APPENDIX E

DFFE ACCEPTANCE OF SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE EIA

forestry, fisheries & the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2840
Enquiries: Ms Mmamohale Kabasa
Telephone: (012) 399 9420 **Email:** [redacted]

Mr Donovan Henning
Nemai Green (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 1673
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 781 1730
Cellphone Number: [redacted]
Email Address:

PER EMAIL

Dear Mr Henning

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED GROOTVLEI 600MW SOLAR PV PLANT, BESS AND GRID CONNECTION NEAR VENTERSDORP, DR KENNETH KAUNDA AND NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated August 2026 and received by the Department on 24 August 2026, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated August 2026 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr):

Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing • Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment • UmNyango wezamaHlathi, zokuThiya neBhoduluko • iSebe lezamaHlathi, ezokuLoba noKusingqongileyo • Umnyango Wezamahlathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo • Kgoro ya Dithokgwa, Boreahlapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Meru, Botshwasi ba ditlhapi le Tikoloho • Lefapha la Dikgwa, Ditlhapi le Tikologo • Litiko Letemahlatsi, Tinhlanti Netendzawo • Muhasho wa zwa Vhusima-maḓaka, Vhureakhovhe na Mupo • Ndzawulo ya Swihlahla, Vunjoveri na Mbango. The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessively for 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.

(a) Specific Comments

(i) The specialist studies undertaken for the current application must be compared with those undertaken for the previously lapsed Environmental Authorisation (DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2386) in terms of key findings, impacts, mitigation measures and recommendations, and update the current recommendations accordingly.

(b) Listed Activities

(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
(ii) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
(iii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
(iv) The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.

(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

(i) The draft EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
(ii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
  a) PV panel area;
  b) Internal roads;
  c) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. (existing and proposed);
  d) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;
  e) Battery Energy Storage System;
  f) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
  g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
  h) Buildings, including accommodation.
(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
  a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nest and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
  b) Buffer areas; and
  c) All "no-go" areas.
(iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
(v) Google maps will not be accepted.

(d) Public Participation

(i) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
(ii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

(iii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation & Tourism, the JB Marks and Ditsobotla Local Municipalities, the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipalities, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, EWT, Vulpro, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

(iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Area Sections), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAr and are incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).

(v) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAr.

(vi) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAr for comment.

(vii) The CRR 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.

(viii) 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&APs' comments.

(ix) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.

(x) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAr.

(e) <u>Specialist assessments</u>

(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:

a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, turbine positions and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.

b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.

c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.

d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.

e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**

f) Avifaunal specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa

g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.

(ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
(iii) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.
(iv) 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 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.
(v) The specialist reports must comply with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, specifically, the specialist reports must include documentation to show expertise of the specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae.
(vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
(vii) Please also ensure that the final EIAr includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.
(viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

(i) A cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be conducted to indicate the following:
  a) 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.
  b) 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.
  c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
(ii) Should there be any other similar infrastructure within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be conducted to indicate the above point a to d.
(iii) It may be necessary to increase the 30km radius for certain specialist studies e.g. Avifauna to assess the cumulative impact on Critically Endangered Species and other avifaunal Species of Conservation Concern e.g. vultures etc.

(g) General

(i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.

(ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project i.e., all farm portions where the access road, solar fields and associated infrastructure are to be located.
(iii) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr, including the Generic EMPr for substations and powerlines.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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 authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Signed by: Mr. Coenrad Agenbach
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 02 October 2026

cc:	Mr Lesego Thabang Masilo	LTM Green Energies (Pty) Ltd	Email: [redacted]
	Ellis Nkau	NW DEDEC&T	Email:
	Wynand Marx Ntombi Rikhotso	JB Marks Local Municipality	Email : Email:
	T Mosame	Disobotla Local Municipality	Email:

Annexure 1: Format for the Comments and Response Report

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
12/03/2026 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record CRR in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (~~Noted~~)The CRR has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Location of the site	
The total area of the site	
Total disturbance footprint	
Maximum generation capacity for facility	
Height of PV panels	
Capacity of on-site substation and footprint	
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and footprint	
Substation capacity and footprint	
Overhead Powerline capacity, length, and corridor	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Length and width of internal roads	