

SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT:

PROPOSED LEMENONG BESS PROJECTS

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1 BACKGROUND

Prior to commencing with a specialist assessment, the current use of the land and the potential environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration as identified by the screening tool must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification.

The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken through the use of:

1. a desk top analysis, using satellite imagery;
2. a preliminary on-site inspection; and
3. any other available and relevant information.

The outcome of the site sensitivity verification must be recorded in the form of a report that:

1. confirms or disputes the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc.;
2. contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
3. is submitted together with the relevant assessment report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

According to the protocol (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations: Notice 320 of March 2020), if the finding is that the sensitivity for agricultural resources is high, then an Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment. If it is medium or low, then a compliance statement must be submitted.

The proposed Leboneng BESS site is located just west of Phokeng and is 5,86 hectares.

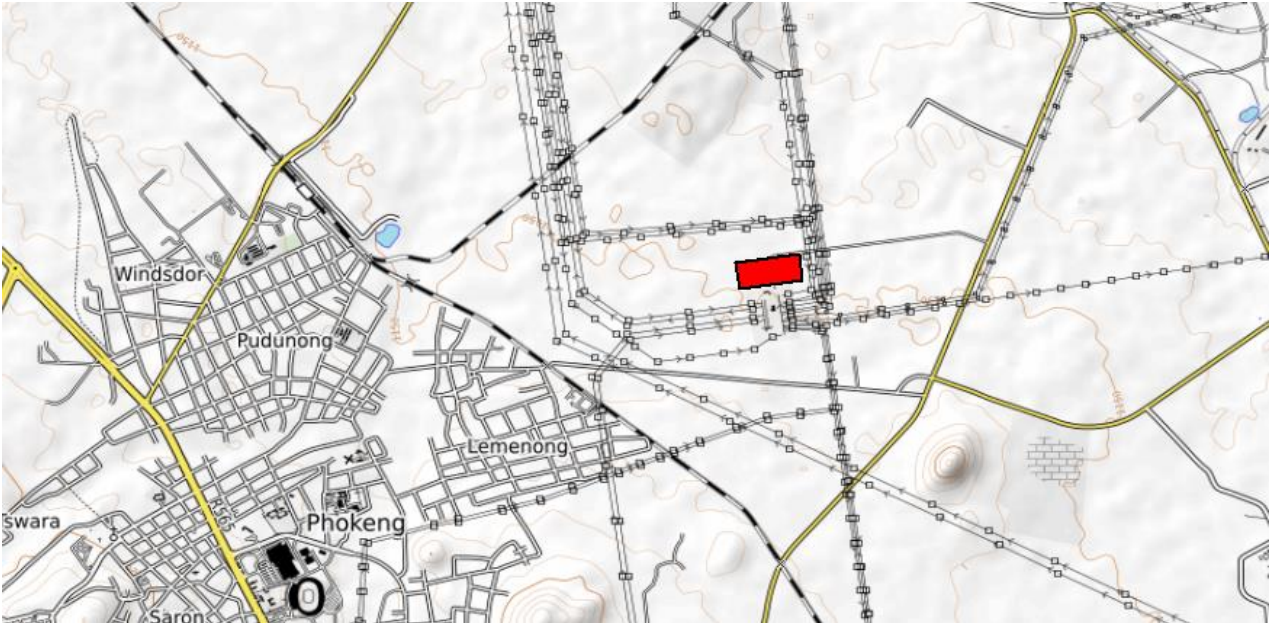


Figure 1. Locality of the proposed Lemenong BESS project

2 SENSITIVITY IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TOOL

2.1 SENSITIVITY OF BESS SITE

The sensitivity according to site sensitivity tool is as follows:

- a) The screening tool indicates the site has medium sensitivity.
- b) The sensitivity tool's results are indicated below:



Figure 2. Site sensitivity - screening tool (red indicates very high, orange is high and yellow is medium)

2.2 FIELD CROP BOUNDARY

The tool indicates no cultivated land in the vicinity of the proposed BESS site.

3 SITE VERIFICATION RESULTS

SITE SENSITIVITY BESS SITE

The following describes the findings of the National Environmental Sensitivity Tool:

- The environmental sensitivity according to the tool is indicated as medium sensitive. The site survey confirms this finding;
 - The soil consists of moderately deep vertic soils that was classified as Arcadia. The deeper subsoil is partially weathered norite.
 - Rock outcrops occur that makes cultivation impossible.
 - Access to the site is difficult because of the surrounding mining activities and electricity overhead lines.
 - The site has no irrigated lands or licenced sources of water.
- In line with the provisions of the Protocol, a compliance statement is required for the EIA scoping report.

FIELD CROP BOUNDARY

- The specialist found no cultivated land on or around the proposed BESS site. This was also the findings of the screening tool.



Photo 1. View from the road indicating that there is no cultivated land on the site



Figure 3. Google Earth Inge indicating mining activities surrounding the site

4 RECOMMENDATION

The sensitivity verification assessment in terms of the protocol found that the BESS site is medium sensitive. The size of the affected land is too small and isolated to be used gainfully for any farming purpose. There are no no-go areas on the site.

A Compliance Statement will be required for the EIA report.