

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SUNVELD SOLAR PV AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE (BESS) FACILITY ON FARM KRUISPAD 120 AND ON THE FARM DOORNFONTEIN A 118 SITUATED APPROXIMATELY 7.5 KM EAST VELDDRIF IN THE BERG RIVER MUNICIPALITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

DDFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2436

The Draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project was available for a 30 day comment period extending from **15 September 2023 – 17 October 2023**.

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

Comment	Response
Waseefa Dhansay: Heritage Western Cape – 26 October 2023	
You are hereby notified that, since there is reason to believe that the proposed Development, Construction, and Operating an up to 600 mw Solar PV facility and associate infrastructure, Doornfontein a 118 and Kruispad 120, Farm 118 and 120 Velddrif will impact on heritage resources, HWC requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that satisfies the provisions of Section 38(3) of the NHRA be submitted.	A heritage impact assessment is required as part of the plan of stud for EIA and will be undertaken as part of the next phase of the environmental process.
This HIA must in addition have specific reference to the following: - Archaeological Impact Assessment - Palaeontological Impact Assessment - Visual Impact Assessment	These studies are listed in the plan of study for EIA and will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process.
Ms Mmatlala Rabothata: Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment Biodiversity Conservation Directorate – 18 October 2023	
The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the Draft Report and Does not have any objections to the Scoping Report and Plan of Study.	This requirement is noted. The Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of this Environmental Process will comply with the activities outlined in the Plan of Study.

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

Comment	Response
<p>However, it is noted that portions of the project area occur within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA1, CBA2 and CBA3) within Saldanha Strandveld Vegetation classified as endangered (EN). The PV facilities must be placed in such a way as to avoid highly sensitive biodiversity features.</p>	<p>The Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Entomology and Avifaunal specialist will be further engaged during the Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process to further refine the preferred layout alternative (Layout Alternative 3) to avoid the highly sensitive biodiversity features.</p>
<p>The Layout Plan overlaid with biodiversity sensitivities must be included and submitted during the next phase of the EIA.</p>	<p>The final site layout plan submitted in the environmental impact assessment phase of the environmental process will include an overlay with all environmental sensitivities. Please refer to section 1.11 of this scoping report for the preliminary overlays with the initial study site.</p>
<p>The Final Scoping Report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</p>	<p>Compliance with these requirements are outlined in sections 3.4.17, 5.11 and of the scoping report.</p>
<p>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for the attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>Mr Seoka Lekota with the primary contact of BCAdmin@environment.gov.za will remain registered as a key stakeholder on this environmental process and will be notified of all further documentation available in terms of this environmental process.</p>
<p>Adri la Meyer: Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning – 17 October 2023</p>	
<p>Comment was received from the following directorates within DEA&DP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development Management - Development Facilitation - Pollution and Chemicals Management - Waste Management 	
<p>Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) – Mr Kraigen Govindasamy:</p>	
<p>3.1. The DSR indicates that the proposed development will trigger Activity 14 of Listing Notice (“LN”) 1 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), Activity 4 of LN 2, and Activity 10 of LN 3 in relation to the development of facilities for the storage of dangerous goods in containers. However, the volume of dangerous goods to be stored in containers on the proposed site has not been provided. The relevant listed activity must be included in the Final Scoping Report (“FSR”) and forthcoming Draft EIA Report once the estimated volume of dangerous goods to be stored in containers has been determined.</p>	<p>All activities (in all three listing notices) associated with the storage and storage and handling of a dangerous good were considered at Draft Scoping Phase, as the total combined storage capacity for the alternative BESS technologies was still to be determined (based on the preferred footprints determined after completion of the SSVR’s). This technical process will be concluded for all of the proposed BESS technology alternatives by time the Draft EIA report is available for comment. An amended application form will be submitted to the competent authority at this stage.</p>
<p>3.2. A detailed description of the proposed storage of dangerous goods (and associated volume) in containers must be provided.</p>	<p>The Draft EIR will contain the detailed technical descriptions of infrastructure and handling activities associated with the proposed storage of dangerous goods associated with the different technology alternatives.</p>

Comment	Response
<p>3.3. It is further unclear how Activity 48 of LN 1 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be triggered by the proposed development since said listed activity refers to the expansion of existing infrastructure. Clarification is therefore required.</p>	<p>This Activity was included and considered at draft scoping phase, as the detailed access and internal road network for the facility has not yet been designed. As the road network will be designed to make use of existing roads as far as possible, there may be an instance where an existing road may be expanded within 32m of one of the surface water resources identified on the site. The applicability of this activity will be confirmed in the Draft EIR stage once the detailed layout plans are completed. An amended application form will be submitted to the competent authority if necessary.</p>
<p>3.4. The DSR indicates that the proposed development footprint will be approximately 709 ha and 887 ha in extent. Please confirm the development footprint.</p>	<p>The total physical footprint of the facility is 709ha and the total fenced area (total lease area) is 887ha. This is due to their being approximately 178ha of undeveloped areas (cumulatively within the area to be fenced off for the development. During the detailed design, the fenced area will be further refined to reduce the amount of open space within the lease area as far as possible.</p>
<p>3.5. Please note that the proposed development falls within the Environmental Management Framework for the Greater Saldanha Area, which must be considered and reported on in the FSR and/or Draft EIA Report.</p>	<p>This is noted, and the Terrestrial Biodiversity will consider the impact of the Facility on the EMF as part of the EIA Phase.</p>
<p>3.6. This Directorate notes that the preferred layout alternative and the no-go alternative will be assessed in the environmental impact reporting ("EIR") phase. It is advised that alternatives with respect to the associated powerlines (i.e., underground versus aboveground), route alternatives, battery energy storage system technology, etc. be investigated and considered in the FSR and reported on in the Draft EIA Report.</p>	<p>The three BESS storage technologies proposed will be comparatively assessed during the EIR phase of the Environmental Process, as will the routing and configuration of the MV cabling. The HV Powerlines will be subject to a separate environmental process that will be initiated in parallel to the Draft Impact Assessment Phase of this process. Alternatives relating to configuration and alignments of these will be considered in that process.</p>
<p>3.7. Figure 31 on page 45 of the DSR indicates that a portion of the proposed site is located within the Berg Estuary Ramsar site. The potential impacts on the Ramsar site have not been identified in the DSR and must be reported on in the Draft EIA Report.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. Figure 31 shows that a portion of the study site falls within the West Coast Biosphere Reserve as per the South African Conservation Area Dataset. The impact on the nearby Berg River Ramsar site will be assessed by both the Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Specialists during the Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process.</p>
<p>3.8. This Directorate notes that the public participation commenting period on the DSR is from 15 September 2023 to 16 October 2023. Please be reminded of regulation 3(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which states that: "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</p>	<p>This is noted and the public participation period has been extended accordingly.</p>

Comment	Response
<p>extended to the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.” Please further be reminded of regulation 3(5) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which states that: “Where a prescribed timeframe is affected by one or more public holidays, the timeframe must be extended by the number of public holiday days falling within that timeframe.” The commenting period on the DSR should therefore end on 17 October 2023 as two public holidays fall within the commenting period.</p>	
<p>3.9. Heritage Western Cape’s response to the Notification of Intent to Develop must be included in the FSR to be submitted to the competent authority. This is especially important to confirm the proposed heritage-related specialist studies proposed in the Plan of Study for EIA.</p>	<p>Noted – HWC’s comment on the NID will be included in the Final Scoping Report and the Plan of Study for EIA updated where required.</p>
<p>3.10. A comment from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture must be obtained and included in the FSR to be submitted to the competent authority.</p>	<p>Noted – The Western Cape and National Department of Agriculture were registered as key stakeholders on this Environmental Process.</p>
<p>3.11. Proof of the public participation process undertaken must be included in the FSR. The proof must include comments received from commenting authorities and other interested and affected parties, together with the EAP’s responses to the comments.</p>	<p>All Public participation documentation including I&AP Register, Comments and Response Report, Adverts & Site Notices, Draft Scoping Report Notifications Draft Scoping Report Comments and Responses will be submitted as part of the Final Scoping Report.</p>
<p>3.12. Should additional studies be highlighted by interested and affected parties and agreed to by the applicant/EAP, the Plan of Study for EIA will have to be amended accordingly.</p>	<p>Noted. The EAP agrees with this approach.</p>
<p>Directorate: Development Facilitation – Ms Adri La Meyer</p>	
<p>4.1. The Department previously commented on EIA applications for the proposed development of two solar photovoltaic (“PV”) energy facilities on the proposed site. The then Department of Environmental Affairs (“DEA”) granted an environmental authorisation (“EA”) on 13 March 2020 for the proposed development of the 230 MW Doornfontein solar PV facility on the Remainder of Farm Doornfontein No. 118, Velddrif (DEA reference 14/12/16/3/3/2/2024). The Department further provided comments on 25 November 2020 on the Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the 150 MW Kruispad solar PV energy facility on the Remainder of Farm Kruispad No. 120, Velddrif (DEA reference 14/12/16/3/3/2/1144). The status of this application for EA is unknown. Based on the preliminary site layout map, it appears that the proposed development is located on properties previously approved or proposed for solar PV facilities; however, the DSR failed to indicate this.</p>	<p>This statement is correct and it is confirmed that both the 230MW Doornfontein PV Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/2024) and the 150 MW Kruispad PV Energy Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/1144) were authorised on the two target properties of this application (i.e. Sunveld Solar PV Energy Facility). This was noted in section 5.11 of the current Draft Scoping Report but we will further emphasize this in the Final Scoping Report. Although these two Environmental Authorisations are still valid, the affected landowners (Doornfontein Familie trust & Kruispad Familie Trust) have both confirmed that the land rights in respect of these authorisations have lapsed and that the land rights to both farms have since been awarded to Sunveld Energy (Pty) Ltd under an Option to Lease Agreement signed on the 6th of June 2023. Such written confirmation from the landowner was included in the application form.</p>

Comment	Response
<p>4.1.1. The FSR and/or Draft EIA Report should indicate whether the proposed Sunveld solar PV facility is proposed on areas approved for the Doornfontein solar PV facility and proposed for the Kruispad solar PV facility.</p>	<p>The proposed Sunveld PV Energy Facility does intersect with both these authorisations, however as mentioned above the land rights associated with these EA's have lapsed and the land rights have since been awarded to Sunveld Energy (Pty) Ltd. This will be emphasized in the FSR to make it clearer.</p>
<p>4.1.2. If the proposed Sunveld solar PV facility is indeed proposed on the areas already approved or proposed for solar PV facilities, then the Draft EIA Report must provide an indication of whether those development will proceed, whether the EA for the authorised Doornfontein solar PV facility is still valid, and how the proposed Sunveld solar PV facility will impact on the approved and proposed solar PV facilities.</p>	<p>Please refer to the response under 4.1.1 above.</p>
<p>4.1.3. Interestingly, the Screening Tool Report (Appendix H) generated on 12 May 2023 did not indicate the presence of the two solar PV facilities within 30km of the proposed site.</p>	<p>This was noted by the EAP (even the Q1 -2023 datasets do not include these projects) and as such, alternative datasets and resources were utilised to determine projects within a 30km Radius as part of the consideration of cumulative impacts.</p>
<p>4.2. The specialist assessments and the Draft EIA Report must provide a map and an assessment of cumulative impacts for all energy projects within a 30km radius of the proposed site.</p>	<p>Noted – The specialist terms of reference includes this specific requirement. The terms of reference to the specialists also requires that they consider and where necessary, align the recommendations associated with cumulative impact with recommendations made in other specialist studies.</p>
<p>4.3. It is noted that the proposed project will feed into the national grid via the existing Eskom Aurora main transmission station. The grid connection project will be assessed as part of a separate EIA process to be initiated at the EIR stage of the current environmental process. This Directorate supports this approach as the High Court Judgement delivered on 18 July 2023 in the matter between Badenhorst, Jensen and van der Walt vs Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and Others (2229/2020) does not allow for the undertaking of the grid connection project at a later stage.</p>	<p>Noted – The intention of this approach, is to ensure that the impacts of the facilities along with their associated electrical infrastructure can be cumulatively assessed.</p>
<p>4.4. Per paragraph 3.1. above, please note that only one of the mentioned listed activities are applicable, depending on the volume of dangerous goods that will be stored in containers. The correct listed activity must be identified in the Draft EIA Report and an amended application form must be submitted to the competent authority.</p>	<p>Thank you for this note and advice. All activities (in all three listing notices) associated with the storage and storage and handling of a dangerous good were considered at Draft Scoping Phase, as the total combined storage capacity for the alternative BESS technologies was still to be determined (based on the preferred footprints determined after completion of the SSVR's). This technical process will be concluded for all BESS technology alternatives by time the Draft EIA</p>

Comment	Response
	report is available for comment. An amended application form will be submitted to the competent authority at this stage.
Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management – Ms Shehaam Brinkhuis	
5.1. This Directorate awaits the Draft EIA Report and accompanying Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”) to provide comment on potential pollution impacts and the proposed mitigation measures.	Noted – the Directorate, Pollution and Chemicals Management will be notified when the Draft EIR and associated EMPr is available for review and comment.
Directorate: Waste Management – Mr Muneeb Baderoon	
6.1. This Directorate agrees with and supports that the Plan of Study for EIA. It is agreed that no specialist studies or assessments are required for aspects related to waste management.	Noted – The EMPr will include a Waste Management Plan to ensure that the handling of waste during the construction and operational phases is both lawful and sustainable.
6.2. The development and implementation of a waste management plan to avoid and mitigate potential negative impacts is recommended. Said waste management plan should form a component of the EMPr.	Noted – A Waste Management Plan for both the construction and operational phases of the development will be included in the Draft EMPr, which will be provided to the Department for review and comment.
6.3. The DSR states that the proposed development of the Sunveld solar PV facility will require the clearance of more than 20ha of indigenous vegetation. In addition to addressing all waste management aspects in the forthcoming EMPr, the EMPr must require that all invasive alien and other removed vegetation be taken to a green/garden waste chipping facility for composting or be disposed of at an appropriately licenced facility but may not be disposed of on adjacent land. The Bergvliet Municipality should be consulted for available options to deal with green waste as part of their Organic Waste Diversion Plan.	<p>Other than the invasive alien species present on the property, there is no significant woody vegetation present on the study site. One of the key Environmental Impact Management Outcomes that will form part of the EMPr will be to reduce the impact on topsoil in order to retain as much non woody vegetation cover under the modules as possible. To this end, the EMP will not allow the total clearance of vegetation from the PV Footprint (Total clearance of vegetation will only take place at the Laydown Area, BESS Area, Building footprints and internal road network). Only woody vegetation will be completely removed from the PV Footprint. In order of priority, the biomass from this vegetation will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chipped on site and utilised as part of rehabilitation of areas disturbed by construction ; - Licenced Green waste site. <p>In terms of the Municipalities Organic Waste Diversion Plan, the EMPr will not allow the disposal of plant based organic waste at a general waste landfill site.</p>
6.4. This Directorate awaits the Draft EIA Report and EMPr which should address impacts associated with the management of dust, noise, fuel storage, spills, training, waste removal, placement of toilets and fire prevention in sufficient detail.	Noted – the Directorate, Waste Management will be notified when the Draft EIR and associated EMPr is available for review and comment.

Comment	Response
6.5. The EMPr should indicate regular inspections of water systems and all water-related infrastructure (e.g., toilets, taps, etc.). These inspections should be conducted to identify possible water leakages for immediate repair. Toilets and ablution facilities must be located to ensure that possible run-off will not pollute surface and groundwater due to potential sewage leaks.	These requirements are noted and will be incorporated into the EMPr that will be provided to the Department for Review and Comment.
6.6. Since general and hazardous waste materials will be generated and stored on the site, please take cognisance of the general requirements for the storage of waste as indicated in section 21 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008).	The EMPr will make provision for compliance with the general requirements for the storage of waste as outlined in sections 21 (a-e) of NEM:WA.
Masina Morudu: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Chief Directorate Integrated Environmental Authorisations – 16 October 2023	
Application form and draft SR	
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.	The listed activities have been linked to development activity as described in section 2 of this report. Kindly note that some of the listed activities have been included, pending the outcome of some specialist studies that will form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process.
If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms .	The activities reflected in section 3.1.2 of this Scoping Report and those contained in the application form are the same. As mentioned above, an updated application form may be submitted as part of the environmental impact assessment phase of the environmental process, pending the outcome of the assessments.
Layout & Sensitivity Maps	
<p>Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed Sunveld Solar PV Facility and BESS, overlain by the sensitivity map; - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed); - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; - Buffer areas; and - All “no-go” areas <p>The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p>	These maps are contained in section 5.11 of this Scoping Report. A final Site Layout Plan incorporating all these requirements will be included as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of the Environmental Process.
Public Participation Process	
Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately	All comments received, including those from the Departments (Biodiversity Conservation Directorate addressed in the Table Below) have been incorporated into this Final Scoping Report.

Comment	Response
<p>addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>Copies of all the comments received as well as evidence of the attempts to obtain comments are included in Annexure E4. Further details of the Public participation undertaken are included in section 7 appendices F1 to F5 of the report.</p>
<p>A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.</p>	<p>A comments and Responses Report in the format outlined by the Department is included in Annexure F2.</p>
<p>The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</p>	<p>All Relevant competent authorities, including DFFE (This application), the Provincial Environmental Department (in terms of Biodiversity Consents), Heritage Western Cape (in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act) and Department of Water and Sanitation (in terms of the National Water Act) have been given an opportunity to provide comment on this proposed development. Details of this engagement are included in Annexure F4.</p>
Specialist Assessments	
<p>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.</p>	<p>At the scoping level, all specialists considered the total initial assessment area / study site. During the Environmental Impact Reporting Phase of the project, the specialists will assess the preferred layout alternative (which will be developed pending the outcome of the scoping phase / site sensitivity verification) and will include all PV Arrays, BESS footprints as well as all associated infrastructure.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The limitations of each specialist study are included in the specialist reports attached in Annexures E1 – E8 Seasonality has not been identified as a limitation to any of these studies.</p>
<p>Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>	<p>At the current scoping phase, there are no contradicting recommendations between the various specialist disciplines. During the Impact Reporting Phase of the Environmental Process, the EAP will review all recommendations in detail to determine any potential conflict.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The plan of study for EIA is included in section 6 of this report includes provision that specialist assessments comply with the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes.</p>

Comment	Response
<p>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.</p>	
Cumulative Assessment	
<p>As there are 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land. - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. 	<p>The Scoping Phase of this environmental process, merely identifies the potential cumulative impacts. The plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment however outlines the requirements for the cumulative assessments, which includes these requirements identified by the Competent Authority.</p>
<p>The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p>	<p>The need and desirability for the project is included in section 2.9 of this scoping report. Further considerations in terms of need and desirability will be included in the Impact Reporting Phase after participating specialists have concluded their assessments.</p>
<p>A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p>	<p>This will be included in the impact assessment phase of the environmental process on completion of the cumulative impact assessments by participating specialists.</p>
General	
<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"</p>	<p>This Final Scoping Report is submitted within the allowable timeframes as outlined in Regulation 23(1)</p>
<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>Compliance with the content requirements of a scoping report are outlined in the table above.</p>

Comment	Response
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).	The applicant intends to comply with the timeframes in terms of Regulation 23(1) and an extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) is not envisioned at this stage.
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 Authorisations being granted by the Department.	The applicant is aware that no physical activities in furtherance of a listed activity may take place until such time as an Environmental Authorisation is granted and all other statutory provisions have been met.
Angila Joubert: Environmental Planning Management Officer Berg River Municipality – 19 September 2023	
<p>Please see below my comments on the Draft Scoping report for the Sunveld Solar PV.</p> <p>The below sentence from the Draft Scoping report refers;</p> <p>The sensitive Avifaunal Areas include, Suitable Black Harrier Habitat, Aquatic Features as well as a Jackal Buzzard Nest and Buffer.</p> <p>How will this be mitigated and impact upon these species be prevented?</p>	<p>The Aquatic Features, Jackal Buzzard nest as well as the buffers on these features have been completely avoided by the proposed layout (Layout Alternative 3). The greater majority of the black harrier habitat has also been avoided by the currently preferred layout alternative.</p> <p>The independent avifaunal specialist is considering the potential impact on these species and will detail the required mitigation measures that need to be implemented (the current preferred layout will also be adapted where necessary). The detailed mitigation plan and final preferred layouts will be presented in the next phase of the environmental process (The Environmental Impact Reporting Phase).</p>
<p>Thank you Dale for the feedback,</p> <p>Will you also please include myself as contact person within your I&Ps list?</p>	I confirm that I have added you to my I&AP register with your email address as the primary contact.
Admin: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Directorate Biodiversity Conservation – 18 September 2023	
<p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.</p> <p>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	<p>The allocation of the case officer is noted. Registration of Mr Seoka Lekota at email BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za is confirmed.</p> <p>KMZ of study site and layout alternative 3 provided to the Department.</p>
Brandon Layman: Western Cape Department of Agriculture – 18 September 2023	
Please note that this office is bound by the government filing system which is currently in physical file format as approved by the Auditor General.	A hardcopy of the Draft Scoping Report and all appendices on a USB stick was couriered to the Department.

Comment	Response
<p>The transition to electronic filing is slow and must be according to government protocols. The provincial department responsible for our electronic storage/filing etc. is in process to develop that.</p> <p>As solution to the cost of printing hard copies and lack of electronic filing system on our side (as discussed above) we decided the best option is to give you as consultants the option for a CD or USB as alternative to hard copy.</p> <p>The main difference between a CD or USB is storage. A hard copy, CD or USB is the "store". Email or we-transfer needs to be printed to be stored physically as we do not have an approved filing system available in the cloud or other network.</p>	
John Geeringh: Grid Planning: Land and Rights Eskom Transmission Division – 18 September 2023	
<p>Please send me a BID document if there is one, as well as a KMZ file indicating affected properties, proposed development footprint and proposed grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.</p>	<p>A copy of the Draft Scoping Report and KMZ of the affected properties was sent to Mr Geeringh. The Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for Renewable Energy Developments will be included in the Draft EMPr.</p>
Morne Van Der Westhuizen: Specialist - Transmission Planning MTN – 15 September 2023.	
<p>No impact on the MTN network.</p>	<p>The applicant has noted that the project will not have any impact on the MTN Network.</p>
Vanessa Stoffels: Road Use Management. Chief Directorate Road Planning, Roads Branch Department of Infrastructure – 15 December 2023	
<p>Received your application, our reference Job 25208.</p> <p>The matter is receiving attention and further communication will be addressed to you as soon as circumstances permit.</p>	<p>This comment is an acknowledgement only and does not require further response at this stage.</p>
Waseefa Dhansay: Heritage Western Cape – 15 September 2023.	
<p>The below email has reference.</p> <p>I note the attached NID prepared by Dr Orton contained in the documentation however am not locating the submission as having been formally submitted to HWC.</p> <p>Kindly note HWC required the NID to be submitted to hwc.hwc@westerncape.gov.za and thereafter a formal response would be provided.</p>	<p>The HWC case reference is - HWC23091509.</p> <p>The NID has been submitted to HWC through the correct channels.</p>
Administration Department : Heritage Western Cape – 15 September 2023	
<p>I acknowledge receipt of your permit application for Doorfontein A118 and Kruispad 120 near Veldrif</p>	<p>This comment is an acknowledgement only and does not require further response at this stage.</p>

Comment	Response
Kindly note the case number for your request is: HWC23091509	