

7 April 2025

**Attention: Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd**

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**To whom it may concern:**

**SOIL AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST OPINION INPUT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMANSRUS SOLAR PV 2 (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE RE CAPITAL 14 SOLAR POWER PLANT), HUMANSRUS, NORTHERN CAPE.**

## **1. Background**

Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd proposes the amendment of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a solar photovoltaic (PV) Project, Humansrus Solar PV 1, with a generation of 100 megawatts (MW). The project is located near Copperton on the Remainder of Farm 147, Humansrus, within the Pixley Ka Seme District in the Northern Cape Province, under the jurisdiction of the Siyathemba Local Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province.

The proposed solar development is situated adjacent to the R357 Provincial Road, approx. 6km north of the existing Kronos Substation. The total farm area is 4769 hectares (ha). Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (referred to as Humansrus PV 2) is approximately 290 ha. The entire extent of Humansrus PV 2 is referred to as the Project footprint (there are no alterations to the previous approved project footprint) throughout the specialist amendment letter.

Condition 6 of the Environmental Authorisation issued on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, DEA Reference 14/12/16/3/3/2/673 states that:

*“This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of the authorisation (i.e. the EA lapses on 17 June 2025). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.”*

The EA for Humansrus Solar PV 2 is nearing expiration and as such Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd is now applying for an amendment to the EA. Specifically, they are requesting an extension of the validity period of the EA by an additional 10 years to 2035.

The soil and agricultural assessment by Lubbe, C R, (2014) as part of the initial EIA study confirmed that, the agricultural potential was low and that there were no active cultivated areas within the proposed project area.

This letter serves as a specialist opinion to the abovementioned report for the specialist input to inform the environmental impact assessment application. The purpose of this letter is to comment on whether there were any changes/impacts to the land capability resources identified in 2014.

The follow-up specialist site survey on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2025, confirmed that the findings of the previous study (2014) remain valid taking cognisance that, no active cropping practices or irrigation infrastructure are found in the project area or has occurred over the lapsed years on the proposed PV facility site, the proposed project area has a low land capability and potential for cropping practices. The impacts on the overall soil and land capability sensitivity were “Low” across the project area. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) amendment can be favourably considered for authorisation with mitigations.

Aquatic Biodiversity

Mitigation measures and recommendations prescribed in the Lubbe, C R, (2014) report assessment are still applicable.

Kind regards,



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April 2025



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