

Mercury Cluster Project, Viljoenskroon, Free State Province

Minutes of meetings held with the directly affected farmers / landowners (Held at different on-site locations on Thursday 18 November 2021)

1. ATTENDANCE (SIGNED ATTENDANCE REGISTER IS ATTACHED HERETO)

Christoff Le Grange - Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
Mr Johann Lanz – Johann Lanz Soil Scientist
Annelize Grobler - Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Susanna Nel - Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Farmers / Landowners :

Mr John Gossayn
Mr Ryan Gossayn
Mr Derrick Gossayn
Mr Hans Pretorius
Mr Peet Botha
Mr Cobus Botha

2. PURPOSE OF MEETING

The following information was communicated with all the attendees (a one pager info document with maps was also provided to them) :

Mulilo Renewable Project Developments appointed Landscape Dynamics to obtain Environmental Authorisation for the following project :

The Mercury Cluster Project involves the following project components :

- 100MW Photo Voltaic Solar Farms with associated infrastructure
- 132kV grid connection(s) to connect the solar farms with the existing Mercury Main Transmission Substation

The assessment area involves approximately 4 300ha. A Site Screening Investigation with relevant key specialists were undertaken to confirm the obvious no go areas associated with the proposed project site. The outcome would be to provide Mulilo with an area map with land potentially suitable and viable for solar farm development.

The key specialists are the following :

- The Agricultural Specialist - Most of the land is considered High Agricultural Sensitivity Land according to the Screening Tool and this could impact significantly on the land viable for solar farm development; also, approval in terms of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act (Act 70 of 1970) (SALA) might be required by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).
- Fauna & Flora Specialists - Important for the identification of suitable and sensitive habitat
- Avi-Fauna Specialist - Important for the identification of suitable and sensitive avifauna habitat
- Aquatic specialist - To identify and delineate riverine and wetland areas with associated buffer zones

The purpose of the meetings with the farmers specifically was to obtain the following information :

- Confirm the areas of land on their properties which they want to make available for solar farm development
- Obtain their opinion in terms of agricultural potential of the land
- Confirm restrictions in terms of agricultural development on specific portions of land.

3. KEY NOTES RESULTING FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH FARMERS

The Gossayn Family

- They confirmed that sections of land are plantable but not highly producing.
- Sections of land have little water retention and are situated on shallow soils and 'oukclip'.
- The land suitable for planting is mostly limited to maize farming. Other farm products include peanuts, soya, beans and sunflowers.
- They have little rainfall and no formal irrigation in place.
- They indicated on the A1 map provided which areas are economically viable to farm and which cannot be economically farmed for the reasons provided above. This information will be considered by Mr Lanz in his agric screening report.
- No farm labourers will be replaced, neither will any of the 7 permanent workers lose their jobs as a result of the solar farms
- No graves occur on the land.
- No land claims are registered against the land.
- Mr Gossayn said that they could provide offset land, but Mr Lanz confirmed that DALRRD wants to protect land with agricultural potential to be used in the future.
- They agreed to obtain evidence in terms of soil tests, depths, classification, etc

Mr Hans Pretorius

- He only farms with maize, but is restricted due to shallow ground and 'oukclip'.
- The depth of his soil is less than 120cm.
- A large portion of his land (approximately 340ha) has been used only for grazing over the last 10 years.
- His land has a relative flat topography and some areas are waterlogged which results in the drowning of the crops.
- Mr Lanz confirmed that DALRRD is not as concerned about grazing land as it is about land on which crop cultivation can take place.

Messrs Peet & Cobus Botha

- They indicated on the A1 map provided which areas do not have good agricultural potential.
- This is based on the occurrence of lots of sand, limited soil depths, 'oukclip' and a bluegum bush.
- They confirmed that the maize either drowns or dies of drought in specific areas.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

Mr Johann Lanz will provide a risk assessment based on his site verification as well as the communication with the farmers. His findings will be integrated with the recommendations of the other specialists (refer to in Paragraph 2 above) and a combined preliminary sensitivity map can then be submitted to Mulilo for consideration. Should Mulilo decide to go ahead with this project, his detailed report will include a soil analysis of the relevant sections of land.

Project Name : Mercury Cluster Project, Viljoenskroon, Free State Province

Date : Thursday 18 November 2021 at 10:00

Venue : Gossayn's Garage (Sasol) in Viljoenskroon

Meeting : Focus Group Meeting with Potential Directly Affected Landowners



**LANDSCAPE
DYNAMICS**

**Environmental Impact Assessment Process : Public Participation Programme
Attendance Register**

NAME	Interest	Telephone number	E-mail address	Signature
Susana Nel	EAP	082 888 4060	Susanna@ Landscape .co.za	
Johann Louw	Specialist	082 927 9018	JOHANN@JOHANN LANZ.CO.ZA	
Christoff Le Grange	MULLO	0798212061	christoff@mulilo.com	
Annelize Grobler	Landscape Dynamics	082 506 4530	annelize@ landscapeDynamics.co.za	
Gyan Gossayn		019 924 2996	gyan.gossayn@gmail.com	

10:00
a.m.

NAME	Interest	Telephone number	E-mail address	Signature
John Gossain		082 401 3653	aligossain@vjk.co.za	
Derrick Gossain		056 343 2000	"	
Hans Proteus		082 800 6432	probsja@gmail.com	
Paul Botha and Cobus Botha		052 4644429	ichthus441@gmail.com	

10:50
a.m.

12:00