



**SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURES ZA**

**PROPOSED SOLAR CAPITAL  
ILANGA LETHEMBA PV SOLAR  
ENERGY FACILITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT**

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

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***Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd***

**Address:** PO Box 148  
Sunninghill, 2157  
**Tel:** 011 234 6621  
**Fax:** 086 684 0547  
**E-mail:** bongani@savannahsa.com

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**NOTES OF PIXLEY KA SEME MUNICIPALITY  
MEETING**

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***Sustainable Futures ZA***

**Address:** PO Box 749  
Rondebosch,  
Cape Town, 7701  
**Tel:** 083 325 9965  
**Fax:** 086 510 2537  
**E-mail:** swjohnston@mweb.co.za

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**Held on  
Tuesday, 27 September 2011**

**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

**Sustainable Futures ZA & Savannah Environmental**

Please address any comments to Shawn Johnston at the above address.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED ILANGA LETHEMBA PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

**Venue:** Pixley ka Seme District Municipality – De Aar  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 September 2011  
**Time:** 14h00 – 14h30

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator thanked Sindisile Madyo from the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality for receiving the team and introduced the environmental impact assessment process. He then asked Mercia Grimbeek to introduce the Solar Capital projects to the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. Bongani Khupe from Savannah Environmental then presented the findings of the draft environmental impact assessment report.

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Organisation & Position
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Specialist
Mercia Grimbeek	Solar Capital
Bongani Khupe	Savannah Environmental
Sindisile Madyo	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality
Attie Abrahams	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality

### APOLOGIES

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No apologies were received.

### BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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Bongani Khupe introduced the project and the findings from the draft EIA report and then opened the discussion for points of clarity.

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### DISCUSSION SESSION

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Question / Comment	Response
<p>Sindisile Madyo: Can you please clarify how your community beneficiation and trust process?</p>	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: We are in a process of establishing a community trust. This will be done with key partners in the area of each project. The trust needs to be formed before Solar Capital goes into the bid process. We will form two community trusts within the Pixley ka Seme District and we will get the relevant community members to serve on those trust. We have two projects within your district, the first being Ilanga Lethemba in De Aar and the second be Ramaphele near Ritchie within the Siyanama Local Municipal Area. We working on a 5% input from local communities on the trust.</p> <p>We are looking at engaging a host of local stakeholders and the local and district municipalities in the process.</p>
<p>Sindisile Madyo: We are looking at partnerships with independent power producers in the area. We are keen in developing a energy hub within the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality.</p>	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: We would be looking a various stakeholder groups and partnerships and would liaise with both the Emthanjeni and Pixley ka Seme Municipalities.</p>
<p>Sindisile Madyo: We are keen to hear about the provision of labour for various energy projects.</p>	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: We are looking at large scale labour intensive projects. About 80% of our labour would be local. Focussing on skilled and unskilled labour. The remaining 10% would be skilled management and international specialists. We would look at the town of De Aar and areas in 50km radius to draw our labour from.</p>
<p>Sindisile Madyo: So your project would cover which towns?</p>	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: It would be Hanover, Britstown and De Aar.</p>
<p>Sindisile Madyo: Have you done an analysis of utilising migrant labour and the implications on local municipal services?</p>	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: Yes we have and we need to submit it as part of our bidding application. We are also looking at a range of partnership base programmes.</p>
<p>Sindisile Madyo: What will job creation entail?</p>	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: We are looking at job creation in the construction phase, the operation phase and the building of manufacturing plant to service the solar energy industry in South Africa. We are looking at a number of other programmes like a technical school to service the solar energy</p>

Question / Comment	Response
	industry.
Sindisile Madyo: I am impressed with the Solar Capital approach and I am interested in the other downstream opportunities for establish support services.	Mercia Grimbeek: Yes we are looking at a sustainable model to support all downstream and services industries to support the solar energy industry in the area.
Sindisile Madyo: We are keen to develop a vision with the renewable energy industry for Pixley ka Seme District. So we await and see which projects will be approved within the district.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Sindisile Madyo: Integrated planning in the district would be a crucial aspect to address. We want to forge longterm sustainable partnerships with independent power producers.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Sindisile Madyo: We are keen to clarify any possible land reform projects with independent power producers.	Shawn Johnston: This was a point raised by Johannes Roux at the Department of Agriculture.  Mercia Grimbeek: We need to look at various partnerships and to see how land reform can be achieved in South Africa.
Sindisile Madyo: We are also looking at creating a biofuels and renewable energy hub in the area. We need to ensure energy security for development projects within Pixley ka Seme.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Sindisile Madyo: We will comment on your De Aar and Ramaphela projects.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

Shawn Johnston and the team thanked Sindisile Madyo for the opportunity to introduce the findings of the draft environmental impact assessment report and undertook to follow-up with the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality.

The meeting ended at 14h30.



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**FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

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**NOTES OF ORGANS OF STATE MEETING**

**Held on  
Tuesday, 27 September 2011**

**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

**Sustainable Futures ZA & Savannah Environmental**

Please address any comments to Shawn Johnston at the above address.

**EIA Process: Proposed Ilanga Lethemba PV Solar Energy Facility**

Notes: Focus Group Meeting held with Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development, Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS:  
PROPOSED SOLAR CAPITAL DE AAR PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY**

**Venue:** Department of Agriculture – De Aar

**Date:** Tuesday, 27 September 2011

**Time:** 07h00 – 08h30

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator thanked Hannes Roux, Sonwabile Nkondeshe and Thato Molefe for receiving the team and to introduce the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment. He then asked Mercia Grimbeek to introduce Solar Capital and the proposed developments. Bongani Khupe from Savannah Environmental then presented the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report.

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation &amp; Position</b>
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Specialist
Mercia Grimbeek	Solar Capital
Bongani Khupe	Savannah Environmental
Johannes Roux	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
Sonwabile Nkondeshe	Department of Environmental Affairs LGS
Thato Molefe	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

**APOLOGIES**

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Apologies were received from Andre Theron from De Aar Agri.

**BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

---

Bongani Khupe introduced the project and the findings from the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report and then opened the discussion for points of clarity.

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**EIA Process: Proposed Ilanga Lethemba PV Solar Energy Facility**

Notes: Focus Group Meeting held with Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development, Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

**DISCUSSION SESSION**

Question / Comment	Response
Johannes Roux: How many mega watt will your project generate?	Mercia Grimbeek: We are looking at a 300 mega watt PV solar energy facility with 75 MW developed in the first phase
Johannes Roux: How high will the solar panels be?	Mercia Grimbeek: They will be less than 2 meters.
Johannes Roux: Are the panels hail proof?	Mercia Grimbeek: The panels are made of high quality materials, however if they are damaged, they will be replaced. Our organisation has an excellent relationship with panel suppliers.
Johannes Roux: I am concerned about CARA, the soil conservation act.	Bongani Khupe: They have been taken into consideration during the EIA process
Johannes Roux: I need to know if the remainder of the site will still be a valuable economic unit for farming.	<p>Mercia Grimbeek: Yes the farm will remain an active farming unit. We can provide you with the property details and the size of the proposed footprint. All the details you require are in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report.</p> <p>Bongani Khupe: I have a CD copy of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report for you.</p>
Johannes Roux: I need to provide you with our department's inputs on your project.	Shawn Johnston: We welcome your comments on the findings of the Environmental Impact assessment.
Johannes Roux: I am concerned about the botanical study that was done and would like to understand what type of change will occur on vegetation and grazing.	Bongani Khupe: An Ecological Impact Assessment was conducted and the report is also on the CD to be provided to you
Johannes Roux: I foresee a possible transformation of the vegetation over a 20-30 year period.	Bongani Khupe: there will be some transformation but the significance of the impact is discussed in the draft EIA report
Johannes Roux: Food security is a major concern for our Department. If arable land is used for other uses other than agriculture we need to clarify such projects.	Bongani Khupe: All current irrigation areas were identified as no go areas and the proposed facility has avoided them.

**EIA Process: Proposed Ilanga Lethemba PV Solar Energy Facility**

Notes: Focus Group Meeting held with Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development, Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

Question / Comment	Response
Johannes Roux: We are concerned about soil conservation. The construction and operational phase of such a project is of concern. I need to look at the topography, the road layout, under ground cabling layout and if any soil erosion would occur.	Shawn Johnston: Please review the report and comment on the draft environmental impact assessment report.
Johannes Roux: I would like to review the environmental management programme for the project.	Bongani Khupe: We would welcome your comments on the draft Environmental Management Programme.
Bongani Khupe: Please note that some existing infrastructure would be used for the construction and operational phase such as internal roads and some buildings.	Comment noted.
Johannes Roux: Who will do the maintenance?	Mercia Grimbeek: All maintenance will be done manually and it will be done by Solar Capital.
Johannes Roux: Are you aware of the process you need to follow with the National Department of Agriculture?	Bongani Khupe: Yes we are aware and we submit all reports to the National Department of Agriculture for comments.
Johannes Roux: I am also concerned about the rezoning, will you be rezoning?	Mercia Grimbeek: We will liaise with your department about the rezoning application.
Johannes Roux: Does your project have an agricultural land reform and rural development component?	Mercia Grimbeek: We would explore both the land reform and rural development on future projects.
Johannes Roux: What is the lifespan of your project?	Mercia Grimbeek: It would be about 20 years. The solar panels have a lifespan of about 25 years. We would like to ensure our projects are sustainable beyond the 20 year period. If government indicate we can continue we would, if not then we need to remove the facility and rehabilitate the farm site.
Johannes Roux: What is the timeframe for the environmental impact assessment?	Shawn Johnston: The public review period ends on 17 October 2011. We would like to receive your comment by the 17 October 2011.
Johannes Roux: By when will you receive your environmental authorization?	Shawn Johnston: The Department of Environmental Affairs will take a hundred and five days to provide Savannah Environmental and Solar Capital with a decision. This will be communicated to all registered interested and

**EIA Process: Proposed Ilanga Lethemba PV Solar Energy Facility**

Notes: Focus Group Meeting held with Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development, Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

Question / Comment	Response
	affected parties to review and to declare if they wish to appeal the decision.
Johannes Roux: What comes next after the environmental impact assessments are completed?	Mercia Grimbeek: We are busy with numerous parallel applications such are land rezoning.
Johannes Roux: Who will do the rezoning for you?	Mercia Grimbeek: We are currently using Macro Plan to do our entire project rezoning applications.
Johannes Roux: Our Department would need to comment on the rezoning application. Please inform your consultants to talk to us as well.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Sonwabile Nkondeshe: How wide are the proposed buffers around the water courses?	Bongani Khupe: It is about 50 meters and it has been included in the Environmental Management Programme.
Sonwabile Nkondeshe: We will review and comment on your projects within the Pixley ka Seme district municipal area.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Sonwabile Nkondeshe: Will the panels be tracking or static?	Mercia Grimbeek: We are looking at manual tracking. The panels will be adjusted on a seasonal basis.
Thato Molefe: We are keen to see job creation and training on these projects.	Mercia Grimbeek: Jobs would be created during the construction and operation phase of the project. We are developing our social development programme. It is a parallel process in developing the project. As part of our bidding process we would have to provide government with numbers and we are finalising how we would achieve the necessary targets. We have done a great deal of research and we are partnering with numerous projects and organisations. The process is quite stringent and we are looking at 70% local jobs and 30% from outside the area.
Sonwabile Nkondeshe: How close is the nearest homestead to the project?	Mercia Grimbeek: About one kilometer.
Johannes Roux: Is there any overlapping of applications in the area.	Shawn Johnston: No there would not be overlap as each project has its reference number and the developer would clarify with landowners whether they have been signed up with any other independent power producers.

**EIA Process: Proposed Ilanga Lethemba PV Solar Energy Facility**

Notes: Focus Group Meeting held with Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development, Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

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Question / Comment	Response
Johannes Roux: So you are leasing the land. Have you ever thought of purchasing the land reform the farmers and use the portion for your solar facility and give the rest up for land reform. We are battling to find subtle land for land reform.	Mercia Grimbeek: Comment noted. We are looking at various options within Solar Capital. That would be something to consider.
Johannes Roux: I think independent power producers need to look at land reform and environmental stewardship programmes in partnership with the Department of Agriculture. Land reform is too low on the agenda.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

**WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

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Shawn Johnston and the team thanked Johannes Roux for hosting the focus group meeting on the proposed Ilanga Lethemba PV Solar Energy Facility process. Shawn Johnston undertook to follow-up with the all commenting departments for their comments on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report.

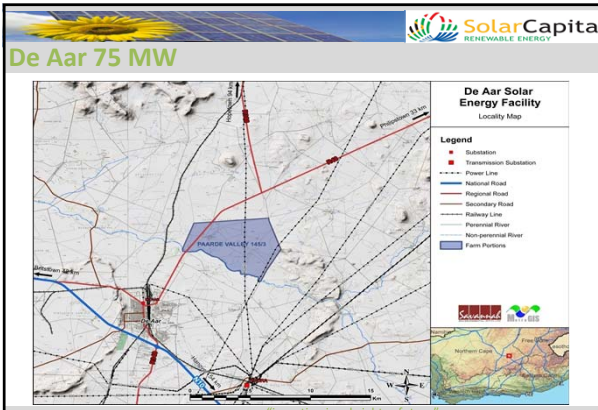
The meeting ended at 08h30.



**SolarCapital**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Socio-Economic Development

“Investing in a brighter and sustainable future for South Africa”



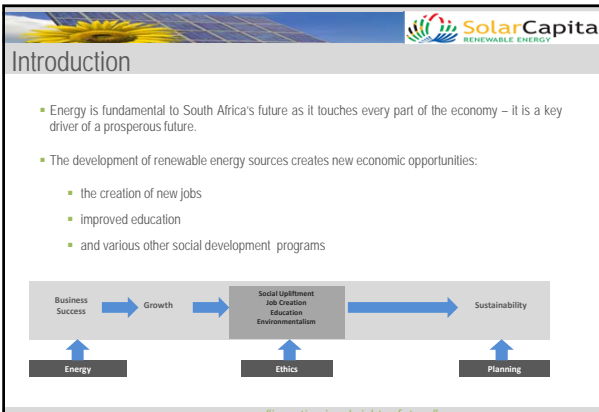
**De Aar 75 MW**

**De Aar Solar Energy Facility**  
Locality Map

**Legend**

- Substation
- Transmission Substation
- Power Line
- National Road
- Regional Road
- Secondary Road
- Railway Line
- Perennial River
- Non-perennial River
- Farm Portals

“Investing in a brighter future”



**Introduction**

- Energy is fundamental to South Africa's future as it touches every part of the economy - it is a key driver of a prosperous future.
- The development of renewable energy sources creates new economic opportunities:
  - the creation of new jobs
  - improved education
  - and various other social development programs

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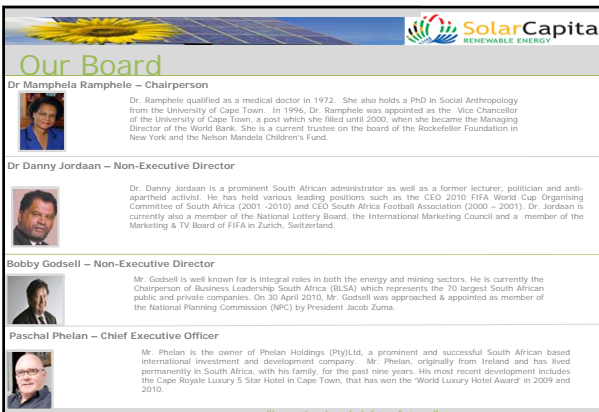
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      Ethics --> BusinessSuccess
      BusinessSuccess --> Growth
      Growth --> SocialUpliftment[Social Upliftment  
Job Creation  
Education  
Environmentalism]
      Planning --> Sustainability
      SocialUpliftment --> Sustainability
    
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“Investing in a brighter future”



**De Aar 75 MW**

“Investing in a brighter future”



**Our Board**

**Dr Mamphele Ramphela – Chairperson**

Dr. Ramphela qualified as a medical doctor in 1972. She also holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cape Town. In 1996, Dr. Ramphela was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, a post which she filled until 2000, when she became the Managing Director of the World Bank. She is currently trustee on the board of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

**Dr Danny Jordaan – Non-Executive Director**

Dr. Danny Jordaan is a prominent South African administrator as well as a former lecturer, politician and anti-apartheid activist. He has held various leading positions such as the CEO 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee of South Africa (2001 - 2010) and CEO South Africa Football Association (2000 - 2001). Dr. Jordaan is currently also a member of the National Lottery Board, the International Marketing Council and a member of the Marketing & TV Board of FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland.

**Bobby Godsell – Non-Executive Director**

Mr. Godsell is well known for his integral roles in both the energy and mining sectors. He is currently the Chairperson of Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) which represents the 70 largest South African public and private companies. On 30 April 2010, Mr. Godsell was approached & appointed as member of the National Planning Commission (NPC) by President Jacob Zuma.

**Paschal Phelan – Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Phelan is the owner of Phelan Holdings (Pty)Ltd, a prominent and successful South African based international investment and development company. Mr. Phelan, originally from Ireland and has lived permanently in South Africa, with his family, for the past nine years. His most recent development includes the Cape Royale Luxury 5 Star Hotel in Cape Town, that has won the 'World Luxury Hotel Award' in 2009 and 2010.

“Investing in a brighter future”



**Our Approach**

“Investing in a brighter future”





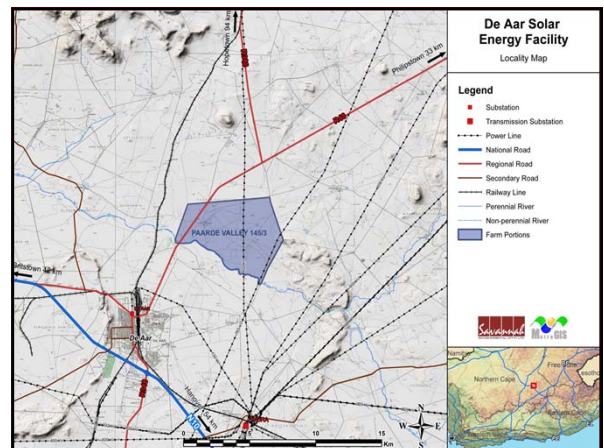
## MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Introduction to the project team
- Summary findings of the Draft EIA Report
- Discussion session
- Closure and way forward

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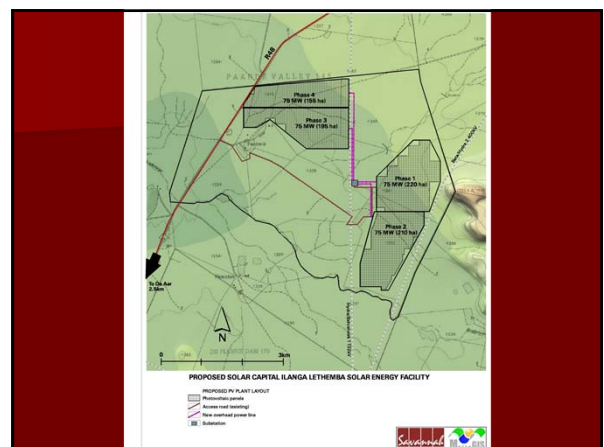
## BACKGROUND

- Site location - 7 km north-east of De Aar along R48 from De Aar to Philipstown
- Technology - photovoltaic (PV) panels
- Generating capacity - 300 MW
  - Phase 1: 75 MW
  - Phase 2: 75 MW
  - Phase 3: 75 MW
  - Phase 4: 75 MW



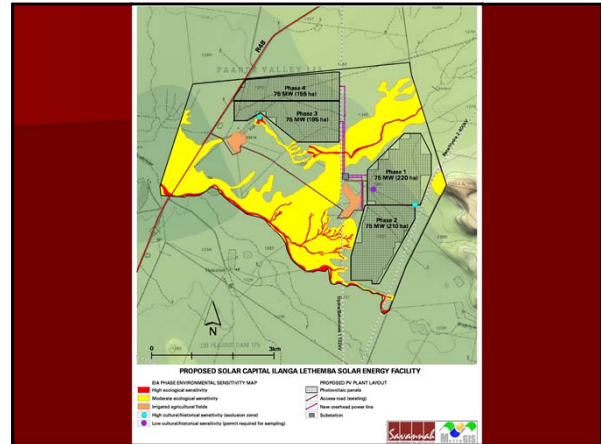
## BACKGROUND

- Associated infrastructure:
  - An array of photovoltaic panels
  - Support structures
  - Invertors and a small on-site substation
  - Four (4) new overhead 22kV powerlines between onsite substation & the different phases
  - Short power line (few meters) from the on-site substation to turn into the existing Hydra MTS-Behrshoek 132kV
  - Underground cabling between the PV panels and the substation
  - Internal access roads
  - Security office



## PROJECT EVALUATION

- **Potentially significant environmental impacts identified**
1. Local site-specific impacts as a result of physical disturbance/modification to the site with the establishment of the facility
    - Areas of heritage/cultural significance (with an approximate buffer of 30m)
    - Drainage lines (with an approximate buffer of 50m)
  2. Impacts on the Social Environment
    - Visual impacts on surrounding farm homesteads & residences, and users of the R48 and adjacent railway line (within 4km radius from the facility)
    - Social impacts due to presence of construction workers (theft & damage to farm infrastructure (i.e. fires), & nuisances arising from construction activities (i.e. vehicles / dust / noise))



## PROJECT EVALUATION <sup>K1</sup>

ISSUE	SIGNIFICANCE WITHOUT MITIGATION	SIGNIFICANCE WITH MITIGATION
Impacts on Ecology	Low - Medium	Low - Medium
Impacts on Soils and Agricultural Potential	Low	Low
Impacts on Heritage resources	High	Low
Visual Impacts	Medium - High	Medium - Low
Social Impacts (positive & negative)	Low - High	Low (high for positive impacts)

## POTENTIAL POSITIVE IMPACTS

- Assist the South African government in reaching their set targets for renewable energy.
- The potential to harness & utilise solar energy resources.
- The injection of electricity into the grid, at the proposed point, would serve to strengthen the power supply in the area.
- Promotion of clean, renewable energy in South Africa.
- Creation of limited local employment, business opportunities & skills development.

## CONCLUSIONS

- No environmental fatal flaws.
- The majority of impacts are limited to the site itself.
- The significance levels can in most instances be reduced by implementing mitigation measures as detailed in the EMP
- With reference to the information available at this planning approval stage in the project cycle, the confidence in the environmental assessment undertaken is regarded as acceptable.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The project should be authorised provided the recommended mitigation measures are implemented
- Main mitigation measures recommended
  - Delineate all heritage sensitive/exclusion areas as identified with a buffer of approximately 30 m
  - A permit is required for the removal of some of the archaeological artefacts that occur on site
  - Ensure that power line towers are constructed at least 50 m from the drainage lines (i.e. span the watercourses)
  - Use existing infrastructure where possible to minimise potential ecological impacts from disturbance of vegetation

**Slide 9**

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**K1** i think change the pink table to grey? may look better  
Karen, 2011/09/27

### **Way Forward**

- Draft EIA Report review period – **16 September to 17 October 2011**
- Available at the following public venues -  

Der Aar Public Library	Emthanjeni Municipality
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[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)
- Public invited to submit written comments.
- Final EIA Report to be submitted to DEA for review & approval - October 2011.

### **Who to Contact**

**Sustainable Futures ZA**  
**Shawn Johnston**  
**PO Box 749, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701**  
**083 325 9965**  
**086 510 2537**  
**[swjohnston@mweb.co.za](mailto:swjohnston@mweb.co.za)**  
  
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**PUBLIC MEETING**

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**NOTES OF DE AAR PUBLIC MEETING**

**Held on  
Tuesday, 27 September 2011**

**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

**Sustainable Futures ZA & Savannah Environmental**

Please address any comments to Shawn Johnston at the above address.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED ILANGA LETHEMBA PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

**Venue:** De Aar Country Club – De Aar  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 September 2011  
**Time:** 18h00 – 19h00

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator thanked all the stakeholders present for attending the public meeting. Shawn Johnston then asked Mercia Grimbeek to provide an overview of Solar Capital and the proposed development. He then asked Bongani Khupe from Savannah Environmental to present the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Organisation & Position
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Specialist
Bongani Khupe	Savannah Environmental
Mercia Grimbeek	Solar Capital
D.T. Bantu	South African Football Association (SAFA)
Andre Theron	De Aar Agri
Hannes van Zyl	Lawyer, Joseph and Van Rensburg
Henry Rich	Lawyer, Joseph and Van Rensburg
Viki & Craig Ferreira	Dare
Edmund MacClean	South African Football Association Pixley ka Seme
Gregory Afrika	South African Football Association Pixley ka Seme

### APOLOGIES

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No apologies were received.

### BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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Mercia Grimbeek provided an overview of Solar Capital and Bongani Khupe introduced the project and the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report and then opened the discussion for points of clarity.

## DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Craig Ferreira: What does the heritage sites contain?	Bongani Khupe: It consists of various stone age tools. Some are no go areas while some require permits for removal.
Henry Rich: What do the independent power producers register a contract across the entire farm and not on the footprint they require to erect the plant on? Henry Rich: You need to clarify this matter as you can apply to the minister for ministerial consent	Mercia Grimbeek: Our lease is based on legal advice from our legal team and the banks legal teams.
Viki Ferreira: It seems that it is all about competition that this practice has emerged. Keeping your competitors out.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.  Mercia Grimbeek: Various options for leasing exist, the common practice is to lease the entire farm area over the lifespan of the project.
Hannes van Zyl: How long will it take to develop all four phases of this proposed project?	Mercia Grimbeek: Phase one would be 12-18 months and phase two would be another 12 months. If we secure all bids, our projects can be built in parallel.
Hannes van Zyl: How many staff will be involved in construction and operations?	Mercia Grimbeek: During peak construction about 700-800 people on site for a 75MW facility. This would be at the peak of construction. It starts out with small numbers, it then increases at peak and scales down into the operations phase.
Hannes van Zyl: How many permanent jobs will be available during the operations phase for the entire project?	Mercia Grimbeek: Approximately 55-75 per phase.
Hannes van Zyl: Have you consulted with all surrounding landowners?	Shawn Johnston: The farmers and surrounding landowners have been informed through De Aar Agri, by registered letter, by the landowner who distributed the background information document and by the consulting team. The social impact assessment team would have also interviewed

Question / Comment	Response
	the surrounding landowners around the project.
Gregory Afrika: Who will be employed on the project if it's developed?	Mercia Grimbeek: Government indicated that we need to use a large local labour content. Our bid will be evaluated on local content. Local content consist of people from the local community. Local community is the closest town to the project or communities in a 50km radius of the project. We need to look at a minimum of 70% local and 30 % external. There has been emence pressure from government on independent power producers to focus on skills transfer. To succeed our bid need to demonstrate active local community involvement and partnership projects.
Edmund MacClean: What will Solar Capitals financial impact be in the De Aar area?	Mercia Grimbeek: We are committed to a 20 year operational phase. So Solar Capital would have a 20 year investment in power generations in the area, it will employ and uplift local people in area over a 20 year period. So Solar Capital are looking at numerous programmes, power generation and developing a sustainable community in De Aar. We would have to report on our targets and we would be evaluated in what we achieve. We need to focus on social development and creating sustainable employment in the community.
Edmund MacClean: Can I purchase shares in the energy facility?	Mercia Grimbeek: At this stage no shares will be available to the public.
D.T. Bantu: I support the project. I would like to see Solar Capital communicate with the broader De Aar community about the project.	Shawn Johnston: We have been engaging with the community as far as we can. However, once Solar Capital has secured all their permits and a positive environmental authorisation they will engage the broader community further.  Mercia Grimbeek: We are talking to and informing the local community and will be forging partnerships and developing a communication strategy once we know what we have. We intend to taking the De Aar community along on the journey as this project develop.
Andre Theron: What is the footprint of each phase?	Bongani Khupe: Phase 1 is 220 ha, phase 2 is 210 ha, phase 3 is 195 ha and phase 4 is 155 ha.

Question / Comment	Response
Andre Theron: So it's a quarter of the farm.	Mercia Grimbeek: Yes it is.
Andre Theron: I am concerned of the impact solar energy facilities would have on farm areas over 20 years, especially covering areas and changing the vegetation type. The projects will change the composition of the veld type and ecosystem as we know it. The ecology will be changed. Once it has been changed it would be impossible to rehabilitate the footprint back to natural veld. Karoo veld grows extremely slow and recovers very slowly over a 50-year period. So this is a burning issue for me.	<p>Shawn Johnston: Let's note this concern for the Environmental Management Programme. The Department of Agriculture has raised these concerns as well. The environmental impact assessment will clarify these questions with inputs from stakeholders, farmers and specialist.</p> <p>Bongani Khupe: I would like stakeholders to review the vegetation and soils studies. The specialists have indicated that the vegetation on the proposed footprint is regarded as degraded and least threatened. These areas are overgrazed and do not have high agricultural potential at all.</p>
Craig Ferreira: Will your construction site be cut and fill operation?	Mercia Grimbeek: No it will not be graded. We have gone for flat sites. All construction will be manual and we intend using existing access roads into and on the site.
Hannes van Zyl: Once you have completed the four phases of the project, will you have permanent staff living on site?	Mercia Grimbeek: No one will live on site. The project will have security fencing, cameras, controlled access and permanent security personnel on site. Workers will be bussed in and out of the site on a daily basis.

## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

Shawn Johnston thanked all interested and affected parties present for the opportunity to introduce the proposed project and undertook to keep all local stakeholders informed about the project.

The meeting ended at 19h00.