



**SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURES ZA**

# PROPOSED RAMPHELE PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## PUBLIC MEETING

### NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Held on  
Wednesday, 28 September 2011

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

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***Sustainable Futures ZA***

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Cape Town, 7701  
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**Fax:** 086 510 2537  
**E-mail:** swjohnston@mweb.co.za

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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 RAMPHELE PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

**Venue:** Magersfontein Golf Club  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 September 2011  
**Time:** 10h30 – 11h00

### 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 Mercia Grimbeek to provide an overview of Solar Capital. 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
Adriaan Naude	Farmer Seldon Estate
Alan Shergold	Farmer Debonaire Estate
Mercia Grimbeek	Solar Capital
Ane Botha	Magersfontein Golf Estate
Debby Whyte	Farmer Klipdrift
Hein Pelser	Floor Solar Consultants
Carl Madrazo	Floor Solar Consultants

### APOLOGIES

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No apologies were received.

### BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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Bongani Khupe presented the findings of the draft environmental impact assessment report. Mercia Grimbeek provided an overview of Solar Capital and the proposed Ramphele PV Solar Energy Facility.

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## DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Alan Shergold: We have made sure all the surrounding farmers have been informed about the process and the meetings through the farmers association.	Shawn Johnston: We want to thank you for providing us with the list and contact details of each farmer. They were all sent a registered letter with the background information document and reply form.
Adriaan Naude: I see that your presentation on the draft environmental impact assessment have not changed much from the scoping phase.	Bongani Khupe: The project has no environmental flaws and we have made a number of recommendations which the developer would have to implement.
Adriaan Naude: Are you still looking at the project creating a large number of jobs in both the construction and operational phases?	Mercia Grimbeek: Yes we are looking at utilising a large number of local labour for the construction and operational phase of the project. We would clarify this in the near future.
Alan Shergold: Have you spoken to all the relevant government departments.	Bongani Khupe: Yes we have and will be seeing the Siyancuma Municipality in Douglas this afternoon to follow-up with them.
Adriaan Naude: I do not see any objection to this project. I believe the community of Modderivier and Ritchie would support a renewable energy project like this.	Mercia Grimbeek: Comment noted.
Adriaan Naude: Please note if you are interested in expanding your project and require additional land, please consult with me.	Mercia Grimbeek: Comment noted.
Alan Shergold: As Adriaan indicated we do not foresee any problems with the development. Please keep us informed of the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment study.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Shawn Johnston thanked all interested and affected parties present for the opportunity to clarify the findings of the draft environmental impact assessment report. He reminded all stakeholders of the comments period.

The meeting ended at 11h00.

**Proposed Ramphele PV Solar Energy Facility near Ritchie, Northern Cape Province**

EIA Process

Public Meeting: 28 September 2011

## Meeting Agenda

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

## Background

- **Site location** – On farm Klipdrift and Kookfontein 109/10 in Ritchie, 26 km south of Kimberley
- **Technology** - photovoltaic (PV) panels
- **Generating capacity** - 100 MW

## Background

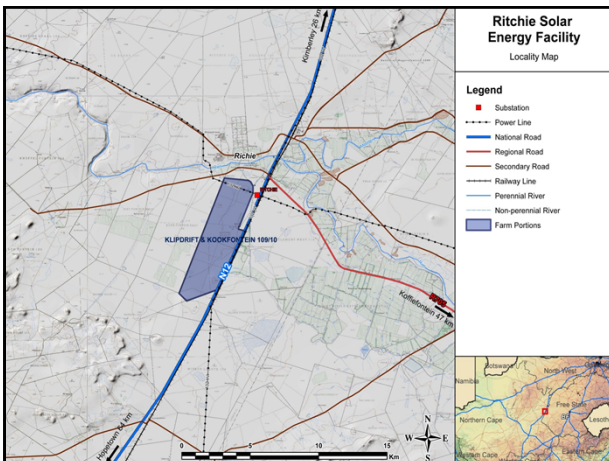
- **Associated infrastructure:**
  - Invertors and a small on-site substation
  - Support structures for the PV panels
  - Underground cabling between the PV panels and the substation
  - Short power line connecting directly into the Eskom Ritchie Substation
  - Internal access roads
  - Security office

## Legal Background

- **National Environmental Management Act**
  - Overarching environmental legislation in South Africa
  - Specifies the EIA process
- Solar Capital requires Authorisation required from DEA (i.e. the competent authority)
- Independent environmental studies undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations

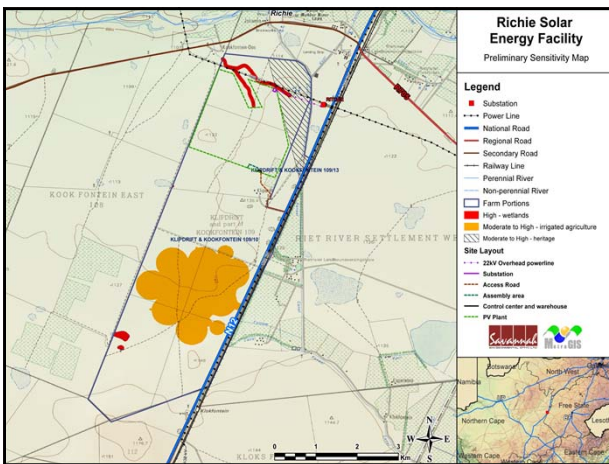
## EIA & Public Participation Processes

PHASE 1 Notification Process	PHASE 2 Scoping Process	PHASE 3 Environmental Impact Assessment	PHASE 4 Decision-making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile and submission of Application form to obtain reference number</li> <li>• Advertise in printed media</li> <li>• Notification to identified I&amp;APs, stakeholders, &amp; Organs of State</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compilation of a Draft Scoping report</li> <li>• Consultation with stakeholders &amp; I&amp;APs</li> <li>• Distribution of BID</li> <li>• Draft Scoping Report review period 12 July 2011 to 11 August 2011</li> <li>• <b>Accepted end August</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation continued</li> <li>• Focus group meetings and public meeting</li> <li>• Draft EIA Report &amp; Draft EMP review period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final EIA Report submitted to DEA for review &amp; decision-making</li> <li>• Stakeholder &amp; I&amp;AP comments received during process are evaluated</li> <li>• Appeals process</li> </ul>



## Potential Negative Impacts Identified during Scoping

- **Ecology** - impacts on indigenous natural vegetation; drainage lines; and the establishment and spread of alien invasive species
- **Soils and agricultural potential**- areas of current irrigated agriculture which have been identified as having high agricultural potential
- **Heritage resources** – northern section the site associated with the battle Modder River). Recommended to exclude from the proposed development
- **Visual** – a 4km zone of high visual exposure, which includes the town of Ritchie and a significant number of farms and homesteads (i.e. more than 100) to the north, north east and east of the site including a stretch of the N12.
- **Social** - impacts of theft and damage to farm infrastructure (i.e. fires), and nuisances arising from construction activities (i.e. vehicles / dust / noise)



## 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 National electricity grid in the Northern Cape would benefit from the additional generated power.
- Promotion of clean, renewable energy in South Africa.
- Creation of limited local employment, business opportunities & skills development.

## Conclusions

- Areas of potential high sensitivity were identified
  - areas of current irrigated agriculture
  - Heritage sites
  - wetlands and drainage lines
- These potentially sensitive areas are currently being investigated and assessed through detailed specialist studies as part of the EIA phase of the process

## Way Forward

- Draft EIA Report to be released early October for public review
- Will be available at the following public venues
 

Ritchie Public Library
Kimberley Public Library

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

## **Who to Contact**

**Sustainable Futures ZA**

**Shawn Johnston**

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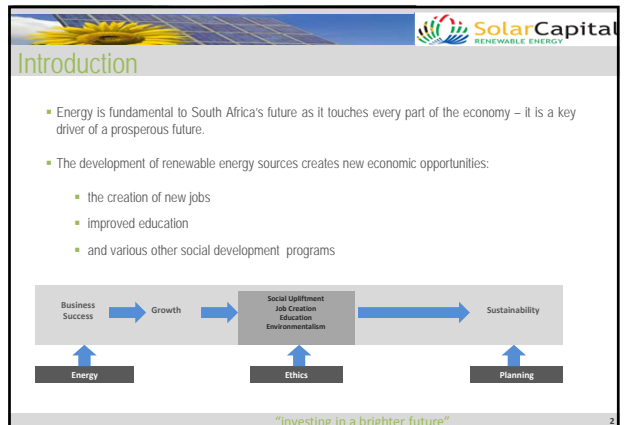
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**SolarCapital**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Introduction to Solar Capital


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



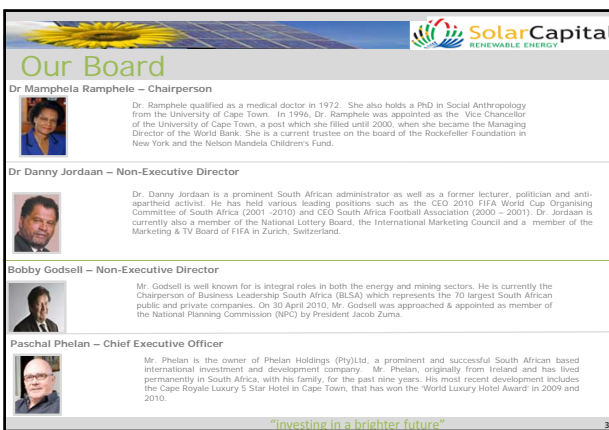
**SolarCapital**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

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



“investing in a brighter future”



**SolarCapital**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

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 a current 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.

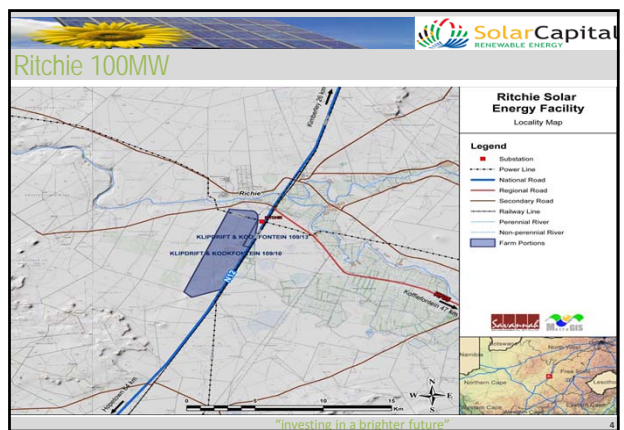
**Bobby Godsell – Non-Executive Director**

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**

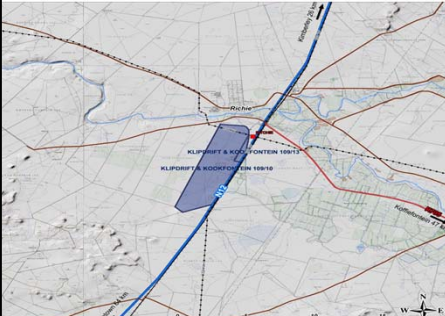
Mr. Phelan is the owner of Phelan Holdings (Pty)Ltd, a prominent and successful South African based international investment and development company. Mr. Phelan, originally from Ireland and has lived permanently in South Africa, with his family, for the past nine years. His most recent development includes 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”



**SolarCapital**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Ritchie 100MW

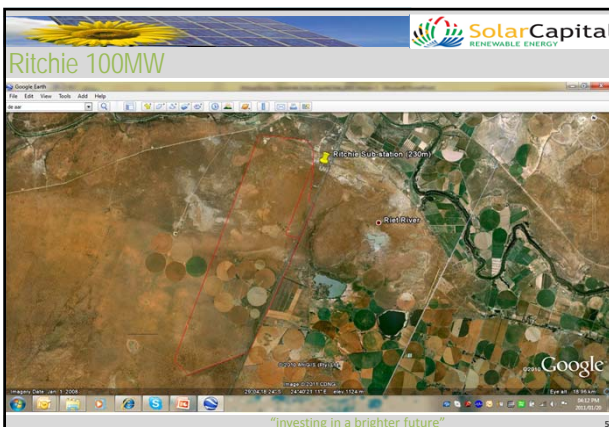


**Ritchie Solar Energy Facility**  
Locality Map

**Legend**

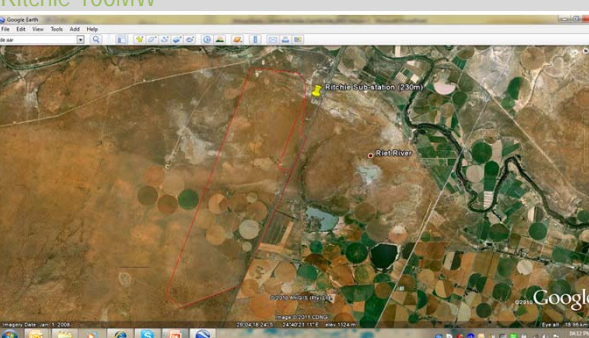
- Substation
- Power Lines
- National Road
- Regional Road
- Secondary Road
- Railway Line
- Fluvial River
- Non-perennial River
- Farm Portions

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Ritchie 100MW



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Ritchie 100MW



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**SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURES ZA**

**PROPOSED RAMPHELE PV SOLAR  
ENERGY FACILITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT**

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

**NOTES OF SIYANCUMA LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY MEETING**

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Held on  
Wednesday, 28 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 RAMPHELE PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

**Venue:** Siyancuma Municipality  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 September 2011  
**Time:** 14h00 – 14h30

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator thanked Gerhard Beukes for the opportunity to talk to him about the proposed Ramaphele Solar Energy Facility project within the Siyancuma Municipal area. Shawn Johnston asked Mercia Grimbeek to provide an overview of Solar Capital and 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
Gerhard Beukes	Siyancuma Local Municipality (Douglas)

### APOLOGIES

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No apologies were received.

### BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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Bongani Khupe presented the findings of the draft environmental impact assessment report.

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## DISCUSSION SESSION

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Question / Comment	Response
Gerhard Beukes: Our area has become a very popular place for solar energy projects. We have a number of projects in the Douglas area that completed their full environmental impact assessments already.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Gerhard Beukes: I will follow-up with the municipal manager, Mr. Stadhouer about the scoping report and environmental impact assessment reports that were sent to the Siyancuma Municipality. In future please send the reports to both the municipal manager and me.	Bongani Khupe: We will do so.
Gerhard Beukes: Please note all rezoning and building plan applications would have to come to the Siyancuma Municipality here in Douglas.	Mercia Grimbeek: Thank you for clarifying that point.
Gerhard Beukes: It would be important for you to keep the Siyancuma Municipality informed of progress made and maybe you should request to do a presentation to the full council closer to the time. I can help with facilitating such a meeting.	Mercia Grimbeek: Thank you for the suggestion and I will take you up on your offer of assistance in do a presenation to the Siyancuma Municipality.

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

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Shawn Johnston thanked Gerhard Beukes for his comments and inputs and undertook to follow-up with him and the Siyancuma Municipality.

The meeting ended at 14h30.



**SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURES ZA**

# PROPOSED RAMAPHELE PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## FOCUS GROUP MEETING

### ORGANS OF STATE

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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 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 giving them the opportunity to discuss the findings of the environmental impact assessment. He then asked Mercia Grimbeek to introduce Solar Capital and the proposed project. 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	Department of Land Reform and Rural Development – Department of Agriculture
Sonwabile Nkondeshe	Department of Environmental Affairs LGS
Thato Molefe	Northern Cape Department of Environmental 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**

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Bongani Khupe introduced the project and the findings from the environmental impact assessment and then opened the discussion for points of clarity.

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## **DISCUSSION SESSION**

<b>Question / Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
Johannes Roux: We have a large project in the area near your Ramaphele PV site.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Johannes Roux: Is this project proposed on high potential agricultural land? This area has large portions of high potential agricultural land and heritage sites.	Bongani Khupe: The section of the site being proposed has been determined to be of low agricultural potential
Johannes Roux: We need to look at the site and clarify the agricultural potential of the entire area including your proposed site under investigation.	Mercia Grimbeek: Could you please clarify this and indicate your findings as soon as possible. Our investigations have found it to be of low agricultural potential. The bottom half of the farm has high potential irrigated agricultural potential soils and is being used for such.
Johannes Roux: Let us review the documentation and the draft reports on the project and clarify the agricultural potential of the area you wish to use.	Bongani Khupe: Comment noted.
Johannes Roux: I just want to look at the maps and clarify whether your Ramphele site falls within a high potential agricultural area. Looking at my maps and comparing it with your site map, your site falls outside of the high agricultural area which lies to the south of Allan Shergold's homestead. The site to the north of Allan Shergold's homestead is of low agricultural potential.	Mercia Grimbeek: We would appreciate a formal response on your findings for this site.  Johannes Roux: Our department will need to provide you with a formal comment on this site. It is outside the high potential agricultural area.
Johannes Roux: We have done extensive surveys in this area and have a great deal of data on the site.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. We will await your formal response on the Ramphele site.

## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

Shawn Johnston and the team thanked Johannes Roux for hosting the Organs of State focus group meeting on the proposed Ramphele PV Solar Energy Facility process. Shawn Johnston undertook to follow-up with the all commenting departments for their comments on the draft reports.

The meeting ended at 08h30.