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APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED KOPANYA SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC 2 PROJECT
BOOYSENDAL PLATINUM (PTY) LTD, SOUTH MINE, MPUMALANGA
(DMPR Ref No. MP 30/5/1/2/3/2/1 (127) (10333) MR)
GCS Ref. No: 25-0608

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed Kopanya Solar Photovoltaic 2 Project (the proposed Project), the Basic Assessment (BA) process and opportunities to participate and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

The objectives of this document are to:

- Provide I&APs with background information on the proposed Project;
- Describe the proposed Project and associated infrastructure;
- Outline the environmental application and assessment process being followed; and
- Explain how I&APs can register, obtain further information, raise concerns and submit comments for consideration during the decision-making process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Booysendal Platinum (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) proposes to develop the Kopanya Solar Photovoltaic 2 Project (the proposed Project), comprising a 20 megawatt alternating current (MWAC) utility-scale solar photovoltaic facility and associated infrastructure at the Booysendal South Mine in Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Project will be located within the existing Booysendal Mining Right (DMPR reference number: MP 30/5/1/2/3/2/1 (127) (10333) MR) held by Booysendal Platinum (Pty) Ltd, a subsidiary of Northam Platinum Holdings Limited.

Booysendal Platinum (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant), a subsidiary of Northam Platinum Holdings Limited, proposes to develop a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facility at Booysendal South Mine.

The proposed Project will have an installed generation capacity of up to 20 megawatts alternating current and is anticipated to include approximately 35,000 bifacial PV panels mounted on single-axis tracking systems, subject to final design.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Overview of the Proposed Facility

The facility will have an installed generation capacity of 20 MWAC and will integrate with existing mining and electrical infrastructure.
The proposed Project will utilise single-axis tracking bifacial solar PV panels to optimise solar exposure throughout the day. Locating the facility within an established mining area and using modular infrastructure may reduce the need for additional land disturbance.

Solar PV Arrays and Tracking System

The facility will comprise up to approximately 35,000 bifacial PV panels, each with a typical capacity greater than 600 watts (W), mounted on single-axis tracking systems to optimise energy yield.

The racking and tracking systems will be constructed from steel sections supported by driven piles, reducing the need for extensive concrete foundations and limiting ground disturbance. Panel structures will be designed to accommodate site-specific geotechnical

conditions, wind loading, and long-term operational requirements.

Electrical Infrastructure and Grid Connection
The Project will include the following electrical and grid connection infrastructure:

- An overhead power line of up to 132 kV connecting the solar PV facility to the grid connection infrastructure;
- An on-site PV substation to collect and regulate electricity generated by the PV arrays;
- A substation adjacent to the existing Eskom substation; and
- Power transformer stations, inverters and associated electrical infrastructure housed in prefabricated units or electrical houses.
- Electricity generated will primarily supply the Booysendal South Mine. Any surplus export will be subject to the final grid connection arrangements.

LOCATION

The proposed Project will be located on Portion 8, the Remaining Extent of Portion 15 and Portion 17 of Farm No. 53 JT, within the existing Booysendal South mining right area.

The site is situated approximately 30 kilometres west of Mashishing (Lydenburg), within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The proposed development will occupy an approximate footprint of 41 hectares. The location of the proposed Project is shown in Figure 1.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) establishes the overarching legal framework for environmental management and decision-making in South Africa.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), published under Government Notice (GN) R. 982, and the associated Listing Notices identify activities requiring prior Environmental Authorisation (EA) and prescribe the applicable assessment and public participation processes

An application for EA for the proposed Project will be assessed through a BA process. The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) is identified as the competent authority for the application, subject to confirmation of the formal application details.

Based on the proposed Project description and environmental screening undertaken to date, the following listed activities are considered potentially applicable:

- Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended): Activity 1(i) – development of facilities or infrastructure for electricity generation from a renewable resource;
- Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended): Activity 11(i) – development of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, where the applicable thresholds and location requirements are met;
- Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended): Activities 12(ii)(a) and (c), and 19 – infrastructure development or earthworks within or near watercourses, where the applicable thresholds are met;
- Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended): Activity 27 – clearance of indigenous vegetation, where applicable;
- Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 985, as amended): Activity 4(f)(i)(cc) and (ee) – development of roads in specified geographical areas;
- Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 985, as amended): Activities 12(f)(i) and (ii), and 14(ii)(a), (c) and (f)(i)(dd) and (ff) – indigenous vegetation clearance and infrastructure development in specified geographical areas.

The proposed Project will also require authorisations, approvals or compliance processes in terms of:

- The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), for water uses contemplated in Sections 21(c), (g) and (i), subject to confirmation of the applicable authorisation requirements;
- The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), in respect of applicable heritage assessment and approval requirements; and
- Other applicable national or provincial environmental legislation, depending on the findings of the specialist assessments and final Project layout.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The BA process will include:

- A description of the receiving environment;
- Consideration of feasible site, layout, route, technology and no-go alternatives;
- Completion of the relevant specialist assessments;
- Identification and assessment of potential direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts;
- Development of appropriate avoidance, mitigation, rehabilitation and monitoring measures;

- Preparation of an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr);
- Public review of the Draft BAR, EMPr and supporting specialist reports;
- Consideration of and responses to comments received;
- Amendment of the proposed Project layout or mitigation measures where required; and
- Submission of the Final BAR and EMPr to the DMPR for consideration and decision-making.

The purpose of the BA process is to provide the competent authority with sufficient information to make an informed decision on whether the proposed Project should be authorised and, where applicable, the conditions under which it may proceed.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd (GCS) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake the BA process and facilitate the EA application with the DMPR.

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

The DMPR is the competent authority responsible for considering and deciding the EA application.

Other relevant organs of state will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the application and supporting environmental reports.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Process (PPP) will be undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, to ensure that I&APs are informed of the proposed Project and provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and submit comments.

The PPP will include the following:

- BID: Distribution of this BID to identified stakeholders and potentially affected parties to provide information on the proposed Project and the BA process.
- Newspaper advertisement and site notices: Publication and placement of notices to inform the broader public, surrounding landowners, lawful occupiers and road users of the application and public review period.
- Stakeholder database and consultation: Identification and registration of landowners, adjacent occupiers, communities, municipal authorities, organs of state and other interested parties, together with direct consultation where required.
- Public review and comments: The Draft BAR, EMPr and supporting specialist reports will be made available for a minimum 30-day public review period.
- Comments and Responses Report: Comments received during the PPP will be recorded, considered and addressed, as appropriate, in a Comments and Responses Report accompanying the Final BAR submitted to the DMPR.
- Decision notification: Registered I&APs will be notified of the competent authority's decision and the applicable appeal process.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Draft BAR and EMPr will be available for public review and comment from 10 November 2026 to 10 December 2026 at the following locations:

Place	Address
Lydenburg Public Library	41 Viljoen Street, Mashishing
Bakone Ba Phetla Royal Kraal – Magopheng	Ga-Phetla Village, Sticskop Makgotheng, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Tonteldoos Secondary School	Draaikraal Farm, Klipbankspruit, Roossenekal, 1066
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Satellite Office	143 Hugo Street, Roossenekal, 1066
Shopping Complex	Draaikraal
Maartenshoop Police Station	Naauwpoort Farm
Thusong Centre	Mashishing
GCS Website	https://www.gcs-sa.biz/public-documents/

Please submit written comments, questions or concerns to GCS by 10 December 2026, using the contact details provided below.

Comments received will be recorded and considered as part of the BA process. Please include the Project name when corresponding with GCS.

REGISTERING AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

I&APs are invited to register on the Project stakeholder database, review the Draft BAR and EMPr, and provide comments for consideration during the BA process. Registered I&APs will receive relevant Project notifications.

To register as an I&AP or submit comments, return the attached registration and comment form or contact GCS directly. Comments on the Draft BAR and EMPr are requested by 10 December 2026.

I&APs are invited to register on the Project stakeholder database, review the Draft BAR and EMPr, and provide comments for consideration

Attention: Paula Tolksdorff and Luyanda Macheke
Tel: +27 (0)11 803 5726
E-mail: ppp@gcs-sa.biz
Postal Address: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, Johannesburg

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd

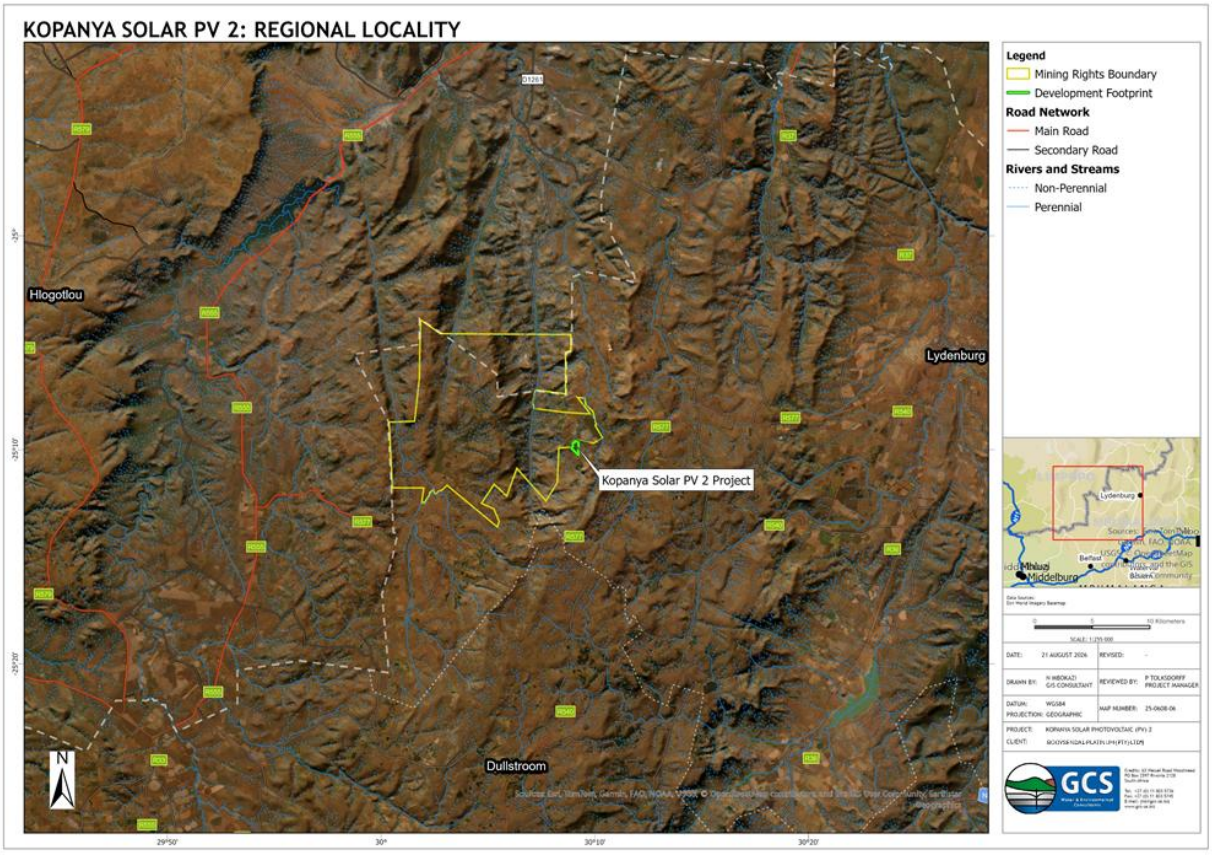


Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Kopanya Solar Photovoltaic 2 Project

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

Registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) will be informed of ongoing developments via their preferred means of communication (SMS, e-mail, post or fax). Please register as an I&AP and provide comments by sending this form, or other written correspondence, to the contact details provided below:

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Paula Tolksdorff and Luyanda Macheke
Tel: +27 (0)11 803 5726
E-mail: ppp@gcs-sa.biz
Postal Address: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, Johannesburg, 2128

Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party	Yes		No	
I would like to receive my notifications by	E-mail	SMS	Post	Fax

Please indicate which sector you represent and also provide a name

Government Department	
Municipality	
Community	
Non-Government Organisation	
Business	

If you are a *landowner* or *land occupier*, please indicate which farm(s) and portion(s) you reside on

Landowner	
Land occupier	

Please fill in your contact details below for the Project database

Title, Full Name					
Designation					
Cell phone		Fax		Tel	
E-mail					
Postal Address					

Do you have any specific concerns, issues to raise or general comments that the Applicant or Environmental Assessment Practitioner should consider? Please state below:

In compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPI Act) you are requested to provide consent to GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd (GCS) in utilising your personal information throughout the process. GCS is obliged to use this information only for the purpose of this Project.

Kindly complete the following section, as permission to engage you in respect of the Public Participation Process that will be undertaken for the Project. If there are any other stakeholders, we should include onto the stakeholder database for the Project, please provide their contact details.

Title, Full Name	
Organisation	
Cell phone	
E-mail	

Signature _____ ***Date*** _____