

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended for a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) and an application for a Water Use Authorisation in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

Details of the proposed application:

Applicant:	Mr. S.J. Meyer
Farm:	Remaining Extent of the farm Hoffmans Rust 173
Magisterial District:	Wepener
Region:	Free State
Mine type:	Sand

## Introduction

Mr. S.J. Meyer intends to mine sand (approximately 4.9 Ha in size) on the Remaining Extent of the farm Hoffmans Rust 173 situated in the Magisterial District of Wepener, Free State Province. Refer to Figures 1 and 2 attached to this report for an indication of the locality and proposed site layout of the proposed development.

Proper Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd was appointed as environmental consultant to manage the application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of NEMA, 1998 as amended to be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for the following listed activities:

Activity	Activity description
Listing Notice 1, No. 21 of GNR 983 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014	<i>Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the MPRDA, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of Section 106 of the MPRDA, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002).</i>
Listing Notice 1, No. 27 of GNR 983 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014	<i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</i>  <i>(i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i>

The following processes and/or studies will be undertaken as part of the application:

- A Basic Assessment process in terms of regulations 19 and 20 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.
- Desktop study and site assessment.
- Investigation of alternatives, including the "no-go alternative".
- Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment.

- Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment.
- Ecological and wetland survey.
- Application for a Water Use Authorisation for a Section 21(a) and 21(i) Water Use in terms of the NWA, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

### **Proposed activities**

Mining activities that will be undertaken as part of the proposed operation include the following:

- Removal of vegetation
- Recovery of sand through pumping and excavation
- Stockpiling of sand
- Loading and hauling of sand
- Concurrent rehabilitation of mined out areas

The mining method proposed for the recovery of sand entails the pumping of sand from the riverbed of the Caledon River into a settling dam situated on the riverbank. The sand that has settled in the settling dam will be excavated by earthmoving equipment and stockpiled from where it will be loaded onto tipper trucks and sold to commercial buyers for use in the construction industry. No water will be used during the operation.

The potential impacts expected to be associated with the proposed operation are a) Localised destruction of vegetation; b) Elevated noise levels; c) Nuisance dust generation; d) Change in surface water flow; e) Erosion; f) Increase in suspended solids in the surface water; g) Alteration to the banks of the river; h) Visual impact; and i) Damage to access roads due to an increase in heavy vehicles.

An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be developed for implementation during all the phases of the operation. This EMPr will include management measures to prevent significant environmental impacts with specific reference to the potential impacts identified above. Where prevention is not possible, mitigation measures will be specified for implementation to limit the significance and/or extent of the impacts. A storm water management plan will form part of the EMPr to be implemented to limit erosion and aim to ensure stability of the riverbank.

Minimum environmental management measures to be implemented will include the following:

- Obtain the necessary permits and develop specific management measures should any protected species occur in the study.
- Phase the removal of vegetation as far as possible to limit the area exposed for erosion.
- Rehabilitate disturbed areas as soon as possible to limit erosion. Rehabilitation will entail the sloping of any excavated areas to ensure a free-draining area and revegetation of rehabilitated areas where necessary.
- Stabilise the banks of the river where necessary.
- Development of operational procedures to minimise the potential impact of noise and dust on the surrounding area, e.g. working hours and speed limits on access roads.
- Implementation of storm water management measures such as berms in order to divert storm water around operational areas as far as possible. This will aim to limit runoff water high in suspended solids into the river.
- Prevent any petrochemical spillages with the use of drip trays. Any spillage will be cleaned immediately.

The EMPr will also include objectives for rehabilitation and Closure as mining is a temporary land-use. It is anticipated that mining activities on the study area will be undertaken for 5 years. After this time the area disturbed by the operation will be rehabilitated and the banks of the river of the mining permit area will be stabilised where necessary. An application for Closure with a detailed rehabilitation plan will be submitted to the competent authority at the time.

### **Opportunity for public participation**

Any person potentially affected by the proposed development are invited to participate by:

- Registering as Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP).
- Providing information on how you consider that the proposed activities will impact on you or your socio-economic condition together with written proposals as to how these impacts could be mitigated.
- Providing written responses stating your suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impacts of each activity.
- Providing information on the locality of any environmental features on site and to make proposals as to how and to what standard the impacts on site can be remedied.

- Providing written proposals as to how the potential impacts on your infrastructure can be managed, avoided or remedied.
- Comment on what you consider to be positive and negative about the proposed project.
- Comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Please register and/or submit written comments to Proper Consulting Engineers by **15 December 2016** if you have any interest and/or could be affected by the proposed project. An electronic copy of the draft BAR and EMPr are available from the consultant on request.

For more information, please contact Hanri van Jaarsveld at 051 451 1721 (Tel.); 051 451 1857 (Fax); [hanri@propercon.co.za](mailto:hanri@propercon.co.za); or P.O. Box 26415, Langenhovenpark, 9330.

**Legend**

- Hoffmans Rust 173/RE
- Proposed mining area (4.99Ha)

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed mining area on the farm Hoffmans Rust 173/RE, Wepener Magisterial District, Free State Province

Date: 10/06/2016

Applicant: Mr. S.J. Meyer

Prepared by: Proper Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd

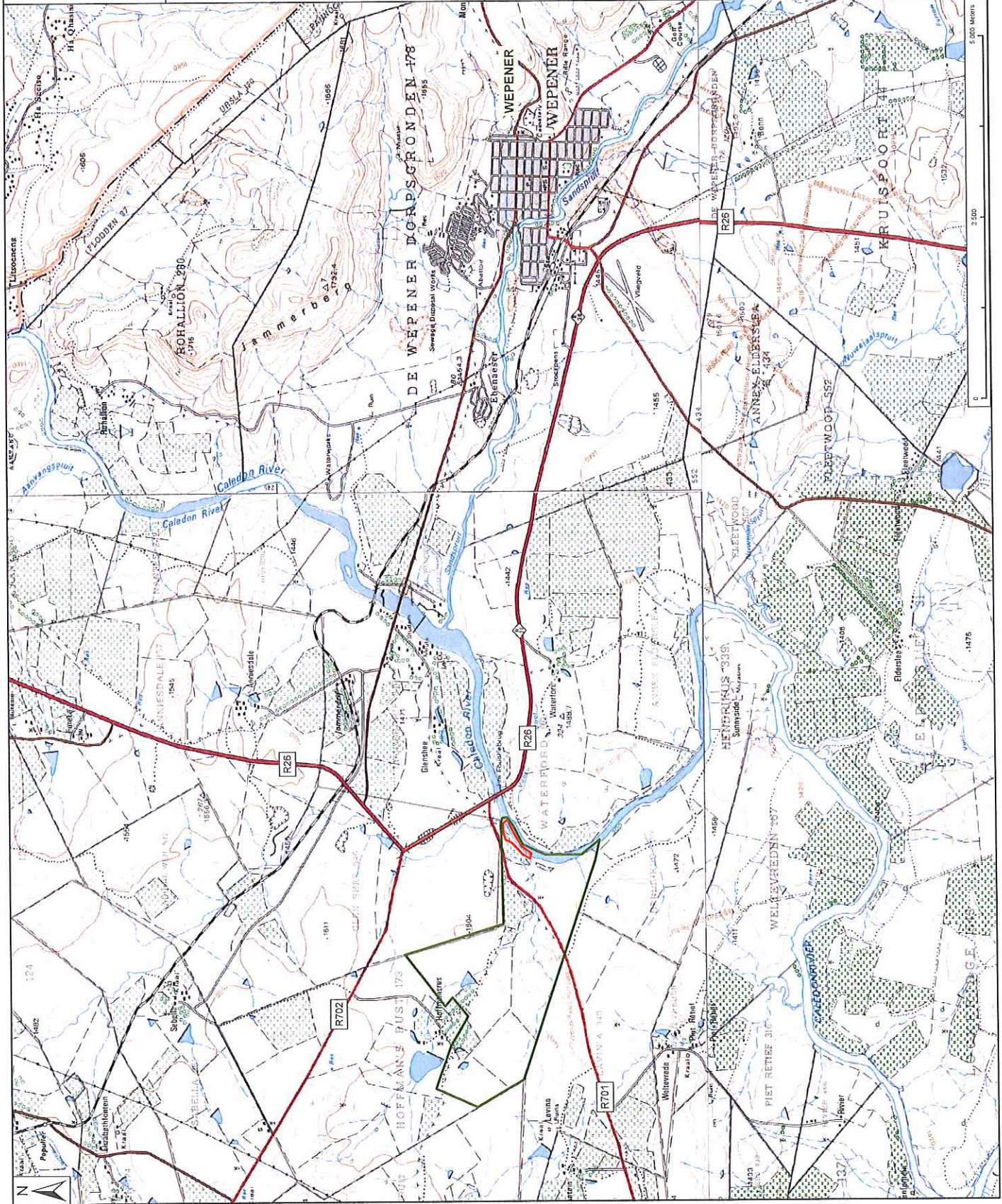
Proposed mining permit area:

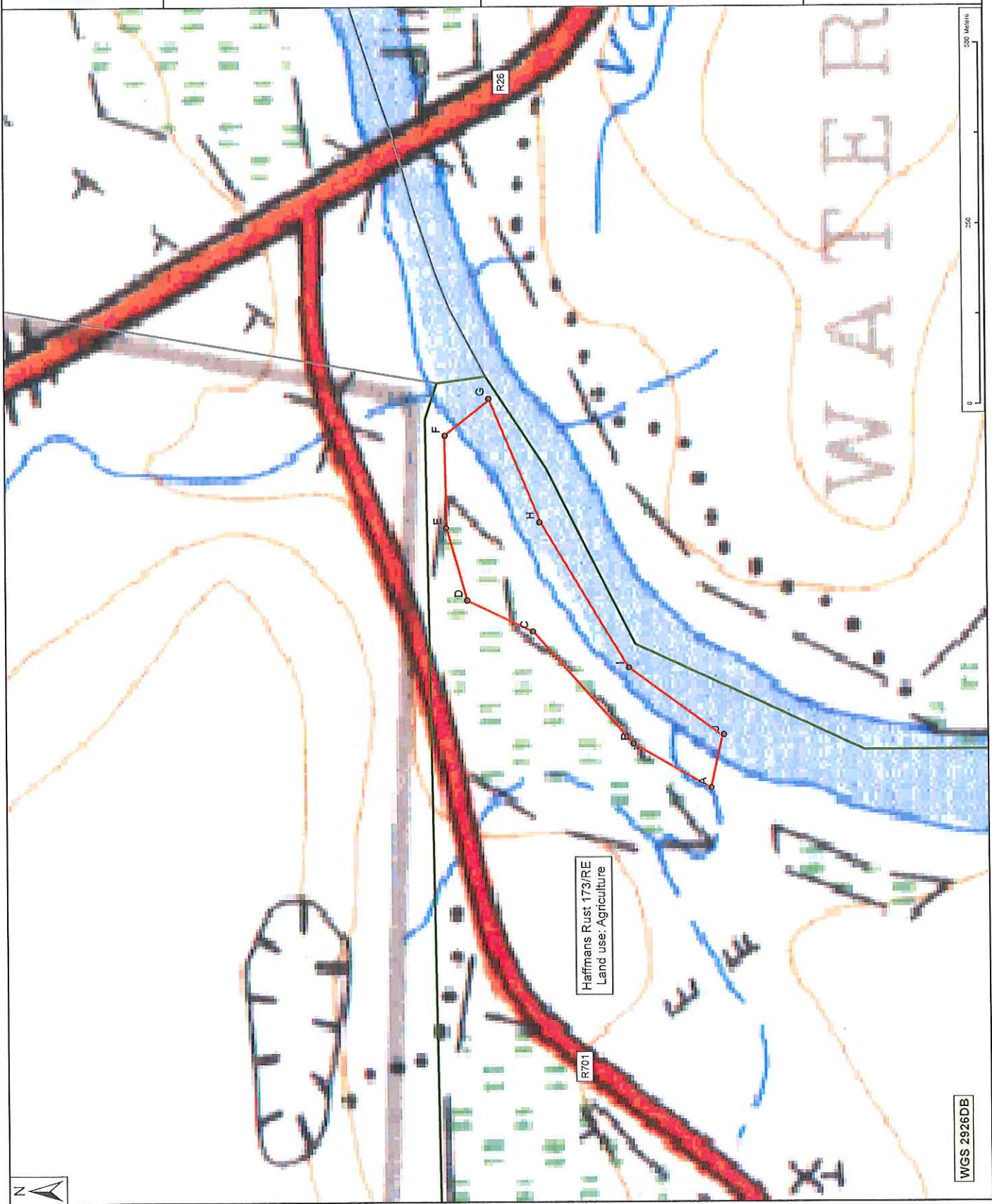
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B	-29.727633	26.954849
C	-29.726387	26.956248
D	-29.725572	26.956637
E	-29.725316	26.95754
F	-29.725307	26.958689
G	-29.725855	26.959149
H	-29.726477	26.957604
I	-29.727584	26.95797
J	-29.728757	26.954956

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984  
 Datum: WGS 1984  
 Units: Degree  
 Reference Scale: 1:50 000

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**Legend**

- Hoffmans Rust 173/RE
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Figure 2: Site map of the proposed mining area on the farm Hoffmans Rust 173/RE, Wepeper Magisterial District, Free State Province  
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Proposed mining permit area:

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WGS 2926DB