



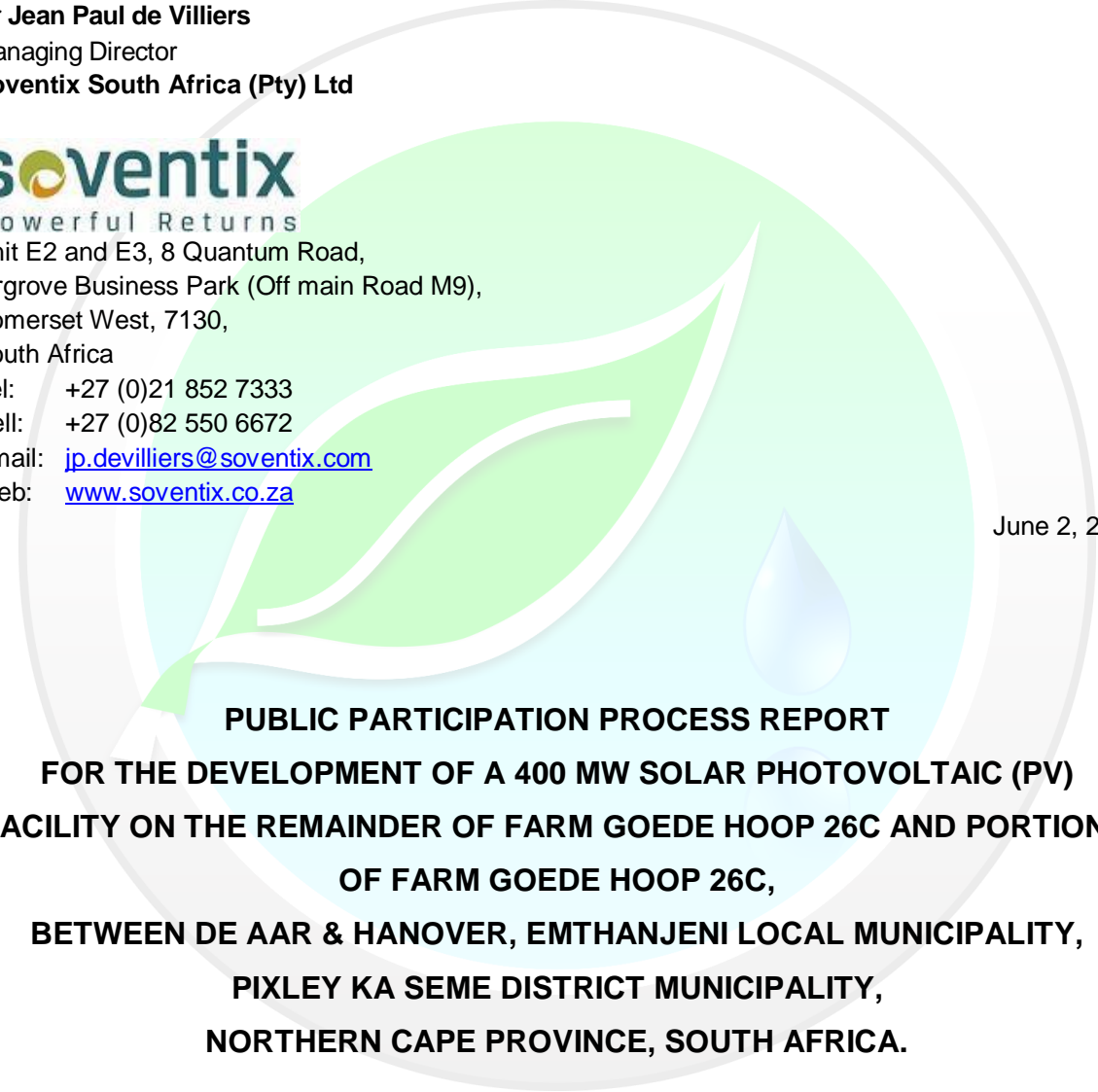
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**Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd**

The Soventix logo consists of the word "soventix" in a bold, lowercase font, with a stylized orange and green leaf icon to the left. Below the logo, the tagline "Powerful Returns" is written in a smaller font. The contact information includes the address: Unit E2 and E3, 8 Quantum Road, Firgrove Business Park (Off main Road M9), Somerset West, 7130, South Africa. Contact details are: Tel: +27 (0)21 852 7333, Cell: +27 (0)82 550 6672, Email: [jp.devilliers@soventix.com](mailto:jp.devilliers@soventix.com), and Web: [www.soventix.co.za](http://www.soventix.co.za).

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June 2, 2022

A large, stylized graphic in the background of the page features a green leaf with white veins and a blue water drop, set against a light blue circular backdrop.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS REPORT**  
**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)**  
**FACILITY ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3**  
**OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C,**  
**BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,**  
**PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,**  
**NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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## 1. Introduction

The Public Participation Process (PPP) was undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, and took the Public Participation 2017 Guideline Document (DEA, 2017) into consideration.

## 2. Objectives of the public participation

The level of public participation was determined by taking into account the scale of the anticipated impacts of the proposed development, the sensitivity of the affected environment and the degree of controversy of the project, and the characteristics of the potentially affected parties. Based on the findings of the above considerations, and taking cognisance of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to fulfil the minimum requirements of the public participation process outlined in the EIA Regulations, 2014 whilst taking precautions that avoid public gatherings. These precautionary measures are discussed in more detail under 4.1(e) of this report.

## 3. Identification of interested and affected parties

Over and above the erection of site notices at key intersections and on the property's boundary fence, placing an advert in the local newspaper and distributing a written notice to those I&APs identified in Regulation 41(2)(b), certain stakeholders, such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), were specifically approached and invited to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Additional means of identifying potential stakeholders included:

- property and deeds search to identify all adjacent landowners and include them as directly affected I&APs; and
- a network or chain referral system according to which key stakeholders were asked to assist in identifying other stakeholders, including requesting in the circulated BID document: "Please can you be so kind as to distribute the attached notice(s) to other interested and affected parties falling under your jurisdiction, authority, control, or administration, such as other owners, persons in control or occupiers of common land. The third attachment entitled "Notice occupiers" has been abbreviated for the occupiers of land, including for example, the local labour or work force. Otherwise, you are welcome to provide their contact details to us, and we shall inform them directly."

## 4. Notification of interested and affected parties

All potential and registered interested and affected parties have the right to be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding proposals that may affect their lives or livelihoods. Early communication aims to build trust among participants, allow more time for public participation, and improve community analysis. It also increases opportunities to modify the proposed development to effectively address relevant issues and comments received during the public participation process.

To this affect potential and registered interested and affected parties were first notified about the proposed development on **18<sup>th</sup> February 2022** and given at least 30 days before the submission of the Application to register for the public participation process.

### 4.1 Method of notification

In terms of Regulation 41(2), notice of the application will be given to all potential interested and affected parties by -

- a. fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of –

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover

- i. the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and
- ii. any alternative site.

Three site notice boards were placed at various visible locations on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, namely:

Site notice board No. 1 was placed on the boundary fence at the corner of portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26 and Portion 2 of the Farm Taaiboschfontain 41 (Latitude: 30°50'12.64"S Longitude: 24°23'19.70"E).

Site notice board No. 2 was placed on the entrance gate to the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26 C (Latitude: 30°50'54.64"S Longitude: 24°19'29.00"E).

Site notice board No. 3 was placed at the intersection of the N10 highway with the District road to Burgerville (Latitude: 30°52'31.61"S Longitude: 24°13'27.31"E).

There are no alternative sites.

See **Annexure A: Site Notice Board Locations** and **Annexure B: Site Notice Boards**

b. giving written notice to –

- the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is to be undertaken, and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken,
- owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken,
- the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area,
- the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area,
- any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, and
- any other party as required by the competent authority.

The written notice was prepared in two different formats. The full format (**Annexure D1**) or Background Information Document (BID), was intended for landowners, whereas the simplified and abbreviated version (**Annexure D2**) was intended for the occupiers of land, e.g., farm workers. An English and Afrikaans version of each format was prepared.

Email distribution of the written notices (**Annexure D3**) to the owners or persons in control of land adjacent to the application site commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Email submissions included a request for a “delivery receipt” and a “read receipt.” Landowners or persons in control were kindly requested to provide copies of the abbreviated format to any occupiers of their land or land under their control.

The proponent or applicant, Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd (represented by Jean Paul de Villiers) is not the owner (or person in control) of the site. The landowner, De Bad Familie Trust (represented by Willem Retief), was included in the distribution of the written notice and requested to forward the notice to any occupiers of the site.

Additional recipients of the written notices included *inter alia* the municipal councillor of the ward, any organisation of ratepayers, the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality and State departments that administer a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to this application, such as the regional Department of Water and Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency) and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (a case No. 17965 was created and the BID was uploaded on their online platform called SAHRIS - **Annexure D4**).

A full list of identified potential I&APs is not included in this report in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), but is available to the Department upon request. On the other a hand, the register of registered I&APs is readily available in **Annexure G**.

- c. placing an advertisement in –
- i. one local newspaper; or
  - ii. any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;

An advertisement was published on the inner back page of a local newspaper in De Aar, called the “The/Die Echo” on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (**Annexure C**)

A link to the advertisement was also provided to Mr JR Ranelo ([lranelo@emthanjeni.co.za](mailto:lranelo@emthanjeni.co.za)) at the Emthanjeni Local Municipality so that he could post it on the municipal Facebook page (Email sent on Monday, 21 February 2022 14:05)

- d. placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it will be undertaken.

The proposed activity shall not have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the local or district municipality in which it will be undertaken.

- e. using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage.

Public meetings will be avoided. Any person or official desirous of a meeting will be hosted individually.

Hard copies of reports will not be printed and placed in public places. Instead, digital copies will be distributed electronically. A hard copy will be posted to any person or official desirous of a hard copy.

“Afrikaans is the home language of almost two thirds of the residents in Ward 6” (Social Scoping Report April 2022 prepared by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services). Considering that Afrikaans is widely spoken in the De Aar Area, the written notice or



Background Information Document (BID) shall be prepared and distributed in both English and Afrikaans.

“About two fifths of the people in Ward 6 aged 20 years or older have no schooling or only some primary education. This is higher than on local, district or provincial level. These high levels of illiteracy should be taken into consideration when consulting with farmworkers or communities on the project” (Social Scoping Report April 2022 prepared by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services) – A simplified English and Afrikaans version of the Background Information Document (BID) shall be made available to landowners during the email distribution of the BID, specifically for the attention of their farmworkers.

A Social Impact Assessment shall be undertaken by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services, using methodologies which ensure the affected communities are consulted in a way that is most appropriate to the community.

In terms of Regulation 42, all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity and all persons who submitted written comments, attended meetings with the applicant, proponent or EAP, or who requested, in writing, to be registered will be placed on a register of interested and affected parties (**Annexure G**).

#### **4.2 Proof of notification**

Proof of Notification via email is provided in **Annexure D3**.

#### **5. Notification of interested and affected parties of reports and other studies**

Reports, including specialist studies were made available to registered I&APs by loading the documents onto our website ([www.ecoleges.co.za](http://www.ecoleges.co.za)) and then emailing the link and password to them. Proof of Notification via email is provided in Annexure D3.

#### **6. Proof of Open Communication with Adjacent Landowners**

Due to security concerns in the area it was important to maintain ongoing and open communication with adjacent landowners with regards to activity in the area as a result of various specialists who will be in the area conducting site assessments. Email notification was provided to adjacent landowners regarding the presence of various specialists in the area (**Annexure D5**).

Further, neighbours whose concerns were brought to us by a third party were also pro-actively approached and their comments address in the Comments and Response Report (**Annexure H**).

#### **7. Comments from interested and affected parties**

Registered I&APs were given access to, and the opportunity to comment on, all written submissions via email, fax and/or registered mail. Email submissions included a request for a “delivery receipt” and a “read receipt,” The tracking number of any registered mail was sent to the I&AP via sms and/or WhatsApp to facilitate receipt of the document. All comments received from interested and affected parties (**Annexure E**) were responded to and recorded in the Comments and Response Report (**Annexure H**).

#### **8. Final Notification of Decision**

Once a decision has been made, all registered interested and affected parties will be notified via email, fax and/or registered mail. The decision may also be provided to local councillors in a notice format to erect on community notice boards.

### List of Annexures

**Annexure A:** Site Notice Board Locations

**Annexure B:** Site Notice Board

**Annexure C:** Local Newspaper Advert (published 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in The De Aar Echo)

**Annexure D:** Written Notices

**Annexure D1:** Background Information Document

**Annexure D2:** Written Notice to Occupiers (e.g., farm workers) – English and Afrikaans

**Annexure D3:** Proof of Notification via Email

**Annexure D4:** Maintaining ongoing and open communication with adjacent landowners

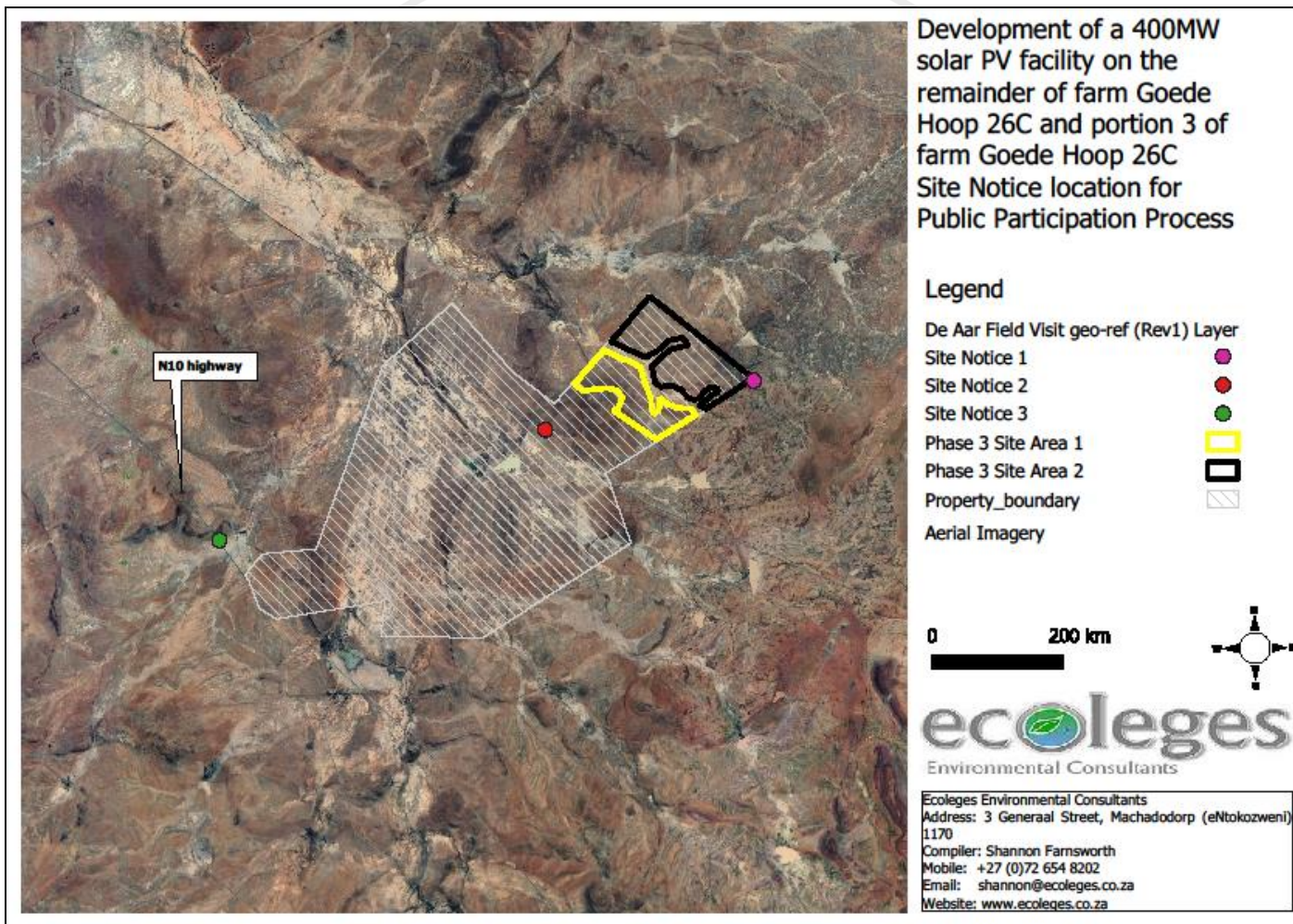
**Annexure E:** Comments Received (and Response)

**Annexure F:** Records of Meetings

**Annexure G:** Registered Interested and Affected Parties

**Annexure H:** Comments and Response Report

**Annexure A: Site Notice Board Locations**



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



**Annexure B: Site Notice Board**

# Notice...

is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, and Section 47D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, of an application for an Environmental Authorisation, as well as a Water Use Authorisation under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

Date of Notice: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## **Description of Activity**

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

## **Water Use Authorisation (WUA)**

Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development will be registered under the applicable General Authorisations with the regional office of the Department of Water & Sanitation: Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency, failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017). The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

- **21(a)** taking water from a water resource;
- **21(b)** storing of water;
- **21(c)** impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
- **21(g)** disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource, and
- **21(i)** altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

### **Environmental Authorisation (EA)**

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) shall be undertaken as part of an application for an EA. The application shall be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

#### LISTING NOTICE 1 (GN No. 327, 07<sup>th</sup> April 2017)

**Listed Activity 11:** The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.

**Listed Activity 19:** The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m<sup>3</sup> into...a watercourse;

**Listed Activity 28:** Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, ... on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 ha.

**LN1, Listed Activity 48:** The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; ... where such expansion occurs - (a) within a watercourse; ... or (c) ... within 32 m of a watercourse...

#### LISTING NOTICE 2 (GN No. 325, 07<sup>th</sup> April 2017)

**Listed Activity 2:** The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 MW or more.

**Listed Activity 15:** The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

#### LISTING NOTICE 3 (GN No. 324, 07 April 2017)

**Listed Activity 14:** The development of – (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m<sup>2</sup> or more; where such development occurs - (a) within a watercourse ... or (c) ... within 32 metres of a watercourse ...

**Listed Activity 18:** The widening of a road by more than 4 m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km.

**Applicant:**

Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd

**Consultant:**



Environmental Consultants

**Contact Person:**

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP),

Cell: +27 (0)72 654 8202

Fax: +27 (0)86 697 9316,

E-Mail: [shannon@ecoleges.co.za](mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za),

Postal: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170

Website: [www.ecoleges.co.za](http://www.ecoleges.co.za)

**Registration:**

For further information and/or to be registered as an interested and affected party (I&AP) or to lodge a written objection, please submit in writing your name, contact details including address, and interest in the matter to the contact person and in the manner(s) provided above, at your earliest convenience. Reports shall be distributed for comment more than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

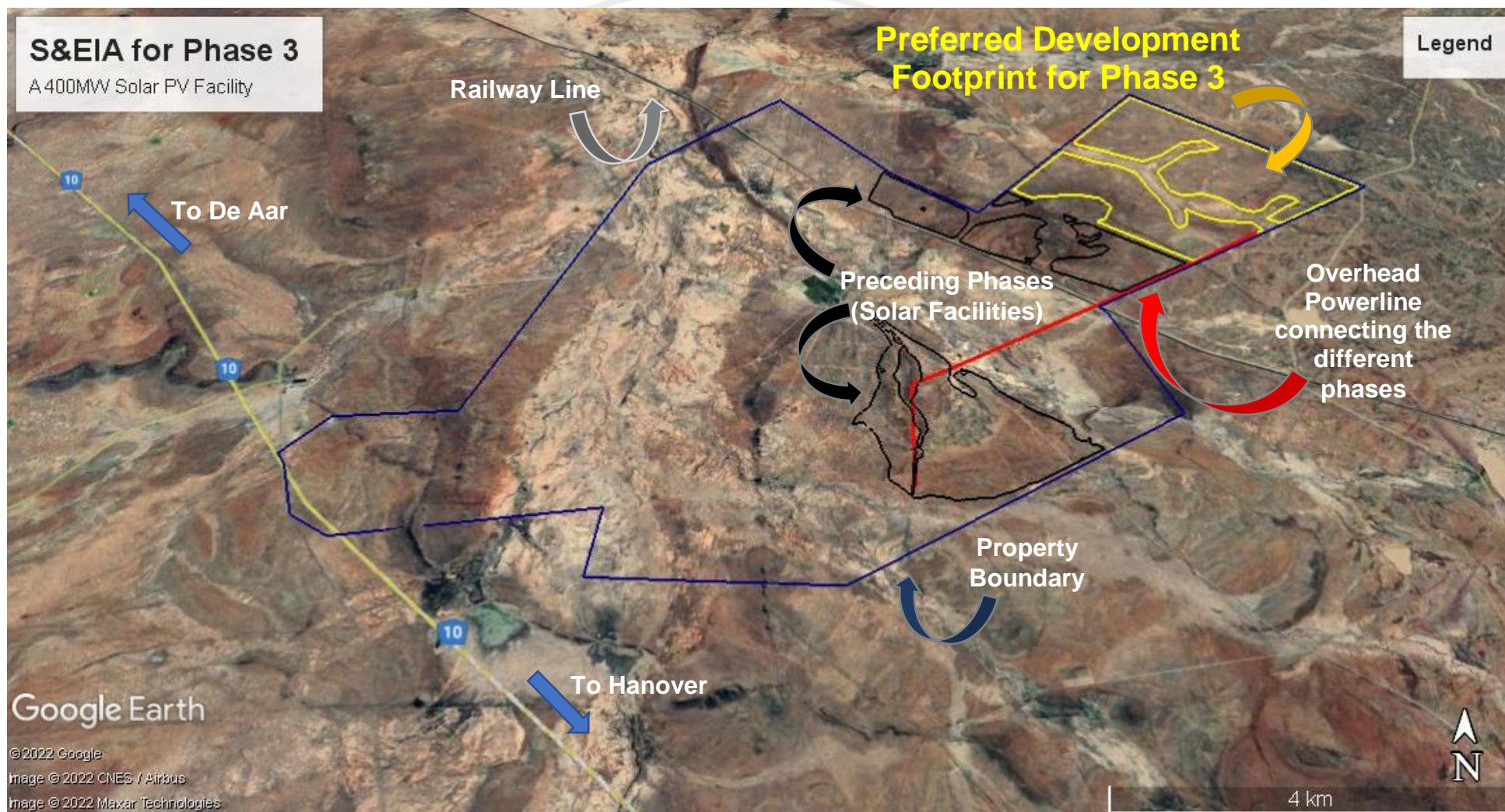
**POPIA Disclaimer:**

Should you submit written comments or attend meetings, request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, or if you are an organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity, then we are required in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to record your name, contact details and address in a register of interested and affected parties, as well as a disclosure of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in terms of EIA Regulation 43(1). Your personal information will be stored on a secure server explicitly for the public participation process (PPP) associated with this project but shall be retained indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.

Other recipients of your personal information include registered I&APs, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation. Your participation in the PPP is voluntary. However, failure to supply the said information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered I&AP and opportunity to comment on reports and plans. For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), including your Section 5 Rights as a data subject, visit [www.popia.co.za](http://www.popia.co.za)



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover



**Site Notice Board No. 1** was placed on the boundary fence at the corner of Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 2 of the Farm Taaiboschfontain 41 (Latitude: 30°50'12.64"S Longitude: 24°23'19.70"E).

**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover



Site Notice Board No. 2 was placed on the entrance gate to the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C (Latitude: 30°50'54.64"S Longitude: 24°19'29.00"E).

**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover



Site Notice Board No. 3 was placed at the intersection of the N10 highway with the District Road to Burgerville (Latitude: 30°52'31.61"S Longitude: 24°13'27.31"E).

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



Annexure C: Local Newspaper Advert (published 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in The De Aar Echo)

THE ECHO/MIDLAND NEWS, FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2022

## NOTICE

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP) NOTICE TO UNDERTAKE AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) AND A WATER USE AUTHORISATION (WUA)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, and Section 47D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, of an application for Environmental Authorisation, as well as a Water Use Authorisation under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

**Description of the proposed development:**  
The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

**Water Use Authorisation (WUA):**  
Section 21 water uses will be registered under the applicable General Authorisations with the regional office of the Department of Water & Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017). The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

- 21(a) taking water from a water resource;
- 21(b) storing of water;
- 21(c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
- 21(g) disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource; and
- 21(i) altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

**Environmental Authorisation (EA)**  
A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) shall be undertaken as part of an application for an EA. The application shall be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

**Listing Notice 1 (GN No. 327, 07th April 2017):**  
**Listed Activity 11:** The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.  
**Listed Activity 19:** The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m3 into ... a watercourse;  
**Listed Activity 28:** Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, ... on or after 01 April 1988 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 ha.  
**LM1, Listed Activity 48:** The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; ... where such expansion occurs – (a) within a watercourse; ... or (c) ... within 32 m of a watercourse ...

**Listing Notice 2 (GN No. 325, 07th April 2017):**  
**Listed Activity 2:** The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.  
**Listed Activity 15:** The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

**Listing Notice 3 (GN No. 324, 07 April 2017):**  
**Listed Activity 14:** The development of – (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m2 or more; where such development occurs – (a) within a watercourse or (c) within 32 m of a watercourse ...  
**Listed Activity 18:** The widening of a road by more than 4 m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km.

For further information and/or to be registered as an interested and affected party (I&AP) or to lodge a written objection, please submit in writing your name, contact details including postal and email address, and interest in the matter to the contact person and in the manner(s) provided below, at your earliest convenience. Reports shall be distributed for comment more than 30 days from the date of this notice. Date of publication of this notice: **18th February 2022.**

Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22nd April 2022.

**Applicant:** Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
**Consultant:** Ecologies Environmental Consultants  
**Contact person:** Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP), Cell: 072 654 8202, Fax: 086 897 9318, e-mail: shannon@ecologies.co.za, PO Box 518, Machadodorp, 1170, www.ecologies.co.za

**Competent Authority (EA):** Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform  
**Responsible Authority (WUA):** Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency (Upington Lower Orange WMA)

**POPIA Disclaimer:** Kindly be advised that should you submit written comments or attend meetings, request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, or if you are an organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity, then you are required in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to record your name, contact details and address in a register of interested and affected parties, as well as a disclosure of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in terms of EIA Regulation 43(1). Your personal information will be stored on a secure server explicitly for the PPP associated with this project but shall be retained indefinitely for lawful, historical and/or research purposes. Other recipients of your personal information include registered I&APs, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation. Your participation in the PPP is voluntary. However, failure to supply the said information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered I&AP and opportunity to comment on reports and plans. For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), including your Section 5 Rights as a data subject, visit [www.popia.co.za](http://www.popia.co.za)

## Soeke na 'n lewe van sin en betekenis: Ons moet God se geure en kleure wees

**ADELAIDE — SKRIFLESING:** Mat 5:13-16. Eugene Peterson in The Message, vertaal Mat 5:13-16 as volg: "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage."

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you?"

"I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

Dr. Chris van Wyk lig twee sake uit. Die soute-metafoor word vertaal met "God-flavors" en die lig-metafoor word vertaal met "God-colors". Ons moet met ander woorde God se geure en kleure wees in hierdie wêreld. Ons moet geur en kleur gee aan hierdie wêreld.

Ons roeping in die lewe kom daarop neer dat: • Mense God moet kan proe in hoe ons lewe en hoe ons optree. • Mense God moet kan sien in hoe ons optree.

Dit is twee van ons versameste sinne, naamlik om te kan proe en te kan sien.

(1) Die eerste oeroep is, dat ons "God-flavors" sal versprei: Ons praat van "sout van die aarde mense". Dan bedoel ons dit is goeie mense. Maar voordat ek dit kan word, moet ek eers "sout vir die aarde" word.

Sout is iets alledaags en baie goed bekend. In die antieke wêreld het sout selfs meer funksies as vandag gehad. Hier is 'n paar eienskappe van sout: Sout gee smaak. Deur 'n bietjie sout by kos te gooi, kry die voedsel smaak. Net so bring geelwings smaak in die wêreld.

Sout preserveer. Voordat vrieskaste beskikbaar was, is sout gebruik om vleis te bewaar. Bihong en noek is 'n lekkerny, omdat dit gesout word! Sout preserveer. As gelowiges is ons soos sout wat die lewe preserveer. Die wêreld word 'n veiliger plek waar mense wat die dinge van die Here doen, hulle invloed uitoeën. Misdaad daal, respekt vir lewe neem toe, en die waardes van integriteit, liefde, omgee en beskerming styg.

Sout genees bederf en verrotting. In die ou tyd is wonde met sout uitgewas om infeksie te verhoed. Na jou maag getrek is, kan jy jou maag gereeld met soutwater uitspoel. Mense met sinusprobleme gebruik gereeld 'n bietjie sout-water.

Ons gooi sout in ons skottelgoedwassers om dit skoon te maak. Sout se krag lê daarin dat dit 'n verskillende mask in 'n wêreld waar bedorvenheid en verrotting so maklik plaasvind. Christene moet die agteruitgang van die samelewing keer en help stuit, deur hulle getuienis.

**Sout offer self op.** Sout werk net as dit uit die soutpot gegooi word. Sout kry sy bestans-

reg net as dit gebruik word. Sout moet oplos voordat dit voordeel en smaak kan bring.

In die destydse Palestina was die kwaliteit van sout wisselvallig. Nie alle sout was ewe goed nie. Die swak sout gaan af, en het geen krag nie. Dit word weggegooi en vertrap.

Jesus gebruik die beeld van sout wat verslaan om die godsdiens van die Fariseërs en Skrifgeleerdes te beskryf. Jesus kon sien hoe die Fariseërs en die Skrifgeleerdes godsdiens op 'n manier bedryf het wat sy krag verloor het, deur mensgemaakte, wettiese prosedures voorop te stel. "Mens kry tot vandag toe mense wat die dien van die Here verwar met tradisie. Ten diepste is dit 'n selfgesentreerde vorm van godsdiens eerder as die uitgang van jou lewe in diens van ander."

(2) Die tweede oeroep is dat ons "God-colors" sal versprei.

Lig is 'n basiese element van die lewe. Met die skepping het God lig geskep. Die duisternis was voor die lig. Maar God het lig in die duisternis geskep, sodat daar dag en nag kan wees. Christus het ook gekom as Lig vir die wêreld wat in sonde-duisternis verkeer.

Ferdinand Deist skryf treffend oor die lig-metafoor: "Waar Hy ook al gaan, bring Hy lig. Bring Hy lewensruimte en lewensvreesgê. Elkeen wat met Hom in kontak kom, se lewe kry nwee sin en betekenis: Soggeus, Nikodemus, Maria, Magdalena, Petrus, Thomas, almal. Oral is Jesus bestig om God se skappingslig aan te steek." Daarom, as ons die waardes van God se Koninkryk uitlewe, verdryf ons ook die duisternis uit ons huise en uit die wêreld uit.

Mense kom na lig toe. Soos 'n kers motte aantrek, trek lig ook mense nader. Lig skep gemeenskap tussen mense. Jesus Christus het ook bedoel dat Sy lig die nasies van die wêreld moet nadereik.

Jesus se lig moet ook ons huise verlig. In die Bybelse tyd was daar net een-vertrek huise. Die lig het in die hele huis geskyn. Daar was nie donker plekkies in die huise nie. So moet Jesus se lig ook lig kom gee in ons huise, inwagelike en gesinne. Natuurlik sê ons skrifgedeelte dat Jesus se lig bedoel is vir die hele wêreld.

Dit is 'n verskillende slegte advertensie vir die Christendom as Christene nie sigbaar in die wêreld is nie. Spurgeon het treffend opgemerk dat Christus in die woonvertrek moet skyn, eerder as die gastekamer.

Daarmee bedoel hy dat Christus elke dag gelewe moet word en nie slegs by spesiale geleenthede om ons beter te laat vertoon nie. Ons is nie geheime diens-agente van die Here nie.

Gerard Henning skryf dat 'n dissiplie sy dissiplenskap net so min kan wegsteek as wat 'n lig sy strale kan wegsteek. 'n Christen hoort in die middel van die wêreld soos 'n lamp in die middel van 'n vertrek.

Mag ons soos Eugene Petersen skryf, "God-flavors" en "God-colors" op hierdie aarde en in die wêreld wees. AMEN

(Dr. Paul Odendaal is leraar van die NG Kerk Adelaide.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Legal Aid Southern Cape is seeking qualified and reputable service providers to be responsible for the following tender:

BN Number	Description	Closing Date and Time
43202	Removal of Office Accommodation on the 21st of April 2022. For more information please contact the Legal Aid Southern Cape team on 086 897 9318.	16 March 2022 10:00

Evaluation: 40:60 Price = 40 and B-BBEE status level of contribution = 20  
Enquiries: SAC Legal Aid Team, contact by email: [NA@LegalAid.co.za](mailto:NA@LegalAid.co.za) or by phone: 086 897 9318. For the tender documents please contact the Legal Aid Southern Cape team on 086 897 9318.

More information will be included in the bid document.  
The bid documents for the tender will be available from the Legal Aid Southern Cape website [www.legalaid.co.za](http://www.legalaid.co.za) or by email to the Tender Portal from 14 February 2022.

Bids to be submitted in the prescribed form and tender proposals are accepted if the relevant tender form is completed and submitted to the Legal Aid Southern Cape office by 14 February 2022. The tender documents will be available from the Legal Aid Southern Cape website [www.legalaid.co.za](http://www.legalaid.co.za) or by email to the Tender Portal from 14 February 2022.

Only those bidders whose tenders will be presented.

SAC Legal Aid Southern Cape

DE AAR DRUKKERS

POSBUS 44, DE AAR  
Telefoon (053) 631-2861

VR SPOTDRUK DRUKWERK VAN HOË GEHALTE

MIDLAND NUUS

POSBUS 224, CHADOCK  
TELEFOON (046) 661-3300



**Annexure D: Written Notices**

**Annexure D1: Background Information Document – English (an Afrikaans version was created, but not included here to save space)**

## **NOTIFICATION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)**



**Applications for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) and a Water Use Authorisation (WUA) for the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.**

**Date of Notice:** 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The purpose of this document is to provide background information for the proposed project and to provide for objections, comments, and contributions from stakeholders, with regards to potential environmental and water use impacts – which includes, but is not limited to, ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a Section 21 water use in terms of the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998) or a Listed Activity in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) as amended, an application must be made for authorisation. The applications must be supported by a report, which has been compiled following an assessment process.

Ecoleges has been appointed, in its capacity as an independent Environmental Consultant, to manage the Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of both the Water Use Authorisation and Environmental Authorisation processes.

Water use authorisation is proposed in terms of the applicable General Authorisations, failing which a Water Use License application will need to be undertaken in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017.

The Environmental Authorisation is to be undertaken via a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S & EIA) process in accordance with Regulations 21 - 24 of the amended EIA

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**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
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Regulations, 2014 promulgated in terms of sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended.

The Public Participation Process for the Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Authorisation applications must be undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and Section 17 of the Water Use License Application (WULA) and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017), respectively. Ecoleges has also taken the Public Participation 2017 Guideline Document (DEA, 2017) into consideration.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2016 ecoleges undertook a S&EIA for the development of a 225 MW Solar PV facility between Hanover and De Aar in the Northern Cape. Three alternative footprints (PV01, PV02, PV03) were investigated during the assessment process. The central footprint (PV02) was identified as the preferred option because of its lower environmental impact and proximity to an existing 400kV Eskom powerline when compared with PV01 and PV03. The National Department of Environmental Affairs granted an environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998) on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The activity must commence on the PV02 footprint within a period of five years from the date of issue.

An amendment to increase the capacity (not the footprint) of the facility to 300 MW due to technological advancements in solar photovoltaic efficiency and electrical output was granted on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

A second amendment was granted in 2021 for the inclusion of containerised lithium-ion battery Storage and dual-fuel backup generators with associated fuel storage.

The competent authority was the National Department of Environmental Affairs because the application was part of the REIPPP or RMIPPP BID rounds, which formed part of a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) as described in the National Development Plan, 2011. Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd was an unsuccessful bidder. However, the applicant has since partnered with another company, Solar Africa, with 1.5 GW in private renewable energy offtake agreements, making it economically feasible to develop two more 300 and 400 MW facilities (Phases 2 and 3, respectively).

Soventix will therefore apply for an environmental authorisation to develop an additional 300MW on the PV03 footprint (Phase 2) that was considered during the initial S&EIA. It is proposed to connect this second phase to the substation that forms part of the authorised facility on PV02.

Unlike footprints PV02 and PV03, Phase 3 was not assessed during the S&EIA for Phase 1. Phase 3 involves the development of a third 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C.

The two additional Solar PV facilities (Phase 2 and 3) will feed into the authorised sub-station on the PV02 footprint (Phase 1). Consequently, the expansion of the substation footprint will require a third (Part 2) amendment to the existing environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998).

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Solar PV System**

A single PV device is known as a cell. To boost the power output of PV cells, they are connected in chains to form larger units known as modules or panels. Each module is 2.2 by 1.1 m (or 2,42 m<sup>2</sup>) in size. Modules are connected to form arrays and mounted on to a rack that points the panels toward the sun. The results of the geotechnical assessment will determine whether the racks and panels are held in place by either a ballast or piled foundation. Two rows of twenty-three modules each will be

attached to a steel and aluminium rack. Consequently, each rack would accommodate approximately 110 m<sup>2</sup> of panel. Solar arrays will be orientated in a northern direction and track the sun from east (55°) to west (-55°). The arrays shall be placed approximately 7.4 m apart. Several arrays are then connected to an inverter. The inverters convert the voltage from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). Inverters at the end of panel mounting structures are cabled to field transformers. The field transformers then transfer and increase (step up) the voltage of the alternating-current circuit to Eskom's electrical grid via an onsite substation.

The size of the proposed development footprint for a 400 MW solar PV facility is approximately 600 ha (1.5 ha per MW). As far as possible, arrays will be arranged in four 100 MW blocks of approximately 150 ha each. There will be five inverters per MW (500 inverters per 100 MW block, or 2000 inverters for 400 MW). Twenty-five inverters are connected to a field transformer, so there will be twenty field transformers per 100MW (or 80 field transformers for 400 MW).

All four 100 MW blocks will feed into an on-site substation. This on-site substation will then be linked to the on-site substation on Phase 2 via overhead (approximately 20 m high) distribution lines (most likely to be a 33kV connection) along a 32 m wide servitude.

### **Operational Area**

The operational area comprises a controlled access, single-storey building, unpaved parking, and a sewerage treatment plant. The building shall be constructed from brick with metal sheet roofing and include space for an office, ablutions (incl. change rooms), medical room, control room, kitchen, storeroom, and workshop.

### **Services (Water, Domestic Wastewater, Electricity and Waste)**

There are several existing boreholes on site, which will be used to abstract groundwater for construction and operational phases. The abstracted water shall be stored in aboveground JoJo type storage tanks. The tanks shall be located near the single storey building in the operational area.

A maximum of 2 kL of domestic wastewater, including sewerage, shall be generated each day, and treated to special limits with a bio-box package plant.

Electricity during construction and operation will be obtained from Eskom via the existing supply to the site.

General waste will be disposed of at the De Aar licensed landfill site. Electrical waste will be either recycled or disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste landfill.

### **Roads**

Existing roads will be upgraded, and new roads will be built, that is graded, shaped for runoff, and compacted to access the laydown area, construction camp, and components of the PV system, including the operational area, the on-site substation and to each field transformer. Passing lanes will be placed at strategic areas. Precast box culverts or pipes will also be required where the access roads pass through a drainage line. Some road crossings may need to be widened to accommodate large delivery trucks.

Two-track access roads (4.4 to 4.5 m wide) will be constructed between the parallel arrays, and a 4 to 5 m wide fire break road, comprising a jeep track with cleared vegetation, will also be created inside the perimeter fence.

### **Fencing**

The facility will be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence or Clear View™ fencing, with controlled access using a security gate. Both areas (separated by a watercourse) will be fenced off within one perimeter fence.

### Lighting

The facility will not be lit up at night. The fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness. The obvious areas that would have lights is the control and security office, as well as the on-site substation, which is a legal requirement.

### Access

The main access is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover, which enters the site from the west. The provincial unsurfaced road (Burgersville Road) and the existing farm access road will also be utilised.

### Timing

The three phases will be built sequentially. There may be some overlap in that once civil works are complete the civils' team would move onto phase 2, etc. Even each 100MW block within each phase will be built sequentially, e.g., the first phase of 300MW would be built in 3 x 100MW blocks. This will limit the amount of people on site, as well as mitigate the need for massive amounts of equipment, storage etc.

### Agricultural Activities

The current land use is sheep farming, which will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal losses on agricultural potential of the land as well as control vegetation growth.

## APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

### Water Uses

An application to register the Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development under the applicable General Authorisations will be submitted to the regional office of the Department of Water and Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017. The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

<b>Section 21(a)</b>	taking water from a water resource
<b>Section 21(b)</b>	storing of water
<b>Section 21(c)</b>	impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
<b>Section 21(g)</b>	disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
<b>Section 21(i)</b>	altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

### Listed Activities

An application for an EA will be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

<b>Listing Notice 1</b> (GG No. 40772, GN No. 327, 07 April 2017)
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<p><b>Listed Activity 11</b></p>	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity -  <b>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;</b> or                  (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;</p> <p>excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is -                  (a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure;                  (b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length;                  (c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and                  (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</p>
<p><b>Listed Activity 19</b></p>	<p><b>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into,</b> or the dredging, excavation, <b>removal or moving of soil,</b> sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock <b>of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</b>                  but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—                  (a) will occur behind a development setback;                  (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;                  (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;                  (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or                  (e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</p>
<p><b>Listed Activity 28</b></p>	<p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:                  (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or                  (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;                  excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional purposes.</p>
<p><b>Listed Activity 48</b></p>	<p>The expansion of –                  (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or                  (ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such expansion [or expansion and related operation] occurs -                  (a) within a watercourse;                  (b) in front of a development setback; or                  (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a</p>

	<p>watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding -                      (aa) the expansion of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;                      (bb) where such expansion activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;                      (cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;                      (dd) where such expansion occurs within an urban area; or                      (ee) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 2</b>                      (GG No. 40772, GN No. 325, 07 April 2017)</p>	
<b>Listed Activity 2</b>	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the <b>generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more</b>, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs -                      (a) within an urban area; or                      (b) on existing infrastructure.</p>
<b>Listed Activity 15</b>	<p>The <b>clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more</b> of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—                      (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or                      (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 3</b>                      (GG No. 40772, GN No. 324, 07 April 2017)</p>	
<b>Listed Activity 14</b>	<p>The development of –                      (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or  <b>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</b></p> <p>where such development occurs -                      (a) within a watercourse;                      (b) in front of a development setback; or  <b>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</b></p> <p>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p><b>g. Northern Cape</b>                      i. In an estuary;</p>

	<p><b>ii. Outside urban areas:</b></p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no</p> <p>(cc) World Heritage Sites;</p> <p>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; as above</p> <p><b>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</b></p> <p>(gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</p> <p>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</p> <p>(ii) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</p>
<p><b>Listed Activity 18</b></p>	<p>The <b>widening of a road by more than 4 metres</b>, or the <b>lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</b></p> <p><b>g. Northern Cape</b></p> <p>i. In an estuary;</p> <p><b>ii. Outside urban areas:</b></p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no</p> <p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</p> <p>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</p> <p>(hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined; or</p> <p><b>(ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland;</b></p>

## PURPOSE OF THE S&EIA

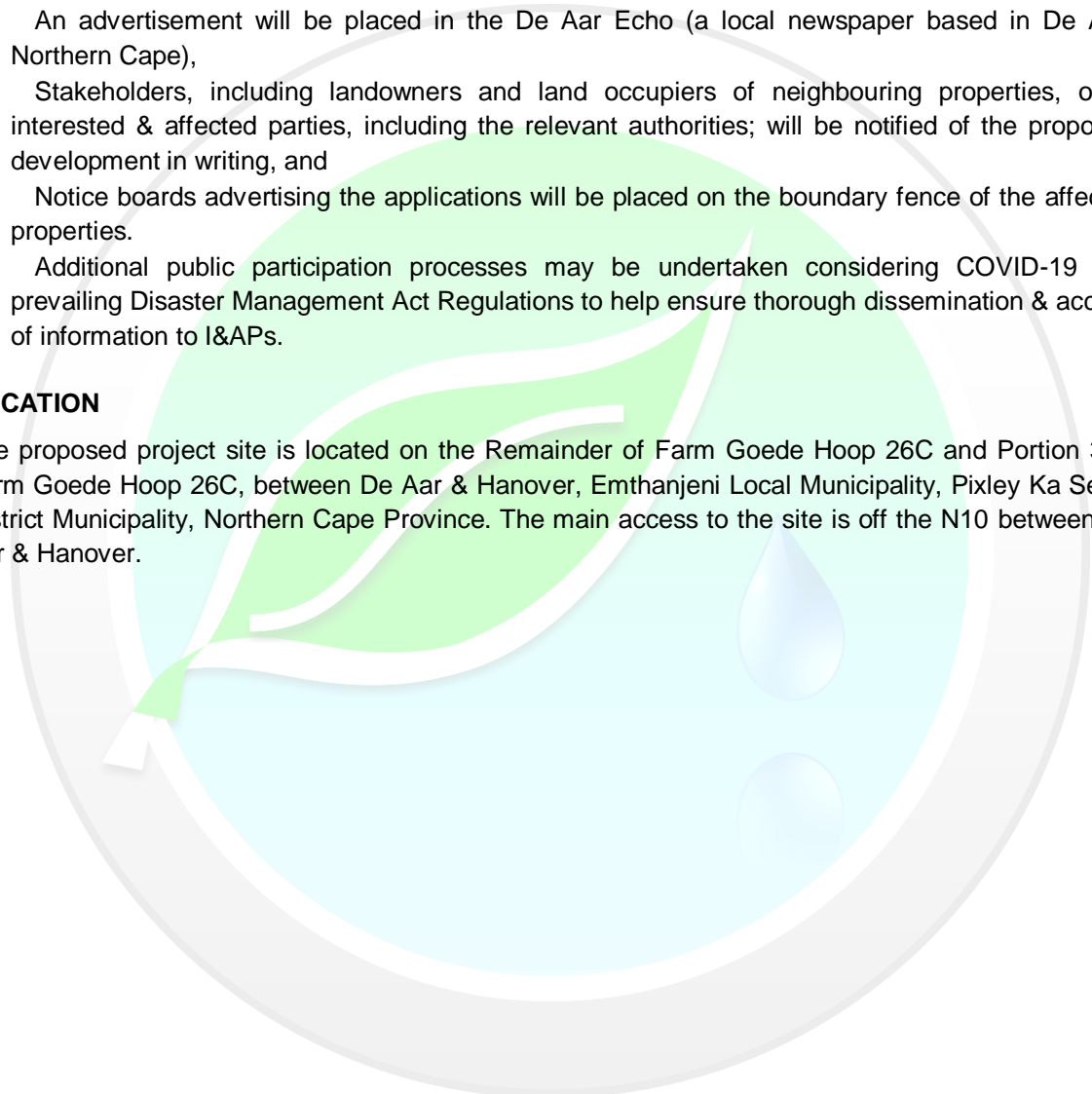
The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible assessment process that will serve to inform the responsible authority's (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency (Upington Lower Orange WMA) and competent authority's (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform) decision on the acceptability of the proposed project.

## DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

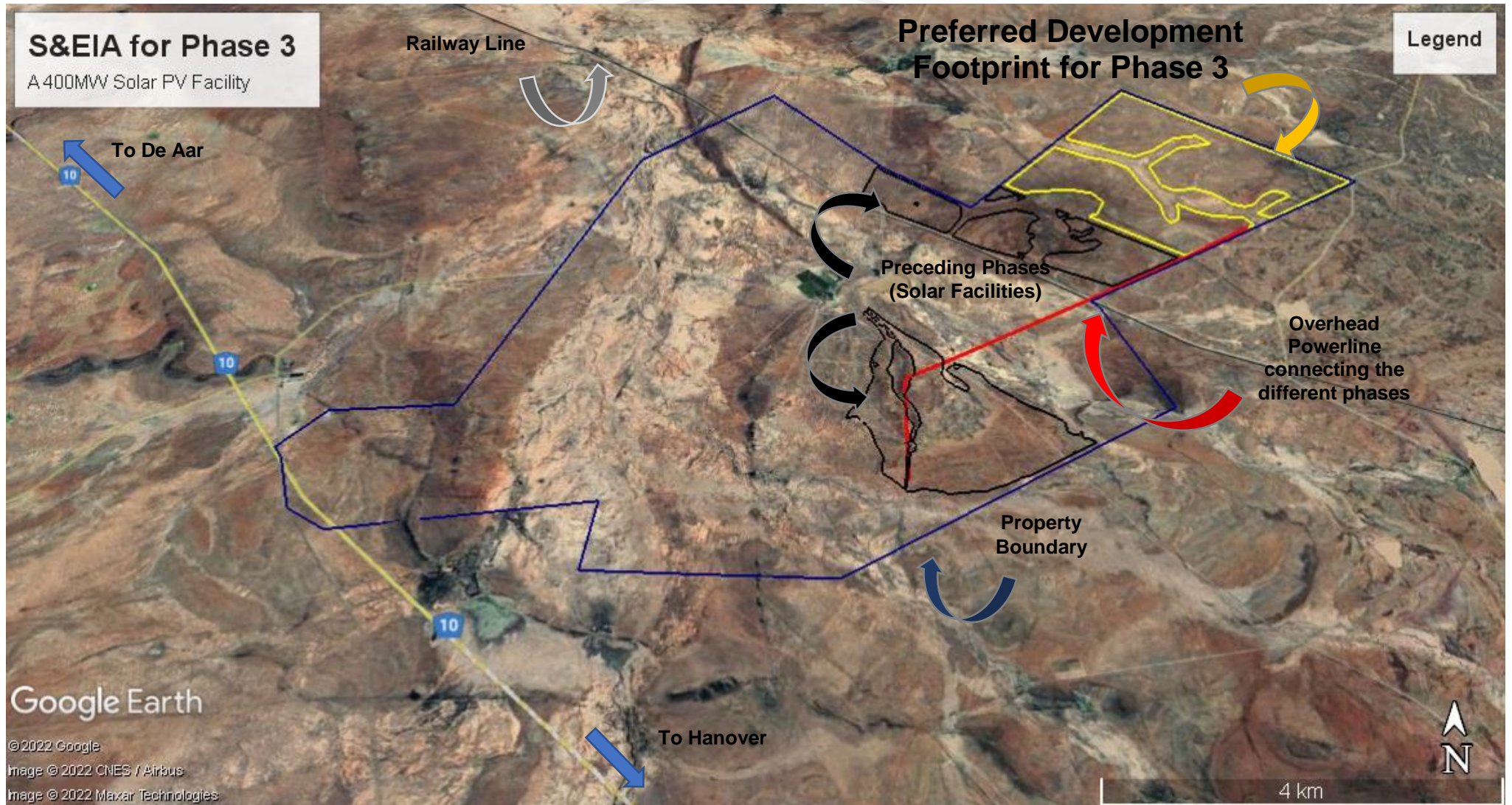
- An advertisement will be placed in the De Aar Echo (a local newspaper based in De Aar, Northern Cape),
- Stakeholders, including landowners and land occupiers of neighbouring properties, other interested & affected parties, including the relevant authorities; will be notified of the proposed development in writing, and
- Notice boards advertising the applications will be placed on the boundary fence of the affected properties.
- Additional public participation processes may be undertaken considering COVID-19 and prevailing Disaster Management Act Regulations to help ensure thorough dissemination & access of information to I&APs.

## LOCATION

The proposed project site is located on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The main access to the site is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover.







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## ANTICIPATED ISSUES

### Specialist Studies

The following specialist studies shall be undertaken, and are based on the outcomes of a Site Sensitivity Verification:

- Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Plant Species Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Avifauna Specialist Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Specialist Assessment
- Palaeontological Specialist Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Hydrology Assessment
- Geotechnical Assessment
- Bat Impact Assessment
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment

### **YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE!**

Your comments on the proposed projects, the public participation process, and issues needing investigation, will assist the technical studies and the authorities in their consideration of the relevant environmental and social aspects.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in:

- identifying possible impacts of the proposed development on the environment,
- making suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives, and
- considering the “Need and Desirability”.

### Mitigations

Mitigation measures will be developed for the anticipated issues. Stakeholders are however welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

NEMA and the EIA Regulations call for a hierarchical approach to impact management.

#### **The Impact Mitigation Hierarchy**

- *Firstly*, alternatives must be investigated to avoid negative impacts altogether.
- *Secondly*, after it has been found that the negative impacts cannot be avoided, alternatives must be investigated to reduce (mitigate and manage) unavoidable negative impacts to acceptable limits.
- *Thirdly*, alternatives must be investigated to remediate (rehabilitate and restore).
- *Fourthly*, unavoidable impact that remain after mitigation and remediation must be compensated for through investigating options to offset the negative impacts.
- While *throughout*, alternatives must be investigated to optimise positive impact.

### Alternatives

Consideration of “Alternatives” is one element of the S & EIA process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making based on the principle of sustainable development.



Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle.

Ecoleges not only welcomes stakeholders' input/suggestions, but also urges the public to submit possible alternatives.

It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to-

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity,
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken,
- (c) the design or layout of the activity,
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity,
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity, and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable, Feasible, Relevant, Reasonable and Viable.

### **Need & Desirability**

According to Regulation 13(1)(b) and 13(1)(e) read together with Regulation 18 of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014, EAPs and specialists must have knowledge of any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity and have regard to the need for and desirability of the undertaking of the proposed activity.

Considering that 'Need and Desirability' is determined by considering the broader societal/community needs and public interests, that is NOT the needs of the applicant/developer, we encourage you to also consider the Guideline on Need and Desirability published by DEA (2017) to help you identify key issues in respect of the need for and desirability of undertaking the proposed activity/development. The guideline is freely available on the web. However, we have also prepared a YouTube video that explains the intended concept of Need and Desirability:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0iHr-zE4TPzwhZjzoTPQMw>

The aim of the EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Consistent with the aforesaid aim and purpose of EIA, the concept of "need and desirability" relates to, amongst others, the nature, scale, and location of development being proposed, as well as the wise use of land.

Strictly speaking, "need" primarily refers to time and "desirability" refers to place, e.g., is this the right time and is it the right place for locating the type of land-use/activity being proposed? However, "need and desirability" are interrelated and the two components collectively can be considered in an integrated and holistic manner by engaging the **Questions** provided in the guideline document. The questions are divided into two broad categories relating to ecological sustainability (e.g., how the development will impact on ecosystems and biological diversity) and justifiable economic and social development.

We suspect the ecological category of questions address desirability and whether it is the right place, while the economic and social category of questions addresses broader societal needs, and whether this is the right time.

Need and desirability is like a drawstring that pulls the assessment process together to decide on the best option. When the sum of the impacts (evaluated during the impact assessment) is considered

holistically through the lens of Need and Desirability, that is by presenting them within the framework of questions posed by the guideline, then Need and Desirability becomes the overall impact summary to determine if the proposed activity is the best option or to decide on the fate of the application.

When collectively considering ecological, social, and economic impacts it is important to remember that while there might be some trade-offs between the considerations, all development must in terms of Section 24 of the Constitution be ecologically sustainable, while economic and social development must be justifiable. Consequently, there are specific “trade-off rules that apply, namely environmental integrity may never be compromised, and the social and economic development must take a certain form and meet certain specific objectives for it to be considered justifiable.

## REGISTRATION

To ensure that you are registered as an interested and affected party, please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET and forward it to the address, fax or email provided below.

### Postal Address:

P.O. Box 516  
Machadodorp  
1170

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: [shannon@ecoleges.co.za](mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za)

## ENQUIRIES

Please do not hesitate to visit us at our office or give us a call should you have any further queries or concerns regarding the listed activity(ies), water uses or development that is being proposed.

### Physical address (Office):

2 Generaal Street  
Machadodorp  
1170

Cell: 072 654 8202 (Shannon Farnsworth) or 083 644-7179 (office)

**Thank you for your participation!**

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority.

Please complete and return the below Registration and Comment Sheet and/or POPIA Consent Form at your earliest convenience:

- **A draft report shall be distributed for comment more than 30 days from the date of this document.**
- **Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.**

**Note:** To withdraw your consent at any time please email us directly, and we will immediately delete your information from our records. Thank you.



**REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET**

**400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name / Interest Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal or Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town / City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

A registered interested and affected party is entitled to object and comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent and/or responsible authority provided that - (c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate with an **X** whether you would like to be kept informed of the GA & BA process.

YES, I would like to be kept informed	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO, I am not interested	<input type="checkbox"/>

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (Please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	
Fax	

**COMMENTS:** (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)



A large circular graphic with a light blue background, a green leaf, and two water droplets. The graphic is overlaid with a grid of horizontal lines for writing comments.

### POPIA CONSENT FORM

Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2), and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly confirm your consent by ticking the boxes below.

- I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMP) for comment.
- I hereby acknowledge that only the minimum personal information that is required to be processed for the purpose of the EIA Regulations (2014) will be processed, including my name, contact details, address, and disclosure on any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- I hereby confirm that the personal information, which I shall provide is mine, and that it is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated.
- I hereby acknowledge that my personal information is being collected explicitly for public participation processes associated with this project.
- Irrespective of the decision to grant or refuse an environmental authorisation, and irrespective of whether the scope of the authorisation includes operational or development aspects only, I hereby give consent to ecoleges to retain my records indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.
- I understand, upon submitting my personal information to ecoleges, that it will be saved on their server, which meets the various conditional "Minimum Security Requirements" of their Cyber Insurance company, including *inter alia* firewalls to restrict access to digitally stored sensitive information, anti-virus software implemented on all desktops, laptops and sensitive systems, password controls implemented on sensitive systems, etc.
- I understand that ecoleges shall inform me when there are reasonable grounds to believe that my personal information has been accessed or acquired by any



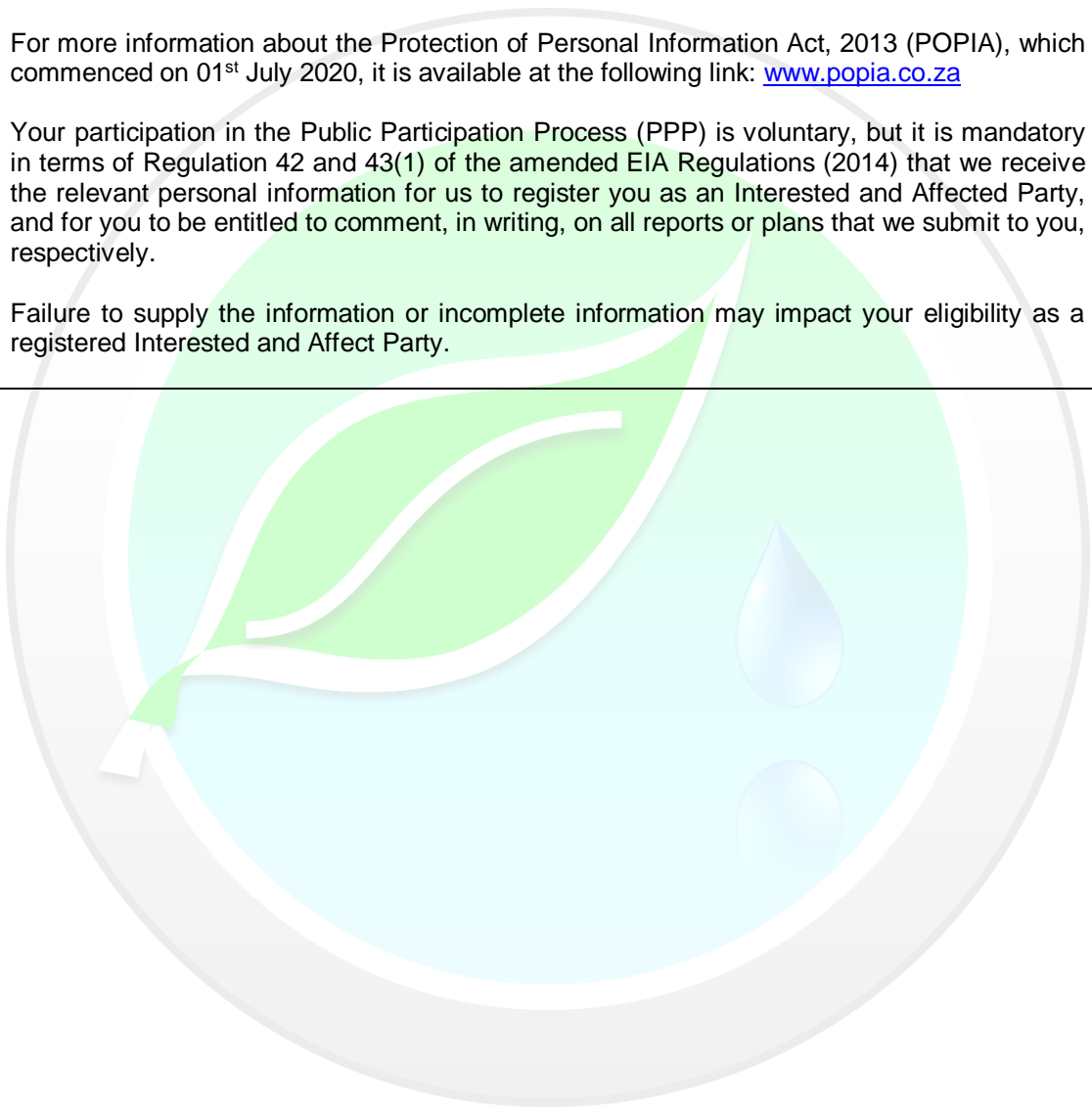
unauthorised person.

- I have read and understand my [Section 5 Rights](#) as a data subject including *inter alia*, the right to -
- request access to my personal information,
  - request information about the identity of all third parties,
  - request ecologies to correct, update, destroy or delete my personal information, and
  - lodge a complaint in writing to the [Information Regulator](#) if in my opinion the processing of information is not reasonable.

For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), which commenced on 01<sup>st</sup> July 2020, it is available at the following link: [www.popia.co.za](http://www.popia.co.za)

Your participation in the Public Participation Process (PPP) is voluntary, but it is mandatory in terms of Regulation 42 and 43(1) of the amended EIA Regulations (2014) that we receive the relevant personal information for us to register you as an Interested and Affected Party, and for you to be entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans that we submit to you, respectively.

Failure to supply the information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered Interested and Affect Party.



**Annexure D2: Written Notice to Occupiers (e.g., farm workers) – English and Afrikaans**

**Written Notice:**

**Soventix (Pty) Ltd wants to build a Solar PV Facility**

**What is going to happen?** South Africa cannot make enough electricity to supply its people and economy. That's why we have "load shedding." And most (80%) of our electricity is made by burning coal, which is very bad for the environment and our health. So, a company, called Soventix, is going to build three solar PV facilities that make electricity using the sunshine. The third facility will use lots of solar panels to capture the sun's energy from a large area (600 ha) and change it into electricity.

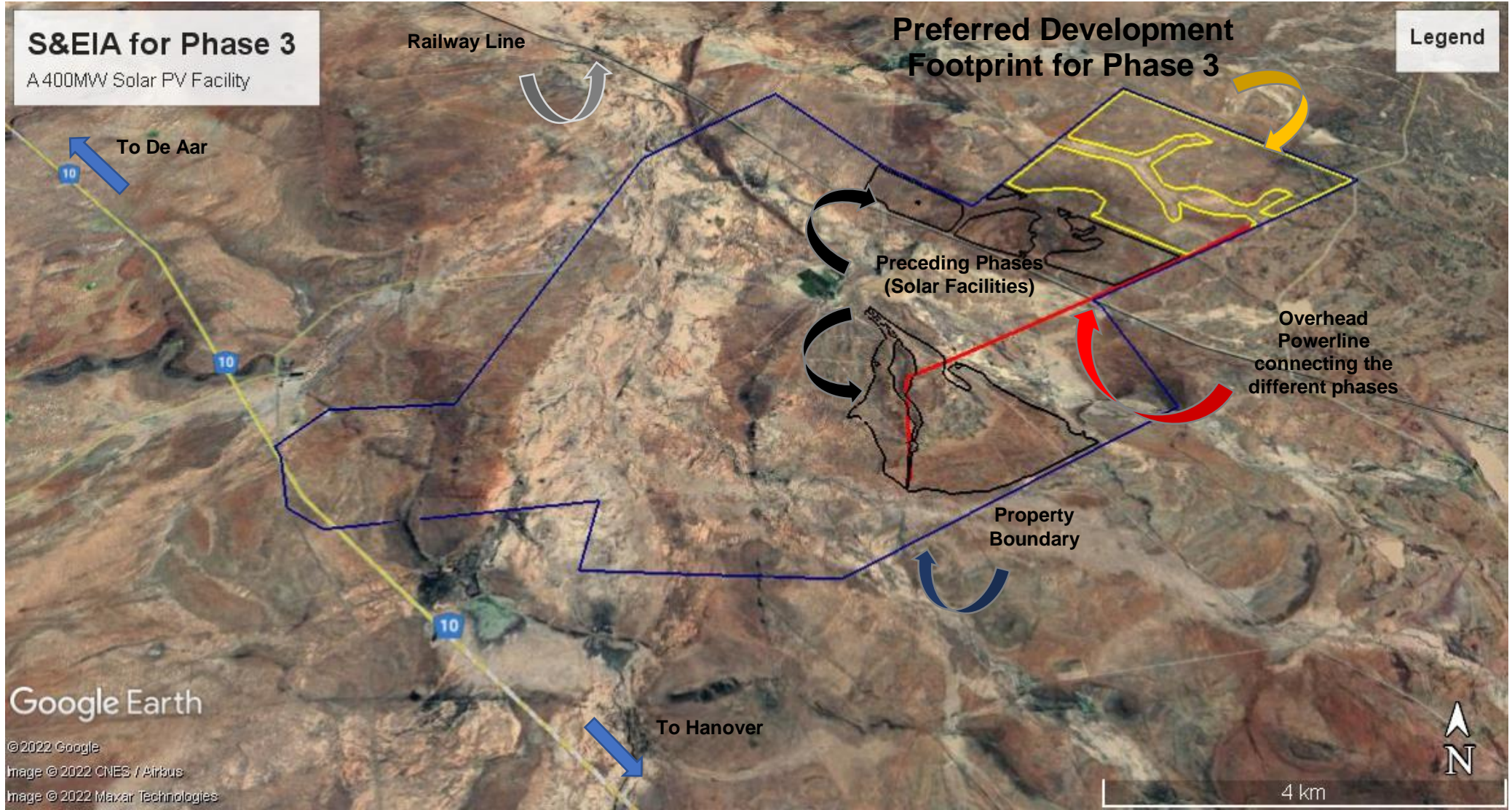
**Who is going to do it?** Soventix (Pty) Ltd will develop the Solar Facility.

**Where will the solar facility be?** The third solar facility will be developed on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C (see yellow section on map), between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

**Why are you telling me?** South Africa's laws about our environment (National Environmental Management Act, 1998) and water resources (National Water Act, 1998) say that a person must get permission from the government before they can build a big solar facility and powerlines on a farm, and especially if it is going to impact the surface water, groundwater and remove a lot of the plants (*Listed Activities 11, 19, 28 & 48 of Listing Notice 1, Listed Activities 2 & 15 of Listing Notice 2, & Listed Activities 14 & 18 of Listing Notice 3, as well as Section 21(a), (b), (c), (g) and (i) water uses*). Before Soventix can get permission from the government (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform and the Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), they must first make a study, called a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment, to see if and how the facility will impact the land, river, animals, plants, and people in the surrounding area. **Part of the study is to tell the people in the surrounding area about the project so that you know about it and, if you believe it will affect you, then you can tell us what you think.**

**What next?** If you have any questions, want to tell us something, or if you want us to put your name on a list so that we can give you more information, then please send your name, cell phone number, email, and postal address to Ms Shannon Farnsworth. You can use one of the following ways: Cell: 072 654 8202, Fax: 086 697 9316, E-mail: shannon@ecoleges.co.za, Post: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170. We will start sending out information more than 30 days from the date of this notice. If you are worried about the surface or groundwater, then you must tell us before 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.





**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



## **Geskrewe kennisgewing:**

### **Soventix (Edms) Bpk. wil 'n sonkrag-PV-fasiliteit bou**

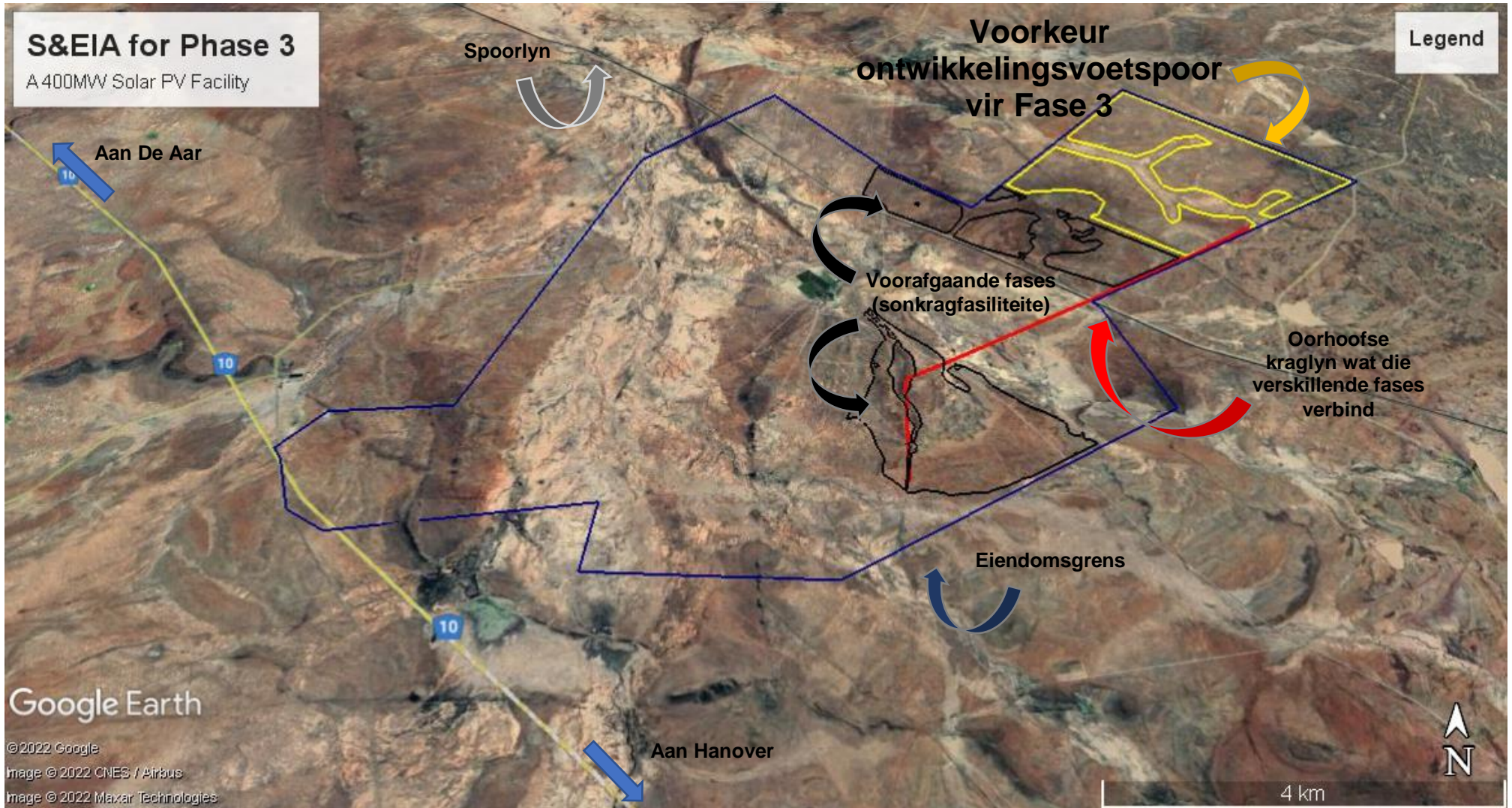
**Wat gaan gebeur?** Suid-Afrika kan nie genoeg elektrisiteit maak om sy mense en ekonomie te voorsien nie. Dit is hoekom ons "beurkrag" het. En die meeste (80%) van ons elektrisiteit word gemaak deur steenkool te verbrand, wat baie sleg is vir die omgewing en ons gesondheid. So, 'n maatskappy, genaamd Soventix, gaan drie sonkrag-PV-fasiliteite bou wat elektrisiteit maak deur die sonskyn te gebruik. Die derde fasiliteit sal baie sonpanele gebruik om die son se energie van 'n groot gebied (600 ha) op te vang en dit in elektrisiteit te verander.

**Wie gaan dit doen?** Soventix (Edms) Bpk. sal die sonkragfasiliteit ontwikkel.

**Waar sal die kruising wees?** Die derde sonkragfasiliteit sal ontwikkel word op die Restant van Plaas Goede Hoop 26C en Gedeelte 3 van Plaas Goede Hoop 26C (sien geel gedeelte op kaart), tussen De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, Pixley Ka Seme Distriksmunisipaliteit, Noord-Kaap Provinsie, Suid-Afrika.

**Hoekom vertel jy my?** Suid-Afrika se wette oor ons omgewing (Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998) en waterbronne (Nasionale Waterwet, 1998) sê dat 'n persoon toestemming van die regering moet kry voordat hulle 'n groot sonkragfasiliteit en kraglyne op 'n plaas kan bou, en veral as dit die oppervlaktwater, grondwater gaan beïnvloed en baie van die plante gaan verwyder (Gelyste Aktiwiteite 11, 19, 28 & 48 van Lyskennisgewing 1, Gelyste Aktiwiteite 2 & 15 van Lyskennisgewing 2, & Gelyste Aktiwiteite 14 & 18 van Noteringskennisgewing 3, sowel as Artikel 21(a), (b), (c), (g) en (i) watergebruike). Voordat Soventix toestemming van die regering (Noord-Kaapse departement van landbou, omgewingsake, landelike ontwikkeling en grondhervorming en die Orange Proto-opvanggebiedbestuursagentskap) kan kry, moet hulle eers 'n studie, genaamd 'n Omvang- en omgewingsimpakstudie, maak om te sien of en hoe die fasiliteit die grond, rivier, diere, plante en mense in die omliggende area sal beïnvloed. **Deel van die studie is om die mense in die omgewing van die projek te vertel sodat jy daarvan weet en, as jy glo dit sal jou raak, dan kan jy vir ons sê wat jy dink.**

**Wat gebeur volgende?** As jy enige vrae het, iets vir ons wil vertel, of as jy wil hê ons moet jou naam op 'n lys plaas sodat ons vir jou meer inligting kan gee, stuur asseblief jou naam, selfoonnommer, e-pos, en posadres aan Me. Shannon Farnsworth. Jy kan een van die volgende maniere gebruik: Sel: 072 654 8202, Faks: 086 697 9316, E-pos: shannon@ecoleges.co.za, Pos: Posbus 516, Machadodorp, 1170. Ons sal begin om inligting uit te stuur meer as 30 dae vanaf die datum van hierdie kennisgewing. As jy bekommerd is oor die oppervlakt of grondwater, moet jy ons voor 22 April 2022 in kennis stel.



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



**Annexure D3: Proof of Notification via Email**

**From:** Hlengile [mailto:hlengile@ecoleges.co.za]

**Sent:** Thursday, 17 February 2022 07:42

**To:**

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Written notification of application for an Environmental Authorisation & a Water Use Authorisation for the development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility south of De Aar

**Importance:** High

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly find attached a written notice, that is the Background Information Document (BID) pertaining to an application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use Authorisation for:

“The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa”

Please can you be so kind as to distribute the attached notice(s) to other interested and affected parties falling under your jurisdiction, authority, control, or administration, such as other owners, persons in control or occupiers of common land. The third attachment entitled “Notice occupiers” has been abbreviated for the occupiers of land, including for example, the local labour or work force. Otherwise, you are welcome to provide their contact details to us, and we shall inform them directly.

Take the time to review the BID and register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) should you have an interest in or be affected by the proposed development.

- **We shall submit the draft report for comment more than 30 days from the date of this email, and**
- **Any written comments or objections relating to the application for a Water Use Authorisation to undertake the proposed water uses must be lodged before 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.**

We are in the process of identifying all potential interested and affected parties. One such method of achieving this is the ‘Network’ or ‘Chain Referral System’. Please can you be so kind as to provide us with the name and contact details of any relevant person(s) you believe we should engage on matters of this nature, including for example, any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.

**POPIA Consent.** Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2), and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a



public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly complete and return the last two pages of the Background Information Document, called POPIA Consent Form, or alternatively, reply to this email and confirm your consent as described below. Failure to provide consent (or comments) may impact your eligibility as a registered I&AP and opportunity to comment on reports and plans. Alternatively, should you not wish to participate or provide comments, then you are welcome to request that we delete your information from our records (the register of I&APs). Thank you.

I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMP) for comment.

For more information on how we process your personal information, kindly refer to the attached BID (POPIA Consent Form). For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), including your Section 5 Rights as a data subject, it is available at the following link: [www.popia.co.za](http://www.popia.co.za)

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.

Kind Regards,

# Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover

Written notification of application for an Environmental Authorisation & a Water Use Authorisation for the development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility south of De Aar - Message (HTML)

**FILE** **MESSAGE**

Ignore, Delete, Reply, Reply All, Forward, Meeting, More

PPP - shannon..., To Manager, Done, Create New, Reply & Delete

Rules, Move, OneNote, Actions, Mark Unread, Categorize, Follow Up, Translate, Find, Related, Select, Zoom

Thu 2022/02/17 07:42  
Hlengile <hlengile@ecoleges.co.za>  
Written notification of application for an Environmental Authorisation & a Water Use Authorisation for the development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility south of De Aar

To hlengile@ecoleges.co.za  
Cc 'Jean-Paul de Villiers - Soventix SA PTY Ltd.'; 'Shannon Farnsworth'; Shaun@ecoleges.co.za

This message was sent with High importance.

Message | BID De Aar Phase 3 - Afrikaans Version.pdf (464 KB) | BID De Aar Phase 3 - English Version.pdf (429 KB) | Notice occupiers\_English&Afrikaans.pdf (646 KB)

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly find attached a written notice, that is the Background Information Document (BID) pertaining to an application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use Authorisation for:

"The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa"

Please can you be so kind as to distribute the attached notice(s) to other interested and affected parties falling under your jurisdiction, authority, control, or administration, such as other owners, persons in control or occupiers of common land. The third attachment entitled "Notice occupiers" has been abbreviated for the occupiers of land, including for example, the local labour or work force. Otherwise, you are welcome to provide their contact details to us, and we shall inform them directly.

Take the time to review the BID and register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) should you have an interest in or be affected by the proposed development.

- **We shall submit the draft report for comment more than 30 days from the date of this email**, and
- **Any written comments or objections relating to the application for a Water Use Authorisation to undertake the proposed water uses must be lodged before 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.**

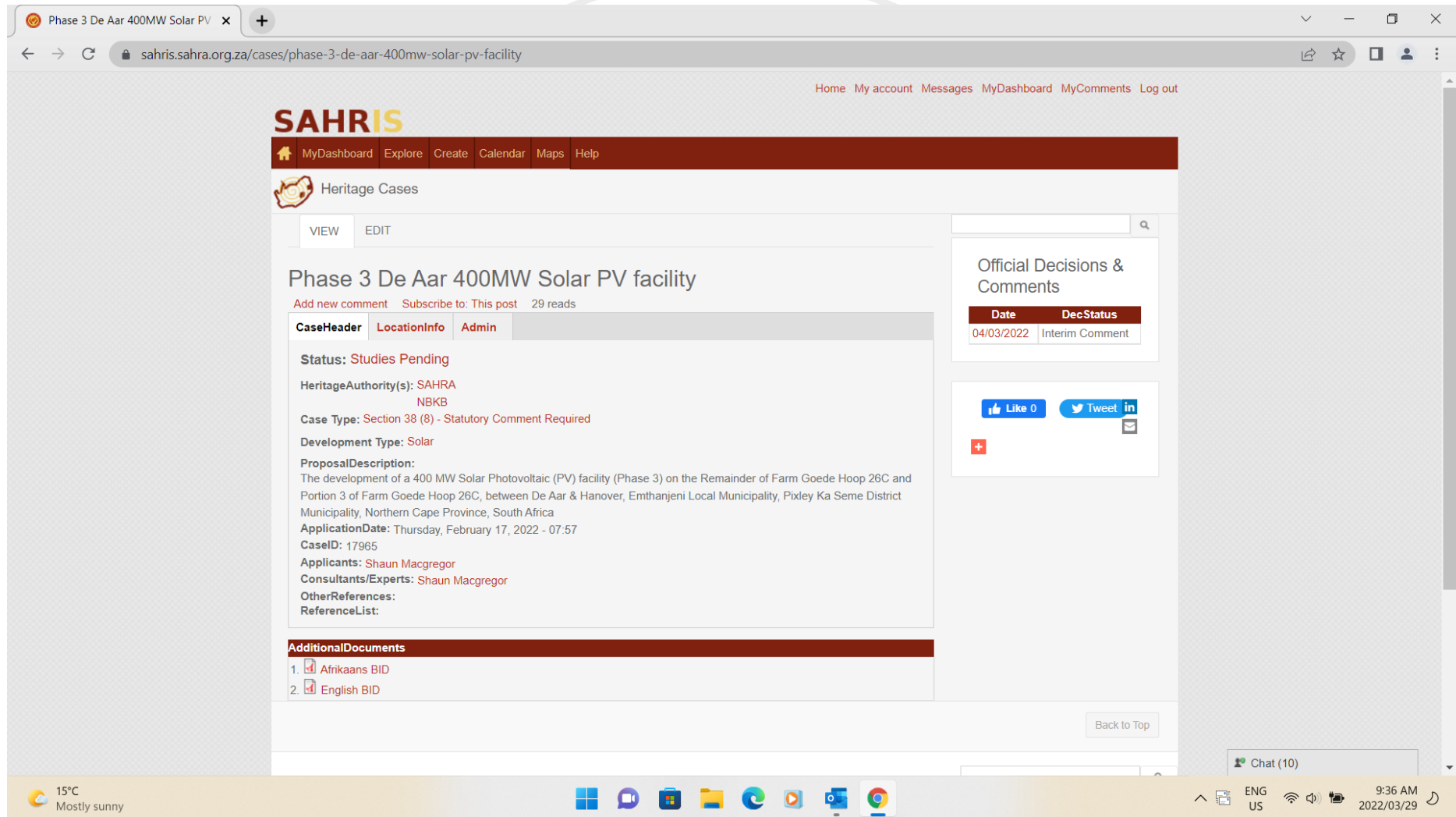
We are in the process of identifying all potential interested and affected parties. One such method of achieving this is the 'Network' or 'Chain Referral System'. Please can you be so kind as to provide us with the name and contact details of any relevant person(s) you believe we should engage on matters of this nature, including for example, any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.

**POPIA Consent.** Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward (iv) any

**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover

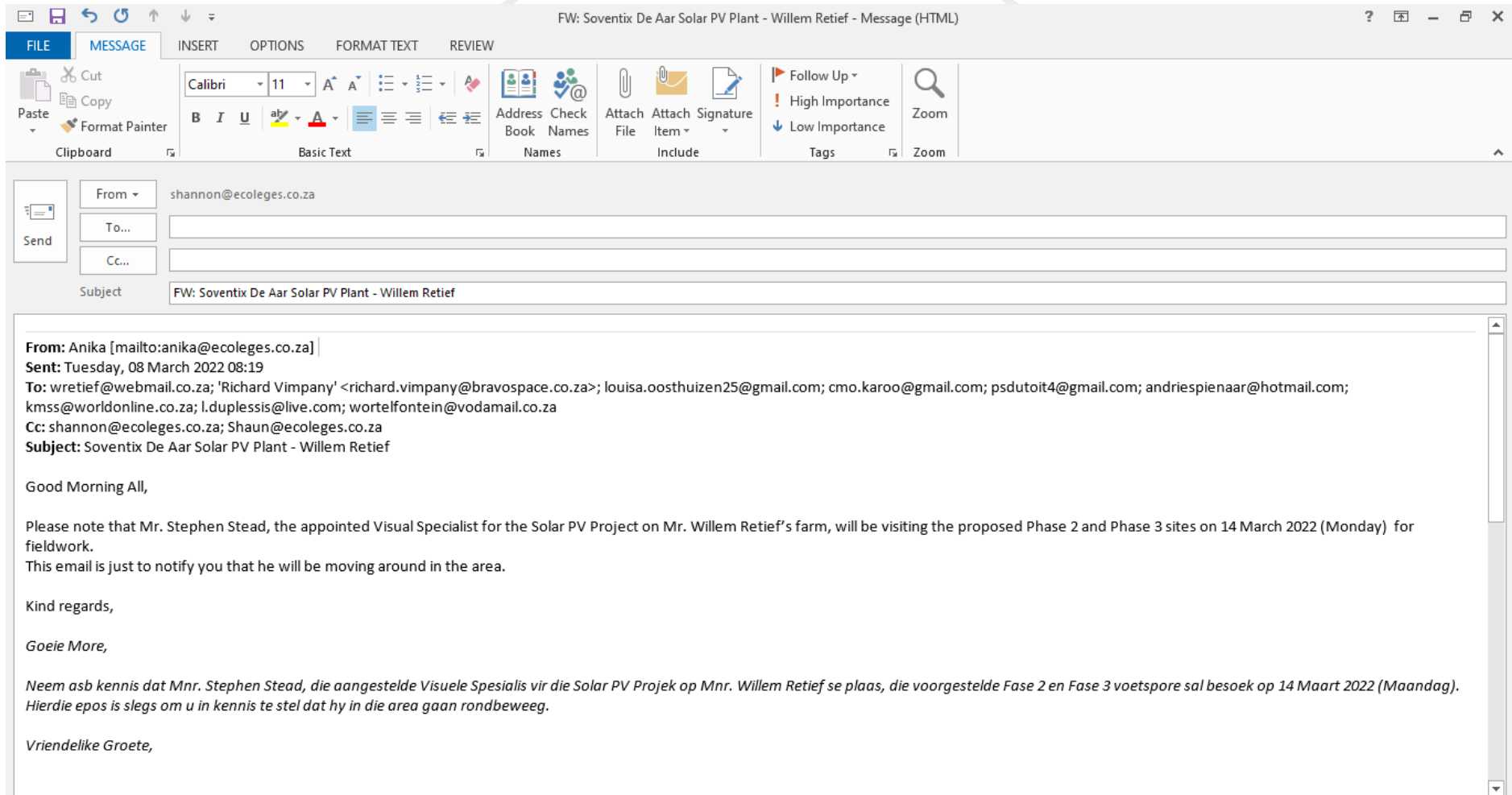
Annexure D4: Proof of Notification on SAHRIS



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23



**Annexure D5: Proof of Open Communication with Adjacent Landowners**



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

**Annexure E: Comments Received (and Response)**

Comments on BID submitted by Neville R Vimpany on 03 March 2022:

**REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET**

**400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER**

Title: <u>Mr</u> Name: <u>Neville R.</u>	
Surname: <u>Vimpany</u>	
Company Name / Interest Group: <u>N/A</u>	
Postal or Residential Address: <u>3 Windrush Avenue</u> <u>Linkside</u>	
Town / City: <u>Port Elizabeth</u>	
Postal Code: <u>6001</u>	
Tel: ( ) _____	
Cell: <u>082 775 6699</u>	
Fax: ( ) _____	
E-mail address: <u>richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za</u>	
A registered interested and affected party is entitled to object and comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent and/or responsible authority provided that - (c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.	
<u>None.</u>	
Please indicate with an X whether you would like to be kept informed of the GA & BA process.	
YES, I would like to be kept informed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO, I am not interested	<input type="checkbox"/>

13

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M.Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M.Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (Please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

As the registered owner of the neighboring farm, being The Farm No. 149, I have the following concerns regarding the proposed Phase 3 of the Solar PV development, bordering along a 4 km long boundary fence line:

1.) The negative visual aspect and view of this development when viewed from my property adjacent. My farm has been owned by my family for three generations and the remoteness and unspoiled environment is a key factor of this legacy.

2.) Crime. This is a reality in SA today and although I don't live on my farm permanently, we have not experienced any criminal incidents in over 40 years. My fear is that industrial development adjacent to my farm will

Continued on APPENDIX A and APPENDIX B

14

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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ANNEXURE A

Comments and Objections continued...

significantly increase the threat of criminal activity, be it stock theft, game poaching, property theft, home invasion or worse.

- 3.) **Game breeding and management.** Two of my camps adjacent to the proposed Phase 3 development site contain wild game. The impact of this solar development upon this game is of concern, as is the risk of damage to the solar panels as a result of period hunting and game management. I cannot be held responsible for any property damages, should they occur as a result.
- 4.) **Road damage.** The district gravel roads are not maintained by the local municipality and the inevitable increased traffic is likely to result in significant degradation of this sensitive infrastructure.
- 5.) **Property value.** It is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed development will negatively impact the value of my primary asset, for many years to come. My view is that the appeal of this unspoiled stock farm will be diminished as a direct result of the proximity of this huge industrial development.
- 6.) **Long-term impact.** The long-term impact, environmental and otherwise, remains unknown and therefore poses significant risk to all that will be impacted.
- 7.) **Why here?** Although the investors' benefits are obvious, there are countless locations around South Africa that would be better suited to such an industrial development, so why use virgin ground and a 'Greenfield' site of great agricultural value where countless less onerous and less valuable sun-drenched alternatives exist?

**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Response to comments on the BID submitted by Neville Richard Vimpany on 07 March 2022:



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PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170  
Tel: 086 644 7179  
Fax: 086 697 9316  
[info@ecoleges.co.za](mailto:info@ecoleges.co.za)  
[www.ecoleges.co.za](http://www.ecoleges.co.za)

3 Windrush Avenue  
Linkside  
Port Elizabeth  
6001

June 2, 2022

Attention: Neville Richard Vimpany  
Email: [richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za](mailto:richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za)

**RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER**

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the above project as well as providing comments on the BID that was circulated via email on 17 February 2022.

The comments received on the BID via email on the 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 have reference:

**Comment No. 1:**

*"The negative visual aspect and view of this development when viewed from my property adjacent. My farm has been owned by my family for three generations and the remoteness and unspoiled environment is a key factor of this legacy."*

**Response No. 1:**

A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. The site assessment for the above specialist assessment is scheduled for 14 March 2022. Stephen will contact you beforehand for permission to access your farm so that he can investigate your concern. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures proposed by the appointed visual specialist during the EIA process.

**Comment No. 2:**

*"Crime. This is a reality in SA today and although I don't live on my farm permanently, we have not experienced any criminal incidents in over 40 years. My fear is that industrial development adjacent to*

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**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

*my farm will significantly increase the threat of criminal activity, be it stock theft, game poaching, property theft, home invasion or worse.”*

**Response No. 2:**

The absence of crime over the past 40 years is most likely due to the remoteness of the area, and low population density. The solar PV facility will not alter the remoteness of the area considering that it will not improve accessibility or promote the establishment of townships. Nonetheless, we intend on securing the remoteness and safety of the area by proposing the following mitigations.

Security during construction

- (1) Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
- (2) No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.
- (3) Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.
- (4) Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicate with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.
- (5) An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

Security during operation

- (1) Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.

**Comment No.3:**

*“Game breeding and management. Two of my camps adjacent to the proposed Phase 3 development site contain wild game. The impact of this solar development upon this game is of concern, as is the risk of damage to the solar panels as a result of poaching and game management. I cannot be held responsible for any property damages, should they occur as a result.”*

**Response No. 3:**

Kindly elaborate on how you believe the facility will impact on the breeding or management of wild game in the two adjacent camps. It is worth noting that a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

With regards to poaching and damage to solar panels:

Section 120 of the Firearm Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) deals with offences. Section 120(3) refers:

“It is an offence to-



- (a) cause bodily injury to any person or cause damage to property of any person by negligently using a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun;
- (b) discharge or otherwise handle a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun in a manner likely to injure or endanger the safety or property of any person or with reckless disregard for the safety or property of any person; or
- (c) have control of a loaded firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun in circumstances where it creates a risk to the safety or property of any person and not to take reasonable precautions to avoid the danger.”

Furthermore, it is good practice to not shoot unless you know exactly where your bullet is going to strike. Prior to firing, the target should be identified, what is behind the target should be identified and where the bullet is likely to rest, taking into account ricochets etc.

**Comment No. 4:**

*“Road damage. The district gravel roads are not maintained by the local municipality and the inevitable increased traffic is likely to result in significant degradation of this sensitive infrastructure.”*

**Response No. 4:**

The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.

A Traffic Impact Assessment shall be undertaken. Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

**Comment No. 5:**

*“Property value. It is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed development will negatively impact the value of my primary asset, for many years to come. My view is that the appeal of this unspoiled stock farm will be diminished as a direct result of the proximity of this huge industrial development.”*

**Response No. 5**

A Socio-economic Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

**Comment No. 6:**

*“Long-term impact. The long-term impact, environmental and otherwise, remains unknown and therefore poses significant risk to all that will be impacted.”*

**Response No. 6:**

This comment is the reason for undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Multiple studies by registered professional natural scientists have been commissioned to identify and assess the impacts and risks on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and

cultural aspects of the environment so that they can be appropriately mitigated for. These mitigations are incorporated into an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that can be adapted (amended) according to the findings of ongoing monitoring during the life cycle of the activity.

**Comment No. 7:**

*“Why here? Although the Investors’ benefits are obvious, there are countless locations around South Africa that would be better suited to such an industrial development, so why use virgin ground and a ‘Greenfield’ site of great agricultural value where countless less onerous and less valuable sun-drenched alternatives exist?”*

**Response No. 7:**

The location factors are favourable for the development of a Solar PV facility including high and good quality solar irradiation (**Appendix A**), flat and gentle slopes and close proximity to existing Eskom infrastructure including powerlines to feed into the grid and the N10 for transport links.

The virgin land shall be used for both solar photovoltaic power generation and agriculture (Agrivoltaic). In other words, the current land use being sheep farming will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal reduction (if any) on agricultural potential of the land as well as a management tool to control vegetation growth. An Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment has been commissioned to *inter alia* model and map the terrain units, soil patterns and land capability values, as well as perform Veld Condition Assessments (VCA) and Grazing Assessments (carrying capacity). The aim is to generate sound site-specific grazing management recommendations and ensure that farming within the facility remains sustainable.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



---


**Shannon Farnsworth** (Reg. EAP)  
*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*  
**Ecoleges Environmental Consultants**

**Mobile:** +27 (0)72 654 8202  
**Email:** [shannon@ecoleges.co.za](mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za)

Comments on the BID received from SAHRA dated 04 March 2022:

**Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility**

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgit  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggit@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022  
Page No: 1

**Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

**Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor**  
Ecologes Environmental Consultants  
PO Box 9005  
NELSPRUIT  
1200

**The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa**

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the proposed development of a 400MW Solar Photovoltaic facility on the remainder of and portion 3 the Farm Goede Hoop 26C, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that an application specific Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)(b)(iii) of NEMA. This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

SAHRA requests that an assessment of the impacts to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)(b)(iii) of NEMA be conducted as part of the EA process.

The assessment must include an assessment of the impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see [www.asapa.co.za](http://www.asapa.co.za) or [www.aqhp.org.za](http://www.aqhp.org.za) for a list of qualified archaeologists).



**Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility**

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4627 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

**Enquiries:** Natasha Higgit  
**Tel:** 021 462 4502  
**Email:** nhiggit@sahra.org.za  
**CaseID:** 17965

**Date:** Friday March 04, 2022  
**Page No:** 2

The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft Scoping and EIA documents inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

---

**Natasha Higgit**  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

**Phillip Hine**  
Manager, Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover

Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4500 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 17065

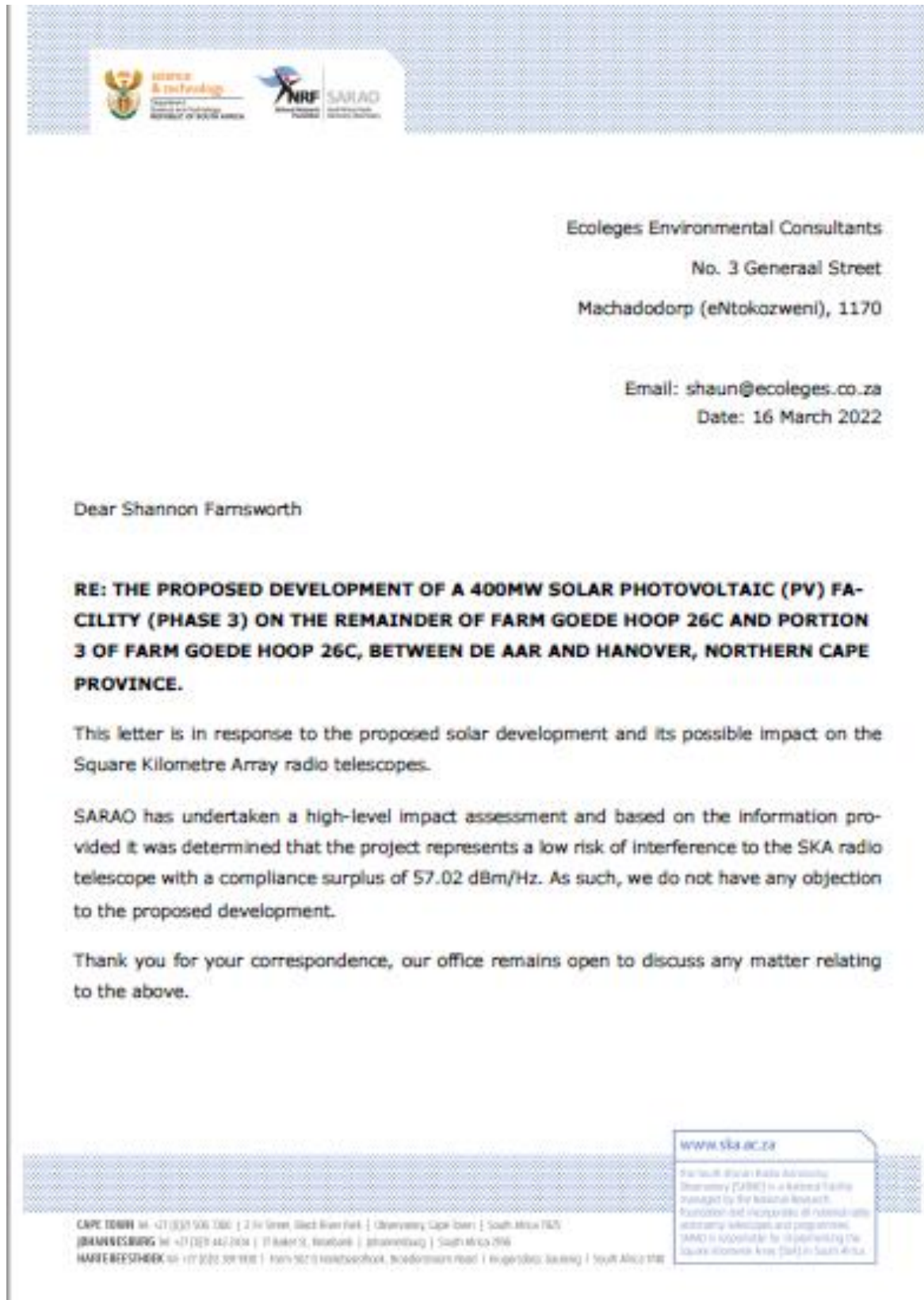
Date: Friday March 04, 2022  
Page No: 3

South African Heritage Resources Agency

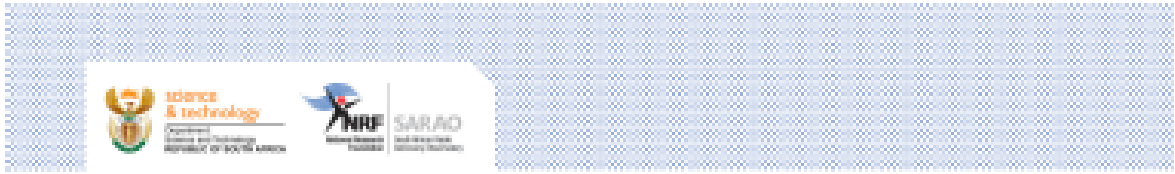
---

ADMIN:  
Direct URL to case: <https://sahrns.sahra.org.za/node/592717>

Comments on BID received from SARAO on 16 March 2022:







Regards,

Mr Selaelo Matihane

Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAQ)

Tel: 011 442 2434

Email: smatihane@ska.ac.za

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover

Comments on the BID submitted by Manuel Orfao on 22 March 2022:

Kennisgewing & Agtergrond Inligting Dokument: Solar PV (Phase 3) EIA February 17, 2022

REGISTRASIE- EN KOMMENTAARBLAD

400 MW SONFOTOVOLTAISE (FV) FASILITEIT (FASE 3) OP DIE RES VAN DIE PLAAS GOEIE HOOP 26C EN GEDEELTE 3 VAN DIE PLAAS GOEIE HOOP 26C, TUSSEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Titel: <u>Mr.</u> Naam: <u>Manuel</u>	
Van: <u>Orfao</u>	
Maatskappynnaam / Belangegroep: <u>M.C. Orfao</u> <u>Skilpadskuil</u>	
Pos- of Woonadres: <u>99 Visser Street</u> <u>De Aar, 7000</u>	
Dorp / Stad: <u>De Aar</u>	
Pos Kode: <u>7000</u>	
Tel: <u>(053) 6310926</u>	
Sel: <u>0827841972</u>	
Faks: <u>(053) 6310926</u>	
E-posl adres: <u>mcorfao@worldonline.co.za</u>	
<p>'n Geregisteerde belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party is geregtig om beswaar te maak en skriftelik kommentaar te lewer op alle skriftelike voorleggings, insluitend konsepverslae wat aan die bevoegde en/of verantwoordelike owerheid gemaak is, mits - (c) die belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party enige direkte besigheid, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat daardie party mag hê by die goedkeuring of weiering van die aansoek. Verskaf asseblief sulke inligting in die spasie hieronder verskaf.</p>	
Dui asseblief met 'n X aan of u op hoogte gehou wil word van die GA & BA-proses.	
JA, ek wil graag op hoogte gehou word	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NEE, ek stel nie belang nie	<input type="checkbox"/>

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover

Kennisgewing & Agtergrond Inligting Dokument: Solar PV (Phase 3) EIA February 17, 2022

As "JA", dui asb aan met 'n X hoe u op hoogte gehou wil word.

E-pos	
Faks	X

**KOMMENTAAR:** (Indien u meer spasie benodig as wat voorsien word, heg asseblief addisionele bladsye aan)

1. Veiligheid van woners, besoekers
2. Diefstal en inbrake agv ontwikkeling
3. Uitsig: sonpanele in sig vanaf skilpadskuil, nie meer natuur uitsig.
4. Grondwaarde: grond gaan heel moontlik minder waarde he agv. ontwikkeling vir toekomstige kopers
5. Toestand van paaie: die paaie gaan heel moontlik verswak agv. swaar voertuie
6. Gevaar van brande agv werkers
7. Gevaar dat sonpanele beskadig kan word gedurende jagte.  
(in derde van Skilpadskuil grens teen Fase 2/3)

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Response to comments on the BID submitted by Manuel Orfao in both English and Afrikaans on 26 March 2022:



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PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170  
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[www.ecoleges.co.za](http://www.ecoleges.co.za)

99 Visser Street  
De Aar  
7000

June 2, 2022

Attention: Manuel Orfao  
Email: [mcorfao@worldonline.co.za](mailto:mcorfao@worldonline.co.za)

**RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER**

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the above project as well as providing comments on the BID that was circulated via email on 17 February 2022.

The comments received on the BID via email on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 have reference:

**Comment No. 1 and No. 2:**

1. "Safety of the residents and visitors."
2. "Theft and burglary due to the development."

**Response No. 1 and No. 2:**

The solar PV facility will not alter the remoteness of the area considering that it will not improve accessibility or promote the establishment of townships. Nonetheless, we intend on securing the remoteness and safety of the area by proposing the following mitigations.

Security during construction

- (6) Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
- (7) No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.
- (8) Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.

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**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Reg: 2006/023163/23

- (9) Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicates with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.
- (10) An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

#### Security during operation

- (2) Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.

#### **Comment No.3:**

*“View impairment – The area designated for the solar panels are visible from Skilpadskuil, which means that the view will no longer be a nature scenery.”*

#### **Response No. 3:**

A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is being undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures recommended by the appointed visual impact specialist.

#### **Comment No. 4:**

*“Land/Farm Value – The value of the land/farm will most likely decrease due to the development, which may have an effect on future buyers (including farmers – looking to buy the land).”*

#### **Response No. 4:**

A Socio-economic Impact Assessment is being undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated accordingly.

#### **Comment No. 5:**

*“Road conditions – The condition of the roads will most likely deteriorate as a result of the heavy vehicles using the roads.”*

#### **Response No. 5**

The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.

Furthermore, a Traffic Impact Assessment is also being undertaken.

#### **Comment No. 6:**

*“Risk of veld fires caused by workers during the construction of the plant.”*

**Response No. 6:**

Risk of veld fires both during the construction and operational phases has been identified as a potential impact. It should be noted that no accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site. Nonetheless, we intend on addressing this concern by proposing the following mitigations.

- 1) Open fires are prohibited;
- 2) Burning of waste is prohibited; and
- 3) Maintenance of firebreaks around the perimeter of the proposed development.

**Comment No. 7:**

*“Risk of solar panels being damaged during the hunting season (1/3 of Skilpadskuil borders the Phase 2 & Phase 3 development).”*

**Response No. 7:**

Your concern is a real risk and very much appreciated. We welcome any suggestions that will improve the safety of neighbouring landowners and their property during the hunting season, such as identifying no shooting zones, notifying neighbouring properties of imminent hunts, hunters taking out the appropriate insurances, etc.

Applicable specialists were requested to include some of your concerns in their scope and offer solutions by way of mitigations. These studies will hopefully provide us with answers to make informed decisions going forward. Your concerns are now a part of our EIA process. Please take the time to review our draft reports when we distribute them for comment to ensure that we have adequately addressed you concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Shannon Farnsworth** (Reg. EAP)  
*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*  
**Ecoleges Environmental Consultants**

**Mobile:** +27 (0)72 654 8202  
**Email:** [shannon@ecoleges.co.za](mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za)

Response: BID comments\_Manuel Orfao 24/03/2022



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[www.ecoleges.co.za](http://www.ecoleges.co.za)

Visser Straat 99

De Aar

7000

25 Maart, 2022

Aandag: Manuel Orfao

Epos: [morfao@worldonline.co.za](mailto:morfao@worldonline.co.za)

**RE: REAKSIE OP KOMMENTAAR ONTVANG OP DIE AGTERGRONDINLICHTINGS-DOKUMENT (BID) VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN 'N 400 MW SONFOTOVOLTAÏSE FASILITEIT (FASE 3) OP DIE OORBLYWENDE DEEL VAN PLAAS GOEDE HOOP 26C HOOP EN GEDEELTE 3 EN VAN PLAAS GOEDE HOOP 26C, TUSSEN DE AAR & HANOVER**

Eerstens wil ons u erken en bedank dat u as 'n Belangstellende en Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) vir die bogenoemde projek geregistreer het, asook dat u kommentaar gelewer het op die BID wat op 17 Februarie 2022 per e-pos gesinkuleer is.

Die kommentaar wat op die BID per epos op 22 Maart 2022 ontvang is, het verwysing:

**Kommentaar No. 1 en No. 2:**

1. "Veiligheid van die Inwoners en besoekers."
2. "Diefstal en Inbrake as gevolg van die ontwikkeling."

**Reaksie No. 1 en No. 2:**

Die sonkragfasiliteit sal nie die afgeleë ligging van die gebied verander nie, aangesien dit nie toeganklikheid sal verbeter of die stigting van townships sal bevorder nie. Nietemin beoog ons om die afgeleë ligging en veiligheid van die gebied te verseker deur die volgende versagtings voor te stel.

**Sekuriteit gedurende konstruksie**

- (1) Sekuriteit tydens konstruksie sal versag word deur eers die omtrekheining op te rig om enige beweging uit die ontwikkelingsvoetspoor te voorkom.
- (2) Geen akkommodasie sal vir kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs op die konstruksieterein voorsien word nie.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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- (3) Verder sal die aantal konstruksiewerkers beperk word deur die fasiliteit in opeenvolgende fases van 100 MW-blokke te bou in plaas daarvan om die 400 MW-fasiliteit op een slag te probeer bou.
- (4) Sekuriteit sal regdeur konstruksie aangestel word. Alle kontrakteurs en werkers sal foto-identifikasiekaarte moet dra en voertuie sal voertuiglogo's moet vertoon, wat dit makliker maak vir omliggende grondelenaars (boere) om vreemdelinge te identifiseer. Verder sal daar voorgestel word dat die applikant met die grondelenaars kommunikeer voordat die konstruksiefase 'n aanvang neem om die plaaslike boere te formaliseer en vertrouwd te maak met die voormelde sekuriteitsreëlings.
- (5) 'n Induksieprogram wat 'n Gedragskode vir alle kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs insluit, sal ontwikkel word.

**Sekuriteit tydens operasie**

- (1) Sekuriteit sal regdeur die operasie aangestel word om kriminele elemente te ontmoedig. Die fasiliteit sal ook omhein word met 'n 2,5 m hoë draadgaasveiligheidsheining met beheerde toegang deur 'n veiligheidshek. Verder sal die omtrek heining beveilig word met behulp van veelvuldige FLIR PTZ sekuriteitskameras wat 'n 2 km reikafstand in absolute duisternis het.

**Kommentaar No. 3:**

*"Uitsig – Sonpanele sigbaar vanaf Skilpadskuil, nie meer natuuruitsig nie"*

**Reaksie No. 3:**

'n Landskap/Visuele Impakstudie word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie proses ondemeem. Die aangestelde spesials wat die landskap-/visuele impakbepaling ondemeem is Stephen Stead van Visual Resource Management Africa. Ons sal jou op hoogte hou van die bevindings en enige voorgestelde versagtingsmaatreëls wat deur die aangestelde visuele Impakspeials aanbeveel word.

**Kommentaar No. 4:**

*"Grondwaarde – Grond gaan heel moontlik minder waarde hê as gevolg van ontwikkeling vir toekomstige kopers."*

**Reaksie No. 4:**

'n Sosio-ekonomiese Impakstudie word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie proses ondemeem. Ons het die spesials gevra om sover moontlik na te vors oor die geldigheid van die genoemde bewering dat sonkrag fasiliteite in landelike gebiede die eiendoms waarde van plase verminder. Ons sal jou dienoooreenkomstig op hoogte hou.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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**Kommentaar No. 6:**

*"Toestand van paale – Paale gaan heel moontlik verswak as gevolg van swaar voertuie."*

**Reaksie No. 6:**

Die aansoeker sal onderhoud doen op enige agteruitgang van die distriksgrondpaale as gevolg van verhoogde verkeer tydens konstruksie.

Verder word 'n Verkeersimpakstudie ook onderneem.

**Kommentaar No. 8:**

*"Gevaar van brande as gevolg van werkers"*

**Reaksie No. 8:**

Die risiko van veldbrande beide tydens die konstruksie- en bedryfsfase is geïdentifiseer as 'n potensieël impak. Daar moet kennis geneem word dat geen akkommodasie vir kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs op die konstruksie terrein voorsien sal word nie. Nietemin beoog ons om hierdie bekommernis aan te spreek deur die volgende versagtings voor te stel:

- (1) Oop vure is verbode;
- (2) Verbranding van afval is verbode; en
- (3) Instandhouding van brandbane rondom die omtrek van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling moet gedoen word.

**Kommentaar No. 7:**

*"Gevaar dat sonpanele beskadig kan word gedurende jagte. ('n derde van Skilpadskull grens aan Fase 2 en Fase 3)."*

**Reaksie No. 7:**

Jou kommer is 'n werklike risiko en word baie waardeer. Ons verwelkom enige voorstelle wat die veiligheid van naburige grondelenaars en hul eiendom gedurende die jagseisoen sal verbeter, soos om "geen skietsones" te identifiseer, naburige eiendomme van naderende jagtogte in kennis te stel, jagters wat die toepaslike versekering uitneem, ens.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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Response: BID comments\_Manuel Ortao 24/03/2022

Toepaslike spesialiste is versoek om sommige van u bekommernisse in hul omvang in te sluit en oplossings by wyse van versagting te bied. Hierdie studies sal hopelik vir ons antwoorde gee om ingeligte besluite vorentoe te neem. Jou bekommernisse is nou deel van ons Omgewingsimpakstudie proses. Neem asseblief die tyd om ons konsepverslae te hersien wanneer ons dit vir kommentaar versprei om te verseker dat ons u bekommernisse voldoende aangespreek het.

Moet asseblief nie hulwer om ons te kontak indien u enige verdere navrae of bekommernisse het nie.

Die uwe,



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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**Annexure F: Records of Meetings**

**N/A**



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
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**Annexure G: Registered Interested and Affected Parties**



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
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**Annexure H: Comments and Response Report**



**MEMBERS:** J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
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