



# PETROCHEMICALS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ENERGY TRANSITION: AN ANALYSIS OF SECUNDA



## 20 February 2025

11h00 - 13h00 (SAST)



TIPS Office, 234 Lange St,  
Nieuw Muckleneuk, PTA



Via Zoom

## OUR SPEAKERS



Claudy Steyn, (the dtic)  
Chairperson



Pamela Mondliwa, (IDC)  
Discussant



Prof. Roderick Crompton



Dr. Bruce Young



Tristan Hahn, (TH EcoVentures)

What happens to Sasol's Secunda Coal-to-Chemicals-and-Liquids facility, which is a major contributor to the domestic economy, illustrates the difficulties South Africa faces in its transition to a lower-carbon future. Sasol, the only domestic source of petrochemicals for a myriad of downstream industries, is heavily reliant on coal, and hence is a major greenhouse gas emitter. Increasing carbon taxes, environmental pressures and potential carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAM), combined with declining coal and gas reserves that could affect its export markets, cloud its future.

This development dialogue will discuss the recently released TIPS report that explores these issues, other constraints facing Sasol and policy options going forward. Read the paper and policy brief [here](#).

For enquiries contact:  
[Daphney@tips.org.za](mailto:Daphney@tips.org.za)

# AGENDA

11:00 – 11:10 Opening Remarks by Chairperson: **Claudy Steyn** (the dtic)

11:10 – 12:30 Presentations and discussion:

- **Prof Rod Crompton** - Overview and presenting insights on Report: *South Africa's petrochemicals and basic chemicals in the context of South Africa's energy transition: Sasol's Secunda coal-to-chemicals-and-liquids facility*
- **Dr Bruce Young** - Insights on Report: *South Africa's petrochemicals and basic chemicals in the context of South Africa's energy transition: Sasol's Secunda coal-to-chemicals-and-liquids facility*
- **Tristan Hahn** (CEO, TH EcoVentures) – Insights on Report: *South Africa's petrochemicals and basic chemicals in the context of South Africa's energy transition: Sasol's Secunda coal-to-chemicals-and-liquids facility*
- **Pamela Mondliwa** (IDC) - Discussant

12:30 – 12:55 Discussion

12:55 – 13:00 Closure

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**Claudy Steyn** is the Chief Director: Chemicals Desk at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

**Prof Rod Crompton** is the CEO of Crompton Consulting. He was previously a board member of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, was Deputy Director General at the Department of Minerals and Energy, worked at the Department of Trade and Industry and ran the Minerals and Energy Policy Centre. In the pre-democratic era he was the General Secretary of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union.

**Dr Bruce Young** is an experienced chemical engineering and business development professional with a good understanding of the South African and global energy and petrochemical landscape. He has 30 years' prior work experience at Sasol and retired from Sasol in April 2021. Prior to Sasol he was a chemical engineering academic at the University of the Witwatersrand for 5 years during which time he published over twenty publications in international peer refereed journals.

**Tristan Hahn** is the CEO of TH EcoVentures. He brings over 30 years of diverse technical and business expertise in the chemicals, refining, and energy industries. His interest and engagement with climate change began in the early 2000s, focusing on the carbon management of gas-to-liquid and coal-to-liquid facilities in both developed and developing countries, giving him real world experience of the practical challenges involved. With a background as a chemical engineer, Tristan's early career centered on technology innovation, scale-up, and the execution of new technologies into first of a kind chemical facilities. Combined with extensive experience in business development and M&A, he offers a comprehensive perspective on carbon management, integrating both technical, economic and strategic considerations to drive sustainable solutions.

**Pamela Mondliwa** is the Head of Research and Information at the IDC, with expertise in industrial development, economic regulation, and competition policy. She has held key roles in government, academia, and consultancy, including as a Special Advisor at the Ministry of Finance. A research associate at the University of Johannesburg, she has published widely on economic policy and industrial development.

*TIPS Dialogues bring together academics, policymakers, civil society organisations, workers, and practitioners to discuss important issues and share ideas on industrial policy.*

About the Development Dialogue Seminar Series: The objective of the seminar series is to provide a platform to share views and ideas on development and policy issues. These seminars are geared towards individuals that are involved in the policy development process. To access the presentations of seminars which have already taken place, visit the [TIPS website](#) under events. This Development Dialogue will be held in a hybrid format allowing for both in-person and virtual participation.