



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2146

Enquiries: Ms Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 399 9409 **E-mail:** tsangweni@dfre.gov.za

Mr Lance Blaine
Red Cap Hoogland 2 (Pty) Ltd
Unit B2, Mainstream Centre
HOUT BAY
7806

Telephone Number: (021) 790 1392
E-mail Address: lance@red-cap.co.za

PER EMAIL

Dear Mr Blaine

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the EIA Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appealsdirector@ddfe.gov.za;

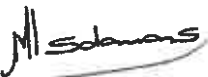
By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.ddfe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@ddfe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 06/02/2023.

cc:	Mr Stuart Heather-Clarke	SLR Consulting Africa (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.	Email: shclark@slrconsulting.com
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forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

THE HOOGLAND 2 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

Central Karoo and Namakwa District Municipalities

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2146
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Red Cap Hoogland 2 (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	<i>The Remainder of Portion 1 of the Drooge Onrust No. 22; The Remainder of Portion 2 of the Drooge Onrust No. 22; The Remainder of Portion 1 of the Slange Fontein No. 6; Portion 1 of the Farm No. 7; The Farm Drooge Onrust 23; Portion 2 of the Farm No. 7; Portion 2 of the Farm Gert Adriaans Kraal No. 18; The Remainder of the Farm Gert Adriaans Kraal No. 18; Portion 1 of the Snydersfontein No. 21; The Farm Bastards Poort No. 2; Portion 1 of the Farm Elands Fontein No. 24; The Remainder of the Farm Slange Fontein No. 6;</i>

	<i>The Remainder of the Farm 7; Portion 2 of the Farm Duikerfontein No. 5; The Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Duikerfontein No. 5; Beaufort West Local Municipality; Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality Ubuntu Local Municipality Central Karoo District Municipality; Namakwa District Municipality Western Cape Province Northern Cape Province</i>
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This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

RED CAP HOOGLAND 2 (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Lance Blaine

Unit B2, Mainstream Centre

HOUT BAY

7806

Telephone Number: (021) 790 1392

Cell phone Number: (083) 235 6737

E-mail Address: lance@red-cap.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275kV or more."</i></p>	<p>The site is zoned as agricultural land which falls outside of an urban area. The infrastructure will include two 132kV substations (including control, operation, workshop, storage buildings / areas) and high voltage (maximum up to 66kV) underground cables and overhead power lines. Short sections of 132kV overhead power lines may also be required.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more Where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) within 32 metres of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The project will require the placement of linear infrastructure, i.e. internal access roads, underground cables and internal overhead power lines with a combined physical footprint of more than 100m² within a watercourse, or within 32m of a watercourse. Watercourse crossing upgrades will also be required both on and offsite.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 14:</u></p> <p><i>"The development and related operation of facilities and infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres."</i></p>	<p>Fuel (and lubricants), electrolyte solution and powder cement may be required on site during various stages of the project. The combined capacity of all of the above goods will exceed 80m³ but will be below 500m³.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a</i></p> <p><i>(i) Watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The project will require the infilling or depositing of material from a watercourse in excess of 10m³ or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of material in excess of 10m³ from a watercourse, as a result of the construction of internal roads, upgrades to existing roads and laying of underground cables on and offsite.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road –</i> <i>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13.5m, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8m"</i></p>	<p>A temporary road corridor of up to 15m will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be rehabilitated after the completion of construction activities to allow for a permanent 6m wide road surface, with side drains on one (1) or both sides where necessary. The temporary N1 Bypass would also constitute the development of a road.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28:</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1ha."</i></p>	<p>The land is currently used for agriculture however some areas will be converted to commercial / industrial land use to accommodate the wind farm infrastructure. These areas equate to an area of more than 1ha.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 48:</u></p> <p><i>"The expansion of-</i> <i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such expansion occurs—</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The project will require the upgrading of existing roads within the project area, as well as onsite and offsite watercourse crossing upgrades, where such upgrades may take place within watercourses and within 32m from the edge of these watercourses. The total footprint of the upgrades to be undertaken on the existing roads would be in excess of 100m² within a watercourse, or within 32m of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre</i> <i>(i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13, 5 meters;</i> <i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres."</i></p>	<p>Existing roads will be upgraded where possible. A temporary road corridor up to 15m will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be rehabilitated after the completion of construction activities to allow for a permanent 6m wide road surface with side drains on one (1) or both sides where necessary. The development will also involve the lengthening of these</p>

	existing roads, where required, in excess of 1km. The temporary N1 Bypass would also constitute the expansion of a road.
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20MW or more."</i></p>	The wind farm will have a total generating capacity of up to 420MW.
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	The project will require the clearance of more than 20ha of indigenous vegetation for the placement of infrastructure.
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <p>(g) Northern Cape</p> <p>(ii) Outside urban areas</p> <p>(ee) within critical biodiversity areas identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or bioregional plans</p> <p>(i) Western Cape</p> <p>(ii) areas outside urban areas, and</p> <p>(aa) areas containing indigenous vegetation."</p>	A temporary road corridor up to 15m will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be rehabilitated after the completion of construction activities to allow for a permanent 6m wide road surface with side drains on one (1) or both sides where necessary. Although the Northern Cape CBAs have not been gazetted, the impact on these features will be assessed as part of the impact assessment process. Most of the site in the Western Cape constitutes indigenous vegetation.
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</p> <p>(g) Northern Cape within</p> <p>(ii) outside urban areas</p>	In some areas, development of infrastructure will require the clearance of more than 300m ² of indigenous vegetation. Although the Northern and Western Cape CBAs have not been gazetted, the impact on these features will be assessed as part of the impact assessment process.

<p><i>(ff) within critical biodiversity areas."</i></p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</i></p> <p><i>(g) Northern Cape within</i></p> <p><i>(ii) outside urban areas</i></p> <p><i>(ff) within critical biodiversity areas."</i></p>	<p>Internal roads, underground cables, and overhead power lines with a total physical footprint in excess of 10m² will be required within and adjacent to watercourses and will traverse CBAs in places. Although the Northern and Western Cape CBAs have not been gazetted, the impact on these features will be assessed as part of the impact assessment process.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18:</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometer-</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii. All areas outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation.</i></p> <p><i>(g) Northern Cape within</i></p> <p><i>(ii) outside urban areas</i></p> <p><i>(ee) within critical biodiversity areas</i></p> <p><i>(iii) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland."</i></p>	<p>Existing roads may require widening of up to 6m (up to 15m during construction) and / or lengthening by more than 1km, to accommodate the movement of heavy vehicles and cable trenching activities. This includes a number of watercourse crossing upgrades, both on and offsite in the Northern and Western Cape. Although the Northern Cape CBAs have not been gazetted, the impact on these features will be assessed as part of the impact assessment process.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated August 2022 at:

SG 21 Digit Code:

Farm Description	21 Digit Surveyor General Code
The Remainder of Portion 1 of the Drooge Onrust No. 22	C00900000000002200001
The Remainder of Portion 2 of the Drooge Onrust No. 22	C00900000000002200002
The Remainder of Portion 1 of the Slange Fontein No. 6	C00900000000000600001
Portion 1 of the Farm No. 7	C00900000000000700001
The Farm Drooge Onrust 23	C00900000000002300000
Portion 2 of the Farm No. 7	C00900000000000700002
Portion 2 of the Farm Gert Adriaans Kraal No. 18	C00900000000001800002
The Remainder of the Farm Gert Adriaans Kraal No. 18	C00900000000001800000
Portion 1 of the Snydersfontein No. 21	C00900000000002100001
The Farm Bastards Poort No. 2	C0090000000000200000
Portion 1 of the Farm Elands Fontein No. 24	C00900000000002400001
The Remainder of the Farm Slange Fontein No. 6	C00900000000000600000
The Remainder of the Farm 7	C00900000000000700000
Portion 2 of the Farm Duikerfontein No. 5	C00900000000000500002
The Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Duikerfontein No. 5	C00900000000000500001

Wind farm boundary corner point coordinates:

Points	Latitude	Longitude
1.	31° 42' 20.331" S	22° 14' 08.936" E
2.	31° 40' 07.080" S	22° 23' 57.280" E
3.	31° 39' 56.918" S	22° 23' 59.161" E
4.	31° 39' 02.994" S	22° 22' 21.985" E
5.	31° 43' 37.885" S	22° 21' 43.198" E
6.	31° 48' 02.883" S	22° 21' 35.846" E
7.	31° 45' 29.496" S	22° 14' 17.498" E
8.	31° 43' 35.080" S	22° 13' 25.245" E
9.	31° 41' 51.643" S	22° 17' 49.637" E
10.	31° 38' 44.303" S	22° 21' 09.928" E

11.	31° 39' 25.999" S	22° 21' 16.752" E
12.	31° 43' 49.533" S	22° 28' 06.067" E
13.	31° 43' 17.323" S	22° 26' 01.035" E
14.	31° 42' 20.331" S	22° 14' 08.936" E

Coordinates for the Battery Energy Storage Systems:

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	Latitude	Longitude
BESS 2A	31° 42' 37,969" S	22° 19' 30,572" E
BESS 2B	31° 42' 11,237" S	22° 19' 56,773" E

Coordinates for the Substations:

Substations	Latitude	Longitude
Substation 2A	31° 42' 33,253" S	22° 19' 35,588" E
Substation 2B	31° 42' 16,037" S	22° 19' 55,581" E

- for the 420MW Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and its associated infrastructure between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The Hoogland 2 Wind Farm will comprise of the following:

- Wind turbines (up to a max of 60) with targeted nameplate generation capacity up to a maximum of 420MW;
- Turbine foundations (circular foundation for each turbine with diameter of up to 35m, alongside 40m hardstand - 1,400m²);
- Hardstands/laydown areas (temporary areas up to max of 5,200m² per turbine), which include the following:
 - Permanent 80m x 40m crane pad placed adjacent to each turbine foundation;
 - Additional 20m x 40m temporary hardstand area near each crane pad;
 - 104m x 20m blade laydown area;
 - Approx. 104m x 5m additional embankment area (where necessary due to slopes); and
 - Temporary 120m x 15m crane boom assembly area.
- Underground cabling (up to 66kV) to connect turbines to the on-site substation;
- Internal wind farm overhead power lines (up to 66kV lines supported by structures up to approx. 22m high, as well as tracks for access to pylons) where burying is not possible due to technical, geological, environmental or topographical constraints;

- Permanent and temporary site roads, which include the following:
 - Permanent 6m wide roads (may require side drains on one or both sides, depending on topography);
 - Up to 15m wide temporary road corridor (temporarily impacted during construction & rehabilitated to allow for 6m road surface after construction);
 - Total road network includes upgrades to sections of public roads and shared road infrastructure with Hoogland 1 Wind Farm (14/12/16/3/3/2/2147); and
 - Total road network also includes shared road infrastructure with Nuweveld North and West Wind Farm.
- Wind Farm substations (2 x 75m substation yards that will include an O&M building, substation building & high voltage gantry);
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (2 x ± 3.5 ha areas which may be adjacent or slightly removed from each of the 2 substations, depending on local constraints);
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) area (includes all offices, stores, workshops and laydown area);
- Security gate and hut at most entrances to the wind farm site (4 x entrances each at 20m²);
- Up to 2.4m high fence for enclosure of temporary and permanent yard areas (with access control). No fencing around individual turbines (existing fencing shall remain around perimeter of properties);
- Temporary areas required for the construction/decommissioning phase, which include the following:
 - Temporary site camp area/s of $\pm 20,000$ m²;
 - Batching plant area of $\pm 2,000$ m²;
 - General laydown area of $\pm 36,000$ m²; and
 - Bunded fuel and lubricants storage facility at the site camp of the wind farm.
- Shared offsite infrastructure in the form of temporary bypass road on N1 to avoid the town of Beaufort West for major wind farm components (also previously authorised as part of the Nuweveld Wind Farms), as follows:
 - Up to 6m wide road surface (with side drains), however, a 12m wide road corridor may be temporarily impacted during construction and rehabilitated once construction is complete;
 - Temporary road will be approx. 5.6km in length (of which approx. 2.5km is along existing track); and
 - Road will also be used by Hoogland 1 Wind Farm and Hoogland 2 Wind Farm (hence why it is shared infrastructure between Nuweveld projects and Hoogland 1 and 2 Wind Farm projects).
- Other offsite shared infrastructure in the form of stream crossings upgrades (along R381 to north of project area and along DR02314 to north-west of project area).

Technical details for the Wind Energy Facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Location of the site	Between Loxton and Beaufort West
The total area of the site	17 832ha
Total disturbance footprint	164.6ha temporary 136.3ha permanent
Maximum generation capacity for facility	420MW
Number of Turbines	58
Hub Height from ground level	Up to 150m
Rotor top tip height	Up to 247.50m
Rotor bottom tip height	Minimum of 20m
Blade Length	Up to 97.5m
Rotor Diameter	Up to 195m
Turbine Foundations	<p><u>Circular foundation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approximately 1400m² per turbine (35m x 40m) ➤ Approximately a total of 8.40ha. <p><u>Crane Pad</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approximately 3200m² per turbine (80m x 40m) ➤ Approximately a total of 19.20ha.
Turbine Hardstands and Laydown Areas	<p>Temporary hardstand area (20m x 40m): 800m²</p> <p>A blade laydown area (104m x 20m): 2080m²</p> <p>An additional embankment area (~104m x 5m): 520m²</p> <p>Temporary crane boom assembly area (120m x 15m): 1800m²</p> <p>Temporary areas are up to a maximum of 5,200m² per turbine therefore a total temporary footprint of 31.20ha.</p>
Capacity of on-site substation	<p>Capacity: 132kV</p> <p>Two (150m x 75m) substation yards that will include an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) building, substation building and a high voltage gantry with a combined footprint of 2.3ha.</p>
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	<p>Number of BESS areas: Two (~3.50ha each)</p> <p>Combined Area: ~7ha</p>

	Technology: Lithium Ion or Redox Flow type batteries.
Cables and Overhead Power line	<p>Turbines to be connected to on-site substation via up to 66kV cables. Cables to be laid underground in trenches mainly adjacent to the wind farm roads.</p> <p>Only in limited instances, overhead lines will be used where burying is not possible. Up to 66kV overhead power lines supported by structures of up to approximately 22m in height.</p>
Access Roads	<p>The total road network: ~110.8km in length with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Permanent roads will be 6m wide (total footprint of 88.7ha); ➤ An up to 15m wide road corridor which may be temporarily impacted during construction and rehabilitated to allow for a 6m road surface (temporary footprint of 99.7ha).
Temporary construction areas	<p>Total temporary footprint: 6ha</p> <p>The temporary construction areas will comprise of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Temporary site camp/s areas of ~20 000m² ➤ Batching plant area of ~2 000m² ➤ General laydown area of ~36 000m² ➤ The wind farm will have a bunded fuel and lubricants storage facility at the site camp.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The 420MW Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and its associated infrastructure between Loxton and Beaufort West in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces, as described above, are hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.

2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;

- 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request;
and
- 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

13. The final site layout plan for the Hoogland 2 Wind Farm and all associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout plan must be submitted to the Department for written approval, prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout plan. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout plan must indicate the following:
 - 13.1. The position of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure;
 - 13.2. Cable routes (where they are not along internal roads);
 - 13.3. Internal roads indicating width and length;
 - 13.4. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables;
 - 13.5. All sensitive features e.g. Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas, heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;
 - 13.6. Substation(s), inverters and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - 13.7. Battery Energy Storage Systems including their entire footprint;
 - 13.8. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;

- 13.9. All existing infrastructure on the site, such as roads;
- 13.10. Soil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
- 13.11. Buildings, including accommodation; and,
- 13.12. All “no-go” and buffer areas.
- 14. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substation, submitted as part of the final EIA dated August 2022, is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site substation must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
- 15. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the overhead power line, submitted as part of the final EIA dated August 2022, is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site substation must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
- 16. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the Wind Energy Facility, submitted as part of the EMPr is **not approved** and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site layout plan and micro-siting, and the provisions of this Environmental Authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.
- 17. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
 - 17.1. Measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting;
 - 17.2. Fossil Chance Find Procedure;
 - 17.3. Plant Rescue and Protection;
 - 17.4. Alien Invasive Management Plan;
 - 17.5. Avifaunal Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan;
 - 17.6. Dwarf Tortoise Monitoring Plan;
 - 17.7. Rehabilitation Management Plan;
 - 17.8. Traffic Management Plan;
 - 17.9. Fire Management Plan;
 - 17.10. EMC Control Plan;
 - 17.11. A storm water and wash water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;

- 17.12. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated;
 - 17.13. The requirements and conditions of this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 17.14. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist reports as included in the final EIAR dated August 2022; and
 - 17.15. The final site layout plan.
- 18. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
 - 19. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
 - 20. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

- 21. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 32 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.
- 22. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
- 23. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
- 24. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
- 25. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations,

2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

26. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
27. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
28. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
29. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
30. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

31. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za.
32. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za.
33. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
34. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.

35. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
36. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

37. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

38. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

39. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

Specific conditions

40. An appropriately suitably qualified Terrestrial Ecologist, an Aquatic Ecologist, an Archaeologist, a Palaeontologist and an Avifaunal Specialist must be present for the 'walk-through' of the final layout.
41. Once the final walkthrough by the relevant specialists have been completed, the final adjustments to the layout plan must be made based on the specialist micro-siting recommendations. Any No-Go Areas within the development sites must be clearly indicated on maps and included with the micro-siting reports or attached to the Generic EMPrs.

42. The 'No-Go area' maps (Appendix B: Maps) must be strictly adhered to. These areas and their respective buffers must be avoided as recommended by the relevant specialist studies.
43. Exclusion of sensitive ecological, fauna, flora avifaunal, surface water and heritage areas from construction activities must inform micro siting of all development activities.
44. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
45. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
46. Due to the high risk to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), a detailed EMC Control Plan must be developed by the holder and the development must not commence prior to complying with the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act (Act 21 of 2007).
47. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

Terrestrial Ecology

48. A Fauna Monitoring Programme must be implemented at the site before and after construction to monitor the impact of the development on faunal presence within the facility.
49. The designs of the access roads and other infrastructure must seek to minimise faunal impacts and allow fauna to pass over, through or underneath these features as appropriate.
50. A log must be kept detailing any fauna-related incidences or mortalities that occur on site, including roadkill, electrocutions etc. These must be reviewed annually and used to inform operational management and mitigation measures.
51. A Riverine Rabbit Monitoring Programme must be compiled and implemented at the site to evaluate the post-construction impact of the development on the Riverine Rabbit well as other key fauna at the site. The monitoring programme must incorporate the following:
 - 51.1. It must be conducted with input from the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and must include preconstruction monitoring to establish a reliable baseline of Riverine Rabbit abundance and distribution at the site;
 - 51.2. The above must be followed by matched post-construction monitoring to evaluate the potential negative impacts on the Riverine Rabbit population. The exact duration and frequency of monitoring

would need to be determined based on the number of cameras to be used and the desired precision and statistical power to be obtained;

51.3. The monitoring must include a feedback mechanism to use these findings to improve future wind energy development in Riverine Rabbit areas should be developed; and

51.4. All incidents involving Riverine Rabbits must be documented and reported to the local EWT field office in Loxton. If Rabbits are killed, the carcasses must be collected and provided to EWT for the collection of DNA and other samples.

52. A Monitoring Plan for the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise must be compiled for the construction and operational phases prior to construction. The monitoring plan must include the following:

52.1. Monitor construction activities aimed at reducing impacts on the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise, i.e., an ECO must oversee the implementation of mitigating measures.

52.2. Monitor (keep log of) tortoise killed by earthworks and traffic.

52.3. Conduct annual surveys along the power lines to 1) census crow numbers, 2) log crow nesting sites, and 3) log tortoise carcasses observed along the power lines.

52.4. Based on the findings of the annual inspections reactive measures must be implemented.

53. Undertake search and rescue for reptiles and other vulnerable species during construction before areas of intact vegetation are cleared. Such search and rescue should be conducted by relevant experts with experience in search and rescue of the faunal groups concerned.

Avifauna

54. The No-go areas and High Sensitivity areas identified must be adhered to.

55. A pre-construction avifaunal walk-through must be conducted to confirm final layout and identify any sensitivities that may arise between the conclusion of the Environmental Authorisation process and the construction phase.

56. Monitoring of breeding status of Martial and Verreaux's Eagles must be conducted in all breeding seasons prior to and during construction (to establish a baseline). This can be done by a minimum of three site visits by an independent avifaunal specialist to the nest site per breeding season (May to October). The breeding status and productivity to be determined. Any response by eagles to construction disturbance must be documented.

57. During construction, all roads, hard stand verges and other disturbed areas must be fully compacted to as hard as they were prior to construction, to ensure that these areas do not attract ground burrowing mammals in artificially high abundance and closer to turbines. These species represent prey for raptors and such situations would increase raptor-turbine collision risk.

Aquatic Ecology and Vegetation

58. Suitable stormwater management systems must be installed within the facility and monitored during the first few months of use. Any erosion/sedimentation must be resolved through additional interventions as mentioned in the Stormwater Management Plan.
59. No surface storm water from the site must be directly discharged into the river/streams or wetlands. Energy dispensers, gabion mattress, erosion control structures and water pollution mitigation measures must be constructed and implemented.
60. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
61. A Search and Rescue Plan must be developed for any TOPs or species of conservation concern that have the likelihood of occurring in the study area. This plan will need to be updated once the pre-construction walk-through referred to above has been completed.
62. A final walk-through to locate Species of Conservation Concern that can be trans-located or avoided must be undertaken with an experienced and qualified ecologist.
63. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.
64. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
65. Workers must be made aware of the importance of not destroying or damaging the vegetation along rivers and wetland areas and this awareness must be promoted throughout the construction phase.
66. Quarterly groundwater monitoring must be implemented to ensure sustainable use of boreholes within their authorised usage volumes, as well as for contamination.

Visual and Historical/cultural/paleontological resources

67. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils, or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
68. Construction managers/foremen must be informed before construction starts of the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material that may be encountered and the procedures to follow when they find sites.

69. The archaeological site at waypoint 1703 that will be crossed by a proposed wind farm road must be excavated prior to construction. Excavation must at least cover the area to be disturbed.
70. The archaeological site at waypoints 1978 and 1979 that will be overlapped by a turbine footing must be excavated prior to construction. Excavation must target the densest part(s) of the scatter within or close to the impact zone.
71. The two graves at waypoint 1696 must be fenced with a regular farm-style fence with a pedestrian entrance gate so as to ensure that they are easily identifiable on site. The fence must be placed at least 5m from the graves and the electrical cable must be placed a minimum of 5m away from the fence, but preferably further if possible.
72. Trenching within 30m of waypoint 1696 must be monitored by relevant project staff and/or the ECO.
73. The holder of this authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques, and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.
74. Visually sensitive skylines, such as dolerite ridges, koppies, rock outcrops and slopes steeper than 1:4 or 1:10 gradient, as well as scenic sections of routes must be avoided where possible in the layout design.

Traffic

75. Existing road infrastructure must be used as far as possible for providing access to the facility. Where no road infrastructure exists, new roads must be placed within existing disturbed areas or environmental conditions must be taken into account to ensure that minimum amount of damage is caused to natural habitats.
76. Signage must be erected at appropriate points warning of turning traffic and the construction site.
77. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information to minimize impacts on possible faunal species.
78. Road borders must be regularly maintained to ensure that vegetation remains short and that they therefore serve as an effective firebreak.
79. The treacherous section of the gravel road, through the Molteno Pass on the TR05801 must be upgraded by the developer to improve the safety of the road for all road users, including the personnel commuting to and from the site on a daily basis. This upgrade would need to be implemented prior to or during site establishment but before major earthworks commence on the development.
80. The access into Loxton from the TR016 (R63) must be upgraded by the developer to accommodate the expected transportation requirements. This upgrade would need to be implemented to facilitate the

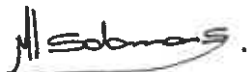
delivery of abnormal loads to the proposed development. This is only applicable if this has not already been undertaken as part of the Nuweveld Wind Farm Project.

81. The route for construction vehicles from the TR016 (R63) to the TR05801 must not unduly impact the local community of Loxton and should avoid the commercial centre of Loxton.
82. The Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be strictly adhered to.

General

83. The recommendations of the EAP in the EIAR dated August 2022 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
84. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 84.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 84.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 84.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
85. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 06/2/2023.



Ms Millicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 18 March 2022.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated August 2022.
- c) The comments received from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAr dated August 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr dated August 2022.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated August 2022.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The EIAr dated August 2022 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated August 2022 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAr dated August 2022 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the EIAr dated August 2022 is deemed to be accurate and credible.

- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIA and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Ms. Milicent Solomons
Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTERGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS (ACTING), FROM 01 FEBRUARY UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY 2023

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations from 01 February until 28 February 2023.

All correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations during must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1998), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standards, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of the legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Yours Sincerely

Ms. Devinagie Bendeman

Deputy Director-General: Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring

Date: 31 January 2023



Batho pele- putting people first

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ~~ACCEPT~~ / **DO NOT ACCEPT**
appointment as Acting Chief Director:
Intergrated Environmental Authorisations
Signed:

Date: 31 January 2023