



**SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURES ZA**

# PROPOSED ACED DE AAR SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## PUBLIC MEETING

### NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Held on

Tuesday, 15 November 2011

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**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 ACED DE AAR PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Venue:** De Aar Golf Club – De Aar  
**Date:** Tuesday, 15 November 2011  
**Time:** 18h00 – 19h30

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator thanked all the stakeholders present for attending the public meeting. Shawn Johnston asked Tammy Kruger to provide an overview of the ACED De Aar project and present the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report. Refer to presentation attached in Appendix A.

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation &amp; Position</b>
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Facilitator
Jan Hugo van der Merwe	Wag'n Bietje Farm
Tammy Kruger	Savannah Environmental
Hanle' van der Merwe	Wag `n Bietje Farm
Ian Horn	Tropical Eden CC & Hartebeeste Hoek Farm
Hannelie Fourie	De Aar Country Club

**APOLOGIES**

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Apologies were received from Bennie van der Merwe and Diederick Albertyn who raised his concerns about the micro siting of the photovoltaic panels labelled portion 5 near his farm portion.

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

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Tammy Kruger provided an overview of the findings of the ACED De Aar project and the findings from the draft environmental impact assessment report and opened the discussion for points of clarity.

**DISCUSSION SESSION**

Question / Comment	Response
Ian Horn: How high will the solar panels be?	Tammy Kruger: It is modelled on four meters within the EIA Report.
Ian Horn: Will the developer link into to Eskom's Hydra substation.	Tammy Kruger: Yes the project if approved would link into the Hydra substation or turn into the power lines near the study site. The developer has engaged Eskom about grid connection.
Ian Horn: Can you provide me with a copy of the draft environmental impact assessment on CD.	Tammy Kruger: Yes I have a copy I can provide to you at the end of the meeting.
Ian Horn: Who will be responsible for doing the rehabilitation after construction?	Tammy Kruger: The developer would be. The entire site will be managed through the environmental management programme and the developer would have an environmental control officer on site during construction to monitor compliance with the EMP.
Ian Horn: Will the developer create a fund for rehabilitation?	Tammy Kruger: Yes the developer would allocate funds for rehabilitation of the site at the end of the operational phase.
Ian Horn: What are the major issues that stand out with solar energy facilities?	Tammy Kruger: Stakeholders would raise concerns about visual impact and safety and security during the construction phase.
Ian Horn: Where will the construction workers stay?	Shawn Johnston: They will be housed in the town of De Aar. The workers will be bussed in and out of the site on a daily basis.
Ian Horn: What type of security system will be on the site?	Shawn Johnston: The entire site will be fenced in. The site will have security access and full-time security guards.
Ian Horn: I support renewable energy projects. Farming will change drastically in the next 10 to 20 years and farmers would need to adapt to climate change and markets. You	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

Question / Comment	Response
cannot farm as in the past.	
Ian Horn: Will the developer buy or lease the farm?	Shawn Johnston: The developer will lease the farm from the farmer for a fixed period. This is subject to being a successful bidder.
Ian Horn: Is there any cooperation amongst renewable energy developers in De Aar at the moment? I have five developers and everyone is doing their own thing.	Shawn Johnston: We do not know. You need to understand that they are all in competition with each other.
Ian Horn: Do you think all of these projects will be approved for De Aar?	Shawn Johnston: We do not know. We are doing the environmental impact assessments for three.
Ian Horn: Is there a social impact assessment on the CD. I would like to read the findings of your social impact assessment.	Tammy Kruger: Yes there is.
Hanle' van der Merwe: Does the local and district municipality support the project?	Shawn Johnston: Yes they do support the renewable energy projects. We had meetings with both the local Emthanjeni and Pixley ka Seme municipalities in De Aar. The Pixley ka Seme District Municipality is in a process of establishing an energy hub in the district.

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Shawn Johnston and the team thanked all interested and affected parties present for the opportunity to introduce the proposed project and reminded them to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report.

The meeting ended at 19h30.