

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 23 August 2017 and amended on 14 March 2018.
- b) The information contained in the draft Scoping Report received on 23 August 2017.
- c) The information contained in the final Scoping Report received on 04 October 2017.
- d) The information contained in the draft EIA received on 29 January 2018.
- e) The information contained in the final EIA received on 15 March 2018.
- f) The comments received as included in the EIA dated March 2018 and the amendment report dated December 2019 and July 2021.
- g) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIA as well as the amendment report dated December 2019.
- h) The Appeal Decision of the 07 June 2021.
- i) The revised final amendment report dated July 2021.
- j) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIA dated March 2018, the amendment report dated December 2019 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Chris van Rooyen Consulting CC	September 2017; August 2019
Bat Impact Assessment	Animalia	January 2018
	Arcus	May 2019
Terrestrial ecology	Simon Todd Consulting	September 2016; August 2019
Aquatic Impact Assessment	Scherman Colloty & Associates	October 2017; August 2019
Social Impact Assessment	Tony Barbour & Schalk van Der Merwe	January 2018; June 2019
Soils & Agricultural potential	ARC Institute for Soil, Climate & Water	April 2016; June 2019
Noise Impact Assessment	Enviro Acoustic Resources (EAR)	September 2017; May 2019
Heritage Impact Assessment	Aco Associates	November 2017; July 2019
Visual Impact Assessment	Sivest	January 2018; July 2019
Traffic Impact Assessment	Smec	January 2018; July 2019
Wake Impact Analysis	3E	January 2018; July 2020

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 EIA dated March 2018 and the amendment report dated December 2019 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIA.
- d) The location of turbines as presented in the final EIA dated March 2018 and the amendment report dated December 2019.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIA dated March 2018 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) The Appeal Decision issued by the Minister on 07 June 2021 and the outcomes thereof.
- g) The revised final amendment report submitted in response to the Appeal Decision dated July 2021.
- h) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 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 EIA dated March 2018 and the amendment report dated December 2019 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 EIA dated March 2018 and the amendment report dated December 2019 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.
- f) The appeal decision required the wake impact assessment to be placed for Public Participation for a period of 30 days. This was done in accordance with the requirements of the Minister and the findings were presented in the revised final amendment report.

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.

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