



SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS WHERE A SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT IS REQUIRED BUT NO SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL HAS BEEN PRESCRIBED

PUBLISHED IN GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. 320, GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 43110 OF 20 MARCH 2020

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE DARLING NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE (DARLING 1B WIND ENERGY FACILITY)

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Government Notice No. 320, dated 20 March 2020, includes the requirement for an Initial Site Sensitivity Verification Report to be produced for a development footprint. As per Section 1.3, the outcome of the Initial Site Verification must be recorded in the form of a report that-

- a) Confirms or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool;
- b) Contains a motivation and evidence of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity;
- c) Is submitted together with the relevant reports prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

This report has been produced specifically to consider the RFI theme and addresses the content requirements of (a) and (b) above.

a) CONFIRMS OR DISPUTES THE CURRENT USE OF THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY AS IDENTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL WEB BASED ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TOOL

Based on the DEFF Screening Tool, a portion of the site is rated as 'high sensitivity' due to the proposed development site being located *within 1 km of a telecommunication facility; None; and more than 60 km from a Weather Radar installation.*

The remaining area within the development footprint is deemed to be of low sensitivity (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Map of the relative RFI theme sensitivity

Table 1 below provides for the EAPs 'confirmation / dispute' of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool.

Table 1: Specialist assessments identified in terms of the national web-based screening tool for the proposed development

Identified Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol	Identified Sensitivity		Comment
		By DEFF Screening Report	By Specialist / EAP	
RFI Assessment	Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a Specialist Assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, gazetted on 20 March 2020.	High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	Site verification analysis confirms the portion of the site as a high sensitivity and the remainder as low sensitivity.

b) CONTAINS A MOTIVATION AND EVIDENCE OF EITHER THE VERIFIED OR DIFFERENT USE OF THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

Based on the above outcomes, the EAP confirms the environmental sensitivities identified on site. Potential RFI have been identified through a site visit as well as aerial photography and mapping showing the location of the potential tower. The tower shown in Figure 2 is within 1 km of Wind Turbine 01 proposed for the Darling 1B WEF.

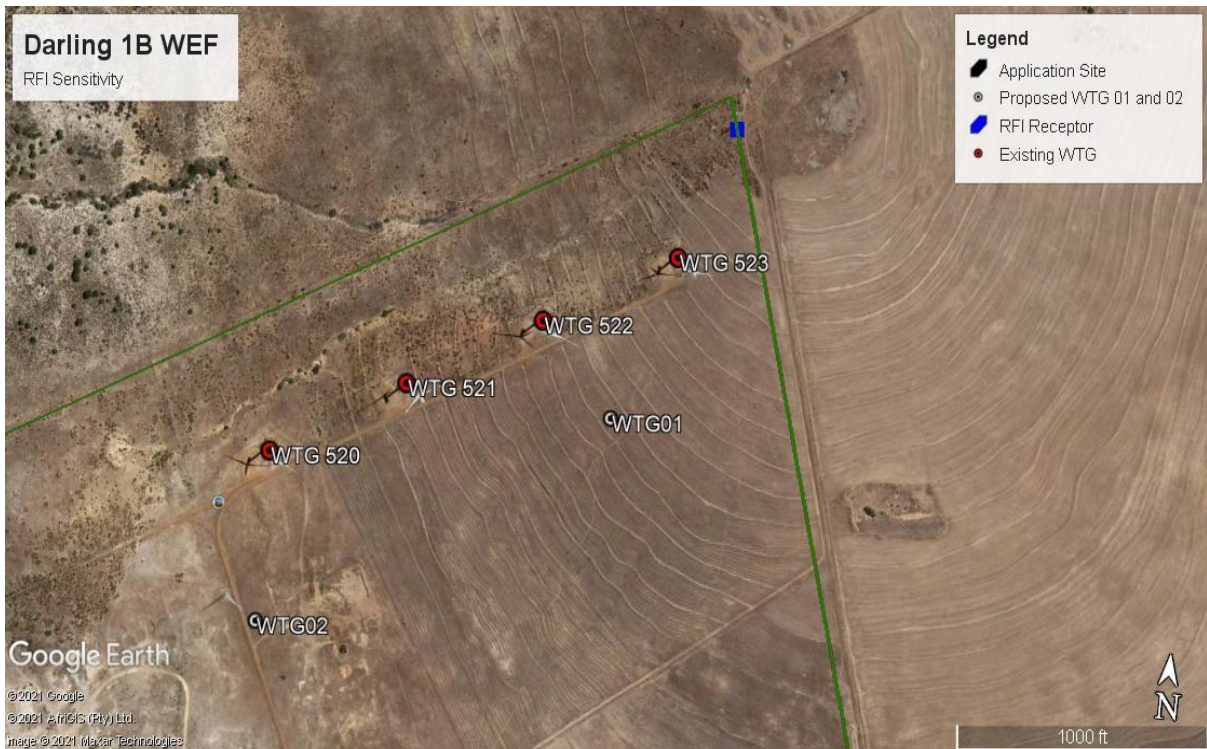


Figure 2: Map of the Noise sensitive receptors of the surrounding environment

Figure 3 below shows the tower identified by the DEFF Screening tool. This was confirmed by the EAP’s site visit undertaken on 26 August 2020. The tower can be seen on the hilltop behind the existing WTG 523.



Figure 3: Photograph taken during the EAPs site visit to site on 26 August 2020.

The exiting WTG 523 is 316 m from the existing tower, however, this proposed turbine is intended to be decommissioned as part of the Basic Assessment Application for the Darling 1B WEF. The proposed turbine WTG 01 will be 700 m from the tower and is anticipated to have little to no impact, over and above what is already existing, on the tower.

In conclusion, the DEFF Screening Tool identified a high and low sensitivity rating within the development footprint. Although there is some overlap with the findings on site and the Screening Tool’s outcome, the confirmed tower will not be impacted on by the proposed development and is already mitigated as part of the Authorised Darling WEF.

c) IS SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH THE RELEVANT REPORTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

As the proposed development will not cause any new impacts to the existing tower than the existing turbines, it is not deemed necessary by the EAP that an RFI assessment be undertaken. Further, it is confirmed that the height and the new rating power of the proposed turbines will not have an impact compared to the existing smaller and lower rated individual turbines. Comment has been sought and from the relevant telecommunications representatives and consultation will continue throughout the application process for the proposed development. There is no reason for the development not to proceed based on the results of the assessment and no objection is made.



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