

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Rundu Town Council, hereinafter referred to as the Proponent, intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Rezoning of Portion E from “Undetermined” to “Special” for a Solar Plant;**
- **Inclusion in the next Zoning Scheme to be prepared for Rundu.**

The above development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

The Proponent appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake an independent Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the above activities. The competent authority is the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (MEFT: DEAF).

Project Description

The Rundu Town Council is desirous to switch energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar to reduce emissions driving climate change. The proposed activity involves the rezoning of Portion E of the Remainder of Farm Rundu Townlands No. 1329 from “Undetermined” to “Special” for the purpose of developing a solar plant. The site will be used for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and supporting infrastructure to generate renewable electricity. The project aims to support clean energy production, reduce dependence on non-renewable sources, and contribute to the sustainable energy needs of Rundu. The land is currently undeveloped, with sparse vegetation consisting mainly of small shrubs and grasses.

The Rundu Town Council intends to develop the solar plant facility on the outskirts of the townlands. The subdivision of the subject area is outlined in a separate scoping report which will be submitted to MEFT for review.

Public Participation

Communication with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed development was facilitated by the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing descriptive information about the proposed activities was compiled and sent out to all identified and registered I&APs via email on **19 June 2025**;
- Notices were placed in The New Era and The Namibian newspapers dated **19 June and 26 June 2025** respectively, briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs (**Appendix B**); and
- A notice was fixed at the project site (see **Appendix A**).

Public consultation was carried out according to the Environmental Management Act's EIA Regulations. After the initial notification, the I&APs were given two weeks to submit their comments on the project (until **10 July 2025**).

The Draft Scoping Report will be circulated from the **30th of July 2025 until the 13th of August 2025** so that the public can review and comment on it. The overall commentary received from the public on the draft report will be documented in the comments-and-responses report document appended to the Scoping Report. The comment period will remain open until the final scoping report is submitted to MEFT.

Conclusions and Recommendations

With reference to **Table 8**, none of the negative planning and design, construction or operational phase impacts were deemed to have a high significant impact on the environment. The impacts were assessed to a Medium to Low (negative) significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a Low (negative).

It is recommended that this project be authorised as the significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of an EMP should be included as a condition of approval.

The “no go” alternative was thus deemed to have a High (negative) impact, as all the benefits resulting from the development would not be realised.

The significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of the EMP should be included as a condition of approval.