south direction and connects Beaufort West with the George/Mossel Bay area further south. The Project Developer, ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd, is still investigating options for the grid connection and associated 132 kV overhead transmission line routings, and therefore separate Environmental Assessment Processes will be undertaken at a later stage once the preferred grid connection and the 132 kV overhead transmission line routing has been confirmed. The various existing and proposed power lines connecting to the Eskom Droërivier Substation will be considered at the time of undertaking the Environmental Assessment.</p>
18.	24/06/2021 Email, Lerato Mokgwatheng,	<b>Thanks Christo</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This was an internal discussion between Eskom officials on which the EIA project team was copied.

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	Eskom		
19.	21/06/2021, Email, Anne Flynn, Falcon Oil and Gas	<p><b>I&amp;AP Comments (please note this is very brief but just wanted to include the comment for completeness as I have agreed to have a call with Rob Invernizzi to discuss further this week)</b></p> <p><b>Dear Lizande,</b></p> <p><b>Falcon Oil &amp; Gas Ltd. holds a TCP over the same acreage as the each Kwagga WEF projects. We will seek to enter coexistence agreements with the projects to ensure that in the event both parties are operating in close proximity to one another there is a mutual understanding on how the respective projects can coexist.</b></p> <p><b>Thank you.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The stakeholder was informed that all correspondence and comments from I&amp;APs are being included in the Comments and Responses Report of the Final Scoping Report. Refer to the responses provided above in this regard.</p>
20.	23/06/2021, Email, Anne Flynn, Falcon Oil and Gas	<p><b>Thank you</b></p>	
21.	21/06/2021, Email, AgriSA	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>Please send all communication of this nature to Agri SA's head of natural resources, Janse Rabie – janse@agrisa.co.za</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This I&amp;AP has been included on the I&amp;AP database. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</p>
22.	31/05/2021, Email, AgriSA	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>Please send information of this nature to Agri SA's head of natural resources, Janse Rabie – janse@agrisa.co.za</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This I&amp;AP has been included on the I&amp;AP database. The email address provided will be used for future correspondence. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</p>
23.	29/05/2021, Email,	<p><b>To whom it may concern, in future please use eia@ewt.org.za</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The email address provided was included on the pre-</p>

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	Constant Hoogstad, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)		identified project database of I&APs and Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process, and will be retained on the database for receipt for future project related correspondence. The direct email address for Mr Hoogstad will be removed from the database accordingly. In addition, the email with notification of the proposed project was sent to various representatives from the EWT. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
24.	21/06/2021, Email, Constant Hoogstad, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)	<b>To whom it may concern</b>  <b>In future please use eia@ewt.org.za</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The email address provided was included on the pre-identified project database of I&APs and Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process, and will be retained on the database for receipt for future project related correspondence. The direct email address for Mr Hoogstad will be removed from the database accordingly. In addition, the email with notification of the proposed project was sent to various representatives from the EWT. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
25.	23/06/2021, Email,	<b>Yes please remove my email address</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As noted above, the email address provided by this stakeholder was included on the pre-identified project database of I&APs and

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	Constant Hoogstad, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)		Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process, and will be retained on the database for receipt for future project related correspondence. The direct email address for Mr Hoogstad will be removed from the database accordingly. In addition, the email with notification of the proposed project was sent to various representatives from the EWT. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
26.	25/06/2021, Email, Thato Nape and Mr Selaelo Matlhane, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	<b>I have shared with you the SARAO response letter to Kwagga Wind Energy Facility.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please refer to Appendix D.9 for a copy of the response letter received from the SARAO. The CSIR's response to SARAO is included below in Section 5 of this Comments and Responses Report.
27.	01/07/2021, Email, Megan Simons, Western Cape CapeNature	<p><b>Dear Lizande,</b></p> <p><b>I trust this email finds you well.</b></p> <p><b>Kindly find attached comments from CapeNature for the Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development of the Kwagga Wind Energy Facilities near Beaufort West.</b></p> <p><b>Have a good afternoon.</b></p> <p><b>Kind Regards,</b></p>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please refer to Appendix D.9 for a copy of the comments received from Western Cape CapeNature. The CSIR's responses to the comments received from CapeNature are included below in Section 8 of this Comments and Responses Report.

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28.	28/06/2021, Email, Aulicia Maifo, DFFE, The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation	<p><b>Good day Sir/Madam</b></p> <p><b>Hope you are well.</b></p> <p><b>Kindly receive the attached comments for your processing.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please refer to Appendix D.9 for a copy of the comments received from The DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation. The CSIR's responses to the comments received from the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation are included below in Section 2.2 of this Comments and Responses Report.</p>
29.	28/06/2021, Email, Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), Directorate: Development Facilitation	<p><b>Dear Lizande,</b></p> <p><b>Hope you are well.</b></p> <p><b>Trust you have been keeping well.</b></p> <p><b>Your e-mail below dated 28 May 2021 and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for the Kwagga Wind Energy Facility 1, Beaufort West and Prince Albert Municipalities has reference.</b></p> <p><b>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above report. Please find attached this Department's consolidated comments on the DSR.</b></p> <p><b>Kindly acknowledge receipt of this e-mail.</b></p> <p><b>Thanking you,</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please refer to Appendix D.9 for a copy of the consolidated comments received from Western Cape DEA&amp;DP. The CSIR's responses to the comments received from DEA&amp;DP are included below in Section 3 of this Comments and Responses Report.</p>
30.	01/07/2021, Email, Zama Mbunquka,	<p><b>Email 1: Dear Sir/Madam. Please find attached BGCMA comments for your perusal. Please note that some of the properties mentioned in the report are outside the jurisdiction of the BGCMA hence you need to liaise with</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> It was noted and communicated to the BGCMA on 01/07/2021 that the first comment (i.e. '1.') in the comments letter provided, refers to the proposed <i>Nuweveld</i></p>

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	Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<p><b>the Department of Water and Sanitation for comments. This office only commented on the properties that are within its jurisdiction. Thanks</b></p> <p><b>Email 2: Dear Sir/Madam. Thanks a lot for bringing this to my attention. I will send another letter shortly. It is definitely not my final letter. thank you so much</b></p> <p><b>Email 3: Dear Sir/Madam Please received the updated version</b></p>	<p>development. The BGCMA was kindly asked to please confirm if said comment was referring to the three proposed Kwagga Wind Energy Facility developments instead of the proposed <i>Nuweveld</i> development.</p> <p>The BGCMA acknowledged the error and provided a revised letter of comments on 01/07/2021. The CSIR's responses to the comments received from BGCMA are included below in Section 6 of this Comments and Responses Report.</p>
31.	06/07/2021, Email, Zama Mbunquka Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<p><b>Dear Sir/madam. Your response below is noted. I have highlighted the portions that fall within the BGCMA and will send you the updated version shortly. Some are in Beaufort west but falls outside the BGCMA jurisdiction. Please note the properties that are within the BGCMA are within J quaternary anything outside that is no longer part of the CMA, it is either the responsibility of DWS in Northern Cape or Eastern Cape. Please confirm if remainder of farm 19 is located in Outdshorn or Laingsburg.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> It was noted and communicated to the BGCMA on 05/07/2021 that farm portions, which form part of the proposed development and fall within the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Area, were not included in revised comments letter received from the BGCMA on 01/07/2021. It was also requested that the BGCMA kindly confirm if their comments refer to Portion 4, 5, 6 and 8 and of Farm 115, as this was not specified in the title of the letter received.</p> <p>The CSIR confirmed that the Remainder of Farm 19 (Surveyor General 21 Digit Code: C0610000000001900000) is located within the Prince Albert Local Municipality.</p>



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NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
32.	08/07/2021, Email, Zama Mbunquka Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>Email 1: Dear Dhiveshni. Please note that RE/19 is within the BGCMA jurisdiction, hence the comments are also applicable to this property. Thanks</b>  <b>Email 2: Dear Dhiveshni. Will definitely do that before the end of today</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This stakeholder was also asked to kindly confirm if the BGCMA will be providing an amended letter of comments as discussed above.
	08/07/2021, Email, Zama Mbunquka Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>Dear Dhiveshni. Please find attached the amended version, I have been struggling with the network hence I could not send on time. Many apologies for the delay.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please note only the most recent, revised letter of comments received from the BGCMA is included in Section 6 of this Comments and Responses Reports and in Appendix D.9 of the Final Scoping Report.

## 2. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DFFE)

### 2.1 THE DIRECTORATE: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	25/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 30/06/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Milicent Solomon, DFFE	<b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 279 MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 (KWAGGA WEF 1), NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN CAPE.</b>  <b>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated May 2021 and received by the Department on 28 May 2021, refer.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> Thank you for the comments received on the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 development. Responses are provided below to each comment raised:

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
		<p><b><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report (FSR):</u></b></p> <p><b>(a) Listed Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It is noted Activity 9 (i) and (ii) is applied for, however, the applicability of this activity is questioned. The EAP also indicates that "it is highly unlikely that the storm water drains will exceed 1 000 meters in length". The FSR must include only applicable listed activities.</li> <li>• The application form states that "a separate Environmental Assessment Process will be undertaken at a later stage once the grid connection and the 132 kV power line routing for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project has been confirmed, and hence does not form part of this Scoping and EIA Process". However, Activity 11 (i) of Listing Notice 1 is also being applied for. Please clarify this.</li> <li>• Please take note that Activity 14, referring to the development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage and handling, of dangerous goods, being applied for is depended on the type of technology to be used. If the preferred technology is the Solid State Lithium Ion Batteries for the BESS, this activity may not be applicable. Installations, facilities or infrastructure related to the development (or expansion) of battery energy storage systems, will not trigger any of the activities related to the development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to Section 4.2 of the Final Scoping Report where it is described how the listed activities applied for are linked to the project description. In addition, all relevant listed activities triggered by the proposed project have now been applied for. The listed activities included in the Draft Scoping Report were based on the worst case and precautionary approach. However, based on this comment, to ensure that only applicable activities are applied for, the listed activities originally applied for in the Draft Scoping Report were reviewed. It has been confirmed by the Project Developer that the following listed activities are no longer applicable because the capacities or thresholds noted in the listed activities will not be exceeded.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GN R327: Activity 9: The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water.</li> <li>- GN R325: Activity 4: The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous goods, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of more than 500 cubic meters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p><b>quantified by the relevant threshold for the activity listed or specified in the relevant Listing Notice. Please clarify and confirm the applicability of the abovementioned activity.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the FSR, 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 <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Therefore, the above listed activities have subsequently been removed from the EA Application and the Final Scoping Report has been updated accordingly.</p> <p>Note that the Project Developer has subsequently confirmed that the construction and operational phases of the proposed WEF project will require infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods including flammable and combustible liquids such as chemicals, fuel, oils, lubricants and solvents of a combined capacity of more than 30 m<sup>3</sup> but not exceeding 80 m<sup>3</sup>, and therefore the following listed activity has been included in the EA Application as well as Table 4.1 in Section 4.2 of Chapter 4 of the Final Scoping Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>GN R324: Activity 10 (i) (ii): The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>i. Western Cape</i></li> <li>o <i>ii. All areas outside urban areas.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Activity 11 (i) states “The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less</li> </ul>

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			<p>than 275 kilovolts". Activity 11 (i) (GN327) is specifically applied for the construction of a 33kV/132kV on-site substation hub incorporating the facility substation, switchyard, collector infrastructure and associated Operations and Maintenance (O&amp;M) buildings. The substation hub qualifies as facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity. In addition, the proposed project will be constructed on various farm portions approximately 60 km south of Beaufort West within the Beaufort West Local Municipality, Western Cape Province and is therefore situated outside of the urban edge. This activity would therefore be triggered. The same listed activity will also be applied for during the separate Environmental Assessment for the actual power line extending from the on-site substation hub to the national grid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In response to this comment, the Project Developer has confirmed that both solid state and flow BESS technologies are being considered for this proposed WEF project; however, should flow BESS be selected as the preferred BESS technology and the need for electrolytes for the flow BESS be needed to be stored in separate storage tanks, the combined capacities of the tanks will not exceed that specified in Listed Activity 4 of Listing Notice 2 (GN R 325 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) and therefore</li> </ul>

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			<p>this listed activity was removed from the EA Application accordingly (see above). In addition, the impacts associated with the relevant BESS technology alternatives (i.e. Nickel based BESS, High Temperature BESS, Lead Acid and Advanced Lead Acid BESS, Lithium ion BESS, and Redox Flow BESS) will be assessed in detail during the EIA Phase and the preferred technology will be provided in the Draft EIA Report.</p>
2.	<p>25/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 30/06/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Milicent Solomon, DFFE</p>	<p><b>(b) Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>The proposed grid infrastructure for the above WEF, overlain by the sensitivity map;</b></li> <li>➤ <b>All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);</b></li> <li>➤ <b>The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; Buffer areas; and</b></li> <li>➤ <b>All "no-go" areas.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Google maps will not be accepted.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As is noted throughout the Draft Scoping report, the Project Developer is still investigating the different options for the grid connection and associated transmission line routings for the proposed WEF. Therefore, a separate Environmental Assessment Processes will be undertaken at a later stage once the preferred grid connection and the transmission line routing for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 has been confirmed, and hence does not form part of this Scoping and EIA Process.</li> <li>• The main body of the Final Scoping Report contains all maps as requested, and maps are also included throughout the document (refer to the list of figures upfront in the Final Scoping Report). Chapter 3 of the Final Scoping Report also includes relevant features identified by the Specialists.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Chapter 3 of the Final Scoping Report for the relevant sensitivity maps. Please note that the fine scale sensitivities mapped by the specialists within the proposed project development area, and the fine scale project layout cannot be easily seen when combined with a 50 km radius cumulative map. Scale needs to be considered in terms of the 50 km radius cumulative map. A feature- and sensitivity map has been provided in Chapter 3 of this Final Scoping Report to cover these points. A separate cumulative map is also provided in Chapter 3 (i.e. Figure 3.4.2 and Figure 3.4.3) of the Final Scoping Report, as well as in the relevant specialist assessments included in Appendix F. Maps compiled by the CSIR in the Final Scoping Report are not produced using Google Maps.</li> </ul>
3.	25/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 30/06/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Milicent Solomon, DFFE	<p><b>(c) Public Participation Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the Draft SR from registered I&amp;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 FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FSR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to the commencement of the Scoping and EIA Processes (and advertising the Environmental Authorisation Processes in the local print media), an initial database of I&amp;APs (including key stakeholders and Organs of State) was developed based on research and interaction with the DFFE and Project Developer. A detailed copy of the I&amp;AP database is included in the Final Scoping Report that is being submitted to the DFFE for decision-making. The database includes the names, contact details and</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Comments and Response Report report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the FSR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;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&amp;AP's comments.</b></li> <li>• <b>The FSR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Western Cape Environmental Department the District and Local Municipalities.</b></li> </ul>	<p>addresses of the I&amp;APs, as well as an indication of the interaction with I&amp;APs, as well as all I&amp;APs that have been added to the project database based on requests, submission of comments or based on research. This complies with Regulation 42 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of all comments received during the 30-day comment period of the Draft Scoping Report have been captured in Appendix D.8 of this Final Scoping Report.</li> <li>• A detailed Comments and Responses Report (i.e. this Report) is included as part of this Final Scoping Report. This Comments and Responses Report includes all comments received during the public participation process on the Draft Scoping Report, as well as responses provided to all these comments and issues raised. Comments received from the DFFE have been included in this section as well. All comments received have been duly considered and adequately addressed in this Comments and Responses Report.</li> <li>• All issues raised and comments received during the review of the Draft Scoping Report from registered I&amp;APs and Organs of State (including the DFFE Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate) which</li> </ul>

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			<p>have jurisdiction in terms of the proposed activity, have been adequately addressed in this Comments and Responses Report, and the Final Scoping Report, where applicable and necessary.</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with various stakeholders such as letters received from DFFE, BGCMA, SARAO and the Western Cape DEA&amp;DP is included in Appendix D.9 of this Final Scoping Report. It includes the necessary proof of correspondence, such as emails, text messages, letters, and newspapers. It also shows relevant follow up emails sent in order to remind stakeholders of the comment period closure, in order to seek comments.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 4 of the Final Scoping Report, for background on the Public Participation Process, including feedback on compliance with the regulations relating to Public Participation. Also, refer to the Public Participation Plan included in Appendix D.1 of the Final Scoping Report, which provides feedback on compliance with the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).</p>
4.	25/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 30/06/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Milicent Solomon, DFFE	<p><b>(d) Specialist Assessments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialists Site Sensitivity Verifications were conducted in accordance with Part A and Part B of the Government Gazette 43110, GN R320, where required. The gazetted Procedures for the assessment and minimum requirements for reporting on identified environmental themes in</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.</b></li> <li>• <b>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.</b></li> <li>• <b>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 note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</b></li> </ul>	<p>terms of Sections 24(5) (a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for environmental authorisation (GG 43110 / GN R320, 20 March 2020) was adhered to in terms of the minimum reports requirements for the Scoping Phase, and will be complied with, as applicable, during the EIA Phase. Please refer to Appendix F of this Final Scoping Report for the Specialists Assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist Impact Assessments, where relevant, will be conducted in adherence to Part A and B of the gazetted Protocol requirements of GN R320 during the EIA phase. All Specialist Assessments will include a detailed description of their methodologies, project infrastructure descriptions and locations, limitations applicable to the study, and recommendations for authorisations.</li> <li>• All specialist fieldwork required for this proposed project was conducted during very dry conditions amidst an ongoing drought in the Central Karoo region, albeit during late spring/early summer following the start of the rainy season. Details on the suitability of the season for fieldwork will be provided in the Specialist Assessments during the EIA Phase.</li> <li>• The EAP will clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation substantiated by defensible</li> </ul>

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			<p>reasons should any of the appointed Specialists specify contradicting recommendations in their assessments during the EIA phase. Further expert advice will be sought to substantiate such recommendations, if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted above, all Specialist Assessments were conducted in adherence to the Procedures for the assessment and minimum requirements for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of Sections 24(5) (a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 as published in Government Notice 320 in March 2020. Note that the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessments undertaken as part of these Scoping and EIA Processes for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1-3 projects were commissioned <u>prior</u> to the publication date of the Species Protocols (Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020) i.e. 30 October 2020, and therefore the terrestrial animal and plant species components form part of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessments that are being undertaken in adherence to the protocol specified in GN R320. Please refer to Appendix G for contractual proof showing appointment of the Specialist and commencement of the Specialist Assessments prior to 30 October 2020. The above approach was also presented to the Competent Authority during the pre-</li> </ul>

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			application consultation process and no objections were noted. Please refer to Appendix E for a copy of the pre-application consultation correspondence with DFFE.
5.	25/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 30/06/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Milicent Solomon, DFFE	<p><b>(e) Cumulative Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Should there be any other similar projects within a 30 km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>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.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>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.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted. Renewable energy (RE) projects located within a 50 km radius of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster, <u>that have received an EA or has a BA/EIA process underway at the time of starting this Scoping and EIA Process, as well as the three proposed Kwagga WEF developments,</u> will be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment during the EIA Phase of this project. The reason for selecting a 50 km radius instead of the recommended 30 km radius was to ensure the inclusion of a larger number of RE projects in the Cumulative Impact Assessment, since only two other RE projects were found to be located within the recommended 30 km radius from the proposed Kwagga project cluster. No additional RE projects within a 50 km radius will be considered following the submission of the Final Scoping Report, in order to close out the list of projects considered during the EIA Phase. Refer to Appendix E of this Final Scoping Report for a copy of the pre-application consultation with the DFFE, wherein this approach was confirmed, as well as the DFFE's approval thereof. The RE projects located within a 50 km radius of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster that will be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment are</p>

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			<p>detailed in Table 7.3 and Table 7.4 and shown in Figure 7.1 within Chapter 7 of this Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>The DFFE’s content guidelines on the cumulative impact assessments are duly noted, will be adhered to during the EIA phase of the proposed project where possible, and will be documented in the Draft EIA Report.</p>
6.	<p>25/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 30/06/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Milicent Solomon, DFFE</p>	<p><b>General</b></p> <p><b>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21 (1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</b></p> <p><b>"If S&amp;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"</b></p> <p><b>You are are further reminded that the FSR 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.</b></p> <p><b>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).</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timeframes in Regulation 21 (1) have been adhered to in the submission of this Final Scoping Report. The Application Form for EA was submitted to the DFFE, together with the Draft Scoping Reports for comment, on 28 May 2021. In line with Regulation 21 (1) of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended), the Final Scoping Report needed to be submitted to the DFFE for decision-making within 44 days of receipt of the application by the Competent Authority.</li> <li>The Final Scoping Report complies with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). Refer to the Executive Summary of the Final Scoping Report for additional information on compliance with Appendix 2.</li> </ul>

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		<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reminder regarding failure to meet any timeframes stipulated in Regulation 45 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) is noted.</li> <li>The Project Developer is aware of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended).</li> </ul>

## 2.2 THE DIRECTORATE: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 28/06/2021), Seoka Lekota and Aulicia Maifo, DFFE, The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 279 MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p><b>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned report.</b></p> <p><b>According to the information provided in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) the proposed development site is not located within any of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) and is also not located within any of the Strategic Transmission Corridors.</b></p> <p><b>The Final Scoping Report must include the following as guidelines considered and ensure that the proposed project is in compliance with their requirements:</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The location of the proposed project in relation to the REDZ and Strategic Transmission Corridors are noted and described in the Final Scoping Report. Section 5.1.5.1 in Chapter 5 of the Final Scoping Report specifically describes in detail the proximity of the proposed project to the Beaufort West REDZ and the Central Strategic Transmission Corridor.</p> <p>The Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment as well as the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment have already taken into consideration the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBS),</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All relevant provincial Biodiversity Conservation Plans;</b></li> <li>• <b>NEMBA National List of Threatened Ecosystem that are threatened and in need of protection; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Draft Species Environmental Assessment guideline.</b></li> </ul>	<p>2017), the National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA, 2018), and the NEMBA National List of Threatened Ecosystems (Government Gazette No 34809, General Notice 1002, 9 December 2011, Department of Environmental Affairs).</p> <p>Note that the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment undertaken as part of these Scoping and EIA Processes for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1-3 projects were commissioned <u>prior</u> to the publication date of the Species Protocols (Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020) and the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline, and therefore the terrestrial animal and plant species components of these projects form part of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessments that are being undertaken in adherence to the protocol specified in GN R320. Please refer to Appendix G for contractual proof showing appointment of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist and commencement of the Specialist Assessments prior to 30 October 2020. The above approach was also presented to the Competent Authority during the pre-application consultation process and no objections were noted. Please refer to Appendix E for a copy of the pre-application consultation correspondence with DFFE.</p>

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
2.	28/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 28/06/2021), Seoka Lekota and Aulicia Maifo, DFFE, The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation	<b>NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This stakeholder has been included on the I&AP database. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.

### 2.3 THE DIRECTORATE: PROTECTED AREAS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	28/06/2021, Email, Rofhiwa Magodi, DFFE, The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness, wouldlike to thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed development of three Kwagga Wind Energy Facilities (WEF) near Beaufort West Town in the Western Cape.</b></p> <p><b>We have noted that the proposed development will not take place within any kind of protected areas in terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), Act No. 57 of 2003. However, there is Karoo National Park and Steenbokkie Private Nature Reserve located approximately 60 km north of the proposed sites of the WEF. Further, there are Cape Floral Region Protected Areas situated approximately 55 km south of the proposed sites. Therefore, the Directorate of the Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness does not</b></p>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Section 3.2.9.2 as well as Section 3.5 in Chapter 3 of the Final Scoping Report includes feedback on the location of Protected Areas in relation to the proposed project. The proposed project falls outside of any declared protected areas, and thus will not have any detrimental impacts on conservation planning.

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		have the comments on the proposed project as it does not fall within the protected areas.	

**3. WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (DEA&DP)**

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	28/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation	<p><b>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 279MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 3 OF FARM TYGER POORT NO. 376, PORTION 1 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM DWAALFONTEIN WES NO. 377 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM DWAALFONTEIN NO. 379, BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPALITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACCESS ROAD ON PORTIONS 7, 10, 11, 12 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM WOLVE KRAAL NO. 17, PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <p>The e-mail notification of 28 May 2021 regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report for comments refers. Please find consolidated comment from various directorates within the Department on the Draft Scoping Report (“DSR”) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) dated May 2021 that was available for download from various online platforms provided by the environmental assessment practitioner (“EAP”). Please direct any enquiries via e-mail to the official/s indicated in this correspondence should you require any clarity on any of the comments provided.</p>	CSIR: This comment is noted. The email addresses of the officials indicated in this correspondence have been included on the I&AP database, if not already registered. Refer to Appendix C of this Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.



NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
		The Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw comments or request further information based on any information received.	

### 3.1 DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 3)

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Jessica Christie, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Management (Region 3)</p>	<p><b>This Directorate will provide detailed comment on the Draft EIA Report should the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (“DFFE”) accept the Final Scoping Report (“FSR”).</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The EIA project team looks forward to receiving comment from this stakeholder on the Draft EIA Report for this proposed project.</p>

### 3.2 DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Mr Ryan Apolles, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>Table C of the DSR (Summary of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project components and associated infrastructure) indicates the total length of the service road network for the proposed Kwagga wind energy facility (“WEF”) 1 as approximately 45 km. Please indicate in the Draft EIA Report which proportion of the stated internal road network would be existing roads that would require upgrading, and what proportion will be newly constructed?</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The maps to be included in the Draft EIA Report will differentiate between the portions of the stated internal road network that are existing, portions of the existing roads which require upgrading, and the portions of internal access roads which will be newly constructed.</p>
2.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Mr Ryan Apolles, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>Its noted that a maximum of 45 wind turbines is preliminary proposed, albeit with a few turbines either traversing or adjacent to the “no-go” areas depicted in Figure 5.5 (Preliminary combined environmental sensitivity map (excluding visual sensitivity) for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project site) of the DSR. This Directorate awaits the Draft EIA Report with specialist studies that should provide a refined layout, to provide further comments.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Detailed maps indicating the refined WEF layout will be included in the Draft EIA Report. Representatives of the Directorate will receive a notification indicating the release of the Draft EIA Report for a 30-day public comment period.</p>
3.	<p>28/06/2021,</p>	<p><b>It is noted that the cumulative impacts of the proposed WEF in relation to other renewable energy projects within 50 km of the proposed project</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As noted in Section 2.1 of this Comments and Responses Report, only renewable energy</p>

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	<p>(received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Mr Ryan Apolles, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>site will be addressed in the Draft EIA Report. Please amend Table 7-3 of the DSR (Proposed renewable energy projects located within 50 km of the proposed Kwagga WEF projects) to include the following renewable energy applications that this Directorate is aware of, but which may not yet be indicated on the renewable energy EIA application database:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposed 75MW Beaufort West Photovoltaic Project near Beaufort West. Applicant: Beaufort West Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd (DFFE reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2332). EAP: Nema Consulting (Pty) Ltd. Status: In process (Final Basic Assessment Report submitted to the DFFE for a decision).</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed 280MW Nuweveld East wind farm and associated infrastructure across various properties near Beaufort West (DFFE reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2044). EAP: Zutari (Pty) Ltd. Status: In process (Draft EIA Report released for public comment).</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed 280MW Nuweveld North wind farm and associated infrastructure across various properties near Beaufort West (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2042). EAP: Zutari (Pty) Ltd. Status: In process (Draft EIA Report released for public comment).</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed 280MW Nuweveld West wind farm and associated infrastructure across various properties near Beaufort West (DFFE reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2043) EAP: Zutari (Pty) Ltd. Status: In process (Draft EIA Report released for public comment).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Please feel free to contact this Directorate for further information regarding the above-mentioned renewable energy applications.</b></p>	<p>projects located within a 50 km radius of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster, that have received an EA or has a BA/EIA process underway at the time of starting this Scoping and EIA Process, as well as the three proposed Kwagga WEF developments, will be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment during the EIA Phase of this project. Refer to Appendix E of this Final Scoping Report for a copy of the pre-application consultation with the DFFE, wherein this approach was confirmed, as well as the DFFE's approval thereof. The four additional renewable energy projects which this Directorate has suggested are duly noted but are all located outside of the 50 km radius applied to the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster, and would therefore not form part of the Cumulative Impact Assessment. Please refer to Figure 7.1 in Chapter 7 of the Final Scoping Report, which displays the 50 km radius applied to the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster.</p>

### 3.3 DIRECTORATE: POLLUTION AND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Nabeelah Achmat, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management</p>	<p><b>Section 2.1.2.8 of the DSR details the proposed handling and disposal of sewage and liquid effluent. It is recommended that additional detail on this aspect be included in the environmental impact reporting (“EIR”) phase of the application, including the frequency of servicing of facilities and conservancy tanks, and disposal of effluent, as opposed to using the term “regular”. Furthermore, it is recommended that the relevant local municipalities (Beaufort West Municipality and/or Prince Albert Municipality) are consulted during the application process to obtain confirmation of available unallocated service capacity to accept sewage and effluent at the designated wastewater treatment works.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This comment has been forwarded to the Project Developer. Additional detail on the handling and disposal of the sewage and liquid effluent will be provided in the EIA phase of the proposed Kwagga WEF project development. The email with notification of the proposed project was sent to various representatives from the Prince Albert Local Municipality and the Beaufort West Local Municipality. Refer to Appendix C of this Final Scoping Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</p> <p>The Beaufort West Local Municipality and/or Prince Albert Local Municipality will receive a copy of the Draft EIA Report during the EIA Phase and comment will be sought from them accordingly, where possible. However, obtaining non-binding letters prior to bidding, as well as confirming actual Service Level Agreements with the local municipalities is understood to be outside of the EIA process, and will only be concluded if the project receives preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.</p>
2.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>The DSR states that the municipal water supply could not be “confirmed”, and that the project developer will investigate “other water sources”. Should an alternative water supply be required, such as groundwater, it is imperative that the Department of Water and Sanitation be consulted to ensure that the correct application process is undertaken concerning water use and licencing requirements, as well as ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to avoid and minimise any possible</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As stated in Section 2.1.5 in Chapter 2 of the Final Scoping Report, high water use is only anticipated during the first six months of the construction phase mainly for purposes of the turbine foundations, roads and dust suppression. Thereafter the water usage will decrease drastically. The water use requirement during the</p>

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	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Nabeelah Achmat, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management</p>	<p><b>contamination to the water quality, given that the project is located in an arid region within the Nama Karoo Biome with groundwater quality considered to be generally good.</b></p>	<p>operational phase will be primarily for human consumption and sanitation purposes.</p> <p>It is proposed that water be sourced from either the Beaufort West Local Municipality or the Prince Albert Local Municipality, and specific arrangements will be agreed upon with the relevant Local Municipality in a Service Level Agreement, which will only be concluded if the project receives preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.</p> <p>Only if municipal water supply cannot be confirmed, the Project Developer will investigate other water sources (such as groundwater) and the Department of Water and Sanitation will be consulted to ensure that the correct application process is undertaken concerning water use and licencing requirements, as well as ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to avoid and minimise any possible contamination to the water quality, as requested.</p>
3.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Nabeelah Achmat, Western</p>	<p><b>It is recommended that a detailed Stormwater Management Plan be compiled to address possible contamination from the proposed battery energy storage system, and any concomitant discharge into the stormwater system. The plan should indicate how stormwater will be managed on site and be incorporated into the relevant sections of the Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”) to be submitted as part of the EIR phase of the application.</b></p> <p><b>This Directorate awaits the Draft EIA Report and specialist assessments to provide further comment.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. A detailed Stormwater Management Plan will be compiled to address possible contamination from the proposed battery energy storage system, and any concomitant discharge into the stormwater system, and included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which will be included in the Draft EIA Report.</p> <p>Representatives of the Directorate will receive a notification indicating the release of the Draft EIA Report for a 30-day public comment period.</p>

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
	Cape DEADP, Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management		

### 3.4 DIRECTORATE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobeer and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Etienne Roux, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Waste Management</p>	<p><b>This Directorate agrees with the specialist studies as proposed in the Plan of Study for EIA. This Directorate awaits the Draft EIA Report to provide further comment on the project.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Representatives of the Directorate will receive a notification indicating the release of the Draft EIA Report for a 30-day public comment period.</p>

### 3.5 DIRECTORATE: AIR QUALITY

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobeer and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management</p>	<p><b>This Directorate notes that dust impacts will be assessed in the EIR phase. It is recommended that all potential atmospheric emissions emanating during the various phases of the proposed WEF be assessed in the forthcoming Draft EIA Report and EMPr.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Impacts relating to the generation of dust and resultant emissions will be assessed during the EIA Phase. Other emissions, such as those from construction vehicles, are not expected to be significant during the construction and operational phases. Nevertheless, general management measures relating to the control of atmospheric emissions from vehicles and equipment during the construction and operational phase will be captured in the EIA Phase.</p> <p>Representatives of the Directorate will receive a notification indicating the release of the Draft EIA Report for a 30-day public comment period.</p>
2.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobeer and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management</p>	<p><b>The generation of dust must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004).</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The potential impact of dust pollution during the construction and operational phases of the proposed project, should it receive Environmental Authorisation, will be assessed by the Specialists during the EIA phase. This requirement as stipulated will also be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that will be included in the Draft EIA Report.</p>

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3.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Keshni Rughoobee and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management</p>	<p><b>It is noted that potential noise impacts will be assessed by a specialist in the EIR phase. Please note that noise generated during the proposed project phases must comply with the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations (Provincial Notice 200/2013).</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The potential impact of noise pollution during the construction and operational phases of the proposed project, should it receive Environmental Authorisation, will be assessed by the Noise Specialist during the EIA phase. This requirement as stipulated will also be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that will be included in the Draft EIA Report.</p>

**4. SOUTH AFRICAN BAT ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATION**

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Eleanor J. (Kate) Richardson, South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA)</p>	<p><b>Dear EIA project team,</b></p> <p><b>Thank you for the Scoping reports for the three Kwagga WEFs near Beaufort West. I have read the reports and would like to make the following comments:</b></p> <p><b>I note that the developers have been warned of the possibility of curtailment if bat deaths reach threshold levels. It is important that post-construction monitoring and carcass searching is undertaken timeously and rigorously, and that the dead bats are identified to species level</b></p>	<p><b>BAT SPECIALIST:</b> Post-construction monitoring and carcass searching is recommended to be implemented in full compliance with the relevant bat monitoring guidelines at the time of implementation / or operation of the facility. This is considered standard practice and will form part of the recommendations in the final specialist impact assessment report, during the relevant EIA phase. It is agreed that bat carcasses must be examined in such detail that they are identified to species level. In the event that positive identification is not possible, additional</p>



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		<b>(preferably being sent to the Durban Natural Museum for correct identification). The results also need to be analysed and sent to SABAA and the EWT as soon as they are generated.</b>	consultation will be made with relevant experts to aid in the identification, which may include (but not limited to) the Durban Natural Museum. This is considered standard practice and should be facilitated by an appropriate bat specialist during the post-construction phase. Results of the post-construction monitoring campaign will be distributed as per standard reporting protocols and requirements.
2.	28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Eleanor J. (Kate) Richardson, South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA)	<b>Kwagga WEF1 Scoping report pages 1-14: instead of the CBA being avoided “as far as possible”, I would like to see it avoided completely.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> Precautionary buffers and inputs provided by specialists in the Scoping Phase of the proposed development will be applied to refine the layout of the WEF to avoid environmentally sensitive areas such as CBAs. Refer to Figure 3.4.2 and Figure 3.4.3 in Chapter 3 of the Final Scoping Report for the preliminary combined sensitivity maps. Detailed maps indicating the refined WEF layout will be included in Draft EIA Report. Representatives of SABAA will receive a notification indicating the release of the Draft EIA Report for a 30-day public comment period, during which they are encouraged to submit comments on the Draft EIA Report.
3.	28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Eleanor J. (Kate) Richardson, South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA)	<b>All three Scoping reports note (section 3.2.10) that “no roosts were located within the combined study area.”. Most bat species in South Africa have small, cryptic roosts (the point, after all, is to not be seen by predators) and so unless each building was stripped to individual bricks and each tree stripped of its bark and dead leaves it is unlikely that bat roosts would have been found. Since most of the smaller bat species like the Cape Serotine do not generally fly long distances to feed you can</b>	<b>BAT SPECIALIST:</b> As mentioned in sections 3.2 (Field Surveys) of the specialist scoping inputs, potential bat roosting structures (including buildings, rocky outcrops and trees) were inspected for evidences. Such structures were understandably not broken down and stripped to their individual units when undergoing the inspections. Regardless, no evidences were found that would warrant such structures to be considered as significant roosts.

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		<b>assume the roosts were there, just not seen. After all, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.</b>	Nonetheless, please note that precautionary buffers were applied, as detailed in sections 5.1 (Risk to Bats) of the specialist scoping inputs, where it states: "Important bat features including riparian habitats, buildings, cultivated areas, wetlands and farm dams, all of which have been buffered by 300 m...".  <b>CSIR:</b> Scoping inputs provided by the Bat Specialist are included in Appendix F.4 of the Final Scoping Report.
4.	28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Eleanor J. (Kate) Richardson, South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA)	<b>Please ensure the SABAA (chair@sabaa.org.za) is registered as an I&amp;AP and continues to receive reports.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The email address provided was included on the pre-identified project database of I&APs and Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process. Refer to Appendix C of this Final Scoping Report for a copy of the I&AP database.

### 5. SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY (SARAO)

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	24/06/2021, Letter (received via email on 25/06/2021), Thato Nape and Selaelo Matlhane, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	<b>RE: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES NAMELY 279 MW KWAGGA WEF 1, 341 KWAGGA WEF 2 AND 204.6 KWAGGA WEF 3 IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Section 4.3.1 in Chapter 4 of this Final Scoping Report includes information on the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Area (KCAAA) in relation to the proposed project. The proposed projects fall outside of the KCAAA, and thus will not have any detrimental impacts on the SKA.

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		<p><b>This letter is in response to the notification of the proposed wind energy facilities and its possible impact on the Square Kilometre Array radio telescopes. SARAO has undertaken an impact assessment and based on the information provided it was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 41.53 dBm/Hz. As such, we do not have any objection to the development. Thank you for your correspondence, we would appreciate it if you could keep us informed with the development of the project.</b></p>	<p>Representatives of the SARAO will receive a notification indicating the release of the Draft EIA Report for a 30-day public comment period, and will be kept on the project database.</p>

**6. BREEDE-GOURITZ CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)</p>	<p><b>COMMENT ON PRE-APPLICATION SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM 17 PRINCE ALBERT, PORTION 1,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 OF FARM 17 PRINCE ALBERT, PORTION 1,2,3 OF FARM 386 BEAUFORT WEST, PORTION 4,5,6,8, OF FARM 115 PRINCE ALBERT, AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM 19, PRINCE ALBERT</b></p> <p><b>With reference to the application dated May 2021 and after having had the opportunity to assess the application, herewith the following:</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer was informed of the requirement to apply for water authorisation in terms of section 21 (c) and (i) water uses of the National Water Act, 1998 (NWA) as stipulated. The Project Applicant will apply for and obtain the required authorisation prior to commencement of construction, should this project be granted Environmental Authorisation.</p>

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		<p>Please note that the proposed Kwagga wind energy development constitutes section 21 (c) &amp; (i) water uses of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) .The applicant must obtain authorization in terms of the aforementioned Act prior to the commencement of the proposed windfarm energy development.</p>	
2.	<p>30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)</p>	<p>Page 2 of the aquatic biodiversity and species report indicates that each windfarm energy facility will make use of approximately 8333 kl per month during the construction stage of the projects. Water used during the operation phase of the projects will primarily be for drinking and sanitation purposes. The applicant proposes municipal water be trucked to the site, however, it is noted that alternative sources are still being investigated. Please provide this office with the service level agreement letter from the municipalities confirming the availability of water for the proposed project.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Beaufort West Local Municipality and/or Prince Albert Local Municipality will be consulted to obtain the necessary non-binding letters confirming sufficient water availability for construction and operation of the proposed project prior to bidding. Actual Service Level Agreements with the local municipalities are only to be concluded after the project is selected as a preferred bidder in terms of the REIPPPP.</p>
3.	<p>30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)</p>	<p>It is noted that sewerage infrastructure for the above proposed activity would be supplied by means of the chemical toilets during the construction phase and conservancy tanks during the operational phase. Please note the following concerning the disposal of sewage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disposal of sewage must at all times comply with the requirements of Sections 22 and 40 of the National Water Act of 1998, (Act 36 of 1998).</li> <li>• Should chemical toilets facilities be used on-site during construction phase of project development to be used by construction workers such toilets facilities must be located outside of the 1: 100 year floodline.</li> <li>• When a conservancy tank is used for the disposal of sewerage, this office must be furnished with a signed copy of the contract</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project Developer will be made aware that the disposal of sewage must at all times comply with the requirements of Sections 22 and 40 of the National Water Act of 1998, (Act 36 of 1998). Such references and requirements will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which will be compiled as part of the EIA Phase.</li> <li>• The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) which will be included in the Draft EIA Report, will make a note that should chemical toilet facilities be used on-site during the construction phase, such toilet facilities must be located outside of the 1: 100 year floodline.</li> <li>• As noted in Section 2.1.2.8 in Chapter 2 of the Final Scoping Report, the remote location of the project site indicates that it</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>between the contractor or the municipality which is appointed to pump the conservancy tank.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The volume of sewage needs to be metered on a monthly basis and removal programme needs to ensure to be scheduled to ensure that the conservancy tank is pumped well within time before overflowing. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make an agreement with such Municipality in connection with sewer connection. Such agreement must be made available to this office.</b></li> </ul>	<p>is highly likely that a conservancy tank system will be employed on site during the operational phase. A registered company will be contracted to store and transport sewage from site to an appropriate municipal wastewater treatment facility. Should a conservancy tank system be employed, the Project Applicant will provide the BGCMA with a signed copy of the contract between the contractor or the municipality which is appointed to empty the conservancy tank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EMPr, which will be included in the Draft EIA Report, will make a note that the volume of sewage must be metered on a monthly basis and a removal programme will be compiled during the detailed design phase, post Environmental Authorisation and prior to construction, to ensure that the conservancy tank is emptied well within time before overflowing.</li> </ul>
4.	30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>No pollution of surface water or ground water resources may occur due to any activity on the property.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Any hazardous waste such as chemicals or contaminated soil as a result of spillages, which may be generated during the construction and/or operational phases, will be temporarily stockpiled within a designated area on site and thereafter removed off site by a suitable service provider for safe disposal at a registered hazardous waste disposal facility. Measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate or manage waste will be included within the EMPr that will be compiled during the EIA phase and included within the Draft EIA Report.
5.	30/06/2021,	<b>The stormwater drainage network system must be kept separate from the sewage effluent system.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The EMPr, which will be included in the Draft EIA Report, will make a note that the stormwater drainage

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	Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)		network system must be kept separate from the sewage effluent system.
6.	30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>All relevant sections and regulations of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) regarding the disposal of solid waste must be adhered to. Solid waste may only be disposed off onto an authorized solid waste facility in terms of abovementioned legislation.</b>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As noted in Section 2.1.2.9 in Chapter 2 of the Final Scoping Report, any solid waste generated will be collected and temporarily stockpiled within designated areas on site during construction, and thereafter removed and disposed of at a nearby registered waste disposal facility on a regular basis as per an agreement with the Beaufort West and/or the Prince Albert Local Municipalities. Temporary storage on site will be undertaken in compliance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008, as amended). Proof of disposal or waybills must be kept on file. Where possible, recycling and re-use of materials will be encouraged. The EMPr will include relevant management actions for the management of waste on site during all phases of the project.</p> <p>The Beaufort West Local Municipality and/or Prince Albert Local Municipality will be consulted with to obtain non-binding letters confirming the availability of unallocated service capacity to accept solid waste at the relevant authorized solid waste facility prior to bidding. Specific arrangements will be agreed upon with the relevant Local Municipality in a Service Level Agreement, which will only be concluded if the project receives preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.</p>

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7.	30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>The minimizing of waste must be promoted and alternative methods for waste management must be investigated.</b>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Waste will mostly be generated during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project. Measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate or manage waste will be included within the EMPr that will be compiled during the EIA Phase and included within the Draft EIA Report.</p> <p>Waste generated on site will be disposed of at a licenced landfill site. The Beaufort West Local Municipality and/or Prince Albert Local Municipality will be consulted with to obtain non-binding letters confirming the availability of unallocated service capacity to accept solid waste at the relevant authorized solid waste facility prior to bidding. Specific arrangements will be agreed upon with the relevant Local Municipality in a Service Level Agreement, which will only be concluded if the project receives preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.</p>
8.	30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>No permanent structures maybe constructed within the 100-year flood line of any watercourse (seasonal or permanent river, stream, etc.) without authorisation in terms of National Water Act 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).</b>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The impact of the proposed project on the surrounding watercourses will be assessed in detail in the EIA Phase. The relevant listed activities for activities and development within 32 m from affected watercourses or within the affected watercourses have been considered and included in the Application for EA and will be assessed in detail. The project layouts will be revised during the EIA Phase to avoid watercourses as best as possible, but where it is not possible to avoid watercourses, relevant authorisation for such development in proximity to the affected watercourses has been applied for in terms of NEMA and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). In addition, water authorisation in terms of section 21 (c) and (i) water uses of the National Water Act, 1998 (NWA) will be applied for prior to</p>

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			commencement of construction, should this project be granted Environmental Authorisation.
9.	30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>Environmental sensitive areas must be identified as well as possible pollution impacts and mitigation measures of such areas must be employed.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Environmental sensitive areas and possible pollution impacts during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed project has been identified and described in Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 of the Final Scoping Report. The identified impacts will be further studied and subjected to a detailed impact assessment during the EIA phase of the proposed project and recommended measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate or manage waste will be included within the EMPr that will be included within the Draft EIA Report.
10.	30/06/2021, Letter (received via email, sent on 11/07/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<b>Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility rests with the applicant to identify any sources of pollution from his undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the environment. Failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the applicant.</b>  <b>The BGCMA reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that might be received.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer has been made aware of the responsibility to identify any sources of pollution from their undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the receiving environment. The failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), which could lead to legal action being instituted against the Project Applicant, has also been communicated to the Project Developer.

**7. WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS DEPARTMENT**



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1.	<p>24/06/2021 Letter (received via email on 25/06/2021), Mr Lyle Martin and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Ms D. Cloete and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<p><b>THREE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (NAMELY THE 279MW KWAGGA WEF 1, THE 341MW KWAGGA WEF 2 AND THE 204.6MW KWAGGA WEF 3) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE; NEAR BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p><b>The following refer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Your e-mail on behalf of CSIR Environmental Management Services on 28 May 2021 to Interested and/or Affected Party.</b></li> <li>• <b>JG Afrika's three transport specialist assessments (respectively for Kwagga Wind Energy Facilities 1, 2 and 3) all dated 25 January 2021.</b></li> <li>• <b>This Branch will not object to the issuing of an Environmental Authorisation in favour of any of the three wind energy facilities, provided that this Branch is offered the opportunity to comment on the land use application, at which stage this Branch will issue its approvals in terms of Act 21 of 1940 (building restrictions) and Roads Ordinance 19 of 1976 (accesses and construction activities with the road reserves and building lines).</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works – Roads Department was pre-included on the project database of I&amp;APs and Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process. This stakeholder will be notified of the release of the future reports and will be given the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIA Report during the 30-day public comment period. The Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works – Roads Department will be contacted by the Project Developer and/or Project Contractor during the land use application process. This will take place outside of the EIA process.</p>
2.	<p>24/06/2021 Letter (received via email on 25/06/2021), Mr Lyle Martin and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Ms D. Cloete and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The following (Public) Provincial Roads, all for which this Branch is the Road Authority, are either in the immediate vicinity or traversing the affected farms:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trunk Road 33 section 5 (TR03305; N12)</b></li> <li>• <b>Divisional Road 2301 (DR02301)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 7066 (OP07066)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 7067 (OP07067)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 7070 (OP07070)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Specialist Traffic Impact Assessment to be undertaken during the EIA phase will take into consideration the presence of these listed roads.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8806 (OP08806)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8807 (OP08807)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8824 (OP08824)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8825 (OP08825)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8828 (OP08828)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8831 (OP08831)</b></li> </ul>	
3.	24/06/2021 Letter (received via email on 25/06/2021), Mr Lyle Martin and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Ms D. Cloete and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads	<b>Based upon the above-mentioned roads and the farms being served, it appears as if Portion 1 of Farm 386, Portion 3 of Farm 386, Portion 4 of Farm 115 and Portion 6 of Farm 115 are all possibly land locked. This Branch is not aware of any registered servitude rights of way being in place to ensure permanent, legal and unfettered access to those farms.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. It is proposed that an internal service road network, connecting the wind turbines and associated project infrastructure, be newly constructed. This has been accommodated for in the Application for EA. A detailed road layout, which will be subjected to detailed specialist assessment during the EIA phase, will be included in the Draft EIA Report. The detailed road network will connect and provide access to turbines and associated infrastructure located on Portion 1 of Farm 386, Portion 3 of Farm 386, Portion 4 of Farm 115 and Portion 6 of Farm 115. The Project Developer and/or Project Contractor will lodge the necessary applications to the relevant authority to register servitude rights, where required.
4.	24/06/2021 Letter (received via email on 25/06/2021), Mr Lyle Martin and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Ms D. Cloete and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads	<b>Regardless of all the Provincial Roads in that vicinity are only TR03305 and DR02301 described as access roads. An impression is created that the other (gravelled) Provincial Roads in that vicinity will be utilised as private roads. All the Provincial Roads Public accessibility must be retained (if not closed — deproclaimed) and they must be evaluated for the purposes of construction, operation and decommissioning.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Only the two stated roads as per the provided comment will be utilised as main access roads to the proposed WEFs. The Project Developer and/or Project Contractor will ensure that all Provincial Public Roads will remain open and accessible to all during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
5.	24/06/2021 Letter (received via email on 25/06/2021),	<b>This Branch, for now, will ultimately require the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access applications (for all the accesses to each respective farm portion), which might include servitude rights of way to</b></li> </ul>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer and/or Project Contractor will ensure that access applications are submitted and obtained prior to the commencement of construction, and these will

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	<p>Mr Lyle Martin and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Ms D. Cloete and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<p><b>be registered to ensure permanent, legal and unfettered access to all affected farm portions. It will be required to clearly state which access will serve what purpose (wind energy and / or farming)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction applications, including wayleaves for third party services, when building restrictions, building lines and road reserves are affected.</b></li> <li>• <b>Abnormal load applications, which may require prior geometric and materials designs to be completed and constructed. Due to the possible longevity of this process it is recommended to commence with these applications as soon as possible.</b></li> <li>• <b>A geotechnical and geometric design report, including improvement proposals, must be compiled to ensure that all the roads (on the entire road network) that will be affected by this development are adequately improved and maintained before any other construction activity may commence on any of the farm portions. This is to ensure that no more than normal deterioration and additional maintenance costs are experienced by the Road Authority during the construction and operating phases. It will be required that any design affecting any Proclaimed Provincial Road must carry this Branch's Chief Directorate Road Design's approval before implementation thereof may commence.</b></li> <li>• <b>Confirmation that a similar geotechnical (as per paragraph 6.4) proposal will be compiled and approval obtained prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase; whenever that may be.</b></li> </ul>	<p>clearly state the purpose of each access. All relevant permits, such as the wayleaves and abnormal load applications will be applied for by the Project Developer and/or Project Contractor during the detailed design phase prior to construction, after Environmental Authorisation is issued, should such authorisation be granted.</p> <p>The EMPr will make note that a geotechnical and geometric design report must be compiled during the detailed design phase, post Environmental Authorisation, and that relevant approvals are obtained from the relevant authorities prior to commencement of construction.</p> <p>The Project Developer will also commission a similar geotechnical report for approval from the relevant authorities prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase.</p>

**8. WESTERN CAPE CAPENATURE**

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature</p>	<p><b>DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (I.E. KWAGGA WEF 1, KWAGGA WEF 2, AND KWAGGA WEF 3), BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE</b></p> <hr/> <p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Kwagga Wind Energy Facilities in project in Beaufort West. The applicant proposed the following as extracted from the draft scoping report:  <b>“ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd (“the Developer”) is proposing to develop three Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) and associated infrastructure approximately 60km south of Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province, on behalf of three separate project Applicants, namely:  <i>Kwagga 1 = Kwagga Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd (Reg. no. 2020/258426/07)  Kwagga 2 = Kwagga Wind Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd (Reg. no. 2020/429949/07)  Kwagga 3 = Kwagga Wind Energy Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd (Reg. no. 2020/429978/07)  The WEFs will each have a total installed capacity of 279 MW (Kwagga 1), 341 MW (Kwagga 2) and 204.6 MW (Kwagga 3), respectively”</i></b></p> <p>Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.</p> <p>CapeNature wishes to make the following comments:</p> <p>According to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP 2017)<sup>1</sup> the WEF sites will cross farms with Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1: Terrestrial, Aquatic,</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Based on specialist inputs received and considered during the Scoping phase of this proposed WEF project, the Project Developer will revise the project infrastructure layouts to ensure that all wind turbines and associated infrastructure will avoid any buffered environmental sensitive areas such as CBAs and ESAs identified on site. In addition, vegetation clearance that will be required for purposes of developing this proposed project will be kept to the absolute minimum as to limit the potential impact on the natural habitat. The Western Cape Land Use Guideline Handbook (WCBSP, 2017) and the Western Cape Land Use Planning Guidelines for Rural Areas will be considered by the relevant specialists during the EIA Phase.</p>

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		<p>River), Ecological Support Areas (ESA 1: Aquatic and fragments of ESA 2: Restore), and Other Natural Areas. The farms have numerous dams, wetlands, rivers (i.e., Swartbakens, Muishond se loop, Muis kraal, kouka, etc.) and non-perennial rivers. These watercourses form part of the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAs) river corridor.</p> <p>The natural vegetation unit is Least Threatened Gamka Karoo as listed in the updated National Biodiversity Assessment (2018). Although, the vegetation type is Least Threatened (LT), kindly note that any loss to natural habitat should be avoided and all proposed land use should be in line with the Western Cape Land Use Guideline Handbook (WCBSP 2017) and the Western Cape Land Use Planning Guidelines Rural Areas. Both these documents are available free to download online.</p> <p>CapeNature reminds the applicant that the farms have CBAs and ESAs, these areas should be maintained in a functional, near-natural state. The loss of CBA and natural habitat should be avoided (WCBSP 2017).</p>	
2.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<p><b>In terms of the development, the turbines will have hub heights up to 180 m, and blade diameter is 100 m. This is a large range in specifications, will the final specifications still be decided, or will different blade lengths be used for different turbines on site? We strongly recommend using the shortest blades possible to reduce the windswept area and thus mortalities of birds and bats.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The turbine dimensions to be used in the proposed WEF development are noted throughout the Final Scoping Report. Note that the proposed wind turbines will have a hub height of up to 180 m and a rotor (or blade) diameter of up to 200 m, which means each blade will be up to 100 m in length.</p> <p>Both the Avifauna (Birds) and Bats Impact Assessments will carefully consider and assess in detail the potential impact of the wind turbine blades on birds and bats which could result in possible mortalities. These detailed specialist assessments with recommended mitigation and</p>

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			management actions will be included in the Draft EIA Report.
3.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<b>There is a high likelihood of riverine rabbits in the vicinity of the site. We recommend that EWT should be contacted to do a site suitability survey, including the number and placement of camera traps. The information from camera trap monitoring can improve the understanding and population trends. Given the conservation status of riverine rabbit, we strongly recommend that areas where these species could occur be buffered as a precautionary approach. CapeNature will not support turbines that will be located within Riverine Rabbit habitat buffer areas. In addition, we suggest the developer install ongoing camera trap survey on sites for the duration of this project. In the area, many of the mammals are crepuscular or nocturnal and thus difficult to observe directly. To understand the mammal community and the impacts of the proposed development, we recommend that this study to extend into the construction phase and into the first year of the operational phase.</b>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Terrestrial Specialist has been informed of this comment received and the recommendations provided. The Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist has noted already during the Scoping Phase that the proposed project sites lie outside of the known distribution range of the Riverine Rabbit and that favourable habitat for the Riverine Rabbit does not appear to be present on the proposed Kwagga WEF 1-3 project sites. This is mainly due to intensive grazing by livestock exacerbated by the ongoing drought, which severely degraded the vegetation on site and along many of the drainage lines.</p> <p>The Project Developer will also revise the preliminary project infrastructure layouts for each WEF to ensure that all wind turbines and associated infrastructure will avoid any ecologically sensitive areas including its buffers such as river/streams and drainage lines with associated riparian vegetation.</p> <p><b>TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST:</b> The probability that the species occurs at the sites is extremely unlikely and it is not anticipated that a site suitability survey would be needed. However, EWT should be contacted to discuss the need for and placement of onsite camera trap monitoring during the construction and operational phases of the proposed projects, as recommended.</p>

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4.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<b>Prior to the construction phase a search-and-rescue should be conducted for plant and animal species. We strongly recommend that this activity be on going during the construction. Furthermore, no hunting and/or trapping (i.e. poaching) of wild animals is allowed. Measures must be in place for faunal species entering during construction and operational phases. We recommend appropriate fencing and access control must be put in place around the entire area to reduce the risk of animal species gaining access to the site.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. A ‘search-and-rescue’ plan along with the recommended mitigation measures relating to fencing and access control will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that will be included in the Draft EIA Report.
5.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<b>We strongly recommend that a site-specific Alien Plant Species Management Plan be compiled and included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Prior to the closure of the construction phase, the last monitoring report must confirm that there are no introduced alien flora or fauna species on site. If at any stage during the construction phase any such species are noted they should be eradicated using suitable methods. Confirmation of eradication of all such species must be recorded within the last monitoring report. The removal of invasive alien plant species must be continuous and should continue beyond the operational phase. Suitable indigenous vegetation must be used during the rehabilitation. We recommend a rehabilitation plan be compiled with inputs from a local Botanist to inform the plan with regards to the relevant local plant species for planting and stabilising during rehabilitation activities.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. A site-specific Alien Plant Species Management Plan will be compiled for the project site, which will be informed by specialist input, and included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that will be included in the Draft EIA Report. In addition, a Rehabilitation Plan will be compiled, which will be informed by the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist team that includes a Botanist very familiar with the local natural vegetation on site. This Rehabilitation Plan will also be included in the EMPr that will be included in the Draft EIA Report.
6.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<b>We recommend avoiding the watercourse (river lines and wetlands) and their buffers as far possible with turbines and new roads. The area is highly erodible so extra caution must be taken to mitigate that during all phases. Possible erosion points need to be monitored and rehabilitated when needed. The access road that will carry the heavy loads associated with wind turbines should avoid crossing aquatic and terrestrial CBA.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. All watercourses have been carefully identified, delineated and sufficiently buffered by the Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist already during the Scoping Phase of this project. These watercourses will be subject to detailed impact assessment during the EIA Phase and the specialist findings included in the Draft EIA Report.
7.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021),	<b>There are a few renewable developments planned in the broader region. CapeNature remains concerned that the cumulative impacts of energy facilities, if not properly considered and planned for, could be quite significant.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Renewable energy projects located within a 50 km radius of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster, that have received an EA, or has a BA/EIA

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	Megan Simons, CapeNature		<p><u>in process at the time of starting this Scoping and EIA Process, as well as the three proposed Kwagga WEF developments</u> will be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment, during the EIA Phase of this project. Please refer to Appendix E of this Final Scoping Report for a copy of the pre-application consultation with the DFFE, wherein this approach was confirmed and approved. The renewable energy projects located within 50 km of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster that will be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment are detailed in Table 7.3 and Table 7.4 and shown in Figure 7.1 within Chapter 7 of this Final Scoping Report.</p>
8.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<p><b>Information on the impacts of renewable energy facilities on bats and avifauna are limited. Therefore, that data collected should be submitted to the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, South African Bat Assessment Association and South African National Biodiversity Institution for collation and analysis on a national basis.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Data collected during the Avifauna and Bats Impact Assessments for these proposed project sites could potentially be shared with the EWT, DFFE, SABAA and SANBI, as requested, following the completion of the EIA Phase of these projects.</p>
9.	01/07/2021 Letter (received via email on 01/07/2021), Megan Simons, CapeNature	<p><b>On-going monitoring throughout the various phases of this project is important to assess the impacts of these developments on different species biodiversity and the impact these facilities will have on habitat fragmentation and associated ecological corridors. It is therefore essential to take a precautionary approach and to ensure that the infrastructure (i.e., roads, power lines, substations, etc.) be positioned outside ecologically sensitive areas. Thus, the sensitive buffer, delineated by the specialist, must be avoided.</b></p> <p><b>CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer will revise the project infrastructure layouts for each WEF based on the specialist inputs and recommended buffer zones resulting from the Scoping phase, to ensure that all wind turbines and associated infrastructure will avoid any buffered ecologically sensitive areas on site.</p>



## 9. SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	21/06/2021, Email, Lizell Stroh, South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)	<p><b>There is an ATNS process whereby an assessment is applied for wrt obstacles which could pose an aviation hazard.</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Obstacles/Urgent-notice.aspx">http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Obstacles/Urgent-notice.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Obstacle Notice 1/2021 – Appointment of New Windfarm Obstacle Application Service Provider</b></p> <p><b>Kindly be advised, as of the 1st of May 2021 Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) has been appointed as the new Obstacle application Service Provider for Windfarms and later Solar Plants. Their responsibility would pertain to the assessments, maintenance, and all other related matters in respect to Windfarms and in due time Power Plant assessments.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kindly provide a .kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint of the proposed development site including the proposed overhead electric power line route that will evacuate the generated power to the national grid.</b></li> <li>• <b>Also indicate the highest structure of the project &amp; the Overhead electric power transmission line.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Please follow the ATNS process.</b> <b>The contact details for ATNS is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ObstacleEvaluator</b> <b>ATNS Head Office Tel: +2711 071000</b> <b>(AskforObstacleEvaluators)</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The Project Developer has been liaising with the SACAA about these proposed Wind farm projects since February 2021, specifically relating to the requirement and need for the Obstacle Evaluation, Application and Approval with the SACAA. Proof of correspondence between the Project Developer and the SACAA is included in Appendix G of this Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>This SACAA comment regarding the appointment of the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as the new Obstacle Application Service Provider has been noted and forwarded to the Project Developer for consideration as the necessary documents for the Obstacle Application and Approval will be lodged with the ATNS.</p> <p>The Civil Aviation Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) is included in Appendix F.11 of this Scoping Report. The SSV notes that low sensitivity from a civil aviation perspective identified by the Screening Tool was verified by the EAP during the site visit. The potential high sensitivity from a civil aviation perspective identified by the Screening Tool was subsequently verified following liaison with the SACAA as well as with Tsela Aeronautical (Pty) Ltd (Tsela).</p> <p>The SACAA has confirmed that the classification of "dangerous and restricted airspace" relates to air traffic services (ATS), specifically the airspace identified as the Beaufort West Flight Information Region (FIR) associated with the Cape Town International Airport Airspace. The Civil Aviation SSV further states that Area Navigation Routes (ANR)</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Email: <a href="mailto:ObstacleEvaluators@atns.co.za">ObstacleEvaluators@atns.co.za</a></b></li> </ul>	<p>associated with the Cape Town International Airport Airspace intersect with the 50 km radius area from the project site, with one ANR specifically intersecting with the northern section of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project airspace (i.e. the northern portion of Portion 1 of Farm Dwaalfontein No. 377). The proposed wind turbines will have a hub height of up to 180 m, a rotor (or blade) diameter of up to 200 m, and blades of up to 100 m in length; therefore, any potential impact of the proposed wind turbines on civil aviation installations or air traffic services associated with the Cape Town International Airport Airspace will be assessed during the EIA Phase by means of an Aeronautical Impact Assessment, which will inform the Compliance Statement and be included in the Draft EIA Report.</p>

**PART B: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE**

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1, Kwagga WEF 2 and Kwagga WEF 3 were released for a 30-day comment period, extending from 22 October to 22 November 2021 (excluding public holidays). All comments and/or issues raised by stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) following the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports for comment have been considered and included in this section of this Comments and Responses Report together with the responses from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project team. **Please note that the comments are taken verbatim from the comments provided by stakeholders and I&APs.**

**10. GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROJECT NEED<sup>3</sup>**

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	23/10/2021 Email, Mr Lyle Martin, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads	<p><b>Good Day ,</b></p> <p><b>I hope this email meets you well.</b></p> <p><b>Please note that as from the 30th September 2021 forward, I, Mr L Martin, am no longer employed at this Branch.</b></p> <p><b>Kindly please forward all related enquiries to Ms Grace Swanepoel at Grace.Swanepoel@westerncape.gov.za (Contact number 021 483 4669).</b></p> <p><b>Warm Wishes</b> <b>Kindest Regards</b> <b>L. Martin</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Ms Grace Swanepoel has been included on the database of I&amp;APs and Organs of State. Refer to Appendix C of this EIA Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix D of this EIA Report for the email received from Ms Grace Swanepoel informing the EAP that Job number 28641 was allocated for the proposed Kwagga WEF projects.</p>
2.	25/10/2021, Email,	<p><b>Dear Sir/Madam</b></p> <p><b>DDFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the Draft Environmental</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Mr Seoka Lekota was added to the I&amp;AP database prior to submission of the Final Scoping Report. Ms Ms Makitla and Maifo have been added to the</p>

<sup>3</sup> This includes requests to register on and de-register from the project I&AP database.

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	Tsholofelo Shalot Sekonko, DFFE, The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation	<p><b>Impact Assessment Reports for the proposed three Kwagga Wind Energy Facility Developments, near Beaufort West, Western Cape Province. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms Makitla and Maifo (both copied on this email).</b></p> <p><b>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</b></p>	I&AP database. Refer to Appendix C of this EIA Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
3.	25/10/2021 Email, Ms Grace Swanepoel, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads	<p><b>Good morning</b></p> <p><b>Received your application, our reference Job 28641. A further communication will be addressed to you as soon as circumstances permit.</b></p> <p><b>Regards</b> <b>Grace</b></p>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Ms Grace Swanepoel has been included on the database of I&APs and Organs of State. Refer to Appendix C of this EIA Report for a copy of the I&AP database.
4.	25/10/2021 Email, Ms Nokukhanya Khumalo, South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)	<p><b>Good Morning</b></p> <p><b>Please see the email notification for a WEF in the Western Cape.</b></p> <p><b>Kind Regards,</b> <b>Nokukhanya Khumalo</b></p>	<b>CSIR:</b> The EAP was copied on this email which was sent to Ms Waseefa Dhansay.
5.	25/10/2021 Email, Ms Waseefa Dhansay, Western Cape Government	<p><b>Hi Stephanie</b></p> <p><b>Please see below</b></p> <p><b>Kind regards</b> <b>Waseefa</b></p>	<b>CSIR:</b> The EAP was copied on this email which was sent to Ms Stephanie Barnardt. Please note that Ms Stephanie Barnardt was identified as the HWC Case officer for the proposed Kwagga WEFs. Please refer to Appendix D.11 for the comments received after the 30-day consultation with the HWC.

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
7.	25/10/2021 Email, Ms Adri La Meyer, DEA&DP	<p><b>Dear EMS Team,</b></p> <p><b>I refer to your e-mail of 23 October 2021 below.</b></p> <p><b>You have indicated the commenting period on the 3 Draft EIA Reports from 22 October 2021 to 22 November 2021. Please note that I have only received the e-mail on 23 October 2021 (see e-mail sent on 23 October 2021, @ 21h47). Please reconsider amending the commenting period as:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(1) It is unfair to expect I&amp;APs, especially state Departments to check e-mails over a weekend. Whilst we acknowledge that “days” refer to calendar days, notifying I&amp;APs over a weekend is not best practice.</b></li> <li><b>(2) It is unfair to send e-mails to I&amp;APs on a Saturday and “backdate” the commenting period to start a day before.</b></li> <li><b>(3) Regulation 3(1): Subject to subregulations (2) and (3), when a period of days must in terms of these Regulations be reckoned from or after a particular day, that period must be reckoned as from the start of the day following that particular day to the end of the last day of the period, but if the last day of the period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, that period must be extended to the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday. The commenting period should thus be calculated from the following day of the notification (i.e. from the 24th, but ideally from the next working day, being today).</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Note that you have provided 3 separate e-mails to our George Office and DFFE officials for the Kwagga WEF 1, 2 and 3 notifications. As indicated previously, where the DFFE is the CA for an application, please forward all</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment was responded to via email indicating the commitment of the EIA Project Team in ensuring that I&amp;APs are provided ample opportunity to comment on the Draft EIA Reports within the regulated timeframes.</p> <p>The Western Cape DEA&amp;DP was also informed that any comments received from DEA&amp;DP up until 24 November 2021 will be accepted, incorporated into the Final EIA Reports and recorded in the Comments and Responses Reports which will be submitted with the Final EIA Reports to DFFE for decision making.</p> <p>It was also duly noted that where DFFE is the CA for an application, all communication should be forwarded Ms Adri La Meyer as the contact person for the Department, irrespective if the application falls in the George or Cape Town regions.</p>

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		<p>communication to me as the contact person for the Department, irrespective if the application falls in our George or Cape Town regions.</p> <p>We look forward to a revised deadline for comments.</p> <p>Kind regards, Adri</p>	
		<p>Dear EMS EIA Team,</p> <p>Many thanks for your positive feedback. The Department appreciates the extension of the deadline for comments to 24 November 2021 and will endeavour to provide comments by then.</p> <p>Your willingness to extend the commenting period is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Kind regards, Adri</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment was received in response to the above EAP's response. Please refer to Appendix D.10 for proof of the email correspondence with DEA&amp;DP regarding the comment period.</p>
8.	03/11/2021 Email, Ms Namhla Dondi, Eskom Land Development	<p>Good day</p> <p>May I please have a name of the EAP who is responsible for this project.</p> <p>Regards Namhla Dondi Eskom Land Development</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The details of the EAP were provided to Ms Namhla Dondi as requested.</p>
9.	03/11/2021 Email, Mr Reuben Maroga, SOLA: Permitting Specialist	<p>Good Day Paul,</p> <p>I trust you are well.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This I&amp;AP has been included on the I&amp;AP database. The email address provided will be used for future correspondence. Refer</p>

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		<p><b>Would you kindly register SOLA as an I&amp;AP on the database for the following projects:</b></p> <p><b>Kwagga Wind Energy Facility 1,2, and 3</b></p> <p><b>We are an IPP that intends to also develop projects, and acquire existing projects within the area of the aforementioned project.</b></p> <p><b>For registration purposes, please capture the following email address:</b></p> <p><b>iap@solagroup.co.za</b></p> <p><b>Best Regards</b></p>	<p>to Appendix C of this EIA Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</p>
10.	17/11/2021, Email, Natasha Higgitt, South African Heritage Resources Agency	<p><b>Good afternoon,</b></p> <p><b>Please note that SAHRA does not jurisdiction to provide comments for developments located in the Western Cape Province. Please contact Heritage Western Cape in this regard.</b></p> <p><b>Kind regards,</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. This comment was received in response to the Reminder email sent to all I&amp;APs. Please refer to Appendix D.6 for proof of submission of the NID to the HWC, Appendix D.8 for proof of submission of the Integrated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to the local authorities and the HWC, and Appendix D. 11 for the correspondence received from the HWC following the 30-day consultation.</p>
12.	25/11/2021, Email, Zama Mbunquka, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<p><b>Dear EIA Project team. I would like to bring it to your attention that the proposed project falls within two Catchment Management Areas, that is Mzimvubu and Tsitsikama as well as Breede Gouritz CMA, the comments provided by this office are specific to our Jurisdiction. I have ccd Ms Machaka who can assist in identifying the relevant official in Umzimvubu Tsitsikama who can provide the comments in future. I have noted that projects of this nature often fall within different management areas,</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks. The details of Ms Machaka have been noted down and forwarded to the Project Developer. It is noted that the proposed Kwagga WEF projects fall within the Mzimvubu and Tsitsikama as well as the Breede Gouritz CMAs.</p>

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		<p>hence it is imperative to check with me as to which Management Areas are affected so that the reports can be sent to the relevant officials. Thank you</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Zama Mbunquka</p>	<p>The Project Applicant will apply for and obtain the required authorisation from officials of the relevant CMA prior to commencement of construction, should this project be granted Environmental Authorisation.</p>

**11. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DFFE)**

**11.1 THE DIRECTORATE: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 279 MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 (KWAGGA WEF 1), NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN CAPE.</b></p> <p><b>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 28 May 2021 and 25 October 2021, respectively, refer.</b></p> <p><b>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:</b></p> <p><b>(a) Listed Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific (i.e., the exact threshold must be presented in the application form) and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> Thank you for the comments received on the Draft EIA Report for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 development. Responses are provided below to each comment raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 4.2 of the Final EIA Report where it is described how the listed activities applied for are linked to the project description. In addition, all relevant listed activities triggered by the proposed project have now been applied for. The listed activities included in the Scoping Report and Draft EIA Report were based on the worst case and precautionary approach. However, based on this comment, to ensure that only applicable activities are applied for, the listed activities applied for in the</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>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 <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</b></li> <li>• <b>The final EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</b></li> <li>• <b>It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment 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 submitted to this Department.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Draft EIA Report were further reviewed. It has been confirmed by the Project Developer that the following listed activities are no longer applicable because the capacities or thresholds noted in the listed activities will not be exceeded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>GN R324: Activity 2 (i) (ii): The development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <i>Western Cape</i></li> <li>(ii) <i>In areas containing indigenous vegetation.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Therefore, the above listed activity has subsequently been removed from the EA Application, and the Final EIA Report has been updated accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please refer to Table C of the Executive Summary of the Final EIA Report for the tabulated technical details of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1.</li> <li>• Please refer to the sections above in this appendix (Appendix D of this Final EIA Report) for feedback on the consultation with stakeholders, I&amp;APs and government departments; and comments provided. The Draft EIA Report was sent to the relevant stakeholders and authorities for comment, and relevant comments have been received from the DFFE – Integrated Environmental Authorisations, DFFE – Forestry Western Cape, DFFE Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate and Western Cape</li> </ul>

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			<p>DEA&amp;DP. These authorities have been continuously involved in this Scoping and EIA Process. Relevant comments have also been received from Department of Water and Sanitation, the Breede Gourtiz Catchment Management Agency, SANRAL and the Central Karoo District Municipality Municipal Health section. Follow up emails were sent to all I&amp;APs on the database to seek comments. Copies of these follow up emails are included in Appendix D of the Final EIA Report.</p>
2.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE</p>	<p><b>(b) Public Participation Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to Western Cape: DEA&amp;DP, the provincial Department of Agriculture, SANRAL, the Beaufort West Local Municipality, the Central Karoo District Municipality, the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, SANParks, SKA, Civil Aviation, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department Transport and Public Works – Roads ,and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.</b></li> <li><b>A Comments and Response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format. All comments from I&amp;APs must be responded to adequately. A response such as</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please refer to the sections above in this CRR, as well as in Appendix D of this Final EIA Report for correspondence received from, and sent to stakeholders, I&amp;APs and government departments; and comments provided. The Draft EIA Report was sent to the relevant stakeholders and authorities for comment, and relevant comments have been received from the DFFE – Integrated Environmental Authorisations, DFFE – Forestry Western Cape, DFFE Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate and Western Cape DEA&amp;DP. These authorities have been continuously involved in this Scoping and EIA Process. Relevant comments (including correspondence stating that the organisation has no comments on the Draft EIA Reports) have also been received from Department of Water and Sanitation,</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>“noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;AP’s comments. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually. The dates in which comments were received must be recorded in the C&amp;R. Your responses to the issues raised by the Department must be included in the comments and response (C&amp;R) report, in table format.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report (SR) dated 18 August 2021. The final EIAR must address all comments received on the SR and the draft EIAR, including this letter.</b></li> <li>• <b>The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</b></li> </ul>	<p>the Breede Gourtiz Catchment Management Agency, SANRAL, Birdlife SA and the Central Karoo District Municipality Municipal Health section. Follow up emails were sent to all I&amp;APs on the database to seek comments. Copies of these follow up emails are included in Appendix D of the Final EIA Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of all comments received during the 30-day comment period of the Draft EIA Report have been captured in table format in the Comments Responses Report i.e. this report, which is included as a separate document to the Final EIA Report. This Comments and Responses Report (CRR) includes all comments received during the public participation process of the Kwagga WEF 1 project, as well as responses provided to all these comments and issues raised. Comments received from the DFFE have been included in this report as well. All comments received have been duly considered and adequately addressed in this CRR.</li> <li>• The Final EIA Report complies with all conditions of the acceptance of the Scoping Report dated 18 August 2021. All comments received during the review of the Draft Scoping Report and Draft EIA Report from registered I&amp;APs and Organs of State which have jurisdiction in terms of the proposed activity, were adequately addressed in this CRR, and</li> </ul>

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			<p>the Final EIA Report, where applicable and necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of correspondence with various stakeholders is included in Appendix D of the Final EIA Report. It includes the necessary proof of correspondence, such as emails, text messages, letters, and newspapers. It also shows relevant follow up emails sent in order to remind stakeholders of the comment period closure, in order to seek comments. Refer to Chapter 4 of the Final EIA Report, as well as Appendix D for background on the Public Participation Process, including feedback on compliance with the regulations relating to Public Participation. Also refer to the Public Participation Plan included in Appendix D.1 of the Final EIA Report, which provides feedback on compliance with the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).</li> </ul>
3.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE	<p><b>(c) Cumulative Assessment</b></p> <p><b>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:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>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.</b></li> <li>• <b>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</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy (RE) projects located within a 50 km radius of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster, <u>that have received an EA or has a BA/EIA process underway at the time of starting this Scoping and EIA Process, as well as the three proposed Kwagga WEF developments,</u> were considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment during the EIA Phase of this project. The reason for selecting a 50 km radius instead</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</b></li> <li>• <b>A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</b></li> </ul>	<p>of the recommended 30 km radius was to ensure the inclusion of a larger number of RE projects in the Cumulative Impact Assessment, since only two other RE projects were found to be located within the recommended 30 km radius from the proposed Kwagga project cluster. No additional RE projects within a 50 km radius were considered following the submission of the Final Scoping Report, in order to close out the list of projects considered during the EIA Phase. Refer to Appendix E of this Final EIA Report for a copy of the pre-application consultation with the DFFE, wherein this approach was confirmed, as well as the DFFE’s approval thereof. The RE projects located within a 50 km radius of the proposed Kwagga WEF project cluster that have been considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment are detailed in Section 19.4 within Chapter 19 of this Final EIA Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The specialists have identified cumulative impacts as per the above approach, and such impacts have been clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact was quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land, where possible. Refer specifically to the Chapter 6 (Agriculture Compliance Statement), Chapter 7 (Aquatic</li> </ul>

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			<p>Biodiversity), Chapter 8 (Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species) and Chapter 9 (Avifauna Assessment) for additional information in this regard. It is also important to note that in most cases the actual development footprint of the nearby Renewable Energy developments could not be easily quantified or accessed spatially. For example, the National Renewable Energy EIA Application Database contains the land parcels, and not the footprint. Nonetheless, it is believed that the assessment of cumulative impacts has been adequately captured in this Final EIA Report. With regards to the levels of transformation, the current state of the affected area must also be taken into consideration. For further details, please refer to the Specialist Assessments which have been included in Chapter 6 to 18 of this Final EIA Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The assessment of cumulative impacts was based on the specialist and EAP’s knowledge of similar approved Renewable Energy projects in the 50 km radius, which was also supplemented by the National Renewable Energy EIA Applications (REEA) database and the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). Each specialist study in Chapters 6 to 18 of the Final EIA Report contains feedback on the assessment of potential cumulative impacts.</li> </ul>

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			<p>The specialists assessed such impacts based on their expertise and knowledge of similar projects and management actions. Furthermore, the assessment of cumulative impacts is not necessarily solely focused on an assessment of impacts linked to previously authorised similar developments and consideration of their mitigation measures, but also about the sensitivities of the land on which the projects take place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact assessment tables and concluding statements provided by each specialist in Chapter 6 to 19 of the Final EIA Report include considerations of cumulative impacts. Chapter 20 of the Final EIA Report also includes an overall cumulative impact statement on the proposed development proceeding.</li> </ul>
4.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE	<p><b>(d) Maps and Layout plans</b>  <b>A copy of the layout map must be submitted with the final report. 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:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The location of the BESS, Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure;</b></li> <li><b>All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);</b></li> <li><b>The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These comments are noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main body of the Final EIA Report contains all maps as requested, and maps are also included throughout the document (refer to the list of figures upfront in the Final EIA Report). Chapter 3 of the Final EIA Report also includes relevant features identified by the Specialists.</li> <li>Refer to Appendix H of the Final EIA Report for the relevant combined sensitivity maps and environmental features map. Please note that the</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Buffer areas; and</b></li> <li>• <b>All “no-go” areas.</b></li> <li>• <b>The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</b></li> <li>• <b>Google maps will not be accepted for decision making.</b></li> </ul>	<p>fine scale sensitivities mapped by the specialists within the proposed project development area, and the fine scale project layout cannot be easily seen when combined with a 50 km radius cumulative map. Scale needs to be considered in terms of the 50 km radius cumulative map. A feature- and sensitivity map has been provided in Appendix H of this Final EIA Report to cover these points. A separate cumulative map is also provided in Chapter 19 of the Final EIA Report, as well as in the relevant specialist assessments included in in Chapters 6 to 18. Maps compiled by the CSIR in the Final EIA Report are <u>not</u> produced using Google Maps.</p>
5.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE</p>	<p><b>(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).</b></li> <li>• <b>Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was confirmed via email by Ms Constance Musemburi (the allocated Case Officer for the proposed projects) that electronic versions of Specialist Declaration of Interest forms are acceptable. As such Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted as part of this S&amp;EIA Process has been included in Appendix B of this Final EIA Report.</li> <li>• Recommendations provided by specialists have been considered in the revision of the WEF layout and selection of preferred alternatives. Specialist recommendations have also been included in the EMPr and conditions of EA, where applicable.</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please refer to Chapter 6 to 19 of this Final EIA Report for the full detail specialist impact assessments conducted as part of this S&amp;EIA Process.</li> </ul>
6.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE	<p><b>(f) Undertaking of an Oath</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Please note that the final EIAR must have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP.</b></li> <li><b>Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAR must include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>“an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>the correctness of the information provided in the reports;</b></li> <li><b>the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&amp;APs;</b></li> <li><b>the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and</b></li> <li><b>any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties”.</b></li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The EAPs undertaking under oath affirmation (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) has been included in Appendix B of this Final EIA Report as per the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>
	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE	<p><b>(g) Details and Expertise of the EAP</b></p> <p><b>Please ensure that the Final EIAR includes the details and expertise of the EAP, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The details and expertise of the EAP, including a curriculum vitae is included in Section 1.7 of Chapter 1 as well as in Appendix A of this Final EIA Report, as per the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>

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	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE	<p><b>(h) Environmental Management Programme</b></p> <p><b>The EMPr must also include the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the final EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.</b></li> <li>• <b>An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.</b></li> <li>• <b>In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> An EMPr which complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, has been compiled and is included as Part C to this EIA Report. Recommendations and mitigation measures provided by specialists following detailed specialists impact assessments have been included in the EMPrs. Please refer to Appendix H for the combined layout and environmental sensitivity and feature maps which show the sensitive feature identified by specialists. The full, detailed specialist assessments are included in Chapter 6 to 19 of this EIA Report.</p>
	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Sabelo Malaza, Wayne Hector, DFFE	<p><b>General</b></p> <p><b>Please also 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. 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 -</b></p> <p><b>(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, 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.”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>When providing coordinates as part of the information submitted regarding the location of an activity as part of an application for environmental authorisation, such coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1 (3) (1) (q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended states “<i>where the proposed activity <b>does not include operational aspects</b>, the period for which the environmental authorisation is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post construction monitoring requirements finalised</i>”. It must be noted that, while the listed activities applied for refer to “development of” and not “development and related operation of”, the WEF and associated infrastructure does have operational components. Nonetheless, Chapter 20 of the Final EIA Report contains the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required (i.e. a recommended 10-year validity period). It is not possible to estimate or</li> </ul>

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		<p>seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system as per regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>provide the date on which the activity will be concluded and the post construction monitoring requirements to be finalised, because there are various additional permitting requirements that are applicable and need to be factored in the timing. These are outside of the mandate of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended), such as the REIPPPP or similar process, as well as the signing of a Power Purchase Agreement. It is understood that the information contained in the EIA Report and appendices is sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended is duly noted. Coordinates of the location of an activity submitted as part of an application for Environmental Authorisation have been provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>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 reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, or where regulation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timeframes in Regulation 23(1)(b) have been adhered to in the submission of this Final EIA Report. The Application Form for EA was submitted to the DFFE, together with the Draft EIA Reports for comment, on 23 October 2021. In line with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the EIA Report needed to be submitted to the DFFE for decision-making within</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>106 days of the acceptance of the Final Scoping Report (i.e. 18 August 2021) by the DFFE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the Final EIA Report and EMPr. There has been no change to the specialist impacts or levels of impact significance. Furthermore, the changes made from Draft to Final were confirmed with the DFFE to be acceptable, thus making Regulation 23(1)(a) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) not applicable.</li> <li>• The reminder regarding failure to meet any timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) is noted.</li> <li>• The Project Developer is aware of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended).</li> </ul>

## 11.2 THE DIRECTORATE: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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1.	<p>23/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 23/11/2021), Seoka Lekota, Aulicia Maifo and Portia Makitla, DFFE, The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 279 MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1, 341 MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2, 204.6 MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR BEAUFORT WEST, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the report.</p> <p>It is noted that the proposed development site is not located within any of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) and is also not located within any of the Strategic Transmission Corridors. The proposed study area falls within Gamka Karoo vegetation type which is classified as “least threatened” and does not form part of any formally protected areas.</p> <p>According to EIA Screening Tool, most of the study area is shown to have a very high ecological significance or sensitivity, mainly due to the presence of the Swartbakens River corridor that is classified as an aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) category 1. It should be noted that the Directorate does not support any development and its associated infrastructure within a highly sensitive area. You are therefore required to ensure that the development layout does not encroach into CBA 1.</p> <p>The final reports must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Revised Best Practice Guideline for Birds &amp; Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p> <p>NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; <a href="mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za">BCAdmin@environment.gov.za</a> for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> Thank you for the comments received on the Draft EIA Report for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 development. Responses are provided below to each comment raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project was identified and selected prior to the gazetting of the Phase 2 REDZs; however, it is nevertheless located approximately 2.3 km away (at its closest point) from the Beaufort West REDZ. In addition, the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project site is located approximately 4.4 km away (at its closest point) from the Central Strategic Transmission Corridor (as gazetted on 16 February 2018, GN R113). Therefore, its proximity to the Beaufort West REDZ and the Central Strategic Transmission Corridor supports the development of a large-scale renewable energy project at the proposed location. The proposed project is therefore linked to the national planning vision for wind and solar development in South Africa.</li> <li>Overall, the vegetation on the Kwagga WEF 1 project site is structurally homogeneous with dwarf, spiny shrubs</li> </ul>

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			<p>(i.e. Karoo shrubs) being dominant. Based on species composition, however, seven habitats (i.e. plant communities) were distinguished, described and mapped within the Kwagga WEF 1 project site. The Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment concurred that no threatened or protected species under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) is listed for the study area and were found at the site. In addition, no nationally protected tree species is listed for the site, and none were recorded during the site visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Findings of the Aquatic Impact Assessment are included in Chapter 7 of this EIA Report. The detailed Aquatic Impact Assessment largely concurred with the Very high/High Aquatic Biodiversity Combined Sensitivity mapping of the screening tool for the Swartbakens River and its associated larger tributaries. The assessment also noted that the catchment of the Swartbakens River is mapped as a FEPA Sub-catchment while the river corridor is mapped as an aquatic CBA with the</li> </ul>

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			<p>wider river corridor also being mapped as a terrestrial CBA. The detailed specialist sensitivity data, associated buffers and recommendations were considered in the revision of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 layout. The revised and refined WEF layout avoids the area classified as CBA 1. Please refer to Figure H.3 which shows the combined site layout and environmental features map including the buffers recommended by specialists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Final EIA Reports comply with the requirements outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for renewable energy projects. In addition, the South African “Best practice guidelines (BPGs) for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa” (Jenkins, A.R., Van Rooyen, C.S., Smallie, J.J., Anderson, M.D., &amp; A.H. Smit. 2011) were identified as the applicable guidelines to be followed for the Avifaunal Impact Assessment, which is included as Chapter 9 of this Final EIA Report. The BPGs was published by the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and</li> </ul>

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			<p>Birdlife South Africa (BLSA) in March 2011, and subsequently revised in 2011, 2012 and 2015. The NEMA protocol, published on 20 March 2020, which was used to prepare the Final Avifauna Impact Assessment Report, is based largely on these guidelines.</p>

**12. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF): WESTERN CAPE**

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Melanie Koen, DAFF: Area Manager Forestry: Western Cape</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (WEF 1, WEF 2 AND WEF 3) NEAR BEAUFORT WEST</b></p> <p><b>1 The Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) is responsible for the implementation and the enforcement of the National Forest Act (NFA), Act 84 of 1998 as amended and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998 as amended (NVFFA). Thank you for giving DAFF this opportunity to comment on above application.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> Thank you for the comments received on the Draft EIA Report for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 development. Responses are provided below to each comment raised.</p>
2.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Melanie Koen, DAFF: Area Manager Forestry: Western Cape</p>	<p><b>Forestry studied the supporting documents for the above- mentioned application and the following points related to Forestry’s mandate i.e. the implementation of the NFA are applicable.</b></p> <p><b>a According to the report the areas consists mainly of Karoo vegetation types with no significant protected species.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This comment is noted and aligns with the findings for the detailed Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Impact Assessment included in Chapter 8 of this Final EIA Report. Overall, the vegetation on the Kwagga WEF 1 project site is structurally</li> </ul>



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		<p><b>b Section 15 of the National Forest Act (NFA) (Act No. 84 of 1998) as amended prohibits the cutting, disturbing, damaging or destroying of protected tree species without a licence. Section 7 of the National Forest Act (NFA), act no 84 of 1998 as amended provides for the prohibition of the destruction of indigenous trees in any natural forest without a license.</b></p> <p><b>c Forestry’s mandate according to the NFA is not affected</b></p> <p><b>d Forestry recommend that Owner become a member of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) and that Forestry: Fire Advisor Paul Gerber (044- 302 6920; PaulGe@daff.gov.za) be consulted for advise under the NVFFA</b></p> <p><b>Forestry reserves the right to revise initial comment based on any additional information that may be received</b></p>	<p>homogeneous with dwarf, spiny shrubs (i.e. Karoo shrubs) being dominant. Based on species composition, however, seven habitats (i.e. plant communities) were distinguished, described and mapped within the Kwagga WEF 1 project site. The Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Impact Assessment concurred that no threatened or protected species under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) is listed for the study area and were found at the site. In addition, no nationally protected tree species is listed for the site, and none were recorded during the site visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project Developer has been made aware of Section 15 and Section 17 of the National Forest Act (NFA) (Act No. 84 of 1998) as amended.</li> <li>• The Project Developer has been made aware of the recommendation for the Project Applicant to become a member of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) and that Forestry: Fire Advisor Paul Gerber be consulted for advice under the NVFFA. These recommendations have been included in the EMPr (Part C of this Final EIA Report). The details of Mr Paul Gerber have been included on the database of I&amp;APs and Organs of State. Refer to Appendix C of this EIA Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</li> </ul>

**13. WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (DEA&DP)**

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 279MW KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 3 OF FARM TYGER POORT NO. 376, PORTION 1 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM DWAALFONTEIN WES NO. 377 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM DWAALFONTEIN NO. 379, BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPALITY, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACCESS ROAD ON PORTIONS 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM WOLVE KRAAL NO. 17, PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPALITY (DFFE REF. NO: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2070)</b></p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report (“DSR”) dated May 2021, the Department’s comments thereto dated 28 June 2021, the email notification of 23 October 2021 regarding the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Report for comment, the Department’s email response of 25 October 2021 regarding the commenting period on the Draft EIA Report, and the email response of the environmental assessment practitioner (“EAP”) of 27 October 2021 extending the commenting period to 24 November 2021, refer.</p> <p>Please find consolidated comments from various directorates within the Department on the Draft EIA Report dated October 2021 that was available for download from various online platforms provided by the EAP.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted.</p> <p>The 30-day public comment period for the Draft EIA Reports for the proposed 279 MW Kwagga WEF 1, the 341 Kwagga WEF 2 and the 204.6 MW Kwagga WEF 3 extended to 22 November 2021. However, comments received on the Draft EIA Reports until 30 November 2021 were accepted and addressed in this CRR and the Final EIA Reports. Please refer to Section 10 of this CRR for the email trail between the EIA Project Team and the DEA&amp;DP regarding the comment period, as well as Appendix D of this EIA Report for proof of individual communication sent to I&amp;APs regarding the request for comments until 25 November 2021.</p>
2.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP,	<p><b>The applicant is reminded of its “general duty of care towards the environment” as prescribed in section 28 of the NEMA, 1998 which states that “Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer has been informed of the Project Applicant’s “general duty of care towards the environment” as prescribed in section 28 of the NEMA, 1998 which states that “Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or</p>

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	Directorate: Development Facilitation	<p><b>recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”</b></p> <p><b>Please direct any enquiries via e-mail to the official/s indicated in this correspondence should you require any clarity on any of the comments provided.</b></p> <p><b>The Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw comments or request further information based on any information received.</b></p>	<p>degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”</p> <p>The email addresses of the officials indicated in this correspondence have been included on the I&amp;AP database, if not already registered. Refer to Appendix C of the EIA Report for a copy of the I&amp;AP database.</p>

### 13.1 DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&DP,	<p><b>Regulation 3(1)(1) of Appendix 3 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) requires that a Draft EIA Report must contain an environmental impact statement which contains: (ii) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred development footprint on the approved site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and (iii) a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives. Although combined site layout and environmental sensitivity maps with various levels of sensitivities (high,</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The sensitivity buffers recommended by specialists on the specialist team have been included in the legend of the combined site layout and environmental features map which is included in Appendix H (Figure H.3) of this EIA Report.</p>

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	Directorate: Development Facilitation	medium or low) were provided, the buffers as identified by the various specialists were not depicted on the maps. Noting that the proposed development footprint is estimated at approximately 250ha, it is acknowledged that the buffers could not be depicted on the maps due to the scale thereof. This Directorate thus recommends that the final site layout map with combined environmental sensitivity include a legend for each specialist recommended buffer.	
2.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p>Throughout the Draft EIA Report, it is indicated that three possible location alternatives for the construction compound and laydown area have been identified and were assessed during the EIA phase. Construction compound and laydown area Alternative 3 (located on Portion 3 of Farm Tyger Poort No. 376 in the vicinity of turbine 11040) was selected as the preferred alternative as this alternative is located closest to the main wind energy facility (“WEF”) site access road. Note that page 2-10 indicates that four construction compound and laydown were identified. The Draft EIA Report however failed to provide an assessment of the construction compound and laydown area layout alternatives considered, to indicate the positive and negative impacts and risks associated with the construction compound and laydown area layout alternatives, and why the applicant’s preferred alternative should be deemed as preferred.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> As noted in Section 2.1.2.2 of Chapter 2 of the Final EIA report, four construction compound and laydown area alternatives were initially identified at the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project site and were subjected to a detailed specialist assessment during the <u>Scoping Phase</u>. Three of the four location alternatives for the compound and laydown area were selected based on the scoping level specialist inputs received i.e. those with the least environmental impact that were then taken forward for detailed specialist assessment in the <u>EIA Phase</u>.</p> <p>Following detailed specialist assessments of these remaining three location alternatives during the EIA Phase, all three location alternatives have been found suitable from an environmental sensitivity perspective. It was however recommended by the Heritage and Visual Specialists that the proposed location at the lowest elevation would be selected as the preferred location alternative. As such, the Project Developer has selected Compound and Laydown Area No. 3 as the preferred location alternative as this alternative is located at the lowest elevation and closest to the main WEF site access road.</p>

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			Please refer to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5 for a summary of the positive versus negative impacts associated with the construction compound and laydown area location alternatives.
3.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>It was further indicated that four possible locations for the substation hub (incorporating the facility substation, switchyard, collector infrastructure, battery energy storage system (“BESS”) and associated operational and maintenance buildings) have been assessed in the EIA phase. Substation hub Alternative 4 (located on Portion 3 on the Farm Tyger Poort No. 376 in the vicinity of the existing farm road, in between four turbines) was selected as the preferred alternative as this alternative is located closest to the main WEF site access road. The Draft EIA Report however failed to provide an assessment of the substation hub alternatives layouts considered, the positive and negative impacts and risks associated with the identified layout alternatives, and why the applicant’s preferred alternative should be deemed as preferred.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> As noted in Section 2.1.3.2 of Chapter 2 of the Final EIA Report, six possible substation hub locations were initially identified at the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project site that were subjected to a detailed specialist assessment during the <u>Scoping Phase</u>. Four of the six location alternatives for the substation hub were selected based on the scoping level specialist inputs received i.e. those with the least environmental impact that were then taken forward for detailed specialist assessment in the <u>EIA Phase</u>.</p> <p>Following detailed specialist assessments of these remaining four location alternatives during the EIA Phase, all four location alternatives have been found suitable from an environmental sensitivity perspective. It was however recommended by the Heritage and Visual Specialists that the proposed location at the lowest elevation would be selected as the preferred location alternative. As such, the Project Developer has selected Substation Hub Location No. 4 as the preferred location alternative as this alternative is located at the lowest elevation and closest to the main WEF site access road.</p>

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			Please refer to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5 for a summary of the positive versus negative impacts associated with the substation hub location alternatives.
4.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>Further to paragraphs 1.2. and 1.3. above, the Heritage Impact Assessment compiled by ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd (final report dated 09 October 2021) recommended that “The options for the substation hub and permanent laydown areas that are lowest in elevation are preferred.” Since the Draft EIA Report failed to provide a discussion on the substation hub and permanent laydown areas alternatives, it is unclear whether the heritage specialist’s recommendation regarding the associated infrastructure location is aligned to the applicant’s preferred alternatives.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Recommendations from all specialists on the Specialist Team (including the Heritage Impact Assessment compiled by ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd) were considered and included in the revision of the site layout and selection of the preferred alternatives. All specialists’ recommendations are aligned to the Project Applicant’s selection of preferred alternatives.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5 for a summary of the positive versus negative impacts associated with the construction compound and laydown area location alternatives.</p>
5.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP,</p>	<p><b>This Directorate requires clarity whether the following recommendations made by heritage specialist were incorporated into the layout of the WEF development:</b></p> <p><b>1.5.1. “If the historical rubbish midden at Waypoint 419 cannot be avoided then it should be excavated and recorded prior to construction.” This recommendation was not included in the Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”).</b></p> <p><b>1.5.2. “At waypoint 327, where the road passes through a farm complex, it is suggested that the access road could be rerouted very slightly northwards so as to reduce the chances of impacts to the buildings there.”</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These recommendations made by the Heritage Specialist were duly noted but have not yet been considered in the revision and refinement of the Kwagga WEF 1 project site layout during the EIA Phase. However, these recommendations have been stated in Section 20.8 of Chapter 20 of this Final EIA Report to be included as conditions of the EA (should such authorisation be granted by the DFFE). These recommendations have also been included in the EMPr that is appended as Part C to this Final EIA Report.</p>

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	Directorate: Development Facilitation	<b>1.5.3. "The access road should be rerouted slightly so as to pass between the structures at waypoint 309 in such a way that the distance between road and structures is maximised."</b>	
6.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation	<b>Please amend the sentence on page 1-5 of the Draft EIA Report which states that "The next round to be announced in terms of the REIPPPP is Bid Window 5". The list of preferred bidders for Bid Window 5 was announced on 28 October 2021 (after the Draft EIA Report was released for public consultation).</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The sentence on page 1-5 of the Draft EIA Report referring to Bid Window 5 has been amended in the Final EIA Report, as requested.
	24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&DP,	<b>The applicability of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No. 16 of 2013) and Western Cape Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act No. 3 of 2014) to the proposed development must be reported on in the Final EIA Report to be submitted to the competent authority for decision making.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> The applicability of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No. 16 of 2013) and Western Cape Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act No. 3 of 2014) to the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 has been included, as requested by the Directorate. Please refer to Section 4.3.1.17 and Section 4.3.2.3 of Chapter 4 of this Final EIA Report.

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7.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Ms Adri La Meyer and Mr Ralph van Delin, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p>	<p><b>It is not evident from the Draft EIA Report and Avifaunal Specialist Assessment Report compiled by Chris van Rooyen Consulting dated September 2021 that a recommendation was presented that all turbines have one blade painted either red or black from the outset, which should be applied to all wind turbines on-site. International best practice has shown that this recommendation can greatly reduce bird mortalities. The avifaunal specialist, in consultation with the visual specialist, should be consulted whether this proposed recommendation is feasible. If supported by the specialists, the recommendation should be included in the EMPr.</b></p>	<p><b>AVIFAUNA SPECIALIST:</b> Although the painting of a single blade (preferably in black) has shown to be effective in reducing bird collisions this method has still not been proven to be effective in a South African context. We have discussed this with BirdLife South Africa and they have also indicated that they will not support this as a recommendation or mitigation measure until such time as it has been proven to also be effective in South Africa. We are therefore of the opinion that it would be premature to include this as a requirement in the EMPr. Our recommendation of including additional measures such as Shut Down on Demand or other proven methods would cater for blade painting if at the time this has been proven to be effective in the South African context.</p> <p><b>VISUAL SPECIALIST:</b> I have read that studies in Norway concluded that painting one of the blades reduced bird collisions by more than 70% for some bird species and not all. Wind turbines are typically painted white, and by presenting little contrast against the sky, the operation of wind turbines creates motion blur. This makes it difficult for birds to detect and avoid blades as they fly near them. This implies that the more visible the blades are the less likely the collisions. However, this makes for the turbines being more visible to humans as well and would probably increase the visual impact. As far as I can ascertain no studies have been done to determine if this is so. I believe further research still needs to be done to provide its effectiveness in the South African context.</p>



### 13.2 DIRECTORATE: POLLUTION AND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Nabeelah Achmat, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management</p>	<p><b>This Directorate acknowledges and notes that the revision of the proposed turbine layout has resulted in an adjustment to turbine positions, with identified sensitive areas, buffers and exclusions zones avoided by the refined road and turbine layout, as confirmed on page 14 of the Aquatic Specialist Confirmation Letter contained in Appendix G.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> Please refer to Figure H.3 in Appendix H for the combined site layout and environmental features map which displays the revised final WEF layout and buffers recommended by specialists.</p>
2.	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Nabeelah Achmat, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management</p>	<p><b>Section 2.1.2.8, page 2-11 of the Draft EIA Report indicates the use of a conservancy tank during the operational phase. Although reference is made to adherence to the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) and provision of relevant documentation to the Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency, per this Directorate’s comments on the DSR, please provide additional information regarding the provisional location and management of the proposed conservancy tank.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted.</p> <p>As noted in Section 2.1.2.8 in Chapter 2 of the EIA Report, the remote location of the project site indicates that it is highly likely that a conservancy tank system will be employed on site during the operational phase. A registered company will be contracted to store and transport sewage from site to an appropriate municipal wastewater treatment facility. Should a conservancy tank system be employed, the Project Applicant will provide the BGCMA with a signed copy of the contract between the contractor or the municipality which is appointed to empty the conservancy tank.</p> <p>The conservancy tank will be located in close proximity to the O&amp;M buildings on site. Appropriate management of the</p>

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			proposed conservancy tank have been added to the EMPr for the WEF (please refer to Section 9.5.4 of the EMPr). Obtaining non-binding letters prior to bidding, as well as confirming actual Service Level Agreements with the local municipalities is understood to be outside of the EIA process, and will only be concluded if the project receives preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.
3.	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>28/06/2021, (received via email on 28/06/2021), Ms Nabeelah Achmat, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management</p>	<p><b>The following general recommendations are provided to prevent and manage any potential contamination emanating from the WEF development site during the construction and operational phases:</b></p> <p><b>2.3.1. It is recommended that a waste disposal facility provide written confirmation of sufficient capacity to accept any hazardous waste emanating from the site. Frequent and appropriate disposal of both general and hazardous waste is required to prevent potential pollution of soil, surface and groundwater.</b></p> <p><b>2.3.2. It is essential that on-site sanitation is managed appropriately to prevent any spills or leakages.</b></p> <p><b>2.3.3. All cleaning substances that are to be used should be non-toxic or not harmful to the environment and must be responsibly managed to prevent the contamination of any nearby surface water resources and the receiving environment.</b></p> <p><b>2.3.4. All hazardous substances stored on-site should be stored and sealed correctly, in a secured area.</b></p> <p><b>2.3.5. It is noted that the lithium-ion BESS is the applicant's preferred BESS. Lithium-ion batteries must have battery management systems (containment, automatic alarms and shut-off systems) to monitor and protect cells from overcharging or damaging conditions.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The general recommendations provided by the Directorate in this comment have been added to the EMPr for the WEF and on-site substation.</p>

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
		<p>2.3.6. On-site battery maintenance should only be undertaken on impermeable surfaces with secondary containment measures. Any resulting hazardous substances must be disposed of appropriately.</p> <p>2.3.7. An emergency response plan is to be implemented in the event of a spill or leakage. Staff onsite should be trained on how to deal with the clean-up of a hazardous substance, and the provision of spill kits on-site should be readily available in the event of an incident.</p> <p>2.3.8. Suitable emergency and safety signage is to be provided on-site, and any areas which may pose a safety risk (including hazardous substances), clearly demarcated. Emergency numbers for the local police, fire department, Eskom and the local municipality must be placed in a prominent clearly visible area on-site.</p> <p>2.3.9. As indicated under mitigation 8.2.10 on page 52 of the EMPr, the Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management, in terms of section 30 of NEMA, 1998, must also be notified if there is a sudden, unexpected or uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance, and not only the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p>	

### 13.3 DIRECTORATE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation	<b>This Directorate supports the mitigation measure proposed in the Visual Impact Assessment compiled by Bapela Cave Klapwijk Land Planning and Design dated September 2021 that all construction camps and related facilities, including stockpiles, laydown areas and batching plants should</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> The Directorate’s support of the mitigation measure proposed in the Visual Impact Assessment that all construction camps and related facilities, including stockpiles, laydown areas and batching plants should ideally be placed in already

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	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Etienne Roux, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Waste Management</p>	<p><b>ideally be placed in already disturbed areas, to limit the area of disturbance by the proposed development.</b> <b>These areas should be placed away from main roads, to reduce the potential visual impacts</b></p>	<p>disturbed areas, to limit the area of disturbance by the proposed development, is noted.</p> <p>The Kwagga WEF 1 will include at least one construction compound and laydown area with an approximate footprint of approximately 6 ha (300 m x 200 m). This area that will be fenced with access control may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site office and meeting room (e.g. temporary/prefabricated double storey container type structure);</li> <li>• Worker amenities (e.g. canteen, ablution facilities, changing room, etc.);</li> <li>• Storage structures for equipment, materials, fuel, oil, machinery etc. (e.g. containers, skips etc.);</li> <li>• Security office and boom gate;</li> <li>• Parking area; and</li> <li>• Concrete batching plant of 0.25 ha in size.</li> </ul> <p>As noted in Section 2.1.2.2 of Chapter 2 of the Final EIA Report, four construction compound and laydown area alternatives were identified at the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project site and were subjected to a detailed specialist assessment during the Scoping Phase. Three of the four location alternatives for the compound and laydown area were selected based on the scoping level specialist inputs received and were then taken forward for detailed specialist assessment in the EIA Phase. Following the outcomes of detailed specialist assessments, the Compound and Laydown Area No. 3 was selected as the preferred alternative. Please refer to Figure H.11 in Appendix</p>

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			H of this EIA Report for the location of the preferred Compound and Laydown Area alternative.
2.	24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEADP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Etienne Roux, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Waste Management	<b>According to the Environmental Noise Specialist Assessment compiled by Safetech dated 19 July 2021, Noise Sensitive Areas (“NSAs”) 6, 7 and 8 will experience exceedances of the night-time noise rating limits. Table 15, page 38 of the Noise Specialist Assessment recommends the following: “Implement a 500 m “no-go” buffer around all noise sensitive areas to ensure no wind turbines impact these noise sensitive areas.” Please confirm whether a 500 m buffer will be placed around NSAs 6, 7 and 8.</b>	<b>NOISE SPECIALIST:</b> We hereby confirm that the 500 m buffer must be maintained around ALL the identified Noise Sensitive Areas (NSA’s) as part of the Environmental Authorisation.  <b>CSIR:</b> Please refer to Figure H.3 in Appendix H of this EIA Report which shows the 500 m buffer applied to all noise sensitive areas identified by the specialist. Figure H.3 also shows that none of the WEF components fall within the 500 m buffer for NSA 6, 7 and 8.

### 13.4 DIRECTORATE: AIR QUALITY

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021,	<b>It is noted that the potential dust during construction activities will include the clearance of topsoil, excavations, and road construction. Per the EMPr, appropriate dust suppression methods must be strictly implemented and monitored on-site for excessive dust emissions, especially during periods of high winds.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As indicated by this Directorate, appropriate dust suppression methods have been included in the EMPr for the WEF. The specific persons responsible for dust suppression methods have been included in the EMPr and the Project Developer has been made aware of the need for strict monitoring to ensure dust suppression methods are followed, especially during periods of high winds.

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	(received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management		
2.	24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management	<b>Dust generated during all phases of the proposed development must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004). These regulations prohibit a person from conducting any activity in such a way as to give rise to dust in such quantities and concentrations that the dust, or dust fall, has a detrimental effect on the environment including health.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As indicated by this Directorate, appropriate dust suppression methods have been included in the EMPr for the WEF. The specific persons responsible for dust suppression methods have been included in the EMPr and the Project Developer has been made aware of the need for strict monitoring to ensure dust suppression methods are followed, especially during periods of high winds. National Dust Control Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) will be adhered to during all phases of the proposed development.
3.	24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management	<b>In terms of regulation 4 of the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations (promulgated in Provincial Notice 200/2013, the local authority, or any other authority responsible for considering an application for a building plan approval, business licence approval, planning approval or environmental authorisation, may instruct the applicant to conduct and submit, as part of the application a noise impact assessment in accordance with South African National Standards (“SANS”) 10328</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> Please note, a detailed Noise Impact Assessment has been conducted in accordance with SANS 10328:2008 (3rd Ed. and SANS 10103:2008 (6th Ed.), as part of the S&EIA Process. The detailed Noise Impact Assessment has been included in Chapter 14 of this EIA Report.

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4.	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management</p>	<p><b>This Directorate notes that according to the noise specialist, the noise significance relating to all developmental aspects of the proposed activity will meet the daytime noise rating limit of the SANS 10103: 2008.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The detailed Noise Impact Assessment is included in Chapter 14 of this EIA Report.</p>
5.	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation</p> <p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management</p>	<p><b>Per the requirements of SANS 10103: 2008, mitigation measures must be implemented should the noise impact exceed the night-time noise rating limit, e.g., running the turbines in low power mode at certain wind speeds at night.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The detailed Noise Impact Assessment was conducted in accordance with SANS 10328:2008 (3rd Ed. and SANS 10103:2008 (6th Ed.). The Noise specialists' recommendations (per the requirements of SANS 10103: 2008) have been included in the EMPr for the WEF and substation. Please refer to Chapter 14 of this EIA Report for the full Noise Impact Assessment.</p>
6.	<p>24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&amp;DP,</p>	<p><b>This Directorate supports the noise specialist's recommendation that ambient noise monitoring should be conducted at NSAs 6, 7 and 8 when operations commence to verify that the noise emissions will meet the night-time noise rating limit. Ambient noise monitoring should be</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The Directorate's support of the noise specialist's recommendation that ambient noise monitoring should be conducted at NSAs 6, 7 and 8 when operations commence to verify that the noise emissions will meet the night-time noise</p>

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	Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management	<p><b>undertaken during the construction phase by a noise specialist, according to the requirements of SANS 10103: 2008.</b></p>	<p>rating limit, is noted. This recommendation as well as the Directorate’s recommendation for ambient noise monitoring to be undertaken during the construction phase by a noise specialist (according to the requirements of SANS 10103: 2008) has been added in the EMPr for the WEF and substation.</p>
7.	24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Thea Jordan and Adri La Meyer, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Development Facilitation  24/11/2021, (received via email on 24/11/2021), Deon Stoltz, Western Cape DEA&DP, Directorate: Air Quality Management	<p><b>This Directorate therefore recommends that:</b></p> <p><b>4.7.1. All machinery that may cause a significant noise nuisance during the construction phase may only be utilised during the daytime hours.</b></p> <p><b>4.7.2. All directly affected parties should be notified of any activities on site that will cause a significant noise disturbance prior to activities taking place.</b></p> <p><b>4.7.3. All blasting must be conducted during the daytime hours and all affected parties be notified prior to commencement.</b></p> <p><b>4.7.4. All mitigation measures proposed by the noise specialist be incorporated in the EMPr and adhered to.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The recommendations provided by the Directorate in this comment have been added to the EMPr for the WEF and on-site substation.</p>

**14. WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS DEPARTMENT**



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1.	<p>29/11/2021</p> <p>Letter (received via email on 29/11/2021),</p> <p>Ms Grace Swanepole and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Mr A. Koopman and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<p><b>THREE DRAFT EIA REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES; NAMELY, THE 279MW KWAGGA WEF 1 (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2070), THE 341MW KWAGGA WEF 2 (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2071) AND THE 204.6MW KWAGGA WEF 3 (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2072), AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p>1. The following refer:</p> <p>1.1 This Branch's letter TPW/CFS/RP/LUD/REZ/SUB-01/23 (Job 28641) dated 24 June 2021 to you. Find a copy attached to this letter.</p> <p>1.2 Your letter dated 22 October 2021 to Interested and/or Affected Party.</p> <p>2. This Branch remains to offer no objection to the issuing of an Environmental Authorisation in favour of any of the three wind energy facilities, provided that this Branch's letter of 24 June 2021 remains to be complied to.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks.</p>
2.	<p>29/11/2021</p> <p>Letter (received via email on 29/11/2021),</p> <p>Ms Grace Swanepole and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Mr A. Koopman and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<p><b>THREE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (NAMELY THE 279MW KWAGGA WEF 1, THE 341MW KWAGGA WEF 2 AND THE 204.6MW KWAGGA WEF 3) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE; NEAR BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p><b>The following refer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Your e-mail on behalf of CSIR Environmental Management Services on 28 May 2021 to Interested and/or Affected Party.</b></li> <li>• <b>JG Afrika's three transport specialist assessments (respectively for Kwagga Wind Energy Facilities 1, 2 and 3) all dated 25 January 2021.</b></li> <li>• <b>This Branch will not object to the issuing of an Environmental Authorisation in favour of any of the three wind energy facilities, provided that this Branch is offered the opportunity to comment on the land use application, at which stage</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works – Roads Department was pre-included on the project database of I&amp;APs and Organs of State at the outset of the Scoping and EIA Process. This stakeholder was given the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report and the Draft EIA Report during the 30-day public comment period. The Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works – Roads Department will be contacted by the Project Developer and/or Project Contractor during the land use application process. This will take place outside of the EIA process.</p>

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		<p>this Branch will issue its approvals in terms of Act 21 of 1940 (building restrictions) and Roads Ordinance 19 of 1976 (accesses and construction activities with the road reserves and building lines).</p>	
3.	<p>29/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 29/11/2021), Ms Grace Swanepole and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Mr A. Koopman and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<p>• <b>The following (Public) Provincial Roads, all for which this Branch is the Road Authority, are either in the immediate vicinity or traversing the affected farms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trunk Road 33 section 5 (TR03305; N12)</b></li> <li>• <b>Divisional Road 2301 (DR02301)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 7066 (OP07066)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 7067 (OP07067)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 7070 (OP07070)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8806 (OP08806)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8807 (OP08807)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8824 (OP08824)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8825 (OP08825)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8828 (OP08828)</b></li> <li>• <b>Minor Road 8831 (OP08831)</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Specialist Traffic Impact Assessment undertaken during the EIA Phase has assessed the presence of these listed roads. Please refer to Chapter 16 for the full, detailed Traffic Impact Assessment.</p>
4.	<p>29/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 29/11/2021), Ms Grace Swanepole and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Mr A. Koopman and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads</p>	<p><b>Based upon the above-mentioned roads and the farms being served, it appears as if Portion 1 of Farm 386, Portion 3 of Farm 386, Portion 4 of Farm 115 and Portion 6 of Farm 115 are all possibly land locked. This Branch is not aware of any registered servitude rights of way being in place to ensure permanent, legal and unfettered access to those farms.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. It is proposed that an internal service road network, connecting the wind turbines and associated project infrastructure, be newly constructed. This has been accommodated for in the Application for EA. A detailed road layout, which was subjected to detailed specialist assessment during the EIA Phase, has been included in the Draft and Final EIA Report. The detailed road network connects and provides access to turbines and associated infrastructure located on Portion 1 of Farm 386, Portion 3 of Farm 386, Portion 4 of Farm 115 and</p>

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			Portion 6 of Farm 115. The Project Developer and/or Project Contractor will lodge the necessary applications to the relevant authority to register servitude rights, where required. Please refer to Figure H.9 which shows the locality of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project and the main access road, and Figure H. 10 which shows the detailed internal access road.
5.	29/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 29/11/2021), Ms Grace Swanepole and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Mr A. Koopman and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads	<b>Regardless of all the Provincial Roads in that vicinity are only TR03305 and DR02301 described as access roads. An impression is created that the other (gravelled) Provincial Roads in that vicinity will be utilised as private roads. All the Provincial Roads Public accessibility must be retained (if not closed – deproclaimed) and they must be evaluated for the purposes of construction, operation and decommissioning.</b>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Only the two stated roads as per the provided comment will be utilised as main access roads to the proposed WEFs. The Project Developer and/or Project Contractor will ensure that all Provincial Public Roads will remain open and accessible to all during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
	29/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 29/11/2021), Ms Grace Swanepole and Mr SW Carstens with endorsements from Mr A. Koopman and Mr. E. Burger, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works - Roads	<b>This Branch, for now, will ultimately require the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access applications (for all the accesses to each respective farm portion), which might include servitude rights of way to be registered to ensure permanent, legal and unfettered access to all affected farm portions. It will be required to clearly state which access will serve what purpose (wind energy and / or farming)</b></li> <li>• <b>Construction applications, including wayleaves for third party services, when building restrictions, building lines and road reserves are affected.</b></li> <li>• <b>Abnormal load applications, which may require prior geometric and materials designs to be completed and constructed. Due to the possible longevity of this</b></li> </ul>	<b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer and/or Project Contractor will ensure that access applications are submitted and approval obtained prior to the commencement of construction, and these will clearly state the purpose of each access. All relevant permits, such as the wayleaves and abnormal load applications will be applied for by the Project Developer and/or Project Contractor during the detailed design phase prior to construction, after

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		<p>process it is recommended to commence with these applications as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A geotechnical and geometric design report, including improvement proposals, must be compiled to ensure that all the roads (on the entire road network) that will be affected by this development are adequately improved and maintained before any other construction activity may commence on any of the farm portions. This is to ensure that no more than normal deterioration and additional maintenance costs are experienced by the Road Authority during the construction and operating phases. It will be required that any design affecting any Proclaimed Provincial Road must carry this Branch's Chief Directorate Road Design's approval before implementation thereof may commence.</li> <li>• Confirmation that a similar geotechnical (as per paragraph 6.4) proposal will be compiled and approval obtained prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase; whenever that may be.</li> </ul>	<p>Environmental Authorisation is issued, should such authorisation be granted.</p> <p>The EMPr notes that a geotechnical and geometric design report must be compiled during the detailed design phase, post Environmental Authorisation, and that relevant approvals are obtained from the relevant authorities prior to commencement of construction.</p> <p>The Project Developer will also commission a similar geotechnical report for approval from the relevant authorities prior to commencing with any major upgrade or decommissioning phase.</p>

### 15. HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE (HWC)

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	<p>30/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 30/11/2021), Ms Stephanie Barnardt and Ms Ayanda Mdludlu, Heritage Western Cape</p>	<p><b>HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY DEVELOPMENT ON PTN 3 FARM TYGER POORT NO.376, RE PTN 1 FARM DWAALFONTEIN WES NO.377, RE FARM DWAALFONTEIN NO.379 &amp; RE PTNS 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 &amp;12 FARM WOLWE KRAAL 17, BEAUFORT WEST, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(8) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)</b></p> <p><b>This matter was discussed at the Impact Assessment Committee (IACom) meeting held on 17 November 2021.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks. As per the requirements of the HWC, an integrated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) including archaeology, cultural landscape, palaeontology and visual aesthetics was undertaken and an integrated HIA report compiled. The integrated HIA was submitted to HWC and released to registered conservation bodies and the relevant local municipalities for a 30-day consultation period which extended from 9 October to 9 November 2021 as per the requirements of the HWC (see Appendix D.9). These relevant specialist</p>

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		<p>It was noted that the matter was tabled at Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee (APM) meeting held on the 3 November 2021 whereby the Committee endorsed the Archaeological Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment dated October 2021 with the following recommendations on page 51 of the Heritage Impact Assessment;</p>	<p>assessments are also included in Chapters 11, 12 and 13 of this EIA Report.</p>
2.	<p>30/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 30/11/2021), Ms Stephanie Barnardt and Ms Ayanda Mdludlu, Heritage Western Cape</p>	<p>It is recommended that the proposed Kwagga WEF1 should be authorised but subject to the following conditions which should be incorporated into the Environmental Authorisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pre-construction palaeontological survey of unsurveyed, potentially sensitive sectors of the authorised layout (mitigation recommendations will need to be made afterwards as necessary);</li> <li>• Monitoring for fossils on an on-going basis by the ECO during the construction phase;</li> <li>• A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be in place;</li> <li>• A pre-construction archaeological survey of the authorised layout must be commissioned to determine whether any significant archaeological sites still lie within the final footprint (mitigation recommendations will need to be made afterwards as necessary);</li> <li>• If the historical rubbish midden at waypoint 419 cannot be avoided then it should be excavated and recorded prior to construction;</li> <li>• No materials (e.g. rocks or bricks) may be removed from any historical sites;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> These recommendations are noted and have been stated in Section 20.8 of Chapter 20 of this EIA Report, to be included as Conditions for EA (should such EA be issued by DFFE), as well as in the EMPr for the WEF that is included in Part C of this EIA Report.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The access road should be rerouted slightly so as to pass between the structures at waypoint 309 in such a way that the distance between road and structures is maximised;</li> <li>• The options for the substation hub and permanent laydown areas that are lowest in elevation are preferred;</li> <li>• Temporary laydown areas must be fully rehabilitated after construction;</li> <li>• Lighting must be designed to minimise light pollution (e.g. use down lighting, motion sensors), with the red safety lights on the tops of the turbines being of particular concern (a radar-based Audio Visual Warning System should be used);</li> <li>• The colours of buildings, roofs, etc should be muted and designed to blend with the natural landscape; and</li> <li>• If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.</li> </ul>	
3.	30/11/2021 Letter (received via email on 30/11/2021), Ms Stephanie Barnardt and Ms Ayanda Mdludlu, Heritage Western Cape	<p><b>The Committee (IACom) endorsed the Heritage Impact Assessment and associated documents as prepared by ASHA Consulting dated October 2021. The Committee supports the recommendations and findings of the heritage impact assessment referred to on page 51.</b></p> <p><b>Should you have any further queries, please contact the official above and quote the case number.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks.</p>

## 16. CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

### 16.1 MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	25/11/2021, Email, Gerrit Van Zyl, Central Karoo District Municipality: Municipal Health Manager	<p><b>EIA Project Team</b></p> <p><b>Your email below refers.</b></p> <p><b>The Section Municipal Health Services does not have any comments on the Draft EIA Reports for the projects referred to in your email.</b></p> <p><b>Kind regards</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks.</p>

## 17. SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY (SARAO)

Please note: Section 4.3.1 in Chapter 4 of this Final EIA Report includes information on the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Area (KCAAA) in relation to the proposed project. The proposed projects fall outside of the KCAAA, and thus will not have any detrimental impacts on the SKA.

In addition, Appendix I.1 of this EIA Report includes the letter received from SARAO confirming that the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 presents a low risk of interference to the SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 41.53 dBm/Hz.

### 18. DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION (DWS)

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	25/11/2021, Email, Marianne Claasen, DWS	<p><b>Dear EMS</b></p> <p><b>Please note that these e-mails was forwarded to the Breede Gourits Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) for their further attention because the area in question is sorting under the BGCMA.</b></p> <p><b>Natasha (BGCMA) can you please confirm if this matter was attended to.</b></p> <p><b>Kind Regards</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Dear EMS team</b></p> <p><b>Thank you your e-mail is noted.</b></p> <p><b>Kind Regards</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment was received in response to a follow up email and request for comment that was sent to officials at the DWS. The EIA Project Team responded to Ms Marianne Claasen’s email on 25 November 2021 notifying Ms Claasen that comments from the BGCMA on the Draft EIA Reports were received on 24 November 2021 from Ms Zama Mbunquka and have been captured and addressed in the Comments and Responses Reports for the respective projects.</p>

### 19. BREEDE-GOURITZ CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NO	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	24/11/2021, Letter (received via sent on 24/11/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	<p><b>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KWAGGA WIND ENERGY FARM ON REMAINDER OF FARM 17, PORTION 7,10,11,12 OF FARM 17 PORTION 1,2,3 FARM 386, PORTION 4,5,6,8, PORTION 4,5,6,8, BEAUFORT WEST AND PRINCE ALBERT.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer was already informed during the Scoping Phase of the S&amp;EIA processes for the proposed projects, of the requirement to apply for water authorisation in terms of section 21 (c) and (i) water uses of the National Water Act, 1998 (NWA) as stipulated.</p>



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		<p><b>With reference to the application dated October 2021 and after having had the opportunity to assess the application, herewith the following:</b></p> <p><b>1. Please note that the proposed Kwagga wind energy development constitutes section 21 (c)&amp; (i) water uses of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). The applicant must obtain authorization in terms of the aforementioned Act prior to the commencement of the proposed windfarm energy development. It is noted on the comments and response report that the applicant will obtain necessary authorization prior to commencing with the development.</b></p>	<p>The Project Applicant will apply for and obtain the required authorisation prior to commencement of construction, should this project be granted Environmental Authorisation and receive preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.</p>
2.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via sent on 24/11/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)</p>	<p><b>2. The response provided in the comments and response report have addressed all the issues raised by this office on the letter dated 30 June 2021.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please refer to Section 6 of this Comments and Responses Report for the comments received from the BGCMA during the Scoping Phase of the proposed projects in letter dated 30 June 2021.</p>
3.	<p>24/11/2021, Letter (received via sent on 24/11/2021), Zama Mbunquka and Jan Van Staden, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)</p>	<p><b>3. Please note that BGCMA comments only pertains to the above-mentioned properties, the other properties fall outside the Jurisdiction of this Catchment Management Agency, hence the applicant must obtain separate comments and Water Use Authorisation from the Department of Water and Sanitation. Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility rests with the applicant to identify any sources of pollution from his undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the environment. Failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the applicant.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. As stated above, the Project Applicant will apply for and obtain the required authorisation from the relevant Catchment Management Agencies prior to commencement of construction, should this project be granted Environmental Authorisation and receive preferred bidder status in terms of the REIPPPP.</p> <p>The Project Developer has been made aware of the responsibility to identify any sources of pollution from their undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the receiving environment. The failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), which could lead to legal</p>

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		The BGCMA reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that might be received.	action being instituted against the Project Applicant, has also been communicated to the Project Developer.

**20. SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	22/11/2021, Email, Simphiwe Masilela, CAA	<p><b>Good day,</b></p> <p><b>Kindly note a response has already been forwarded for the above mentioned (refer to email attached herein)</b></p> <p><b>As per Obstacle Notice 1/2021– Appointment of New Windfarm Obstacle Application Service Provider , the service of assessing Windfarms as from 1 May 2021 was handed over at Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS). All EIA comment requests regarding Wind Energy facilities must be forwarded to ATNS. This in due time will apply to Solar Plants as well, we are currently in the process of transitioning the service. Once the process has been concluded, the published notice will be updated on the SACAA website as soon as practicable.</b></p> <p><b>In the meantime kindly follow the following procedure for Solar PV):</b></p> <p><b><a href="http://www.caa.co.za/Obstacles%20Forms/CA139-27.pdf">http://www.caa.co.za/Obstacles%20Forms/CA139-27.pdf</a> application form: apply one centre point co-ordinate, to the said proposed site</b></p> <p><b>Kindly note that when the time for formal application comes, the client is required to provide the following together with the application:</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The Project Developer has been liaising with the SACAA about these proposed Windfarm projects since February 2021, specifically relating to the requirement and need for the Obstacle Evaluation, Application and Approval with the SACAA. Proof of correspondence between the Project Developer and the SACAA is included in Appendix D of this Final EIA Report. Please note wind farm applications based on project boundaries were submitted to ATNS on 28 October 2021.</p> <p>This SACAA comment regarding the appointment of the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as the new Obstacle Application Service Provider has been noted and the necessary documents for the Obstacle Application and Approval have been lodged with the ATNS on 28 October 2021.</p> <p>The proposed wind turbines will have a hub height of up to 180 m, a rotor (or blade) diameter of up to 200 m, and blades of up to 100 m in length. The potential impact of the proposed wind turbines on civil aviation installations or air traffic services associated with the Cape Town International Airport Airspace have been assessed during the EIA Phase by means of an Aeronautical Impact Assessment, which informed</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A kmz/kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint to the proposed development site.</b></li> <li>• <b>Provide coordinates, Height and Elevation as per excel spreadsheet attached herein</b></li> <li>• <b>Also indicate the highest structure of the project &amp; the Overhead electric power transmission line</b></li> </ul> <p><b>As published on SACAA website, should the site be outside of a 3km radius from an airport and not found to be on the on the approach and departure areas, then no Glint and Glare study would be required.</b></p> <p><b>Should you require more information please contact the inspectorate at <a href="mailto:obstacles@caa.co.za">obstacles@caa.co.za</a></b></p>	<p>the Civil Aviation Compliance Statement, included in Chapter 17 of this EIA Report. The Compliance Statement notes that low sensitivity from a civil aviation perspective identified by the Screening Tool was verified by the EAP during the site visit. The potential high sensitivity from a civil aviation perspective identified by the Screening Tool was subsequently verified following liaison with the SACAA and ATNS, as well as with Tsela Aeronautical (Pty) Ltd (Tsela).</p> <p>The Aeronautical Impact Assessment has recommended that only the southern portion of the project site (i.e. Kwagga WEF 1B), which is situated outside the FAD 29 GFA that is designated as ‘dangerous and restricted airspace’ be considered for the erection of wind turbines. As a result, the Project Developer refined the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 project site layout further prior to the release of the Draft EIA Report to optimize the number of wind turbine positions in the southern portion of the project site i.e. Kwagga 1B that is designated as ‘uncontrolled airspace’ and pose no risk to air traffic and navigational services.</p> <p>The Compliance Statement notes that the 13 x turbine positions that remain within the northern portion of the project site (i.e. Kwagga 1A) based on the refined site layout plan, pose an overall low to very low risk to the biophysical environment of the proposed project site, and provided that the specified mitigation measures are applied effectively, it is recommended that the WEF project receive EA in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).</p> <p>However, considering the fact that these 13 x turbine positions are located in a designated ‘dangerous and restricted airspace’, it is</p>

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			<p>recommended that the Project Developer continue to consult with the relevant civil aviation authorities to obtain their feedback as well as the relevant permits, where necessary, and that recommendations from the civil aviation authorities have been incorporated into the project design (post EA, should the EA be granted) prior to construction.</p> <p>Comment on the Draft EIA Reports was sought from the ATNS. The ATNS has responded to inform the EAP that they will only be involved at a later stage i.e. outside the scope of the EIA process. Please note windfarm applications based on project boundaries were submitted to ATNS on 28 Oct 2021. Please refer to Chapter 17 for proof of correspondence with the civil aviation authorities regarding the potential impact of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 on the Air Traffic and Navigational Services.</p>
	<p>01/12/2021, Email, Lizell Stroh, CAA</p>	<p><b>Good day, please confirm if the respected Obstacle assessment process has been followed by ATNS.</b></p> <p><b>As soon as the application with assessment report has been submitted to the SACAA an final site approval could be considered.</b></p> <p><b>Please find information towards Comments for your information</b></p> <p><b>Kind regards</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The Project Developer has been liaising with the SACAA about these proposed Windfarm projects since February 2021, specifically relating to the requirement and need for the Obstacle Evaluation, Application and Approval with the SACAA. Proof of correspondence between the Project Developer and the SACAA is included in Appendix D of this Final EIA Report. Please note wind farm applications based on project boundaries were submitted to ATNS on 28 Oct 2021.</p>

## 21. AIR TRAFFIC NAVIGATION SERVICES (ATNS)

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	25/11/2021, Email, Ferdi Smit, ATNS	<p><b>Good morning</b></p> <p><b>ATNS has no comments on the draft EIA reports as mentioned below.</b></p> <p><b>We will only be involved at a later stage when the application for the actual wind turbines is submitted to ATNS/CAA for impact analysis on ATNS equipment and procedures.</b></p> <p>Regards</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Please refer to Chapter 17 for proof of correspondence with the civil aviation authorities regarding the potential impact of the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 on the Air Traffic and Navigational Services. Please note Wind farm applications based on project boundaries were submitted to ATNS on 28 Oct 2021.</p>

## 22. SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY (SANRAL)

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	25/11/2021, Email, Nicole Abrahams, National Roads Agency Environmental Coordinator: Western Region	<p><b>Dear Sir/Madam</b></p> <p><b>The proposed project boundary appears to be quite a distance from the N12. SANRAL would only require that a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) be conducted. Our roads will therefore be affected during transportation of the equipment to site.</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. Ms Nicole Abrahams was informed that a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment was conducted for the proposed Kwagga WEF 1 and potential impacts assessed. Please refer to Chapter 16 of this EIA Report for the full Traffic Impact Assessment.</p>

## 23. BIRD LIFE SOUTH AFRICA

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1.	25/11/2021, Email, Samantha Ralston-Paton, BirdLife South Africa: Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager	<p><b>Good day</b></p> <p><b>Many thanks for following up. We acknowledge receipt, but currently do not have the capacity to review the application.</b></p> <p>Kind regards Sam</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted.</p>

#### 24. AVIC INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TRAINING ACADEMY (PTY) LTD

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENTS	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
1.	01/12/2021, Email, Francois Siebrits, AVIC International Flight Training Academy (Pty) Ltd: CEO	<p><b>Dear EIA Project Team,</b></p> <p><b>As the Three Kwagga wind energy facilities are on the Southern boundary of FAD 29 and only cover a small portion of said area, AIFA has no objection to these facilities.</b></p> <p><b>AIFA would either reserve the right for objection to any possible ADIO Interference that might/could be experience from such facility. The facility is direct underneath the main Navigation route between FABW and FAGG, a main training route for AIFA aircraft.</b></p> <p><b>Regards.</b></p> <p><b>Francois Siebrits</b></p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Project Developer has been liaising with the SACAA about these proposed Wind farm projects since February 2021, specifically relating to the requirement and need for the Obstacle Evaluation, Application and Approval with the SACAA. Windfarm applications based on project boundaries were submitted to ATNS on 28 October 2021. Proof of correspondence between the Project Developer and the SACAA is included in Appendix D of this Final EIA Report.</p> <p>The proposed wind turbines will have a hub height of up to 180 m, a rotor (or blade) diameter of up to 200 m, and blades of up to 100 m in length. The potential impact of the proposed wind turbines on civil aviation installations or air traffic services associated with the Cape Town International Airport Airspace have been assessed during the EIA</p>

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			<p>Phase by means of an Aeronautical Impact Assessment, which informed the Civil Aviation Compliance Statement, included in Chapter 17 of this EIA Report. The Compliance Statement notes that low sensitivity from a civil aviation perspective identified by the Screening Tool was verified by the EAP during the site visit. The potential high sensitivity from a civil aviation perspective identified by the Screening Tool was subsequently verified following liaison with the SACAA, ATNS as well as with Tsela Aeronautical (Pty) Ltd (Tsela).</p> <p>The Aeronautical Impact Assessment has recommended that only the southern portion of the project site (i.e. Kwagga WEF 1B), which is situated outside the FAD 29 GFA that is designated as ‘dangerous and restricted airspace’ be considered for the erection of wind turbines.</p> <p>The Compliance Statement notes that the 13 x turbine positions that remain within the northern portion of the project site (i.e. Kwagga 1A) based on the refined site layout plan, pose an overall low to very low risk to the biophysical environment of the proposed project site, and provided that the specified mitigation measures are applied effectively, it is recommended that the WEF project receive EA in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).</p> <p>However, considering the fact that these 13 x turbine positions are located in a designated ‘dangerous and restricted airspace’, it is recommended that the Project Developer continue to consult with the relevant civil aviation authorities to obtain their feedback as well as the relevant permits, where necessary.</p>