

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 786

17 JULY 2020

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)****CONSULTATION ON THE INTENTION TO IDENTIFY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE SCALE WIND AND SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITIES**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby consult on the intention to identify three geographical areas which are of strategic importance when planning large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities in terms of section 24(3) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). These areas are called Renewable Energy Development Zones and are identified in the Schedule to this Notice and located on a map included as Appendix 1. These three Renewable Energy Development Zones are additional to the eight Renewable Energy Development Zones published under Government Notice No. 114 in Government Gazette No. 41445 of 16 February 2018.

The environmental attributes associated with these zones were determined through the specialist assessments prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2019 and their associated sensitivity displayed in the various environmental themes on the national web based environmental screening tool.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or input, within 30 days after the publication of this Notice in the *Gazette*, to the following address:

By post to: The Director-General
 Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
 Attention: Dr D Fischer
 Private Bag X447
 PRETORIA
 0001

By hand at: 473 Steve Biko Road
 ARCADIA
 0083

By e-mail: dfischer@environment.gov.za

Comments or input received after the closing date may not be considered.



**BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

SCHEDULE

1. Additional Renewable Energy Development Zones compiled in terms of section 24(3) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the renewable energy technology for which each Renewable Energy Development Zone is assessed as suitable are as follows:

Renewable Energy Development Zone Number	Name	Applicable Renewable Energy Technology
Renewable Energy Development Zone 9	Emalaheni	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 10	Klerksdorp	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 11	Beaufort West	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities

2. The boundaries of the Renewable Energy Development Zones can be accessed at <http://egis.environment.gov.za> – Geographical Areas and the screening tool can be accessed at: <https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool>.
3. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2019 can be accessed at: <http://redzs.csir.co.za>; or <https://egis.environment.gov.za/redz>.

APPENDIX 1

MAP OF THE THREE ADDITIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES 9, 10 AND 11

