

**Opening welcome**  
**Prof Linda Godfrey, Manager Waste RDI Roadmap**

Good morning ladies and gentleman, my name is Linda Godfrey and on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology, the National Research Foundation and the CSIR, I would like to welcome you all to the launch of the first two research chairs in solid waste management under the South African Research Chairs Initiative (or SARChi)

It is wonderful to see such a turn out today and such an interest in these research chairs. We have over 60 confirmed attendees from academia, government, business, various embassies and NGOs with us today.

A little over a year ago, the Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit, an initiative of the DST, hosted by the CSIR, partnered with the NRF to begin the process of establishing Research Chairs aligned with South Africa's Waste RDI Roadmap.

The Call was issued by the NRF in July 2017 and a total of 13 strong applications for the 2 chairs were received. Following a double external review process overseen by the NRF, the Chairs were awarded in March 2018.

The DST, NRF and CSIR are proud to introduce our chairs in Waste & Society and Waste & Climate to you.

Professor Rinie Schenck, from the University of the Western Cape brings more than 30 years of experience in the social sciences to this position. Having been previously the Head of Department Social Work at UWC. Her fields of specialisation include, amongst others, poverty and unemployment; informal employment; waste recycling; day labour studies; community development.

Professor Cristina Trois, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal brings more than 20 years of experience in waste and engineering to this new role. Serving previously as Dean of the School of Engineering at UKZN. Her fields of specialisation include waste management; renewable energy technologies; sustainable development; water and wastewater management.

We congratulate Prof Schenck and Prof Trois on their appointment.