

 <p>EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd Reg Number 2018/462716/07</p>	Dr Brian Colloty Ecologist (Pr Sci Nat 400268/07) Member of the South African Wetland Society	
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Hugo Wind Energy Facility

Attention: The Directors

AQUATIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM FOR THE HUGO WIND ENERGY FACILITY, WESTERN CAPE

FE Hugo & Khoe (Pty) Ltd appointed EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd to conduct an aquatic assessment report for the proposed Hugo Wind Energy Facility project, located ca. 22-km southeast of De Doorns, and 29-km north-west of Montagu in the Cape Fold mountains of the Western Cape. This included an assessment of the site during a visit conducted at the end of winter 1-3 September 2023. Based then on the sensitivity mapping provided to the client, a layout was developed and assessed in the EIA report conducted April 2024.

This statement then considers the observed aquatic habitat and coupled to the revised facility layout, as shown in Figure 1 below, where several of the wind turbines have been removed from the development option (white circles) thus resulting in a reduction in the footprint.

To conclude, the initial aquatic assessment findings can be upheld, and when coupled to the proposed layout, with no direct impacts to any critical aquatic ecosystems with a Very High sensitivity are anticipated with regard the WTG positions and alternative building layouts (e.g. O/M Buildings).

The undersigned therefore would not object to the approval of the project assuming that the following assumptions / conclusions of the original report are upheld:

"In summary, the impacts upon aquatic biodiversity associated with the project are of Low significance, after mitigation. The loss of irreplaceable aquatic habitat and/or important biota is highly unlikely, i.e. Very High sensitivity or No-Go areas. This also includes the spanning of a functioning drainage line, which would not be seen as problematic, if suitable stormwater management and drainage from the area of the site is provided.

The specialist has no objection to the authorisation of the proposed activities assuming that all mitigations and buffer zones are implemented. However, it is assumed that the final layout will orientate the hardstands, crane pads, blade laydowns and construction camps outside of any of the No-Go areas.

The significant impacts are associated with the access road crossings river systems. These systems are generally in a modified state (existing road), but still provide some habitat and important ecological functions.

Mitigation should focus on these areas and include measures to halt erosion and rehabilitate habitat in the sections affected by the construction. Without the implementation of mitigation measures, the project has potential to cause a Moderate cumulative impact upon aquatic biodiversity. However, with the adoption of mitigation, the proposed project will have a Low impact upon aquatic biodiversity. This is inclusive of the potential impacts on the Matroosberg Mountain Catchment, which is protected due to its contribution to the water resources linked to this catchment. However, as the number of turbines and resultant footprint in relation to the catchment, coupled to proper stormwater management, it is anticipated that no alteration / diversion of any hydrological regimes at a catchment scale will occur. This is substantiated by the fact, that this report author, whom has also assisted with restoration / rehabilitation efforts on 19 Wind farms

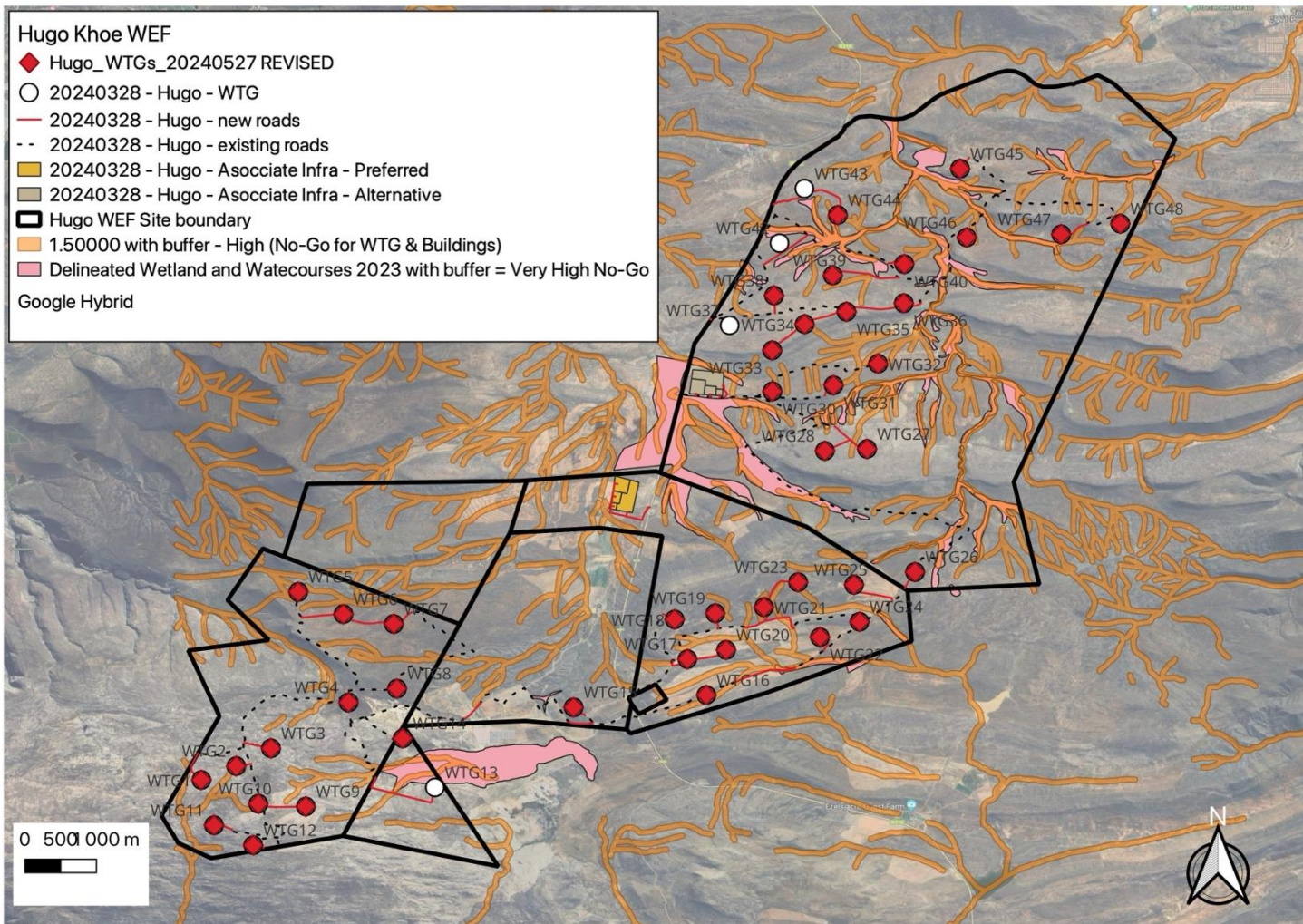


Figure 1: Proposed layout May 2024 in relation to delineated wetlands and watercourses

during and after construction, has not observed any hydrological regime changes, with only minor impacts occurring on a site scale within a small number of crossings. Thus any of the proposed mitigations for this and other projects has been sufficient to protect local surface water resources.

With regard the various proposed alternatives, all have avoided the sensitivity aquatic systems or are located within areas with existing disturbance thus any of the alternative options would be acceptable. The alternative substation / O&M buildings site is located within a High sensitivity area and in very close proximity to a Very High No-Go area, inclusive of the access track. Thus it is advised that this option is not used and thus not assessed any further in this report."

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Colloty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

Dr Brian Colloty
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