

7 June 2025

Attention: Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2(Pty) Ltd
Phunge Muwanwa: p.muwanwa@grupocobra.com

To whom it may concern:

SOIL AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST OPINION INPUT FOR THE PART 1 AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMANSRUS SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY 2 (PTY) LTD (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE RE CAPITAL 14 SOLAR POWER PLANT) GRID CONNECTION, HUMANSRUS, NORTHERN CAPE

1. Background

Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (RF) (Pty) Ltd proposes the amendment of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction, operation and maintenance of the grid connection (referred to as HR2). The grid connection runs from the proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) Project, Humansrus Solar PV 2, with a generation of 100 megawatt (MW), to the nearby Kronos substation. The project is located near Copperton, within 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 project consists of the construction of a new 132 kilo-volt (kV) powerline linking the onsite substation 1 to the existing Kronos substation. The powerline runs from the proposed Humansrus Solar PV 2, parallel to the gravel road, R357 (Prieska-Vanwyksvlei) across the farm Hoekplaas 146 property, to the existing Kronos substation. The powerline is approximately 4.5 km in length.

A 50 metre (m) buffer was applied to the provided powerline to determine the Project Area of Influence (PAOI) for the purposes of this report (Figure 1).

The amendment Environmental Authorisation issued on the 26th of March 2020, DEA Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/1318/AM2 states that:

“This activity must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of expiry of the EA issued on 30 April 2025 (i.e. commence by 30 April 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 Grid Connection (HR2) is nearing expiration and as such Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd is applying for an extension of the validity of the existing Environmental Authorisation. The amendment request is to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation by an additional 10 years to 2035.

Cape EAPrac has been appointed as the Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to prepare the EA Amendment Application. The EA Amendment is being completed in terms of Regulation 29 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended and in terms of Regulation 30(1)(a), Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) have requested specialist input to inform the amendment application.

This letter serves as a specialist opinion to the abovementioned report for the specialist input to inform the EA amendment application. The location of the HR2 falls outside of the area that was assessed during the 2014 survey, however occurs within the same local area and thus the purpose of this letter

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is to comment on whether there were any changes/impacts to the land capability resources identified in 2014.

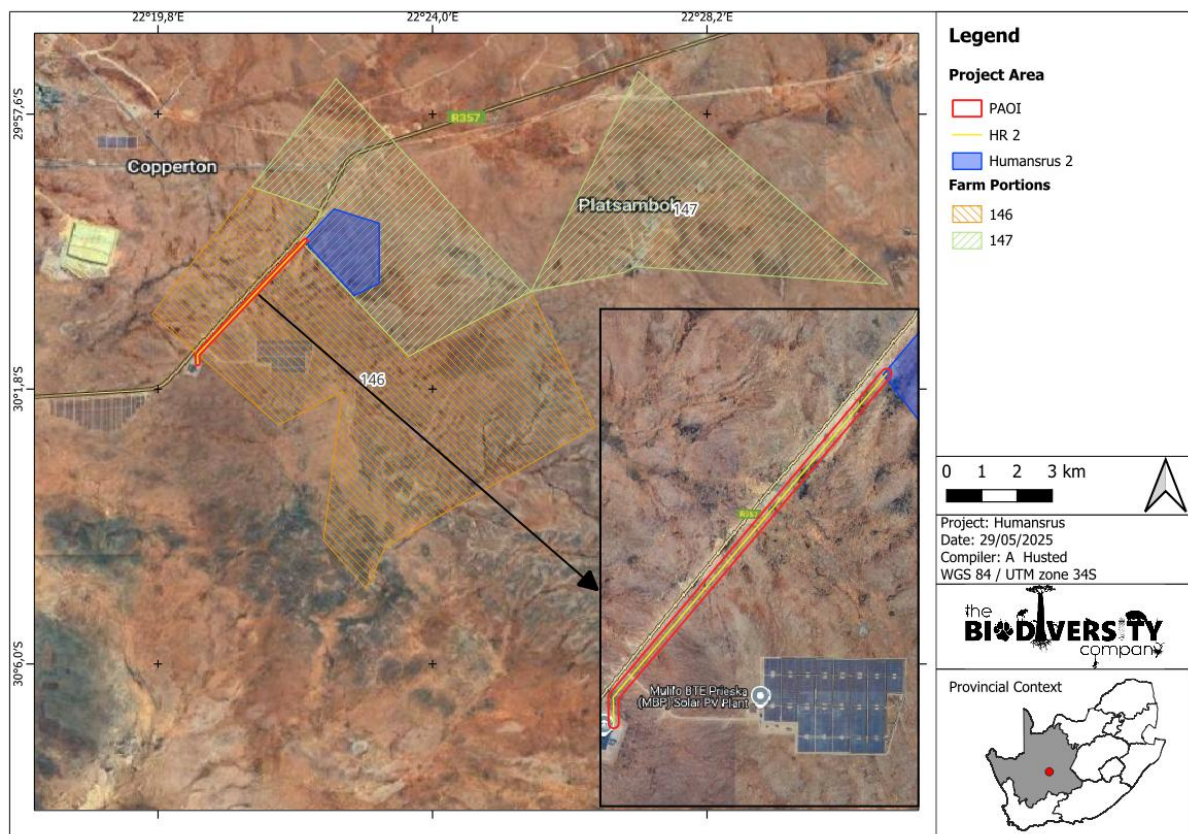


Figure 1 *The Project Area of Influence, consisting of the proposed powerline route within a 50m assessment corridor. Humansrus Solar PV 2 and the farm portions are also shown.*

The follow-up specialist site survey on the 3rd of April, 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 HR 2 alignment, the proposed project area has a low land capability and potential for cropping practices. Additionally the proposed HR2 OHL occurs in close proximity to an existing road and the expected edge effects, further contributing the low sensitivity.

The impacts to the overall soil and land capability sensitivity were “Low” across the project area. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) can be favourably considered for authorisation with mitigations. Mitigation measures and recommendations prescribed in the Lubbe, C R, (2014) report assessment are still applicable.

Kind regards,

Dr Matthew Mamera (Pr Sci Nat 116356)

Soil and Agricultural Scientist

The Biodiversity Company

May 2025