

MULILO NEWCASTLE WIND POWER (PTY) LTD

**PROPOSED MINING ON A PORTION OF THE FARM
BYRON NO 9448, NEWCASTLE MUNICIPAL AREA
KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

DEPARTMENT REFERENCE NUMBER:

KZN 30/5/1/3/2/11072 MP

COMMENTS & RESPONSE REPORT



NOTIFICATION OF MINING PERMIT APPLICATION AND DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS, LANDOWNERS AND I&AP'S

COMMENTING PERIOD: 28 FEBRUARY 2025 – 02 APRIL 2025

The relevant landowner, stakeholders and I&AP's were informed of the mining permit application by means of an advertisement in the Newcastle Advertiser, and on-site notices that were placed at conspicuous places. A notification letter inviting comments on the DBAR over a 30-days commenting period (ending 02 April 2025) was sent to the landowner, neighbouring landowners, and stakeholders. All the notices and advertisement were available in both English and isiZulu. The following table lists the I&AP's and stakeholders that were informed/invited to comment/register on the project.

STAKEHOLDERS			
TITLE, NAME AND SURNAME	AFFILIATION/KEY STAKEHOLDER STATUS	CONTACTED DATE	COMMENTS RECEIVED
Mr Thulani Dube	Amajuba District Municipality	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mr ZW Mcineka	Newcastle Local Municipality	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mrs P Shabalala	Newcastle Local Municipality Ward 1 Councillor	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mr J Pakwe	AMAFA – Heritage KZN & SAHRA	28 February 2025	18 March 2025

STAKEHOLDERS			
TITLE, NAME AND SURNAME	AFFILIATION/KEY STAKEHOLDER STATUS	CONTACTED DATE	COMMENTS RECEIVED
<p>Upon submission of the Application Form for comments on proposed developments as set out in Section 41(1) of the KwaZulu-Natal AMAFA and Research Institute Act, 2018 (Act No 5 of 2018), and Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) on 11 March 2025. AMAFA responded (18 March 2025) that they will only consider the application after the commenting period lapsed on 02 April 2025.</p> <p>AMAFA will be supplied with a copy of the final Comments and Responses Report as well as the Proof of Public Participation and any further comments received from them will be submitted to the DMRE.</p>			
Ms N Nkosi Mr D Wieners	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	28 February 2025	No comments received
<p>Ezemvelo was supplied with a soft copy (USB Stick) of the DBAR & EMPR and supporting documents that were couriered to them on 24 February 2025. The contact person was also informed of the package to be delivered to Ezemvelo via email. The package was subsequently delivered on 26 February 2025. Ezemvelo did not comment on the project during the commenting period.</p>			
Mr Z.N. Dlamini	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mr D Gwede	Department of Economic Development Tourism & Environmental Affairs	28 February 2025	No comments received
Ms B Msane	Department of Human Settlements Water and Sanitation	28 February 2025	No comments received

STAKEHOLDERS

TITLE, NAME AND SURNAME	AFFILIATION/KEY STAKEHOLDER STATUS	CONTACTED DATE	COMMENTS RECEIVED
Ms J Reddy	Department of Transport	28 February 2025	No comments received
Ms T Kunene	Department of Labour	28 February 2025	No comments received
Ms F Magwaba	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	28 February 2025	No comments received
Me L Boucher	Department of Land Affairs – Commission on Restitution of Land Rights	23 January 2025	31 January 2025
The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights responded that according to their records a claim for restitution in terms of the provision of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 22 of 1994 (as amended) was lodged in respect of the farm Byron No 9448. The property fell under the Ecikweni Community Claim, but the Commission confirmed that the claim was subsequently amended to exclude the said property.			

LANDOWNER, SURROUNDING LANDOWNERS, I&AP'S			
TITLE, NAME AND SURNAME	POINT OF INTEREST	CONTACTED DATE	COMMENTS RECEIVED
Mr JF Brink Mr CJC Brink	Farm Byron No 9448 Farm Bernard No 9447 Farm Spitskop No 16302 Geelhoutboom No 3350 Portion 6 of Farm Geelhoutboom No 3350	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mr L Kotze	Portion 1 of Geelhoutboom No 3350	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mr K Dippenaar Mr J Dippenaar	Farm Glendower No 2901 Farm Cliffdale No 9439	28 February 2025	No comments received
Mr P Conradie	Drakensbergkloof Wedding Venue & Accommodation	-	30 March 2025
Mr Conradie advised that his venue (Drakensbergkloof) is near the proposed MNWP projects and subsequently offered the farm as housing option for project contractors.			
Greenmined acknowledged receipt of Mr Conradie's correspondence that was then shared with the Applicant for consideration during the construction phase.			
Mr Sifiso Mgudulela Mr Mfuneni Nkosi	Community of Barnad Farm & Bothas Pass Area	-	02 April 2025

LANDOWNER, SURROUNDING LANDOWNERS, I&AP'S			
TITLE, NAME AND SURNAME	POINT OF INTEREST	CONTACTED DATE	COMMENTS RECEIVED
<p>Summary of the objection submitted by Mr Mgudulela on 02 April 2025:</p> <p>“Objection to mining / issuing prospecting mining rights at Barnad Farm & Bothas Pass Area (Ward 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖We the community of Barndad Farm hereby wish to lodge our objection to attempts to mine in our area. ❖ We have heard over the grapevine that there are attempts to do mining in our area. ❖ We believe that mining would have devastating impact on our lives. ❖ We submit that starting mining in our area will pollute our water sources, air and the environment that is crucial for our sustenance and that of our livestock. ❖We object because no attempts have been made to engage communities involved in the environmental impact of this mining project. ❖ We insist that a proper consultative process be embarked upon to solicit the views of the community before this mining project is granted. ❖ We also request an audience with the company involved. <p>We further request engagement with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy....”</p>			
<p>Minutes of the meeting held between the Applicant and the Bothas Pass Community representatives on 11 April 2025:</p> <p>“The meeting was conducted on 11 April 2025 at Rocomamas in Newcastle between Muhsin Osman (MO) and Bothas Pass Community (BPC) representatives.</p> <p>Attendees list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ M Osman (MO – Mulilo) ❖ M.S Nkosi (Bothas Pass Community Secretary) ❖ S.S Magudulela (Bothas Pass Community Chairperson) ❖ J. Hadebe (Bothas Pass Community Deputy chairperson) 			

LANDOWNER, SURROUNDING LANDOWNERS, I&AP'S

Discussion

- ❖ MO indicated that this mining right is different to all current mining applications in the Newcastle area. The purpose of this mine is not for coal mining, but to provide gravel, stone, and aggregate for the construction of a wind energy facility. Mulilo is proposing to construct a wind energy facility on a number of farms which involves the use of wind turbines to generate electricity. This electricity will be fed back to the national grid and reduce load shedding.
- ❖ There are no wind farms in KZN at present and the Mulilo Newcastle Wind Power stands to be the first one in the province. Most operational wind farms to date are located in Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape. There is however no longer grid available to connect these projects to in those provinces and companies like Mulilo have had to move to the north eastern provinces, Eastern Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, and Mpumalanga to look at developing wind farms as there is grid available to connect these projects to in those provinces.
- ❖ Mulilo has 6 operational renewable energy projects, two wind farms and four solar farms. All of these operational farms are located in the Northern Cape.

Issues raised

- ❖ Security: BPC - Mentioned that there will be risk to livestock as theft might increase as a result of more workers brought to the area. MO: This issue has been raised by the surrounding farmers as well and measures will be put in place to alleviate these concerns
- ❖ Impact on waste source and environment: BPC - Mentioned that their members obtain their water from the escarpment and concern was raised about what the impact could be from this development. MO: The issue has been raised by other farmers as well and measures will be put in place to alleviate these concerns.
- ❖ Job creation: BPC - Mentioned that jobs should be offered to those in Ward 1 first, who are directly impacted by the project, as opposed to those in other wards. MO: The standard procedure is to work through the local municipality and this process will commence shortly.
- ❖ Benefits to the community: BPC - What benefits to the community will these projects have. MO - A community needs assessment will be conducted to assess the needs of the community prior to the commencement of construction. These benefits will be rolled out to the wider community.

Further requests

- ❖ 1. To see an operational wind energy facility
- ❖ 2. To meet with local communities who have benefitted from a wind energy facility
- ❖ 3. To meet with the DFFE, DMRE, and Premier's office

It was agreed that the parties will continue to engage in the coming months and Mulilo will possibly meet with the wider Bothas pass community members to discuss the project"

LANDOWNER, SURROUNDING LANDOWNERS, I&AP'S

Greenmined informed Mr Nkosi on 14 April 2025 that the minutes of the above meeting was added to the FBAR and that the document contains mitigation measures to address safety and security as well as water contamination.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The I&AP's and stakeholders were informed of the proposed project and invited to comment on the DBAR through:

- ◆ telephonic discussions;
- ◆ direct communication with notification letters regarding the availability of the DBAR (email);
- ◆ placement of on-site notices;
- ◆ the placement of an advertisement in The Newcastle Advertiser on 28 February 2025; and
- ◆ email notification regarding the change of the Applicant's name.

Correspondence was received from the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, AMAFA, Mr Conradie, and the Community of Barnad Farm & Bothas Pass Area. Should AMAFA submit additional comments their comments will be forwarded to the DMRE.

Also refer to Appendix H2 for the proof of public participation conducted for this project.

-END OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT-