



**mineral resources**

Department:  
Mineral Resources  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**And**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT**

SUBMITTED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, 2008 IN RESPECT OF LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (MPRDA) (AS AMENDED).

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## Contents

1. Important Notice.....	5
2. Objective of the basic assessment process.....	6
3. PART A Scope of assessment and Basic Assessment Report .....	7
3.1 Details of EAP .....	7
3.1.1 Details of the EAP.....	7
3.1.2 Expertise of the EAP.....	7
3.2 Location of the overall Activity. ....	8
3.3 Locality map (show nearest town, scale not smaller than 1:250000). ....	8
3.4 Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity.....	9
3.4.1 Phase 1: Review of historical prospecting and production records: .....	9
3.4.2 Phase 2: Scout Percussion Drilling: .....	9
3.4.3 Phase 3: Detailed Percussion Drilling:.....	10
3.4.4 Phase 4: Analytical Desktop Studies: .....	10
3.4.5 Listed and specified activities .....	13
3.4.6 Description of the activities to be undertaken .....	13
3.5 Policy and Legislative Context.....	18
3.6 Need and desirability of the proposed activities. ....	20
3.7 Motivation for the overall preferred site, activities and technology alternative. ....	20
3.8 Full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternatives within the site. ....	20
3.8.1 Details of the development footprint alternatives considered. ....	20
3.8.2 Details of the Public Participation Process Followed.....	22
3.8.3 Summary of issues raised by I&As .....	24
3.8.4 The Environmental attributes associated with the alternatives.....	28
3.8.5 Impacts and risks identified including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts can be avoided, managed or mitigated.....	42
3.8.6 Methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks .....	44
3.8.7 The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity (in terms of the initial site layout) and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected. ....	45
3.8.8 The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk. ....	46
3.8.9 Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.....	53
3.8.10 Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site. (Provide a statement motivating the final site layout that is proposed).....	53
3.9 Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site (In respect of the final site layout plan) through the life of the activity. ....	53
3.10 Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk.....	54
3.11 Summary of specialist reports. ....	63
3.12 Environmental impact statement .....	64
3.12.1 Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;.....	64

3.12.2	Final Site Map.....	64
3.12.3	Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;.....	64
3.13	Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr .....	65
3.14	Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Authorisation.....	66
3.15	Description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge.....	66
3.16	Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised	66
3.16.1	Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not.....	66
3.16.2	Conditions that must be included in the authorisation .....	67
3.17	Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required.....	67
3.18	Undertaking .....	67
3.19	Financial Provision .....	67
3.19.1	Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived.....	68
3.19.2	Confirm that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure.....	68
3.20	Specific Information required by the competent Authority .....	68
3.20.1	Compliance with the provisions of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) read with section 24 (3) (a) and (7) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). the EIA report must include the:- .....	68
3.21	Other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act. ....	69
4.	PART B Draft Environmental Management Program Report.....	70
4.1	Details of the EAP.....	70
4.2	Description of the Aspects of the Activity .....	70
4.3	Composite Map.....	70
4.4	Description of Impact management objectives including management statements.....	70
4.4.1	Determination of closure objectives.....	70
4.4.2	Volumes and rate of water use required for the operation. ....	70
4.4.3	Has a water use license has been applied for? .....	70
4.4.4	Impacts to be mitigated in their respective phases.....	71
4.5	Impact Management Outcomes .....	75
4.6	Impact Management Actions.....	77
4.7	Financial Provision .....	79
4.7.1	Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they have been aligned to the baseline environment described under the Regulation. ....	79
4.7.2	Confirm specifically that the environmental objectives in relation to closure have been consulted with landowner and interested and affected parties.....	80
4.7.3	Provide a rehabilitation plan that describes and shows the scale and aerial extent of the main mining activities, including the anticipated mining area at the time of closure. ....	80
4.7.4	Explain why it can be confirmed that the rehabilitation plan is compatible with the closure objectives. ....	80
4.7.5	Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline.....	80
4.7.6	Confirm that the financial provision will be provided as determined. ....	80

4.8	Mechanisms for monitoring compliance with and performance assessment against the environmental management programme and reporting thereon, including.....	81
4.8.1	Monitoring of Impact Management Actions .....	81
4.8.2	Monitoring and reporting frequency .....	81
4.8.3	Responsible persons .....	81
4.8.4	Time period for implementing impact management actions.....	81
4.8.5	Mechanism for monitoring compliance.....	81
4.9	Indicate the frequency of the submission of the performance assessment/ environmental audit report.....	83
4.10	Environmental Awareness Plan .....	83
4.10.1	Manner in which the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work. ....	83
4.10.2	Manner in which risks will be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment.....	83
4.11	Specific information required by the Competent Authority.....	84
5.	Undertaking .....	84

## **1. Important Notice**

In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 as amended), the Minister must grant a prospecting or mining right if among others the mining “will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment”.

Unless an Environmental Authorisation can be granted following the evaluation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Management Programme report in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), it cannot be concluded that the said activities will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment.

In terms of section 16(3)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, any report submitted as part of an application must be prepared in a format that may be determined by the Competent Authority and in terms of section 17 (1) (c) the competent Authority must check whether the application has taken into account any minimum requirements applicable or instructions or guidance provided by the competent authority to the submission of applications.

**It is therefore an instruction that** the prescribed reports required in respect of applications for an environmental authorisation for listed activities triggered by an application for a right or a permit are submitted in the exact format of, and provide all the information required in terms of, this template. Furthermore, please be advised that failure to submit the information required in the format provided in this template will be regarded as a failure to meet the requirements of the Regulation and will lead to the Environmental Authorisation being refused.

**It is furthermore an instruction that** the Environmental Assessment Practitioner must process and interpret his/her research and analysis and use the findings thereof to compile the information required herein. (Unprocessed supporting information may be attached as appendices). The EAP must ensure that the information required is placed correctly in the relevant sections of the Report, in the order, and under the provided headings as set out below, and ensure that the report is not cluttered with un- interpreted information and that it unambiguously represents the interpretation of the applicant.

## **2. Objective of the basic assessment process**

The objective of the basic assessment process is to, through a consultative process—

- (a) determine the policy and legislative context within which the proposed activity is located and how the activity complies with and responds to the policy and legislative context;
- (b) identify the alternatives considered, including the activity, location, and technology alternatives;
- (c) describe the need and desirability of the proposed alternatives,
- (d) through the undertaking of an impact and risk assessment process inclusive of cumulative impacts which focused on determining the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage, and cultural sensitivity of the sites and locations within sites and the risk of impact of the proposed activity and technology alternatives on these aspects to determine:
  - (i) the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration, and probability of the impacts occurring to; and
  - (ii) the degree to which these impacts —
    - (aa) can be reversed;
    - (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and
    - (cc) can be managed, avoided or mitigated;
- (e) through a ranking of the site sensitivities and possible impacts the activity and technology alternatives will impose on the sites and location identified through the life of the activity to—
  - (i) identify and motivate a preferred site, activity and technology alternative;
  - (ii) identify suitable measures to manage, avoid or mitigate identified impacts; and
  - (iii) identify residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

### **3. PART A Scope of assessment and Basic Assessment Report**

#### **3.1 Details of EAP**

##### 3.1.1 Details of the EAP

Name of The Practitioner: N.J. van Zyl

Tel No.: 082 8898696; Fax No.: 086 6562942

e-mail address: klaaskraalbos@gmail.com

##### 3.1.2 Expertise of the EAP.

###### The qualifications of the EAP

Current qualifications in this field were obtained through formal studies at the Cape Town Technicon, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the University of the Orange Free State, which is the following:

- National Diploma Nature Conservation (1986)
- National Higher Diploma (B-Tech) Nature Conservation (1992)
- Master's Degree Environmental Management (MOB 750) (2001)

Further qualifications in this field were also obtained through short courses at the University of the Orange Free State, which is the following:

Environmental Impact Assessment (2001)

Wildlife Management through Veld Management (2001)

Resource evaluation and game ranch management (2003)

Arc GIS (2009)

###### Summary of the EAP's past experience.

(In carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure)

With the implementation of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 Mr. van Zyl has started assisting small scale miners with all facets of applications for mining permits in terms of section 27 and prospecting rights in terms of section 16 of the MPRDA. Mr van Zyl has an excellent knowledge of the relevant acts applicable to the mining sector including the following:

- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Act 49 of 2008
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Regulations 2004
- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended
- National Environment Laws Amendment Act 25 of 2014 as amended
- NEMA: Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014
- NEMA: Financial Provisioning Regulations, 2015
- NEMA: Waste Act 59 of 2008 as amended
- NEMA: Regulations regarding the Planning and Management of Residue Stockpiles and Residue Deposits, 2015
- National Water Act 36 of 1998 as amended (with special attention to section 21 water uses)

Since 2002 Mr. van Zyl completed more than 150 applications for mining permits and more than 100 applications for prospecting rights. The mineral regulations and environmental management for most of these projects were managed throughout the life of the project including:

- Applications – manual and Samrad
- Prospecting work programs including financial and technical competence
- Public participation process
- EIA and EMP's now BAR and EMP's
- Annual Rehabilitation Plans
- Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plans including Risk Assessment Reports
- Execution and registration of rights including sec 42 diagrams for MPTR0

- Performance audits including reviews of Annual Closure Plans and Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plans together with financial quantum reviews.
- Application for closure certificate

Although Mr. van Zyl specializes in small scale mining operations and prospecting operations that requires investigation, assessment and communication according to the procedure as prescribed in regulations 19 and 20 of the EIA Regulations he also assist 5 mining rights with environmental management. Other sections of the MPRDA that Mr. van Zyl has experience in is:

- Section 102 applications and Section 20 applications
- Section 53 Applications and Section 11 Applications

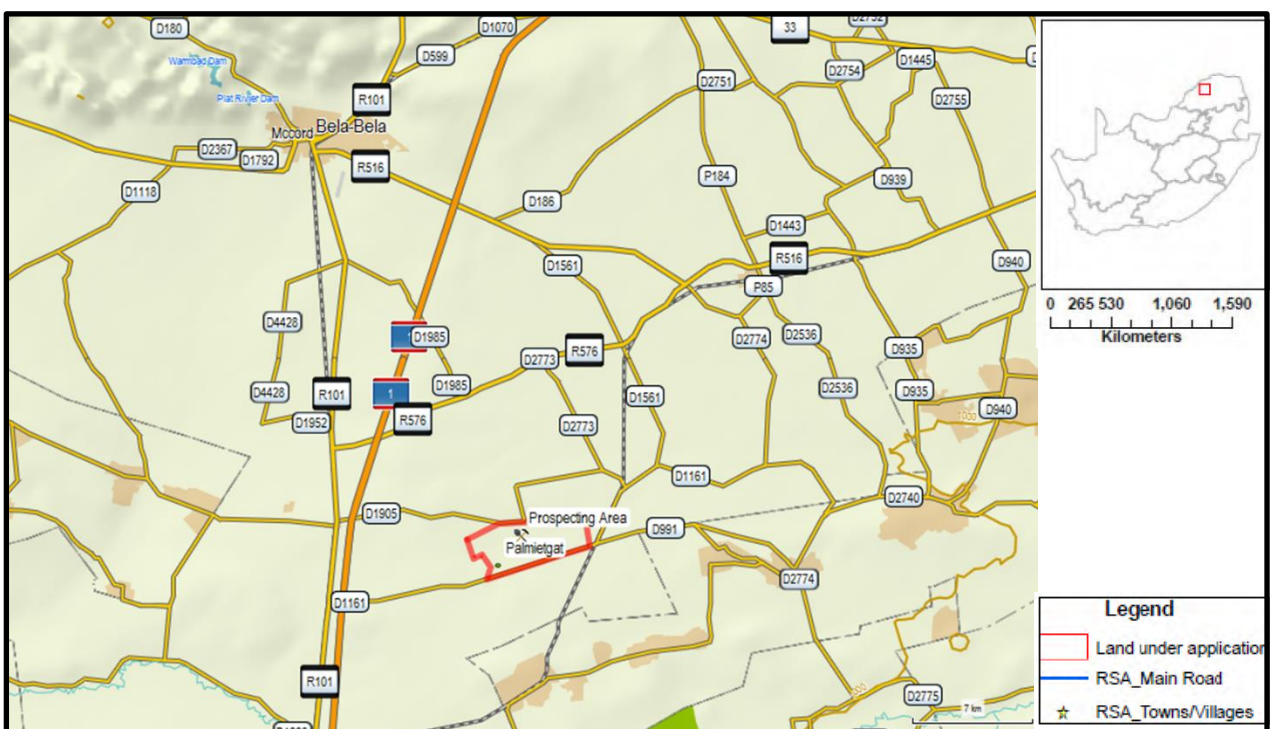
### 3.2 Location of the overall Activity.

<b>Farm Name:</b>	Portion 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the farm Palmietgat No 34JR
<b>Application area (Ha)</b>	1433.4049 Ha
<b>Magisterial district:</b>	Waterberg
<b>Distance and direction from nearest town</b>	25 km Southeast of Bela-Bela
<b>21-digit Surveyor General Code</b>	T0JR0000000003400001 T0JR0000000003400003 T0JR0000000003400005 T0JR0000000003400007

### 3.3 Locality map (show nearest town, scale not smaller than 1:250000).

The proposed Prospecting Area is located on Portion 1, 3, 5 and 7 of Farm Palmietgat No 34JR, located within the Bela-Bela Local Municipality of the Waterberg District Municipality area within the Limpopo Province. The prospecting area is located approximately 25 km Southeast of Bela-Bela.

**Figure a: Locality of the Farm Palmietgat No 34JR**





### **3.4 Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity.**

The applicant, Evoid Properties (Pty) Ltd., wishes to undertake prospecting without bulk sampling activities for diamonds (kimberlite). Prospecting for kimberlite is a dynamic and result-driven operation which proceeds in phases, the outcome of which cannot be predicted or predetermined. The program could be stopped at any stage during the prospecting operation if the results are negative or noneconomical. Prospecting activities to be undertaken include non-invasive (i.e. desktop studies and ground geophysical surveys) and invasive (i.e. drilling) techniques.

#### **3.4.1 Phase 1: Review of historical prospecting and production records:**

##### **Literature Study and Imagery Analysis**

In order to direct the exploration program in an efficient manner, there will be a review of all information and data gathered by previous exploration in the surrounding area. A desktop study will also be undertaken of the diamond potential of the total area based on historical data and data from surrounding diamond mining. A site investigation of the target areas will be undertaken to identify infrastructure and determine any potential problems that may need to be addressed if this operation advances to a mining right phase.

Aerial photographs and satellite images will be studied to ascertain additional target areas. The aerial photographs will also be used to structurally and geologically map the prospecting area and surrounds.

##### **Geological Mapping**

Any anomalous features identified from the air will be mapped in detail. The various rock types and their contacts will also be mapped.

##### **Geophysical Survey**

A 5 line kilometer magnetic survey will be undertaken using a proton-5- magnetometer. This study will result in identifying potential cross-cutting dykes where diamonds could be trapped or the presence of potential pipes. The detailed magnetic survey is proposed as the initial investigation method and on a grid of 5m X 5m. The detail generated by this study will allow for the investigation of kimberlite fissures as well.

#### **3.4.2 Phase 2: Scout Percussion Drilling:**

Percussion drill holes (usually up to 165mm in diameter) will be positioned at targets identified during geological mapping and the geophysical surveys. About 20 boreholes are planned during this phase with an average depth of 100 m. The collar position of all boreholes will be surveyed. During this drilling program samples will be collected every meter and logging will be done by a qualified geologist who will record the lithology. Apart from gravel resources calculations the drilling information will be used to construct gravel thickness, overburden thickness and bedrock elevation contour plans. After logging of the results the drill platforms will be rehabilitated and the drill holes filled with drill chips and covered with topsoil.

The environmental footprint for drilling is limited to less than 160m<sup>2</sup> per site, twenty (20) drill sites are anticipated to be carried forward to drilling. During site setup shrubs and grass will be cleared to make space for the rig. It must be noted that no roots of both grass and shrubs are reduced to minimise erosion. Consequently, the site will rapidly recover following completion of exploration activities.

The estimated volume of material to be extracted from each drill hole is 1.8m<sup>3</sup> (based on a diameter of drill hole of 165mm, and depth of drill hole of 100m). This total ±36m<sup>3</sup> of material that will be extracted from the drill holes, and thereafter replaced during

rehabilitation of the drill holes.

Water is only required when drilling activities commence. Drilling water requirements fall within the “small industrial user” where the use of water is less than twenty cubic meters per day for prospecting. The water that will be used for the prospecting activities will be sourced on agreement from an existing authorized water user which could be either the land owner or local municipality. The department responsible for water resources shall be consulted with regards to any water related agreement with either the land owner or local municipality prior to drilling. No water will be abstracted in terms of section 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998 (Act no. 36 of 1998). Drilling may take a few days to two months to complete per site depending on the geology of the area, technical challenges and other factors.

#### 3.4.3 Phase 3: Detailed Percussion Drilling:

The second phase of drilling will be large diameter (18 inch) percussion drilling at potential kimberlite pipe systems where positive results are encountered during the scout drilling phase. Two (2) drill sites are anticipated to be carried forward to detailed large diameter drilling and would give a good idea of the grade and morphology of any pipes discovered. A resource calculation would then be completed following a detailed analysis of the chip samples. It is important to test for G10 garnets and to obtain an idea as to what standard the pipe is mineralized.

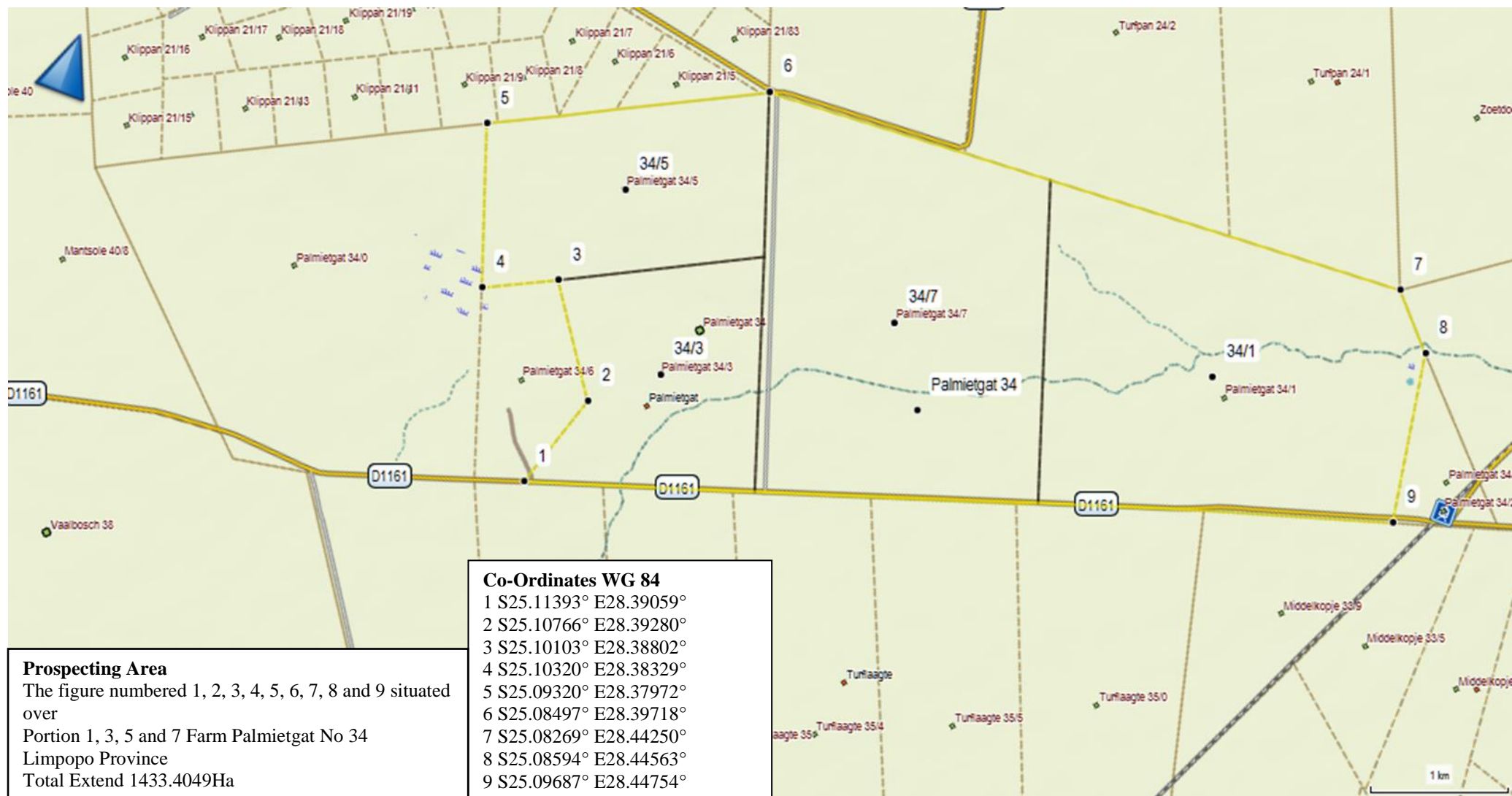
#### 3.4.4 Phase 4: Analytical Desktop Studies:

The project geologist monitors the program, consolidates and processes the data and amends the program depending on the results. This is a continuous process throughout the program and continues even when no prospecting is done on the ground. Each physical phase of prospecting is followed by desktop studies involving interpretation and modelling of all data gathered. These studies will determine the manner in which the work program is to proceed in terms of activity, quantity, resources, expenditure and duration. A GIS based database will be constructed capturing all exploration data.

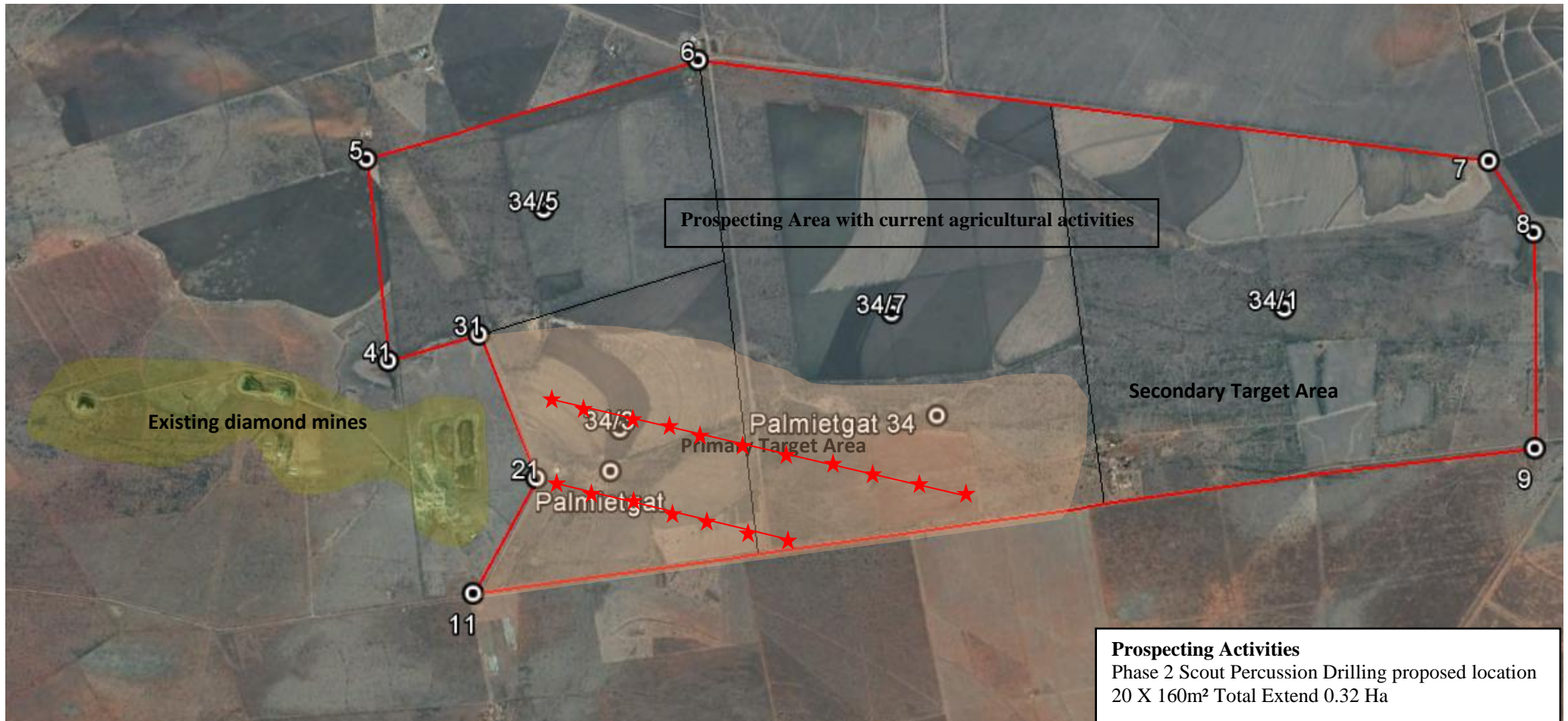
The first and fourth phases consist of non-invasive prospecting activities and therefore no infrastructure would be developed. The second and third phase consists of the physical prospecting work (invasive), i.e. drilling approximately 20 holes in order to test the geological modelling.

**Figure b** indicates the proposed prospecting area and the location of the 20 holes. The location of the holes will be refined based on the outcomes of the geological mapping and modelling.

**Figure b1: Location, and area (ha) of all the aforesaid main and listed activities, and infrastructure to be placed on site**



**Figure b2: Location, and area (ha) of all the aforesaid main and listed activities, and infrastructure to be placed on site**



### 3.4.5 Listed and specified activities

NAME OF ACTIVITY	Aerial extent Ha or m <sup>2</sup>	LISTED ACTIVITY	APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE (GNR 544, GNR 545 or GNR 546)
Prospecting Activities (non-invasive)	1433.4049Ha	x	GNR 983, Activity 20 <sup>1</sup>
Drilling Activities (invasive) <sup>2</sup>	±3 200m <sup>2</sup>	x	GNR 983, Activity 20
Chip Sampling Activities <sup>3</sup>	More than 5m <sup>3</sup>	x	GNR 983, Activity 20
Access Roads (temporary, jeep track roads less than 4m wide) <sup>5</sup>	±2 600m <sup>2</sup>		Not listed
Site clearance and removal of vegetation (the minimum area required for the equipment laydown area and drilling area will be cleared)	< 5Ha		Not listed
Sludge from drilling activities	Less than 5m <sup>3</sup>		Not listed
Hydrocarbon storage	less than 30m <sup>3</sup>		Not listed
Sanitation requirements (Chemical toilets)			Not listed

<sup>1</sup> Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a **prospecting right** in terms of section 16 of the MPRDA, including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to prospecting of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the MPRDA.

<sup>2</sup> Each drill pad is estimated to be 160m<sup>2</sup> in total.

<sup>3</sup> The estimated volume of material to be extracted from each drill hole is 1.8m<sup>3</sup> (based on a diameter of drill hole of 165mm, and depth of drill hole of 100m). This total ±36m<sup>3</sup> of material that will be extracted from the drill holes, and thereafter replaced during rehabilitation of the drill holes

<sup>4</sup> Calculated as follows: drill profile AM1: 400m track x 3.5m wide; drill profile AM2: 350 track x 3.5m wide.

### 3.4.6 Description of the activities to be undertaken

The following activities will be undertaken in a phased approach, whereby the results of each phase determine whether the subsequent phases will be undertaken:

#### **Desktop Studies**

In order to direct the exploration programme in an efficient manner, there will be a review of all information and data gathered by previous exploration in the surrounding area. A desktop study consisting of geological interpretation of all available geological data including any historic data as well as all airborne geophysical and remote sensing data will be undertaken of the diamond potential of the total area based on historical data and data from surrounding diamond mining. A site investigation of the target areas will be undertaken to identify infrastructure and determine any potential problems that may need to be addressed if this operation advances to a mining right phase.

Aerial photographs and satellite images will be studied to ascertain additional target areas. The aerial photographs will also be used to structurally and geologically map the prospecting area and surrounds. Any anomalous features identified from the air will be mapped in detail. The various rock types and their contacts will also be mapped. A detailed geological and elevation map using topographic maps, aerial photography, geophysical data and satellite imagery will be compiled supported by field mapping. Surface geological mapping is not carried out routinely but will be required in the course of ground-truthing of remote sensing and historical geophysical results.

The detailed information is modelled three-dimensionally to determine subsurface topography. This also involves the compilation of all available geological and related information, relevant to prospecting for diamonds hosted in kimberlites, available from both public and commercial sources, for the property. This information is then assessed by the geologist and other specialists (such as a geophysicist) as required, in order to determine the best prospecting techniques to be used in order to discover and subsequently test any kimberlites on the property. Note that this activity is repeated at the end of each phase of prospecting, by the interpretation and integration of new prospecting information with the existing information set, in order to inform a decision on whether further work is warranted and if so, the specific scope of this additional work.

### **Ground Geophysical Surveys**

Ground geophysical surveys involve the systematic measurement of magnetic, gravitational and electromagnetic fields over target areas of interest within the property, using appropriate instruments. The individual survey areas vary between 500 x 500 m to 1 x 1 km depending on the inferred size of any target. Magnetic survey lines are spaced at a maximum of 50 m apart and readings will be taken at a minimum of 5 m intervals along the lines.

Electromagnetic and gravity survey lines are spaced at a maximum of 100 m apart with readings taken at a maximum of 50 m along the lines using a proton-5-magnetometer. After data collection has been completed, data processing and visualization is carried out to allow the interpretation of the survey.

### **Drilling**

Core drilling will be carried out on geophysical anomalies to test for the presence of kimberlite. If kimberlite is discovered, the primary objective for core drilling is for geological logging. The exploration drilling holes may be vertical or inclined, usually at a maximum angle of 60 degrees (from the horizontal). The borehole depth will be determined by the geologist and will depend on the type of anomaly and the geological conditions, including overburden (the thickness of material that overlies the target kimberlite). The maximum depth of such holes is typically 400 meters where the cover is thin, and 600 meters where the cover is thick, and 10 boreholes are anticipated to be drilled per target.

The size of core drilled will be determined by such factors as cost, proposed core sampling, the degree of logging required and proposed geotechnical investigations. Sizes commonly used are HQ (63.5 mm diameter core) and NQ (47.6 mm diameter core) or variations on these. The orientation and depth of core holes will vary depending on the drilling objective. In the case of delineation or scout drilling, angled core holes will be drilled to establish accurate kimberlite / country rock boundaries at depth (in other words, where the edge of the kimberlite is at depth). Vertical holes will be drilled for geological modelling and / or sampling of the core.

Core holes are also used as pilot holes for large diameter holes. The geological information provided by the core holes greatly reduces the risk of selecting inappropriate Reverse Circulation Large Diameter Drilling (RC LDD) hole locations. Core holes allow for maximum control on information such as overburden thickness, density, country rock dilution and likely kimberlite intersections, and therefore allow more accurate determinations of the position of likely RC LDD holes for diamond recoveries.

Material derived from i.e. core will be examined on site for logging purposes and sampled for a variety of analyses as described below.

RC LDD currently up to 610 mm diameter provides good geological and especially grade data. RC LDD will be conducted when grade assessment is one of the primary objectives of the exercise. The sizes of the boreholes drilled will be determined by such factors as proposed sampling, availability of drilling equipment, cost and the volume of sample required. RC LDD will take place after pilot core drilling. The pilot hole will also be used as a guide for geological control and sample planning.

Rehabilitation is carried out on a continuous basis as work progresses. It consists mostly of backfilling drill holes, cleaning up of drill sites or gridlines and tracks used for ground surveys, if any. These are done manually and monitored continuously to ensure effective rehabilitation of disturbed areas. The rehabilitation work will be conducted in-house.

The proposed invasive prospecting activities will include the following:

- The percussion drilling of approximately 10 holes per target area for the extraction of sand, calcrete and gravel chips;
- The drill material (sand and stone chips) will be analysed on site i.e. the drill material is laid out next to each hole in heaps to indicate the sequence and drilling depth (samples are taken every meter drilled);
- Access to the drill site will be via existing farm tracks. If no tracks area available, 'twee-spoor' tracks will be made by driving the drilling rig (4 x 4) to such a site. This should be done under the supervision of an ECO;
- The area of each drill ad which will be disturbed (total surface area) is approximately 160m<sup>2</sup> (Refer to **Figure c** for a layout of a typical drill site);
- Water required for drilling purposes (which may be required if drilling through soft clays are required) will be brought to site;
- Only where necessary will existing vegetation be removed. The topsoil will be kept aside for later rehabilitation around each drill pad to prevent contamination.

The associated infrastructure that would be required includes the following:

- Equipment laydown/ storage area: A temporary equipment laydown area will be located on an environmentally non-sensitive area (identified in consultation with the ECO and landowner), where the drill rig will be parked when not in use and will include an equipment/ materials laydown (storage) area and a chemical toilet. Diesel will be contained in a mobile bowser. Accommodation will be provided off-site in one of the nearby towns, and not at the drill site.
- Access Roads: Equipment will be transported to site via the existing roads (including gravel and jeep track). No new roads will be required. Any new tracks created by driving the drill rig to the drill site will be rehabilitated by means of raking and/or scarifying trampled surfaces (tracks).

#### Drilling Method

- The reverse circulation drilling machine is a modified percussion compressed air rig. The compressor that supplies the compressed air is a 900 cfm Atlas Copco.
- The 6m rods that are used have an inner barrel so they can handle two directions of flow. The air is forced down between the outer and inner barrel to the hammer. The hammer pulverises the rock and the particles are forced up the inner barrel to the cyclone where the air is removed out the top and the sample falls in to the bag at the bottom of the cyclone.

- The proposed drill layout is shown in **Figure c**. The reason for using the reverse circulation technique is to collect representative samples at meter intervals drilled for on-site visual analysis.
- The limited amount of water required for drilling purposes will be transported to site and stored in bowsers in the immediate area of prospecting. Vehicle routes between the water source and the prospecting drilling site will be along existing vehicle tracks and/or the limited 'twee-spoor' tracks that may be required to drive the drilling rig to the drill site.
- Each drill pad will be constrained to an area of about 160m<sup>2</sup>, i.e. the total disturbed area will be about 160m<sup>2</sup> (refer to **Figure c** which shows the typical layout of a drill site). Should any clay horizons be intersected in the drilling of boreholes, it may be necessary to use water mixed with a drilling lubricant to assist with removing the clay and rock chips from the borehole. Such lubricant will also prevent the sides of the borehole collapsing. If such drilling is required, a drill sump will be excavated at each drill pad where clay is intersected and will be approximately 2.5m x 2.5m x 1.7m in extent and will be used to store and manage drilling fluid used during the drilling process (recycling of water). Each sump will be lined with a thick plastic liner to prevent seepage of the drilling water into the subsurface layers. The plastic liner will be reused at the other drill sites. The sumps will be demarcated with red and white tape or by other appropriate means. Each site will be rehabilitated directly after drilling.
- The drilling mud captured in the sumps will be dried and stored in leak proof receptacles and drill spoils will be removed from site and disposed of at a suitably licensed Municipal waste disposal facility.
- Drilling lubricants comprising non-polluting, biodegradable chemicals will be used during drilling. Such drilling lubricants thicken the water to assist with the sealing off of the sidewalls of the borehole and the removal of mud generated by drilling through the clay horizons.

#### Drilling Equipment

- The drilling equipment consists of a drill rig mounted on a truck chassis with compressor, water tank and all other drilling ancillaries such as compressor pipes, drill rods, etc.

#### Drilling Layout

- Figure b indicates the proposed prospecting area and the location of the drill holes. The location of the holes will be refined based on the outcomes of the geological mapping and modelling.

#### Drilling Programme

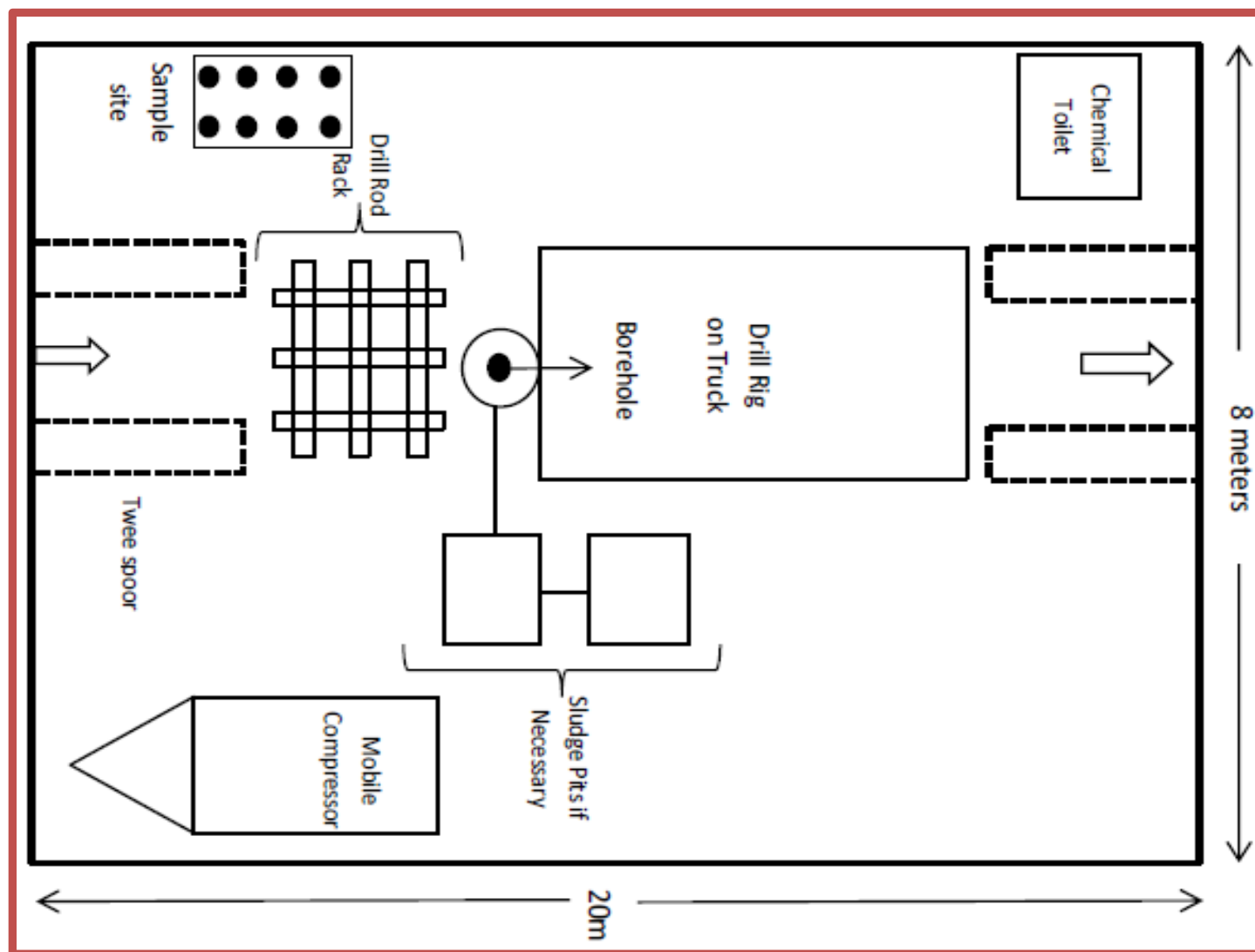
- Drilling will take place over a period of approximately 24 months.

#### Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation is carried out on a continuous basis as work progresses. It consists mostly of backfilling drill holes with the drill chips, removing of drill spoils from possible sumps, backfilling and profiling of sumps and ripping and cleaning up of drill pads and tracks used for drilling.
- Such rehabilitation is undertaken manually by raking over the disturbed site (scarifying) and placing topsoil over the raked area. This will be monitored continuously to ensure effective rehabilitation of disturbed areas. The rehabilitation work will be conducted in-house under the supervision of an ECO.



**Figure c Typical layout of a drill platform**



### 3.5 Policy and Legislative Context

<p align="center"><b>APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES USED TO COMPILE THE REPORT</b></p> <p>(a description of the policy and legislative context within which the development is proposed including an identification of all legislation, policies, plans, guidelines, spatial tools, municipal development planning frameworks and instruments that are applicable to this activity and are to be considered in the assessment process)</p>	<p align="center"><b>REFERENCE WHERE APPLIED</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>HOW DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT COMPLY WITH AND RESPOND TO THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT</b></p> <p>(E.g. In terms of the National Water Act a Water Use License has/ has not been applied for)</p>
<p><b>Legislation</b></p>		
<p>Constitution of South Africa, specifically everyone has a right;</p> <p>a. to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing; and</p> <p>b. to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:</p> <p>i. prevents pollution and ecological degradation;</p> <p>ii. promote conservation; and</p> <p>iii. Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.</p>	<p>Prospecting activities</p>	<p>The prospecting activities shall be conducted in such a manner that significant environmental impacts are avoided, where significant impacts cannot all together avoided be minimised and mitigated in order to protect the environmental right of South Africans.</p>
<p>Minerals and Petroleum Development Resources Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) section 16 (as amended)</p>	<p>Application to the DMR for a prospecting right in terms of Section 16</p>	<p>A prospecting right application has been accepted by the DMR. The conditions and requirements attached to the granting of the prospecting right will apply to the prospecting activities.</p>
<p>National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (as amended) (NEMA) Listing Activity 20 of Listing Notice 1 in terms of Regulation 983 of 2014</p>	<p>Application to the DMR for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations</p>	<p>An Application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the DMR</p> <p>The appropriate EA will be obtained before proceeding with any prospecting activities.</p> <p>Measures will be implemented to prevent any pollution occurring during the drilling activities. The disturbed area shall be rehabilitated in such a way that is stable, non-polluting, non-eroded, free from alien invasive species and suitable for agreed post closure land use.</p>

National Water Act (Act 36 of 2008)	NA	A Water Use Authorisation (Licence or GA) is only required for drilling within or within 500m of any drainage channels. No water use license is required for this application. Any water required for drilling activities will be obtained from a legal source within the area or brought in via a mobile water tanker.
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, Act 59 of 2008 (NEMWA)NEM: WA (as amended)	Management measures as part of environmental awareness plan	The generation of potential waste will be minimized through ensuring employees of the drilling contractor are subjected to the appropriate environ awareness campaign before commencement of drilling. All waste generated during the drilling activities will be disposed of in a responsible legal manner. Proof of legal disposal will be maintained on site.
National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 (“NHRA”)	Management measures	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment shall be conducted prior to drilling to ensure that significant impacts on heritage artefacts, heritage site and graves. No drilling activities will take place within 50m of any identified heritage resource such as a grave.
<b>Municipal Plans and Policies</b>		
Waterbeg District Municipality IDP 2015/2016	Relevant consideration	Used to identify relevant socio-economic background information as well as spatial development information.
Bela-Bela Local Municipality IDP, 2011/2016		
<b>Standards, Guidance and Spatial Tools</b>		
BGIS (www.bgis.sanbi.org)	Baseline environmental description	Used during desktop research to identify sensitive environments within the prospecting rights area.
State-of-Rivers Report - The Crocodile (West) Marico Water Management Area DEAT Pretoria (2006)		
Environmental Man. Framework Report for the Waterberg District		
SANS 10103:2008 The Measurement and Rating of Environmental Noise with Respect to Land Use, Health, Annoyance and to Speech Communication	Management / Monitoring measures	Used to set the standard allowable for noise generation and control during drilling.
SANS 1929:2005 Edition 1.1 – Ambient Air Quality Limits for Common Pollutants		Standard for dust fallout. The activity in question for this application is driving on gravel roads.

### **3.6 Need and desirability of the proposed activities.**

The aim of the prospecting activities is to locate and evaluate diamond deposits hosted in, or locally derived from kimberlite, which as an igneous rock can in theory be found within any other older host rocks. As the peak ages of kimberlite intrusion in northern South Africa were at roughly 1100 Ma and 500 Ma, any rocks older than these dates can host kimberlites. In addition, it has been well established that diamonds are most commonly present in economic concentrations in kimberlites found within cratonic regions and related tectonic blocks. The area applied for falls within the Kaapvaal Craton and thus has the generic potential to host diamondiferous kimberlites.

Numerous kimberlites, including the diamond alluvial fields, are thus found in quite close proximity to the area applied for. Kimberlites are known to occur in clusters, and hence the reason for applying for this prospecting right as it occurs in close proximity to known diamond mines. Prospecting activities are therefore needed to:

- Confirm and obtain additional information concerning potential targets through non-invasive activities (desktop studies and ground geophysical surveys) and invasive (drilling) activities.
- Assess if the resource can be extracted through future mining in an environmentally socially and economically viable manner.

The prospecting activities themselves would not directly lead to job opportunities. Should prospecting activities prove that a feasible diamond resource minerals is present to allow for mining, a new mine may be developed which would generate extensive employment opportunities in an area where employment is needed.

### **3.7 Motivation for the overall preferred site, activities and technology alternative.**

No site or technology alternatives have been considered for this prospecting application. The areas included in the prospecting rights application were identified through historical prospecting and production records for the area and from designated research. Diamond exploitation and exploration in the general area has been ongoing for many years, and kimberlites typically occur as clusters within larger kimberlite fields. The area applied for is located within close proximity to known diamond mines, which is therefore considered highly prospective.

Geophysical methods have been proven to be very useful in detecting potential kimberlite targets and will therefore be used to identify optimal locations of potential bodies of economic interest within the prospecting area prior to drilling. Subsequent core drilling has been proven to be a suitable technique for sampling and recovering material from kimberlites to test for economic potential.

### **3.8 Full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternatives within the site.**

#### **3.8.1 Details of the development footprint alternatives considered.**

With reference to the site plan provided as figure b and the location of the individual activities on site, details of the alternatives considered with respect to:

- (aa) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (bb) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (cc) the design or layout of the activity;
- (dd) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (ee) the operational aspects of the activity;
- (ff) the option of not implementing the activity.

is discussed below.

3.8.1.1 the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;

As discussed above, the prospecting location has been informed by historical prospecting and production records. As such the applicant believes there is a possibility of encountering further diamond reserves on the property subject to this prospecting right application. The prospecting site has therefore been informed by the locality of other kimberlite field in the area. Until such time that the non-invasive activities have been completed the exact location of the drill sites cannot be confirmed. However, the following restrictions will be applied to the final site selection:

- No drill site will be positioned within 500m of a structure.
- No drill site will be positioned within 100m of a water course.
- Where possible existing access roads will be utilised to access the drill sites.

3.8.1.2 the type of activity to be undertaken;

No activity (project) alternatives were considered, as the subject of this prospecting application is for diamonds, and has been informed by the locality of the surrounding kimberlite field and existing diamond mines.

The technologies that will be used to undertake the prospecting activities are based on the refinement of techniques employed previously by the company to explore and discover kimberlites. The prospecting activities proposed in the Prospecting Work Programme (PWP) follow a phased approach, whereby the preceding phase determines if further work is warranted and as a result no alternatives are available to complete the proposed prospecting activities.

3.8.1.3 the design or layout of the activity;

The proposed location of the drill holes is shown in **Figure b**. The outcomes of the noninvasive Phase 1 prospecting activities will inform Phase 2 and 3 and the layout of the drill sites may therefore be refined based on the detailed findings of the ongoing desktop review and mapping exercises

Site establishment is done with closure in mind to ensure that only the required size is disturbed. No camp site will be erected on site, as existing establishments will be used for accommodation in the nearby town(s). The exact location of the temporary infrastructure on site (i.e. equipment laydown area) will also be refined/finalised based on the findings of Phase 1 as well as a site visit to be undertaken by the ECO together with the landowner to identify the most suitable area on site for such temporary infrastructure and the exact location on site will be finalised at a later stage.

3.8.1.4 the technology to be used in the activity;

The non-invasive and invasive prospecting methodologies have been chosen based on the applicants past experience with diamond prospecting, and is considered to be standard practice for such diamond prospecting. The reason for using the reverse circulation drilling technique is to collect representative samples at meter intervals during drilling. The depth of the boreholes is anticipated to be between 200 and 400 meters.

3.8.1.5 the operational aspects of the activity;

The non-invasive prospecting component will enable the applicant to clearly delineate areas which are regarded as suitable for further investigation without unnecessarily disturbing the prospecting area through invasive means.

During the invasive prospecting component of the project, the following key site activities related to drilling will be undertaken:

- Establishment of the equipment laydown area.
- Accommodation will not be provided on site but in one of the nearby town(s).
- Establishment of the drill site (e.g. drive the drill rig along the alignment of the proposed drill holes [twee spoor track] and park)
- Drilling operations (e.g. refueling and rock-chip sampling)
- Rehabilitation activities (e.g. scarifying disturbed areas and redistribution of topsoil)

Alternative time frames can be made to ensure that the impact on the day to day running of the inherent land use are minimised, example drilling on cultivated land can be rescheduled post harvesting or not to coincide with breeding or hunting seasons.

Prospecting activities will be conducted during daylight hours to minimize exposure to the risks. If necessary certain drill sites can be timed to occur during school terms or holidays as may be required in certain instances by stakeholders. The time of implementing drilling activities during the course of the day may also be reconsidered in consultation with landowners. Ideally drilling activities will occur continuously until such time that a hole is completed. If necessary certain holes can be drilled for a 12-hour day, with no drilling occurring during the night.

At present, no feasible alternatives to drilling are available and impacts associated with the drilling operation will be monitored and managed in terms of the EMPr.

#### 3.8.1.6 the option of not implementing the activity.

The no-go alternative will mean that no prospecting activities are undertaken.

Drilling is required in order to investigate the potential and feasibility of a resource and also to generate a SAMREC compliant mineral resource statement. There is no potential for any future investment in a mine without the confirmation of the mineral resources which can only be obtained through drilling activities.

Should the prospecting right be refused, effectively a potential diamond resource will be sterilised. The socio-economic benefit and most notably the future employment potential of a mine development will also be lost if the prospecting activities are not implemented in order to determine the feasibility of any diamondiferous deposit that may occur within the area. This will mean that the possible existence of economically exploitable diamonds will not be known, and in turn none of the benefits associated with the project will be realised (e.g. job creation and stimulation of the local economy). The applicant would also not have the opportunity to utilise (exploit) the possible diamond reserves. Should the prospecting activities not be permitted, then the potential environmental impacts associated with site establishment and drilling would not occur, and the status quo would be maintained.

#### 3.8.2 Details of the Public Participation Process Followed

The formal public participation process, which meets the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations and the MPRDA has been followed and include the following activities: **(Refer Appendix 3 Public Participation Process)**

- Potential I&APs were notified about the project and of commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) process and invited to registration as stakeholders by means of:
  - i. Letters of notification to directly affected landowners;
  - ii. Written notifications to other stakeholders including neighbors, Local and District Municipalities (including traditional authorities where applicable); and

iii. Media advertisements and site notices.

- Circulation of a Background Information Document (BID) with the notification letter to the landowner, neighbouring landowners and potential I&APs;
- Registered I&APs including the Relevant Government Department were given the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report.
- Focus group meetings held with the key stakeholders in the local area.
- Registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome of the environmental authorisation, and if required the appeal process to be followed.

3.8.3 Summary of issues raised by I&As

<b>Interested and Affected Parties</b> List the names of persons consulted in this column, and Mark with an X where those who must be consulted were in fact consulted.	<b>Date Comments Received</b>	<b>Issues raised</b>	<b>EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant</b>	<b>Section and paragraph reference in this report where the issues and or response were incorporated.</b>	
<b>Landowner/s</b>					
Mr. J.M. Pringle	X	12 April 2017	<p>All prospecting activities on the aforementioned Farms must be scheduled with the Farm Manager, Mr James Pringle, which appointment will be co-ordinated with crop and cattle farming activities.</p> <p>Any stock or crop losses, whether directly or indirectly related to the mining / prospecting activities shall be the prospectors' responsibility who shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the farm owners. Adequate proof of insurance in this regard is required prior to any prospecting.</p>	<p>Landowner will be updated with regard to the progress of implementing the PWP and any invasive operation and concurrent rehabilitation will be planned in consultation with landowner. Adequate proof of insurance in this regard is required prior to any prospecting.</p> <p>Most of the time will be spend on non-invasive activities that will be completed off-site. During field-investigations a maximum of three specialists will require access. All access will be arranged beforehand with landowner and the project manager will be present at all times and will report to the landowner when accessing and leaving the property. Indemnity will be signed by all mining personnel entering the property.</p>	<p>Par 3h (v) (pg. 41) Impacts and risks identified including the degree to which these impacts can be avoided, managed or mitigated</p> <p>Par 3h (vii) (pg.45) The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity will have on the environment and the community</p> <p>Par 3h (viii) (pg. 46) The possible mitigation measures that could be applied</p>



				Any stock or crop losses, whether directly or indirectly related to the mining shall be reported immediately to the landowner and the right holder undertake to compensate the landowner for any losses. A surface rental agreement will be negotiated before commencing with invasive activities (drilling) and adequate proof of insurance will form part of this agreement.	
Mr. S.Y Morulane	X		No issues raised		
Mr. W.H. Smith	X		Comments to be supplied		
<b>Lawful occupier/s of the land</b>					
None - Only landowner					
<b>Landowners or lawful occupiers on adjacent properties</b>					
Mr. P.R Jansen van Vuuren	X		No issues raised		
Mr. D.L Daling	X		No issues raised		
<b>Municipal councilor</b>					
None identified					
<b>Municipality</b>					
Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality	X		No issues raised		
<b>Communities</b>					
Bakgatla Ba Mocha Pankop CPA	X		No issues raised		
<b>Traditional Leaders</b>					
None identified					
<b>Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected)</b>					
Roads Department					
Eskom					
Telkom					

Dept. Water & Sanitation	X		No issues raised	Water is only required when drilling activities commence. Drilling water requirements fall within the “small industrial user” where the use of water is less than twenty cubic meters per day for prospecting. The water that will be used for the prospecting activities will be sourced on agreement from an existing authorized water user which could be either the land owner or local municipality. The department responsible for water resources shall be consulted with regards to any water related agreement with either the land owner or local municipality prior to drilling. No water will be abstracted in terms of section 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998 (Act no. 36 of 1998).	Par 3h (viii) (pg. 45) The possible mitigation measures that could be applied
Dept. Environmental Affairs	X		No issues raised		
Dept. Land Affairs	X		No issues raised		
Dep Agriculture and Rural Development	X		No issues raised		
SAHRA	X			Furthermore, from desktop studies undertaken, no significant heritage artefacts have been identified to occur in the area. A Phase 1 heritage survey of the drill sites will be conducted prior to drilling in order to identify any cultural or heritage resources of significance. No drill site will be located within 50m of any identified heritage site.	Par 3h (viii) (pg. 45) The possible mitigation measures that could be applied Par 3 t (i) (pg. 67) Impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act

<b>Other Competent Authorities affected</b>					
None identified					
<b>Other Affected parties</b>					
None identified					
<b>Interested parties</b>					
No reply on advertisement and site notices			No issues raised		

### 3.8.4 The Environmental attributes associated with the alternatives.

#### 3.8.4.1 Baseline Environment

##### Regional setting

The proposed Prospecting Area is located on the Portion 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the farm Palmietgat No 34JR LPI Code T0MR0000000003400000 and covering an area of 1433.4049 Ha. The farm is located within the Bela-Bela Local Municipality area (LM) of the Waterberg District Municipality (WDM) within the Limpopo Province. The prospecting area is located approximately 25km southeast of Bela-Bela (**Refer figure d**).

##### Geology

The geology of the Waterberg District forms the foundation for the development of the landscape, soils and vegetation cover that developed upon it over millions of years. It is also the source of minerals that form the backbone of the economy of the district. According to the 1:250 000 scale geological map of the area, bedrock is represented by Permian Ecca Group sediments and infrequent Jurassic dolerite intrusions (Karoo Supergroup) that were deposited unconformably on pre-Karoo rocks dominated by the Lebowa Granite Suite (Johnson et al. 2006). The Ecca Group equivalent in the Springbok Flats Basin is the Hammanskraal Formation, divided into an Upper Ecca Stage (UES) and Middle Ecca Stage (MES) (Visser & Van der Merwe 1959). The lower portion of the UES is comprised of grit, sandstone, sandy shale and carbonaceous shales which are possibly comparable to the Vryheid Formation of the Main Karoo Basin. The MES grades into the upper portion of this formation and is comprised of grey sandy shale, shaley sandstone with cross-bedding and minor layers of white sandstone and poorly bedded grey shale. This sequence can possibly be correlated to the Volkrust Formation of the Main Karoo Basin. A coal zone, consisting of interbedded black shale and coal occurs in local basins at the top of the formation. The known kimberlites in the area are Phanerozoic (Pre-Karoo kimberlites) which when not outcropping, are located beneath a thin veneer of tertiary to recent cover sediments. (**Refer figure e**).

##### Soil and land capability

The landtype memoirs and associated maps indicate that the proposed prospecting area lies within the Ae landtypes. The landtype refers to red apedal, freely drained soils, high base status and on average >300mm deep. The soil has been formed by the formations of the Beit Bridge Complex which is sand of the quaternary system, metaquartzite of the Mount Dowe formations and marbles, calc-silicate rocks.

The soils consist of Clovelly and Hutton soil forms or patterns which are highly leached and erodible sandy and/or sandy loams derived from sandstone and quartzite. They tend to be acidic soils of low fertility found in the high rainfall areas or on mountain slopes and foothills. As such, they generally have limited value as arable land but are suitable for afforestation. According to the Agricultural Geo-Referenced Information System (AGIS) the Land Capability is regarded as moderate to high potential grazing land. As such the proposed prospecting activities can have an impact on agricultural land or agricultural production. The Land Capability map is provided as **figure f**.

**Figure d: Regional setting and location**

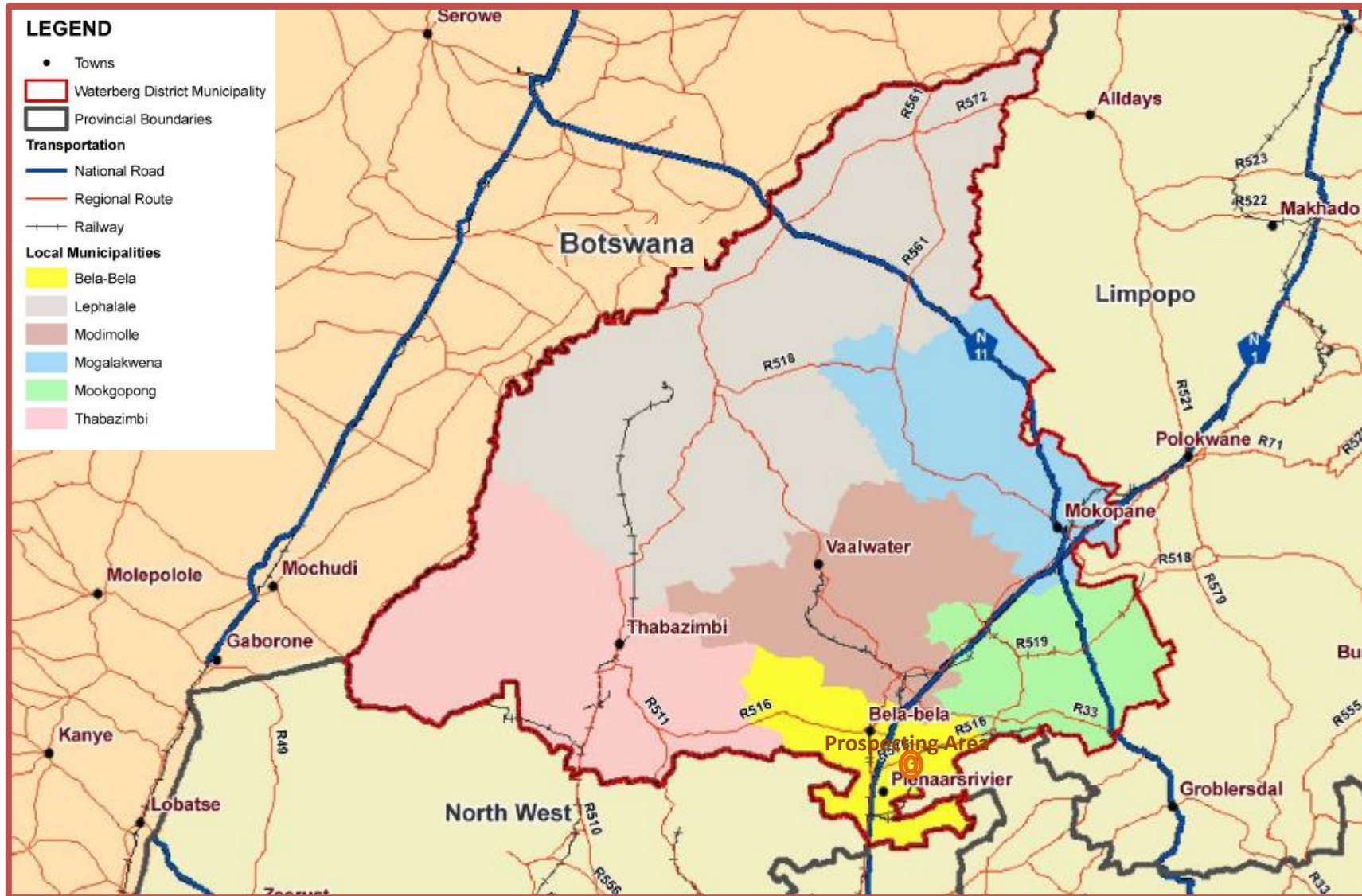


Figure e: Geology and Lithology

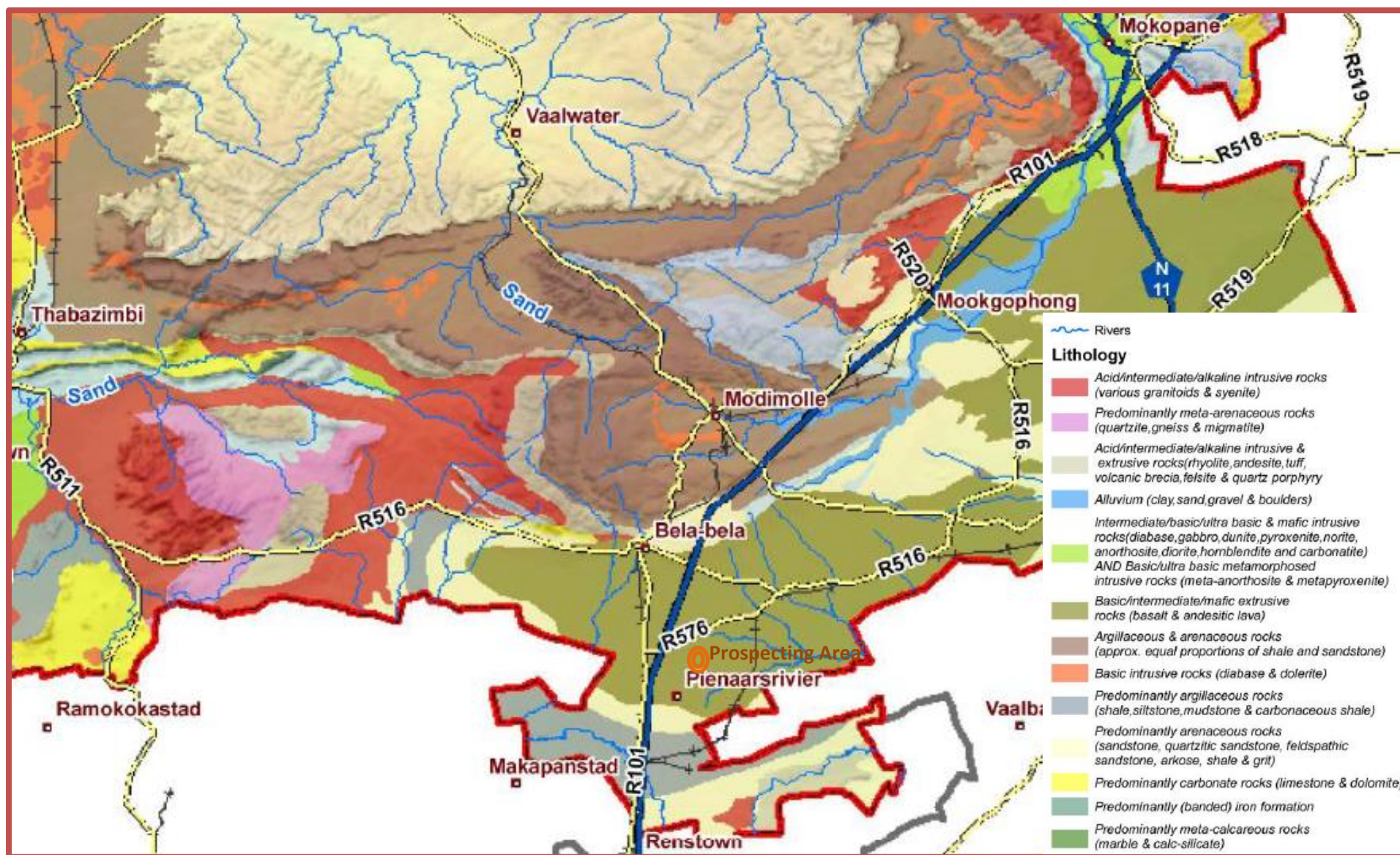
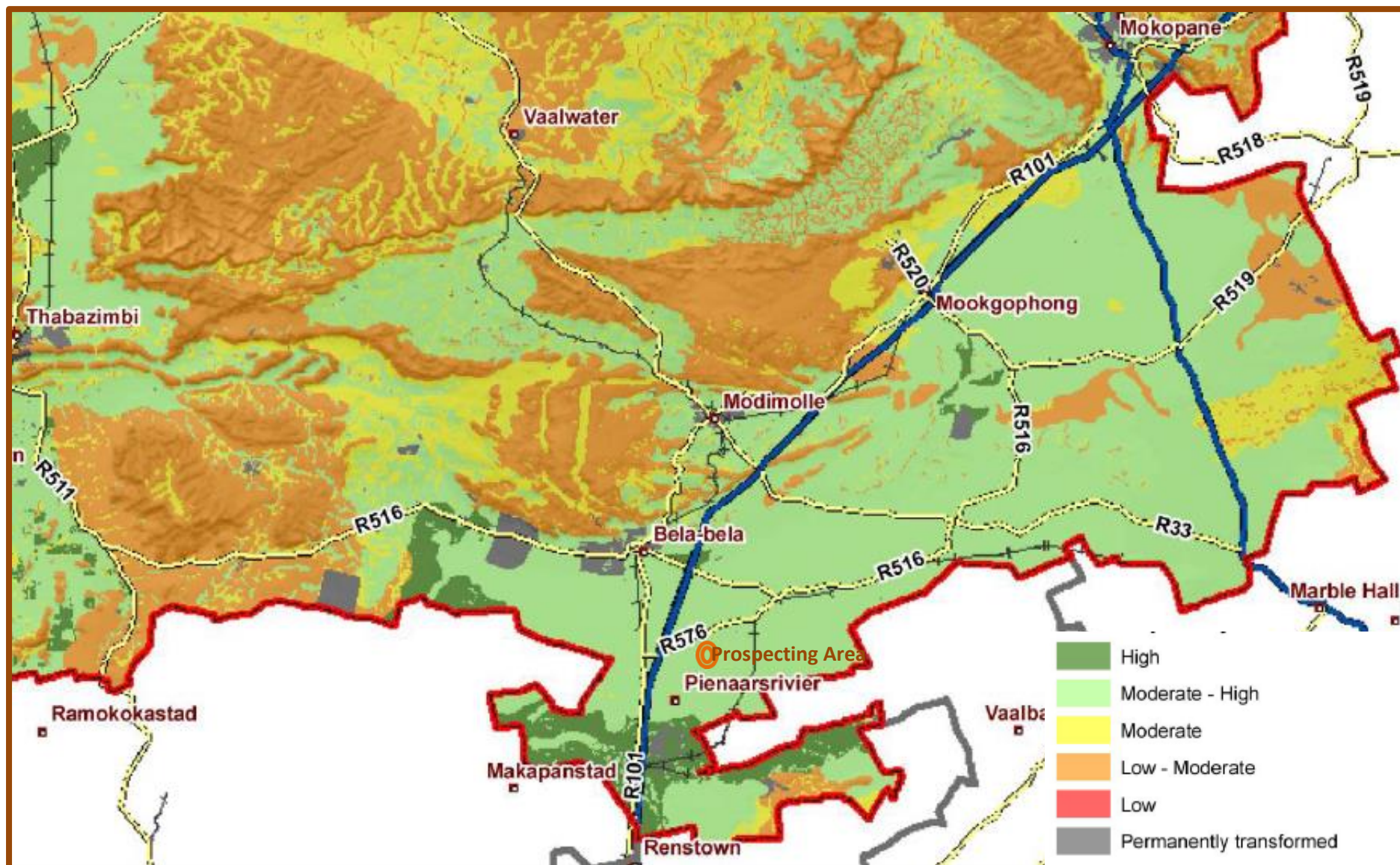


Figure f: Land Capability



## Landscape - Topography

The landscape of the Waterberg District is a unique feature that distinguishes it from any other place in South Africa. There are four main landscape features in the Waterberg District, namely the Waterberg Plateau, the Transvaal Plateau Basin, the Pietersburg Plain and the Limpopo Depression. The Transvaal Plateau Basin results primarily from the formation of Bushveld lopolith. The region therefore falls naturally into two subdivisions, the basin floor and the periphery. The area commonly known as the Springbok Flats forms the basin floor. The outer margin of the floor is predominantly flat but forms a discontinuous line of koppies and ridges where it is highly mineralised near its inner margin.

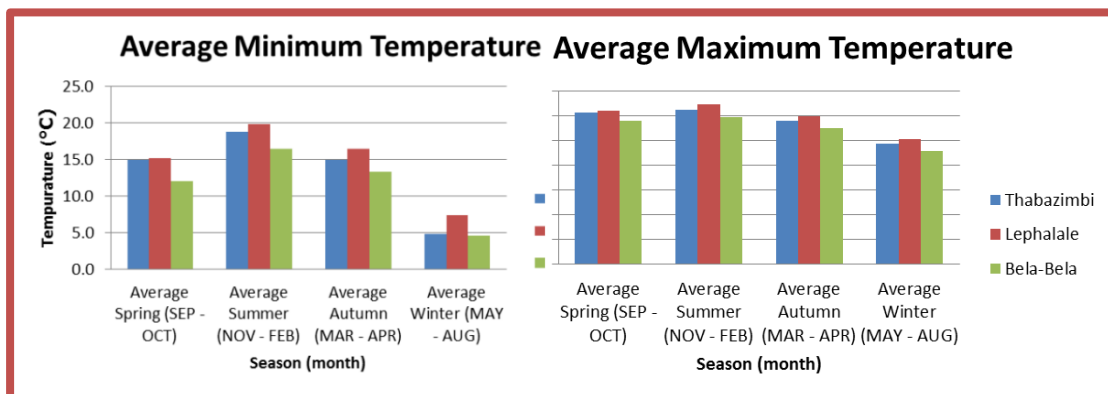
The Bela-Bela LM is characterized by large open plains. The prospecting area average elevation is 1 100mamsl. (**Refer figure g**).

## Climate

The climate of the Waterberg District varies. The northern and western regions of the area experience a hot and semi-arid climate. The southern and eastern regions where the prospecting area is located are more humid and slightly cooler. The Waterberg District receives summer rainfall. The area south-east of the Waterberg formation as well as the Waterberg formation itself receive more rainfall than the surrounding area. Thabazimbi receives the lowest rainfall of the recorded weather stations in the area. Summer temperatures for the area are generally very warm, while winter temperatures are mild to cool.

Bela-Bela generally experiences hot semi-arid climate. Summer days are hot with temperatures varying between 28° – 34° Celsius in October and March. During summer nights are hot to mild, with temperature ragging from 16° – 21° Celsius in winter temperatures are mild during the day and may vary with a range of 19.6° – 25.1° Celsius in April to September. Winter nights are cold with temperatures declining to 4.3° – 12.1°. In terms of the weather conditions Bela-Bela comprises of temperatures between 20° – 29° Degree Celsius.

The data used has been obtained from the South African Weather Bureau. The charts are a summary of the weather data obtained.



The area falls within the summer rainfall region of Limpopo, with the rainy season lasting from November to March. The average rainfall is 600-650mm with the highest measurements occurs in January and December. The average declines from east to west. Thunderstorms are recorded fairly often. Hail and Fog are infrequent. During rainy season evapotranspiration is very high (**Refer Figure h1**).



## Water Resources

The proposed prospecting areas fall within the Olifants Water Management Area. The Olifants River originates near Bethal in the Highveld of Mpumalanga. The river initially flows northwards before curving in an easterly direction through the Kruger National Park and into Mozambique where it joins the Limpopo River before discharging into the Indian Ocean. The Olifants water management area (WMA) corresponds with the South African portion of the Olifants River catchment (excluding the Letaba River catchment). It falls within three provinces, viz. a small part to the west within Gauteng, with the southern part mainly in Mpumalanga and the northern part in Limpopo Province. The main tributaries are the Wilge, Elands and Ga-Selati Rivers on the left bank and the Klein Olifants, Steelpoort, Blyde, Klaserie and Timbavati Rivers on the right bank.

The prospecting area is located within the Elands River Catchment, and is situated on the western edge of the Olifants Water Management Area. The catchment includes the town of Cullinan in the South, Kwamahlanga, the Rust De Winter Dam, and the rural settlements (Siyabuswa) around the Mkhombo Dam. Bela Bela (Warmbaths) falls just outside of on the western boundary (**Refer figure h2**).

The Elands River is mainly rural in the upper reaches with impacts from agriculture, dams and settlements in the lower reaches of the catchment. The upper reaches of the Elands River are still in a very good ecological state (C category), but degrades along the river to a D category below the dams. The river is a moderately important system as it provides good habitats for the biota present.

The Waterberg District has limited useable groundwater resources. Areas indicated on the map (**Figure h3**) as having 2.0 - 5.0 median l/sec and above are areas that groundwater can be utilised as a viable water source. The largest areas of usable groundwater are found in the area surrounding the application area.

## Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)

Most of the Waterberg District is within the Central Bushveld Bioregion, which falls within the Savanna Biome.

The proposed prospecting right is located in the Savannah Biome and is characterized by a grassy ground layer and a distinct upper layer of woody plants (trees and shrubs). The environmental factors delimiting the biome are complex and include altitude, rainfall, geology and soil types, with rainfall being the major delimiting factor. Fire and grazing also keep the grassy layer dominant. The most recent classification of the area by Mucina & Rutherford shows that the vegetation is classified as Springbokvlakte Thomveld (SVcb 15) one of five vegetation types for which there is serious conservation concern. The distribution of vegetation types in different conservation categories is shown in **Figure i**. The Springbokvlakte Thomveld has an endangered conservation status, with less than 1% statutorily conserved and about 49% that has been transformed. The Springbokvlakte Thomveld is also listed in the Draft National List of Threatened Ecosystems (GN 1477 of 2009, published under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)) as Vulnerable.

The landscape and vegetation features of this vegetation type include an open to dense, low thorn savanna dominated by Acacia species or shrubby grassland with a very low shrub layer. Occurs on flat to slightly undulating plains. Very scattered alien plants over wide areas include *Cereus jamacaru*, *Eucalyptus species*, *Lantana camara*, *Melia azerdarach*, *Opuntia ficus-indica* and *Sesbania punicea*.

Important taxa include:

- Small trees: *Acacia karroo* (d), *A. luederitzii*, *R. retinens* (d), *A. mellifera* subsp. *detinens* (d), *A. nilotica* (d), *Ziziphus mucronata* (d), *Acacia tortilis* subsp. *heteracantha*, *Boscia foetida* subsp. *rehmanniana*;
- Tall shrubs: *Euclea undulata* (d), *Rhus engleri* (d), *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Diospyros lycioides* subsp. *lycioides*, *Grewia flava*, *Tarchonanthus camphorates*;
- Low shrubs: *Acacia tenuispina* (d), *Ptycholobium plicatum*;
- Succulent shrub: *Kleinia longiflora*;
- Herbaceous climbers: *Momordica balsamina*, *Rhynchosia minima*;
- Graminoids: *Aristida bipartita* (d), *Dichanthium annulatum* var. *papillosum* (d), *Ischaemum afrum* (d), *Setaria incrassata* (d), *Aristida canescens*, *Brachiaria eruciformis*; and
- Herbs: *Aspilia mossambicensis*, *Indigastrum parviflorum*, *Nidorella hottentotica*, *Orthosiphon suffrutescens*, *Senecio apiifolius*.
- Biogeographically important taxon (Central Bushveld endemic): Graminoid: *Mosdenia leptostachys*

Large parts of the general area including the prospecting area are transformed by agricultural and/or mining activities and the general area still contain natural habitat, but it is degraded, usually by severe over-grazing and therefore the remaining natural or virgin area is considered as an endangered ecosystem (**Figure j**).

There are no Centers of Endemism that occur near to the proposed prospecting area with the nearest one the Sekukhuneland Centre to the east outside the Waterberg District. No protected areas are located within a 10Km radius of the prospecting area with Rust de Winter Nature reserve 12 Km to the south therefore this activity will not trigger Listing notice 3 of the NEMA EIA regulations.

#### Heritage/ cultural and palaeontological resources

The Waterberg District has a rich and varied history. This history extends back as far as the Stone Age, and was greatly influenced by natural phenomena and features of the area. Important cultural and historical features of the area include rock paintings, clay pottery and ruins such as that of the Langa Ndebele. The Makgabeng Mountain rock art paintings and Malebogo/Boer battlefield have been declared a Provincial Heritage Site. Human history in the Waterberg District is closely linked to the natural phenomena and features such as the mountains, plains, minerals, grass velds and water resources in the district. Rainfall, seasonal fluctuations in temperatures and general climatic conditions were not constant and many of these fluctuations challenged human adaptation as it offered opportunities and constraints to bands of hunter-gatherers, complex farming communities, specialists such as metal workers or entrepreneurial traders in the past. Considering the depth of time associated with human occupation of the district, namely three million years in the Makapan Valley, it can be accepted that fluctuations over this time span were many, different in various eco-zones and probably eventful, if not disastrous, to human groups in this vast region. A Phase 1 archeological assessment done in the general area of concern has shown that surface exposures are poor, but Glossopterid flora has been recorded within the Hammanskraal Formation especially in the coal zone at top of the succession, and mostly from borehole cores. Ancient human skeletal and associated Florisian faunal remains discovered at Tuinplaats (Springbok Flats) have been discovered in geologically recent calcareous soils (Quaternary overburden) at a depth of  $\pm 1.0$  m (Pike et al. 2004). There is currently no record of Quaternary fossil sites within the immediate vicinity of the proposed prospecting area and the area is consider as being of low to insignificant/zero paleontological sensitivity (**Figure k**).

**Figure g: Terrain Morphology**

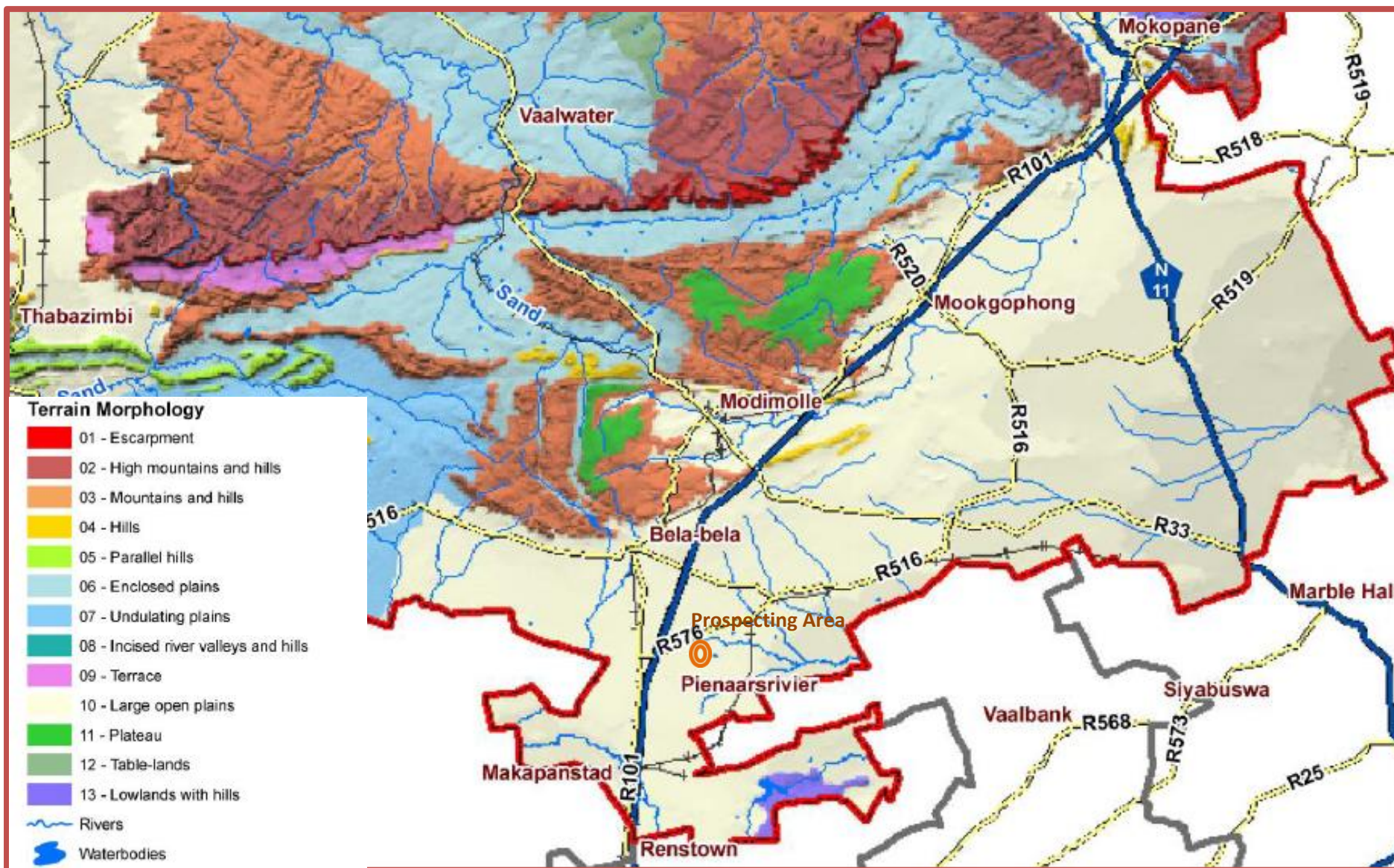


Figure h1: Mean Annual Precipitation

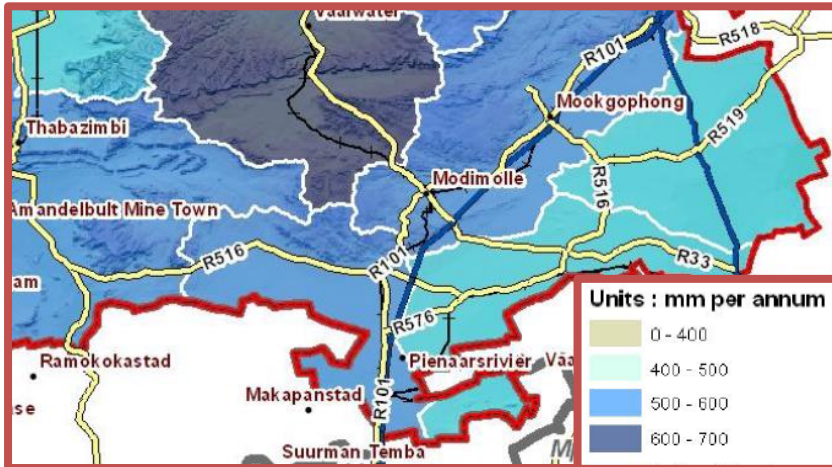


Figure h2: Rivers and Major Dams

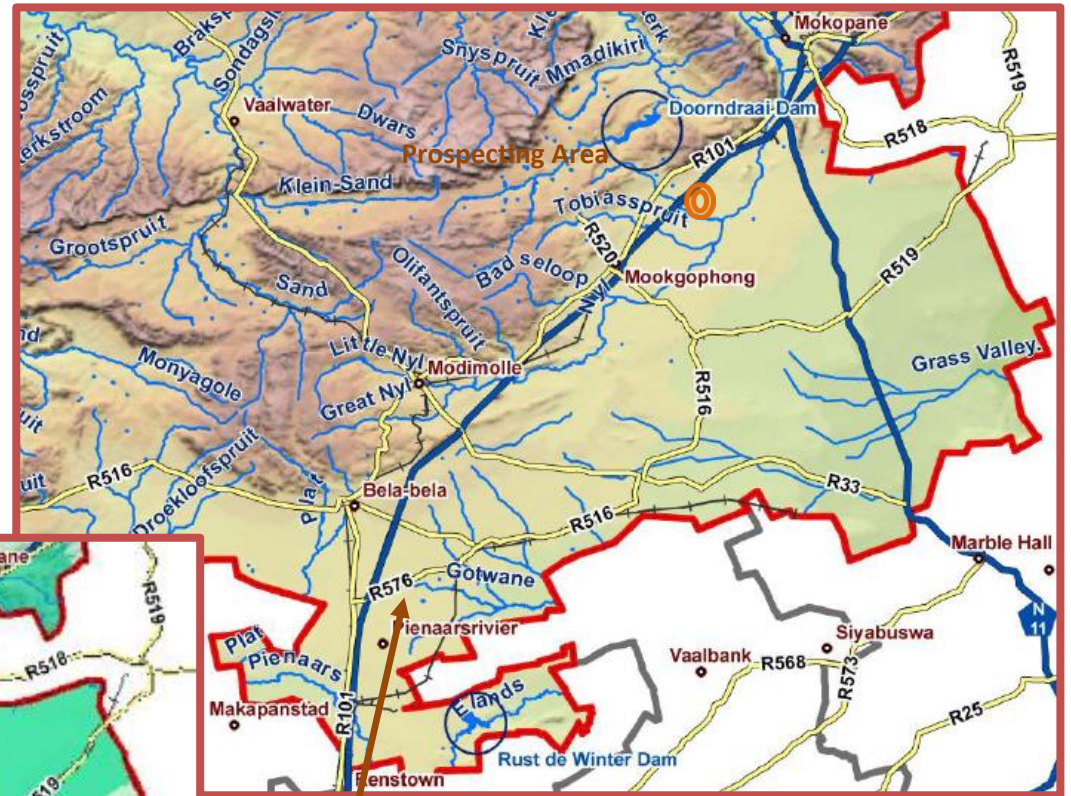
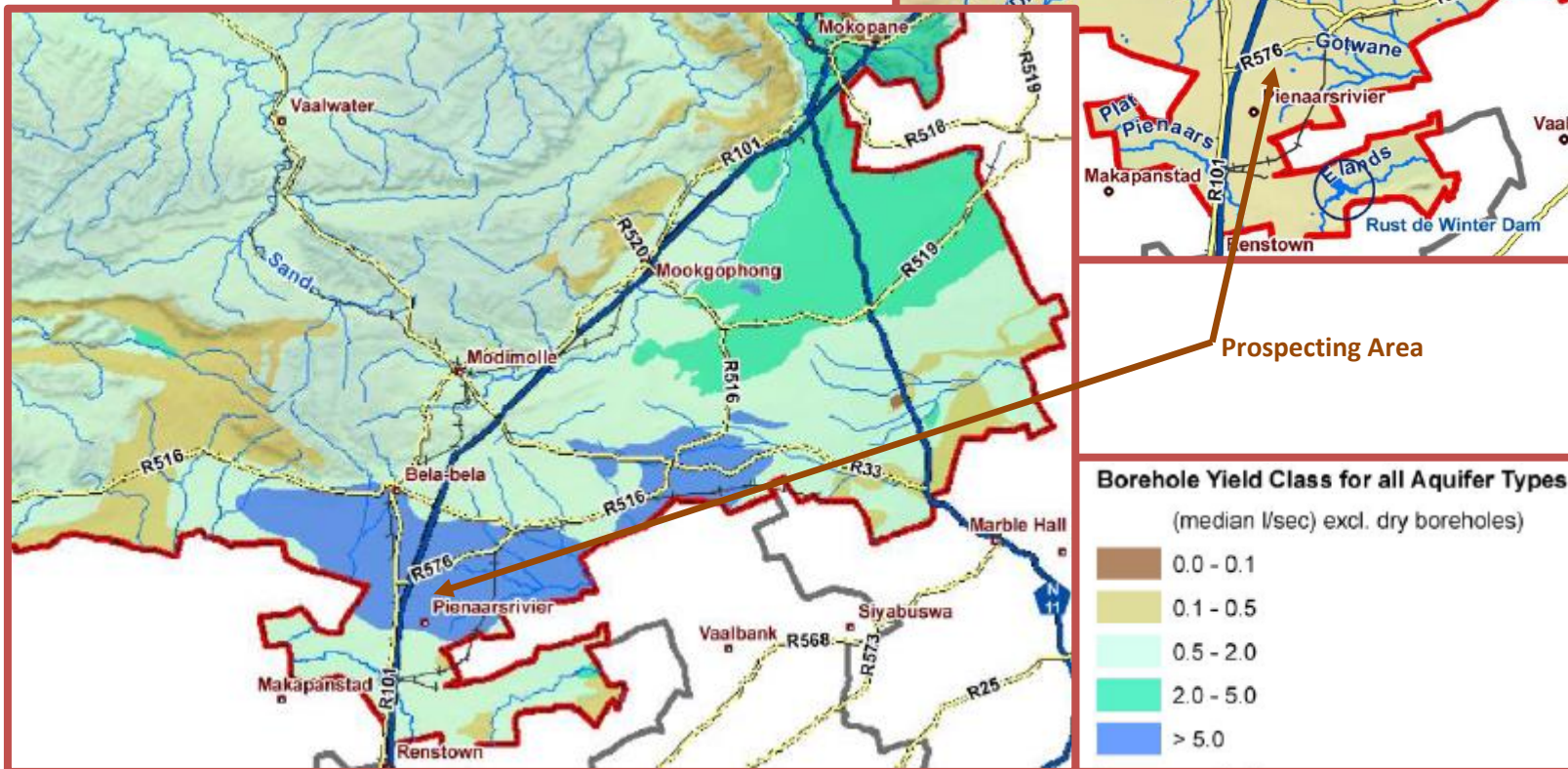


Figure h3: Rivers and Major Dams



**Figure i: Vegetation**

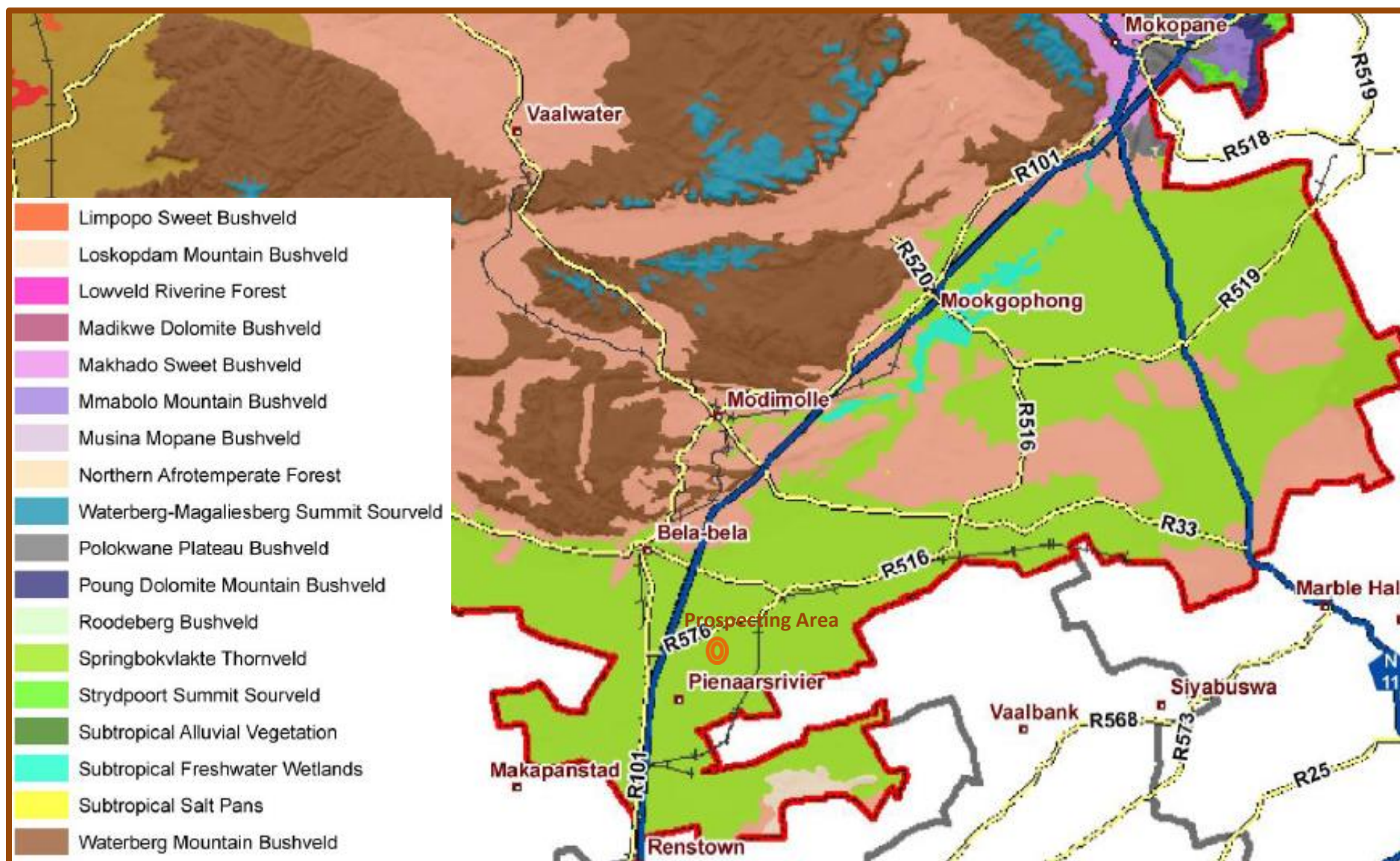
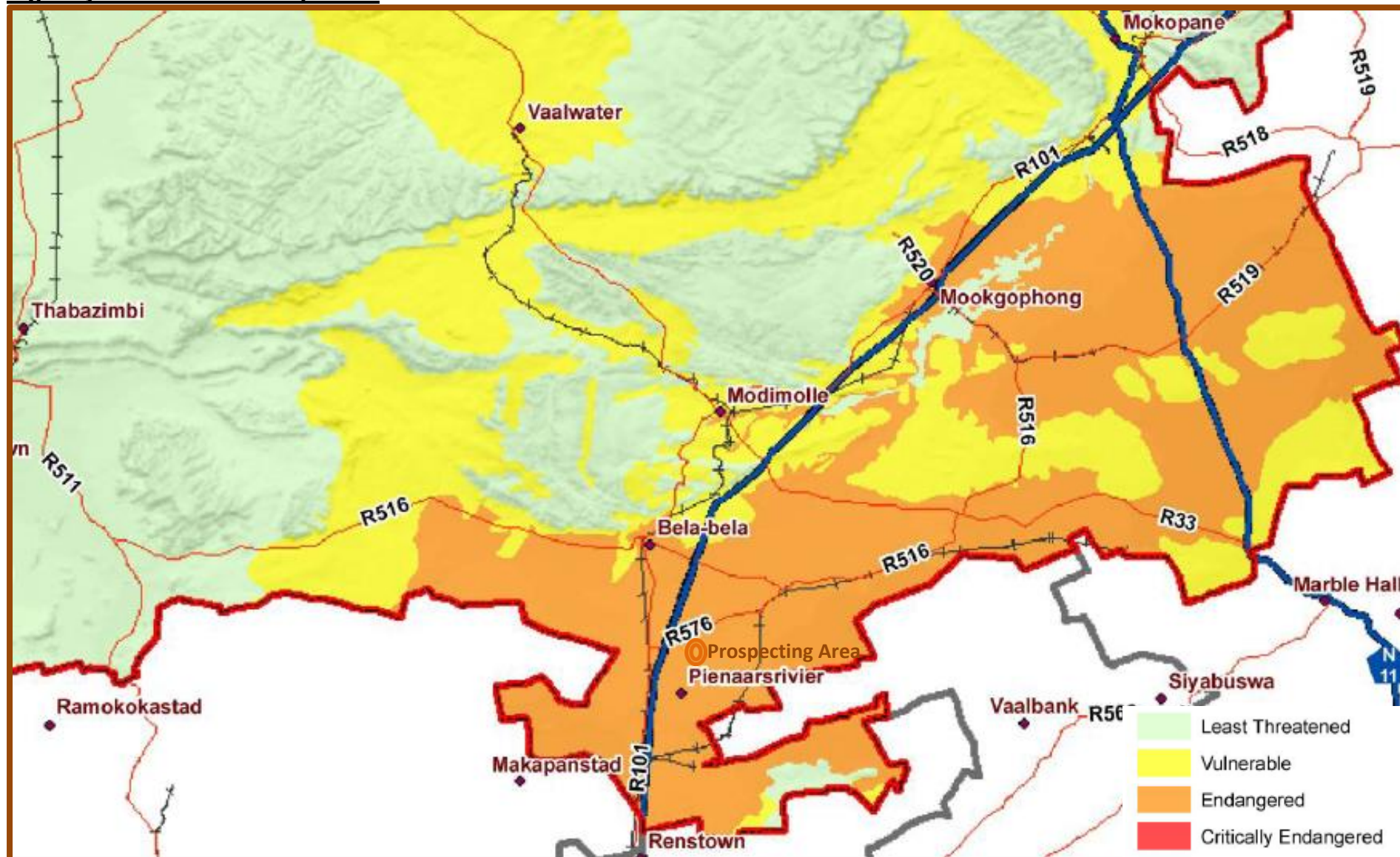
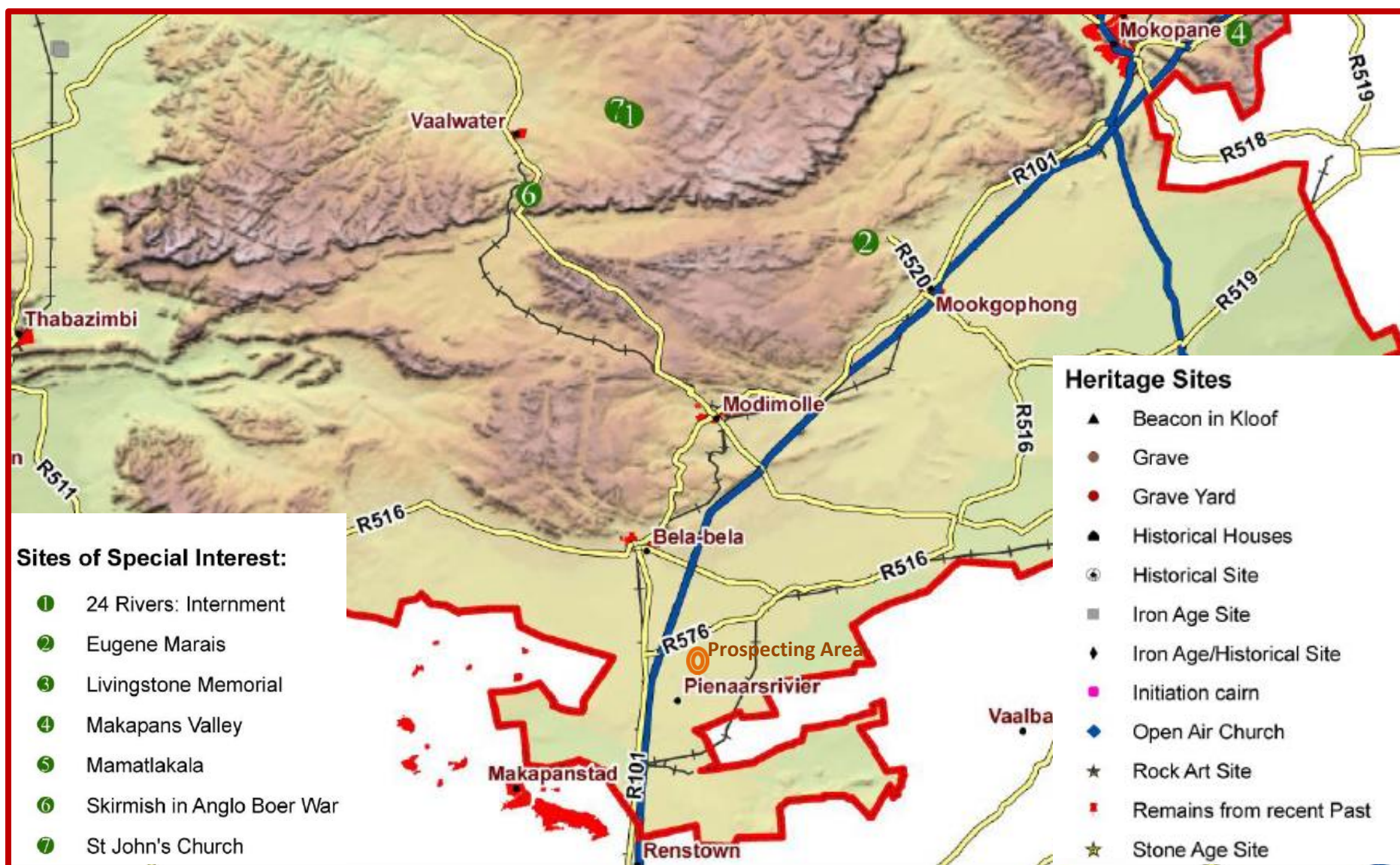


Figure j: Threatened Ecosystems

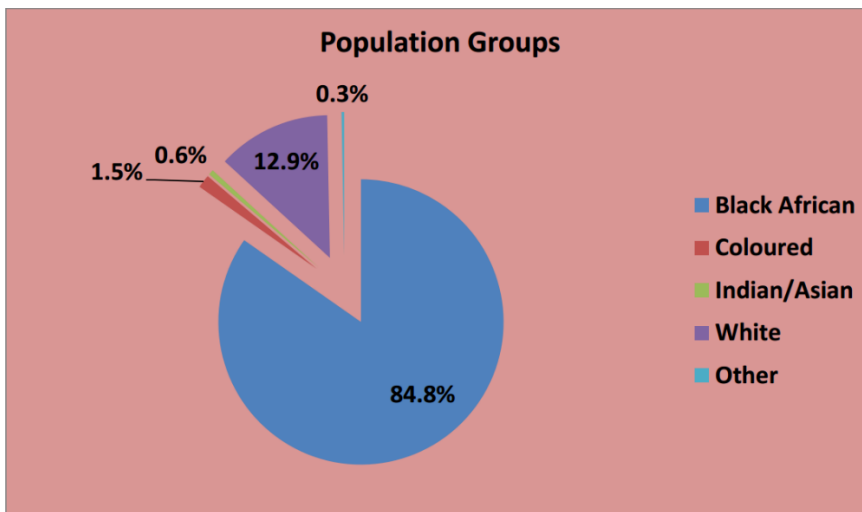


**Figure k: Heritage Sites**



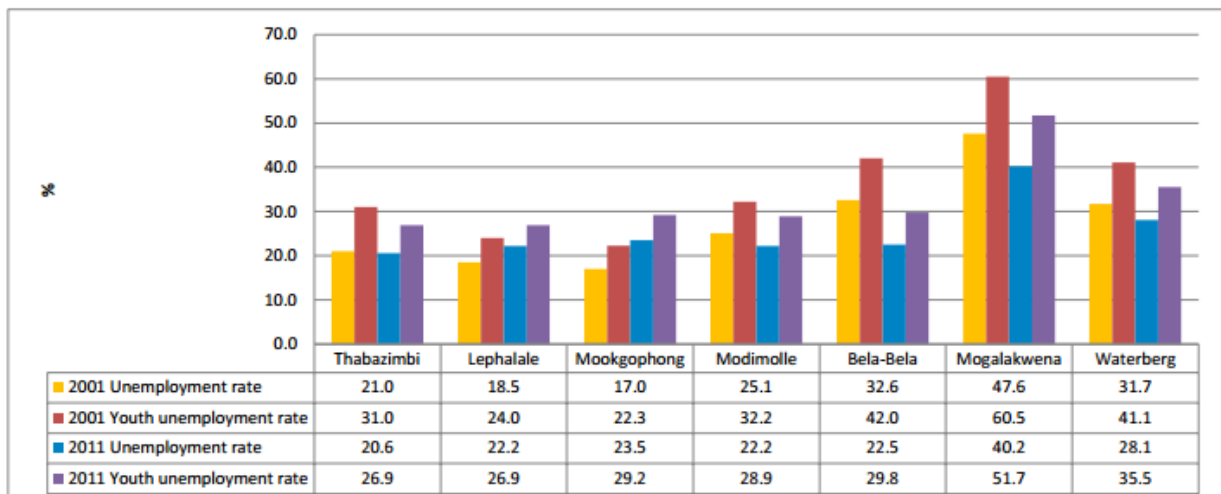
Socio-economic

The proposed prospecting right application area is located near the town of Bela-Bela which falls within the Bela-Bela Local Municipality (BBLM) that make up ±6.8% of the Waterberg District Municipalities. Bela-Bela Local Municipality has a population of 66 500 (33 754 males and 32 748 females) grouped in 18 068 households which equates to an average household of 3.7 people. The Bela-Bela Local Municipality area is approximately 337 605.55 ha in extent which equates to a population distribution of 0.5 persons per Ha average density, which reflects a very low population density and characteristic of rural area with few towns. The population growth for BBLM from 2001 to 2011 was 27.6%. The high growth ratio takes into account other main factors such as in-migration, which can result in further increase in the population within Bela-Bela due to people who have relocated from Gauteng to Bela-Bela Town (specifically in the Warmbaths Extensions) to get away from the busy life of Gauteng. The population by race comprise of majority being Africans at 84.8%, with whites being 12.9%, coloured at 1.5% and the rest being 0.9%.



[Source: StatisticsSA: Census, 2011]

Economic active population and economic sectors



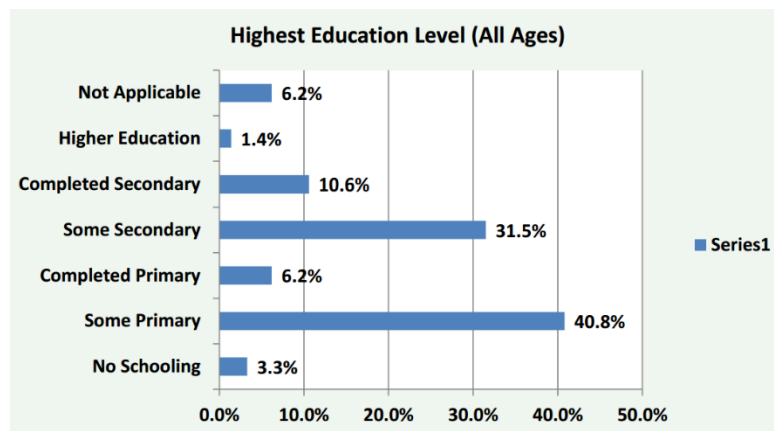
Census 2011

Approximately 11% (1 534) of the households is dependent on an income which is below R 12 000 per annum (i.e. less than R 1 100 per month). According to the municipalities indigent policy these households can be classified as very poor and they need to be subsidies in the provision of basic services.



### Education and literacy levels

The education profile in Bela-Bela is one of the key areas of concern where people over the age of 20 with Higher education is a mere 9.5%, people over the age of 20 with no schooling is 9.7% and people over the age of 20 with Matric is 26.2%.



[Source: StatisticsSA: Census, 2011]

### Description of the current land uses.

Compared with other districts in Limpopo, Waterberg District Municipality presents greater prospects for growth in all sectors in terms of GDP, employment and population. Mining, agriculture, and tourism sectors serve as a backbone for growth and have a potential of triggering growth of other sectors such as transport, construction and trade.

Waterberg's main GDP contribution, by far, comes from the mining sector with a share of almost half (49%) of the GDP in the District, followed by the finance sector (11%). This developmental vision of the BBLM is to be the prime agricultural hub and tourism destination of choice within the Limpopo Province.

The proposed prospecting right area is dominated by woodland or open bush with low shrub cover and large patches of cultivated land. Game farming, cattle grazing and mining is the main land use.

### Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site.

Based on the outcomes of the initial prospecting phases (non-invasive activities), the location of any invasive activities such as drilling will be determined and the impacts on the identified water courses will subsequently be determined. It is expected that for the invasive activities (drilling), only localised clearing of grass and shrubs are required in order to prepare a drill pad. The farmstead dwellings other farm infrastructure will be avoided as far as possible.

The area also has a number of roads that traverse the sites, from the R101 and N1 national roads to various provincial and secondary roads as well as farm tracks. The invasive activities will seek to use existing roads in order to access the property and it is not expected that any new access roads will be opened up. The map **Figure b** above gives an overview of the sites and the main watercourses, settlements and roads that traverse the site.

### Environmental and current land use maps

Refer to **figure a to figure k** provided as part of the specific attributes

3.8.5 Impacts and risks identified including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts can be avoided, managed or mitigated

As described earlier in this report, the prospecting activities will comprise of desktop and geophysical activities and dependant on the outcome of these phases, targets will be selected for drilling activities. The impact assessment therefore focuses only on the invasive aspects (drilling and associated activities) as these will have the potential to impact on the biophysical and social environment. The impact assessment is furthermore separated into three distinct phases, namely:

- Construction phase (Site establishment);
- Operational phase (Drilling), and.
- Decommissioning

**The potential environmental and social impacts**

Phase	Activities	Potential Impacts	Reversible	Irreplaceable Damage	Can impact be avoided
Construction Phase Site establishment	Site Access	Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna	Yes	No	No
		Soil compaction from repeated use of access track to drill sites (twee-spoor)	Yes	No	No
	Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling (if necessary), erection of temporary equipment laydown area, waste generation and management)	Impact on heritage artefacts, heritage sites and grave yards	No	Yes	Yes
		Noise Generation	Yes	No	No
		Visual intrusion	Yes	No	No
		Dust fall & nuisance from activities, dust emission from top soil stripping (if necessary)	Yes	No	No
		Wildlife and Vegetation disturbance from drill pad preparation	Yes	No	No
		Surface water and groundwater use and contamination from hydrocarbons	Yes	No	Yes
		Contamination and disturbance of soil from drill pad preparation, compaction and soil disturbance due to topsoil stockpiling	Yes	No	No
		Socio- economic impact on existing land use practices	Yes	No	No

Operational Phase Drilling	Drilling and Sample Analysis (including: refueling, soil/ rock-chip sample analysis, drill fluid collection, storage and evaporation, waste generation and management)	Disturbance or damage to cultural and heritage resources such as graves or historic ruins	No	Yes	Yes
		Noise caused by the drilling rig travelling to and being established on each site, the diesel engine driving the drill, vehicles going to and from the drilling site	Yes	No	No
		Visibility of the drilling rig	Yes	No	No
		Dust emissions from drilling and general site activities (vehicle entrained dust)	Yes	No	No
		Wildlife and Vegetation disturbance from drilling	Yes	No	No
		Impact on limited water resources abstraction	Yes	No	Yes
		Surface- and groundwater use and contamination from drill fluids, hydrocarbon spills and drill maintenance activities (if necessary)	Yes	No	Yes
		Contamination and disturbance (compaction) of soil due to drilling activities	Yes	No	No
		Socio- economic impact on existing land use practices	Yes	No	No
Decommissioning Phase	Removal of excess drilling mud, soil rock chips and rehabilitation of the drill site by scarifying compacted areas and vehicle tracks, spreading topsoil and borehole capping)	Dust emission from decommissioning activities (vehicle entrained dust)	Yes	No	Yes
		Soil erosion of topsoil	Yes	No	Yes

### 3.8.6 Methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks

Evaluating the impact of a risk is to determine the probability, severity, frequency and duration of the risk. These are all valuated separately and then combined to produce a risk impact; insignificant (1, green), medium (2, yellow) or significant (3, red). In some instances, the impact of a risk will be classified as uncertain due to lack of information.

For a risk with a rating of 3 (i.e. significant), strategies are put in place to reduce the risk to 1 (insignificant) or 2 (medium, provided that the risk can be controlled with management actions).

To maintain the rating at 1 or 2, monitoring is implemented for a period of time to enable the confirmation of the risk as insignificant or as medium and under control.

At the time of final mine closure an application will be made to DMR for a mine closure certificate only when all risks have been confirmed as insignificant or medium and under control via management actions.

#### Evaluating the probability

There are no standard methods of evaluating the probability of occurrence. All methods used rely on some form of subjective judgment and, therefore, agreed criteria have to be used in the evaluation. Values are assigned for the probability of occurrence of the relative strength of the factors involved to each of the criteria. Three evaluation ratings are used, viz. 1 for unlikely, 2 for could be/could happen/unknown, and 3 for definite/has happened/highly likely.

#### Evaluating the severity

In evaluating the severity of a potential impact there are various criteria that can be applied to determine the level of risk associated with the consequences of an action occurring. These are the quantity of material/substance released and the probable size of the covered area or possible spread of impact. Combinations of descriptions for what are considered to be different levels of importance for the criteria can be integrated.

Values are assigned for the severity of the relative strength of the factors involved to each of the criteria. Three evaluation ratings are used, viz. 1 for insignificant, - natural and social functions and processes are not affected or minimally affected, 2 for medium significance - affected environment is notably altered; natural and social functions and processes continue albeit in a modified way and 3 for high significance - natural or social functions or processes could be substantially affected or altered to the extent that they could temporarily or permanently cease.

#### Evaluating the frequency

When evaluating the frequency of a potential impact any repetitive, continuous or time-linked characteristics of the impacts are taken into account. Values are assigned for the frequency of the factors involved to each of the criteria. Three evaluation ratings are used, viz. 1 for once off, 2 for intermittent, and 3 for ongoing/continuing/usually.

#### Evaluating the duration

The duration of a potential impact is based on the duration of the impact should the risk realise, i.e. the duration could be short-term, medium-term, long-term or permanent. Values are assigned for the duration of the factors involved to each of the criteria. Three evaluation ratings are used, viz. 1 for an

instant/point in time, 2 for temporary/ intermittent, and 3 for forever. Values are calculated, as a function of the probability, severity, frequency and duration for different risks. The individual scores are added and a risk impact is assigned. The calculated sums of the possible permutations of probability, severity, frequency and duration range from 4 to 12. Combinations with a sum total of 6 and less were rated as insignificant, while those rating 10 and higher were defined as significant. Risks with ratings in between 6 and 10 have medium outcomes.

Environmental Significance rating of **insignificant** (combined score 0-6)

An insignificant impact is likely to contribute to positive decisions about whether or not to proceed with the project. It will have little real effect and is unlikely to have an influence on project design or alternative motivation.

Environmental Significance rating of **medium** (combined score 7-9)

If left unmanaged, an impact of medium significance could influence a decision about whether or not to proceed with a proposed project. Mitigation measures should be implemented.

Environmental Significance rating of **significant** (combined score 10-12)

A significant impact could influence a decision about whether or not to proceed with the proposed project, regardless of available mitigation options.

- 3.8.7 The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity (in terms of the initial site layout) and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for the impact assessment tables.

Positive Impacts

This application is for prospecting activities which fall under the mining sector and would therefore make a contribution to one of the main employment sectors of the Waterberg District. Mining is the most contributing economic sector for the municipality at 59.21%. The prospecting activities themselves would not directly lead to job opportunities. Should the prospecting activities however prove to be financially viable, then mining activities would generate employment opportunities

Negative Impacts (Refer table section (v))

The key potential negative impacts associated with the prospecting activity are those typically associated with drilling activities, which include the following:

- Site Access
  - Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna
  - Soil compaction from repeated use of access track to drill sites (two-spoor) and soil disturbance due to topsoil stockpiling
- Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling (if necessary), erection of temporary equipment laydown area, waste generation and management)
  - Impact on heritage artefacts, heritage sites and grave yards
  - Noise Generation
  - Visual intrusion
  - Dust fall & nuisance from activities, dust emission from top soil stripping (if necessary)
  - Wildlife and Vegetation disturbance from drill pad preparation
  - Soil, surface water and groundwater use and contamination from hydrocarbons

- Socio- economic impact with regard to overlapping activities of other mining activities on the same property, existing land use impact on game farming, hunting and tourism and friction between local resident's land owners and construction personnel
- Drilling and Sample Analysis (including: refueling, soil/ rock-chip sample analysis, drill fluid collection, storage and evaporation, waste generation and management)
  - Noise caused by the drilling rig travelling to and being established on each site, the diesel engine driving the drill, vehicles going to and from the drilling site
  - Impact on limited water resources abstraction
  - Water and soil pollution from drill fluids, hydrocarbon spills and drill maintenance activities (if necessary)
  - Dust emissions from drilling and general site activities (vehicle entrained dust)
  - Disturbance of soil from drill pad preparation and compaction
  - Visibility of the drilling rig
  - Disturbance or damage to cultural and heritage resources such as graves or historic ruins
  - Socio- economic impact with regard to overlapping activities of other mining activities on the same property, existing land use impact on game farming, hunting and tourism and friction between local resident's land owners and construction personnel
- Removal of excess drilling mud, soil rock chips and rehabilitation of the drill site by scarifying compacted areas and vehicle tracks, spreading topsoil and borehole capping)
  - Dust emission from decommissioning activities (vehicle entrained dust)
  - Soil erosion of topsoil

3.8.8 The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for the impact assessment tables.

The key measures taken to mitigate the key potential impacts are as follows:

#### **Site Access**

- Disturbance of onsite wildlife and vegetation on access track

The impacts of access on wildlife and vegetation have been assessed as being of **insignificance** even before mitigation. The impact can be reduced by only using existing farm roads and tracks. Vehicles speed must take into account the possibility of collisions with fauna.

Where new access tracks (twee-spoor) are required to get the drill rig to the drilling site the activity will be limited to the smallest area that is necessary and by rehabilitating the disturbed area immediately after completion of the activity. Furthermore, no clear scraping (dozing) will be carried out unless absolutely necessary. Rather that surface vegetation be cleared to make way for the drilling rig leaving the roots intact so that vegetation can coppice and regrow.

- Soil compaction from repeated use of access track to drill sites

The impacts of access on soil compaction have been assessed as being of **insignificance** even before mitigation. The impact can be reduced by the mitigating measure above and where new access tracks are required to get the drill rig to the drilling site, such compacted tracks must be scarified immediately after completion of

the activity. All tracks and drill traverses (twee-spoor) will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled removed to be spread over the disturbed area. Dual use access roads must be handed back to the landowner in a good state of repair.

### **Site Establishment**

- Cultural and Heritage Resources

This stage entails clearing a maximum of 260m<sup>2</sup> per site to cater for the drill rig setup including associated equipment. This activity has the potential to impact on heritage artefacts, heritage sites and grave yards. The impacts could potentially be **significant**. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to **reduce the potential impact to insignificant**:

- Heritage Impact Assessment shall be conducted by an independent competent specialist prior the drilling site establishment. This will ensure that all impacts on artefacts, heritage sites and graveyards in order to establish and implement mitigation measure to avoid significant impacts, where such significant impact cannot be avoided be minimised and mitigated.
- All personnel including contractors involved in the construction activities will be made aware of the locations of all identified heritage resources, the necessity of avoiding impacts on such resources and the penalties for damaging them (once drill sites have been identified, these sites will be screened by a qualified archaeologist/cultural heritage specialist);
- Personnel will be informed about the consequences of unlawful removal of cultural and historical remains and artefacts associated with heritage sites. It will be emphasised that archaeological artefacts such as potsherds, stone tools, grinding stones, etc. must be left in situ and undisturbed;
- A safe distance of at least 50 metres will be maintained between the identified heritage resource and the construction activities. The heritage feature should be cordoned off with stakes and Chevron tape; and
- If any heritage resources are discovered as a result of the construction/set-up activities, such activities will cease with immediate effect and a qualified archaeologist will be commissioned to assess their significance and determine appropriate mitigation measures. This may include obtaining authorisation (permits) from SAHRA to conduct mitigation measures if any heritage resources have been affected. Authorisation must be obtained from SAHRA before any mitigation measures are implemented.

- Noise

Typical noise levels generated by various types of construction equipment are listed in the table below. Conservative attenuation conditions, related to intervening ground conditions and screening, have been applied.

#### **Typical noise levels generated by construction equipment**

Equipment	Typical operational Noise level at given offset (dBA)							
	5m	10m	25m	50m	100m	250m	500m	100m
Air compressor	91	85	77	71	65	57	51	46
Crane (mobile)	93	87	79	73	67	59	53	47
Dozer	95	89	81	75	69	61	55	49
Pump	86	80	72	66	60	52	46	40
Rock Drill	108	102	94	88	82	74	68	62
Trucks	87	81	73	67	64	60	57	54

In South Africa, the noise impact on human receptors is evaluated in terms of the SANS 10103 guidelines for sound pressure levels as listed in the table below.

## Noise level standards for various districts

Type of District	Equivalent continuous rating level $L_{ReC T}$ for ambient noise - dBA					
	Outdoors			Indoors with windows open		
	Day-night	Daytime	Night	Day-	Daytime	Night-
Rural districts	45	45	35	35	35	25
Suburban district	50	50	40	40	40	30
Urban traffic	55	55	45	45	45	35
Urban districts	60	60	50	50	50	40
Central business district	65	65	55	55	55	45
Industrial district	70	70	60	60	60	50

Daytime and night-time refer to the hours from 06h00 to 22h00 and 22h00 to 06h00 respectively

Taking into account the existing background noise levels of the general area which is rural in nature, the significance of the noise caused by the drilling rig travelling to and being established on each site, vehicles going to and from each drilling site and the voices of the drilling crew, the impact is assessed as being **insignificant** before mitigation. Although mitigation measure is put in place the significance rating remains the same at **insignificant** by limiting the site establishment activities to daylight hours (06h00 to 18h00) and not undertaking such activities at all on Sundays and public holidays, as well as by applying a separation distance of a minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m between drill sites and any dwellings. The vehicles on site are limited to three LDVs and one water truck. It must be noted that the speed limit for driving within a community and prospecting right shall be limited to 40Km/h.

- Visual

The visual impact of the construction / setup activities is assessed as being of **Medium significant** significance before mitigation. The impact can be reduced to one of **insignificance** by taking into account available vegetation screening, the locations of visual receptors on the prospecting areas and adjacent properties and locating the drilling rig in a way that it is screened from points of visual reception wherever possible.

- Dust fall

Acceptable dust fall rates in terms of the National Dust Control Regulations (GN R. 827 of 1 November 2013) are presented in the table below. In terms of these regulations, the local air quality officer may prescribe a dust fall monitoring programme, the implementation of dust control measures and continuous ambient air quality monitoring for PM10.

### Acceptable dust fall rates

Restriction Areas	Dust fall rate (D) (mg/m <sup>2</sup> /Day, 30- day average)	Permitted frequency of exceeding dust fall rate
Residential area	D < 600	Two within a year, not sequential months
Non-residential area	600 < D < 1 200	Two within a year, not sequential months

The method to be used for measuring dust fall rate and the guideline for locating sampling points shall be ASTM D1739: 1970, or equivalent method.

It is important to note that people experience dust deposition as a nuisance effect, and that there are no direct human health implications because the dust is not inhaled. Heavy dust deposition can have detrimental effects on plants if the leaves are smothered to the extent where transpiration and photosynthesis are affected.

The proposed operation falls within the boundaries of the Waterberg District Municipality's and the company may be required to operate within the air quality requirements of the Municipality's Air Quality Management Plan.



The impact of dust generation by vehicles travelling over unpaved areas is assessed as being of **insignificance** even before mitigation. The impact can be reduced by wet suppression and enforcement of low vehicle speeds. Separation of distance of minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m to be maintained between drill sites and dwellings will also reduce the impact of dust fall.

- Disturbance of wildlife and vegetation

The impacts of drilling (drill pad clearing and compaction) have been assessed as being of **medium significance** before mitigation. The impact can be reduced to **insignificant** by limiting the activities and clearance to the smallest area that is necessary and rehabilitating the disturbed area as soon as possible. Furthermore, no clear scraping (dozing) will be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad. Rather that surface vegetation be cleared to make way for the drilling rig leaving the roots intact so that vegetation can coppice and regrow.

- Surface water and groundwater use and contamination

The impact of contamination with hydrocarbons and disturbance of water resources is assessed as being of **medium significant** before mitigation. The impact can be reduced to one of **insignificant** by ensuring that measures are put in place to prevent any drilling activities within 100m from a water course. Maintaining all equipment as per supplier specification and lining under the drill rig and diesel bowser with PVC plastic lining to contain any spillages, should it occur including having oil spill kit as a recovery measures.

- Contamination and disturbance of soil from drill pad preparation, compaction and soil disturbance due to topsoil stockpiling

The impacts of soil compaction have been assessed as being of **insignificance** even before mitigation. The impact on contamination can be reduced by the mitigating measure above and by limiting the activities and clearance of the drill pad to the smallest area that is necessary. Furthermore, no clear scraping (dozing) will be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad. All drill pads will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled removed to be spread over the disturbed area immediately after completion of the activity.

- Socio- economic impact

The prospecting sites are located in a rural farming area with farm dwellings and tourism activities including hunting. Some landowners cherish the peaceful and quiet lifestyle of the area and friction between local residents and a crew of strangers is very possible. Conflict with other mining companies on the same property is also a possibility. The potential for conflict is assessed as being **significant**, but it can be reduced to one of **medium significance** by taking appropriate social management measures. Non-invasive activities that will be completed off-site. During field-investigations a maximum of three specialists will require access. All access will be arranged beforehand with landowner and the project manager will be present at all times and will report to the landowner when accessing and leaving the property. Indemnity will be signed by all mining personnel entering the property.

Any other mining companies operating legally will be listed as affected parties and consulted. Areas of operations will be demarcated and no overlapping will be allowed. Agreements between current mining operations and landowner will be respected and adopted as part of this operation. Co-ordinate invasive activities with existing mining activities to reduce the time of disturbances Landowner will be updated with regard to the progress of implementing the PWP and any invasive operation and concurrent rehabilitation will be planned in consultation with landowner.

## Operational Phase

- Cultural and Heritage Resources

Drilling shall only be conducted on the target in which the heritage impact assessment was conducted and mitigation measures implemented. Therefore, the impact could be of insignificance. The significant rating will remain the same after mitigation measures at **insignificant**.

- Drilling equipment moving on site will, where ever possible, be confined to established roads and tracks. Where this is not possible, access routes will be walked prior to entry of equipment to ensure that there are no graves present.
- Should graves be identified, the access route will be realigned to avoid such heritage resources, which will then be clearly marked with stakes and Chevron tape to minimise risk of accidental damage.
- Efforts to achieve satisfactory prospecting results will employ appropriate methodologies aimed at the protection and conservation of heritage resources;
- All contractors and personnel involved in the prospecting activities will be made aware of the locations of all identified heritage resources, the necessity of avoiding impacts on such resources and the penalties for damaging them;
- Personnel will be informed about the consequences of unlawful removal of cultural and historical remains and artefacts associated with heritage sites. It will be emphasised that archaeological artefacts such as potsherds, stone tools, grinding stones, etc. must be left in situ and undisturbed.
- A safe distance of at least 50 metres will be maintained between the identified heritage resource and drilling rig or any other infrastructure associated with the prospecting activities; and
- Where necessary, directional drilling will be practised to assess ore reserves situated below identified heritage resources, without affecting such resources;
- If any heritage resources are discovered as a result of the prospecting activities, such activities will cease with immediate effect and a qualified archaeologist will be commissioned to assess their significance and determine appropriate mitigation measures. This may include obtaining authorisation from SAHRA to conduct mitigation measures if any heritage resources have been affected. Authorisation must be obtained from SAHRA before any mitigation measures are implemented.

- Noise

The noise impact caused by the operation of the drilling rig, vehicles travelling to and from each drilling site and the voices of the drilling crew is assessed as being of **medium significance**. The impact can be reduced to one of **insignificant** by limiting the prospecting activities to daylight hours (07h00 to 18h00) and not undertaking such activities at all on Sundays and public holidays. Furthermore, a separation distance of minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m should be maintained between drill sites and dwellings as far as possible.

- Visual

The visual impact of the prospecting activities is assessed as being of **Medium Significance**. It can be reduced to one of **insignificance** by appropriate location of the drilling rig and other visually prominent items on the site and placement in consultation with the landowner. Existing vegetation must be use as far as possible to screen the prospecting operations from view. If necessary, the operations can be screened from view by erecting a shade cloth barrier.

- Dust fall

The impact of dust generated by vehicles travelling over unpaved areas is assessed as being of **insignificance**, but it can be readily mitigated further by enforcement of low vehicle speeds, as well as by applying a separation distance of a minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m between drill sites and any dwellings.

- Disturbance of wildlife and vegetation

Disturbance of wildlife and vegetation in areas where drilling is done is rated as being of **medium significance**. The impact can be reduced to **insignificant** by prior delineation of the drill site area via geophysical characterisation and drilling in order to minimise the area that needs to be cleared. Furthermore, no clear scraping (dozing) must be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad. Rather that surface vegetation be cleared to make way for the drilling rig leaving the roots intact so that vegetation can coppice and regrow.

Invasive drilling activities will be aligned in consultation with landowner not to coincide with the breeding or hunting season.

- Surface- and groundwater contamination and use

The potential contamination of surface and groundwater with hydrocarbons is assessed as an impact of **Medium** significance. The impact can be reduced to one of **insignificant** by implementing the measures recommended for the construction phase. Drilling muds will be contained in lined drill sumps and this material will be removed from site and disposed in a licensed disposal facility.

Water is only required when drilling activities commence. Drilling water requirements fall within the “small industrial user” where the use of water is less than twenty cubic meters per day for prospecting. The water that will be used for the prospecting activities will be sourced on agreement from an existing authorized water user which could be either the land owner or local municipality. The department responsible for water resources shall be consulted with regards to any water related agreement with either the land owner or local municipality prior to drilling. No water will be abstracted in terms of section 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998 (Act no. 36 of 1998).

- Contamination and disturbance of soil from drill pad preparation, compaction and soil disturbance due to topsoil stockpiling

The impacts of soil compaction have been assessed as being of **insignificance** even before mitigation. The impact on contamination can be reduced by the mitigating measure applicable to water contamination and by limiting the activities and clearance of the drill pad to the smallest area that is necessary. Furthermore, no clear scraping (dozing) will be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad. All drill pads will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled removed to be spread over the disturbed area immediately after completion of the activity.

- Socio- economic impact

The prospecting sites are located in a rural farming area with farm dwellings and tourism activities including hunting. Some landowners cherish the peaceful and quiet lifestyle of the area and friction between local residents and a crew of strangers is very possible. Conflict with other mining companies on the same property is also a possibility. The potential for conflict is assessed as being **significant**, but it can be reduced to one of **medium significance** by taking appropriate social management measures.

Most of the time will be spend on non-invasive activities that will be completed off-site. During field-investigations a maximum of three specialists will require access. All access will be arranged beforehand with landowner and the project manager will be

present at all times and will report to the landowner when accessing and leaving the property. Indemnity will be signed by all mining personnel entering the property.

Any other mining companies operating legally will be listed as affected parties and consulted. Areas of operations will be demarcated and no overlapping will be allowed. Agreements between current mining operations and landowner will be respected and adopted as part of this operation. Co-ordinate invasive activities with existing mining activities to reduce the time of disturbances

Invasive drilling activities will be aligned in consultation with landowner not to coincide with the breeding or hunting season. Limiting the invasive activities to daylight hours (06h00 to 18h00) and not undertaking such activities at all on Sundays and public holidays.

Applying a separation distance of a minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m between drill sites and any tourism infrastructure and dwellings.

Available vegetation to be used as screening of the locations of visual receptors on the prospecting areas and tourism activities.

Locating the drilling rig in a way that it is screened from points of visual reception (tourism infrastructure, access roads) wherever possible.

Most of the time will be spend on non-invasive activities that will be completed off-site. During field-investigations a maximum of three specialists will require access. All access will be arranged beforehand with landowner and the project manager will be present at all times and will report to the landowner when accessing and leaving the property. Indemnity will be signed by all mining personnel entering the property.

### **Decommissioning phase:**

Decommissioning of borehole sites will take place immediately after each borehole has been completed and the drilling rig is moved to the next site.

#### **3.8.8.1 Assessment of potential cumulative impacts**

The cumulative impact assessment considers a scenario where more than one drilling rig and drill site is in operation at any point in time throughout the duration of the prospecting programme.

- The cumulative noise impact of the proposed prospecting operations on the above sensitive receptors is assessed as being of significant significance before mitigation. The impact can be reduced to one of Medium significance by limiting the construction / setup activities to daylight hours (06h00 to 18h00) and not undertaking such activities at all on Sundays and public holidays;
- The cumulative visual impact on the above sensitive receptors is assessed as being of Significant significance prior to mitigation;
- Without mitigation, the potential cumulative impact of dust generation on the above sensitive receptors is assessed as being of Medium significance;

A total of 10 boreholes will potentially be drilled with a combined footprint area of <1hectares maximum at the end of the prospecting programme once all holes have been drilled and then rehabilitated.

- Without mitigation, the potential cumulative impact of soil, surface water and groundwater contamination, as experienced by the sensitive receptors, is assessed
- as being of medium significance.

### 3.8.9 Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.

As discussed in previous sections, the proposed prospecting right area holds potential because of the presence of known kimberlite occurrences in the area as well as the diamond mining activities. The prospecting location has been informed by historical prospecting and production records for the area, as well as the most likely position of potential kimberlites within the kimberlite field. As such the applicant believes there is a possibility of encountering further diamond reserves within the prospecting area. The area included in this prospecting application is therefore regarded as the preferred site and alternative sites are not considered. The preferred site is informed by the most likely location of diamond deposits.

### 3.8.10 Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site. (Provide a statement motivating the final site layout that is proposed)

As discussed in previous sections, each of the prospecting phases is dependent on the results of the preceding phase. The location and layout of drill sites will be determined based on information derived from the desktop and geophysical surveys (non-invasive activities). Proposed drill sites will be selected so as to avoid known heritage sites, water courses, dwellings and infrastructure where practicable. Since the invasive prospecting phase (drilling) is dependent on the outcomes of Phases 1, the final site layout will be finalised on completion of Phases 1. The conceptual site layout is provided in **Figure c**.

### **3.9 Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site (In respect of the final site layout plan) through the life of the activity.**

This BAR and EMPr were compiled through a detailed desktop investigation in order to determine the environmental setting in which the project is located. Input from stakeholders during the public participation process also assist the EAP in the identification of any additional impacts associated with the proposed prospecting activities. The methodology described above was used to assess the significance of the potential impacts of the prospecting activities. The assessment of impacts is based on the experience of the EAP with similar projects. The applicant also has practical experience through exploration geologists and therefore the identification of impacts and assessment of their significance is informed by first-hand experience of drilling activities. The mitigation measures proposed are considered to be reasonable and based on the location of the prospecting area and must be implemented in order for the outcome of the assessment to be accurate.

### 3.10 Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk

(This section of the report must consider all the known typical impacts of each of the activities (including those that could or should have been identified by knowledgeable persons) and not only those that were raised by registered interested and affected parties).

NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE	SIGNIFICANCE Without mitigation	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE With mitigation
Site Access	Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna	Loss of/ disturbance to flora and fauna	Construction	In-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing farm roads and tracks must be used as far as possible;</li> <li>Where new access tracks are required to get the drill rig to the drilling site, such tracks must be scarified during decommissioning;</li> <li>Vehicles speed must take into account the possibility of collisions with fauna.</li> </ul>	In-significant
	Soil compaction from repeated use of access track to drill sites	Loss of soil resources	Construction	In-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All compacted roads and drill sites will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled to be spread over the disturbed area.</li> <li>Dual use access roads must be handed back to the landowner in a good state of repair.</li> </ul>	In-significant
Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling, erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, waste generation and management)	Cultural and Heritage	Destruction and/or loss of Cultural and Heritage Resources	Construction	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A heritage survey by qualified archaeologist is required prior to any site activities on undisturbed land or access routes.</li> <li>If any heritage resources are discovered as a result of the prospecting activities, such activities will cease with immediate effect and a qualified archaeologist will be commissioned to assess their significance and determine appropriate mitigation measures.</li> <li>All personnel and contactors will be made aware of the locations of all identified heritage resources and the necessity of avoiding them.</li> <li>Personnel will be informed about the consequences of unlawful removal of cultural and historical remains and artefacts associated with heritage sites.</li> </ul>	In-significant

Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling, erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, waste generation and management)	Cultural and Heritage - continues				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A safe distance of at least 50 metres will be maintained between the identified heritage resource and prospecting activities.</li> <li>• Where necessary, directional drilling will be practised to assess ore reserves situated below identified heritage resources.</li> </ul>	
	Noise	Noise Generation	Construction / Set-up	In-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction/setup, operational and decommissioning activities will be limited to daylight hours on Mondays to Saturdays and no activities on Sundays and public holidays.</li> <li>• Separation of distance of minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m to be maintained between drill sites and dwellings.</li> <li>• Noise abatement equipment, such as mufflers on diesel engines, will be maintained in good condition.</li> <li>• If intrusive noise levels are experienced by any person at any point, the source of the noise will be moved if practical, or it will be placed in an acoustic enclosure, or an acoustic barrier will be erected between the source and the recipient.</li> </ul>	In-significant
	Visual	Visual intrusion	Construction / Set-up	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drilling rig and other visually prominent items on the site will be located in consultation with the landowner.</li> <li>• Make use of existing vegetation as far as possible to screen the prospecting operations from view.</li> <li>• If necessary, the operations can be screened from view by erecting a shade cloth barrier.</li> </ul>	In-significant
	Dust fall	Dust fall & nuisance from activities	Construction / Set-up	In-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation of distance of minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m to be maintained between drill sites and dwellings.</li> <li>• Low vehicle speeds will be enforced on unpaved surfaces.</li> </ul>	In-significant

Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling, erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, waste generation and management)	Wildlife and Vegetation disturbance from drill pad preparation	Vegetation and fauna disturbance from drill pad preparation	Construction / Set-up	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The soil disturbance and clearance of vegetation at drill pad areas will be limited to the absolute minimum required.</li> <li>• Rather than surface vegetation be cleared to make way for the drilling rig leaving the roots intact so that vegetation can coppice and regrow.</li> <li>• No clear scraping (dozing) or removal of topsoil will be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad.</li> <li>• If dozing of drill pad areas required topsoil must be stored separately and drill sites must be rehabilitated by scarifying disturbed and compacted areas and spreading topsoil</li> <li>• Disturbed areas will be revegetated with locally indigenous species as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Where new access tracks are required to get the drill rig to the drilling site, such tracks must be raked and revegetated during decommissioning.</li> <li>• Vehicles speed must take into account the possibility of collisions with fauna.</li> <li>• The design of the drill fluid sump must be such that it prevents fauna from gaining access to site and becoming trapped.</li> </ul>	In-significant
	Surface water and groundwater	Soil, surface water and groundwater contamination from hydrocarbons	Construction / Set-up	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that measures are put in place to prevent any drilling activities within 100m from a water course.</li> <li>• A lined sump (with sufficient capacity) will be constructed to receive drill fluids and allow for evaporation should clays be intersected in the borehole.</li> <li>• If a drill pad needs to be levelled by dozing topsoil must be stripped from the area immediately surrounding the drill area and stockpiled.</li> <li>• Storm water must be diverted around the drill site topsoil stockpile to prevent erosion, if necessary.</li> <li>• Oils and lubricants must be stored within sealed containment structures.</li> </ul>	



Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling, erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, waste generation and management)	Surface water and groundwater - continues				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel storage must be contained in mobile bowsers and refuelling will be done with care to minimise the chance of spillages.</li> <li>• Any mechanical equipment maintenance must be undertaken on drip trays or UPVC sheets to prevent spills/ leaks onto the soil.</li> <li>• When not in use, a drip tray must be placed beneath mechanical equipment and vehicles.</li> <li>• Machinery must be kept in good working order and regularly inspected for leaks.</li> <li>• A spill kit will be available on each site where prospecting activities are in progress.</li> <li>• Any spillages will be cleaned up immediately.</li> <li>• Drilling muds will contain in lined drill sumps and this material will be removed from site and disposed in a licensed disposal facility.</li> <li>• Storm water must be diverted around the drill site to prevent ingress of storm water.</li> <li>• Waste materials generated on site must be stored in suitable lidded containers and removed off site to a suitable disposal facility.</li> <li>• Waste separation must be undertaken if practical for recycling.</li> </ul>	
	Soil	Contamination and disturbance of soil from drill pad preparation, compaction and soil disturbance due to topsoil stockpiling	Construction / Set-up	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same mitigating measures as for surface water and groundwater contamination from hydrocarbons</li> <li>• Limiting the activities and clearance of the drill pad to the smallest area that is necessary.</li> </ul> <p>No clear scraping (dozing) will be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All drill pads will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled removed to be spread over the disturbed area immediately after completion of the activity</li> </ul>	In-significant

<p>Site Establishment Activities (including: topsoil stripping and stockpiling, erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, waste generation and management)</p>	<p>Socio - economic impact</p>	<p>Conflicting land use</p>	<p>Construction / Set-up</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<p>Non-invasive activities will be completed off-site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During field-investigations a maximum of three specialists will require access.</li> <li>• All access will be arranged beforehand with landowner and the project manager will be present at all times and will report to the landowner when accessing and leaving the property.</li> <li>• Indemnity will be signed by all mining personnel entering the property.</li> <li>• Any other mining companies operating legally will be listed as affected parties and consulted. Areas of operations will be demarcated and no overlapping will be allowed.</li> <li>• Agreements between current mining operations and landowner will be respected and adopted as part of this operation.</li> <li>• Co-ordinate invasive activities with existing mining activities to reduce the time of disturbances</li> <li>• Landowner will be updated with regard to the progress of implementing the PWP and any invasive operation and concurrent rehabilitation will be planned in consultation with landowner.</li> <li>• All operations will be carried out under the guidance of strong, experienced manager with proven skills in public consultation and conflict resolution.</li> <li>• All personnel will be made aware of the local conditions and sensitivities in the prospecting area and the requirements of the local residents.</li> <li>• There will be a strict requirement to treat local residents with respect and courtesy at all times.</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>
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<p>Exploration drilling  - Drilling  - Drill  maintenance &amp;  refueling  - Core sample  collection &amp; storage  - Vehicle movements  - Waste generation &amp;  management</p>	<p>Cultural and  Heritage</p>	<p>Destruction or  loss of Cultural  and Heritage  Resources</p>	<p>Operations</p>	<p>In-  significant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If any heritage resources are discovered as a result of the prospecting activities, such activities will cease with immediate effect and a qualified archaeologist will be commissioned to assess their significance and determine appropriate mitigation measures.</li> <li>• All personnel and contactors will be made aware of the locations of all identified heritage resources and the necessity of avoiding them.</li> <li>• Personnel will be informed about the consequences of unlawful removal of cultural and historical remains and artefacts associated with heritage sites.</li> <li>• A safe distance of at least 50 metres will be maintained between the identified heritage resource and prospecting activities.</li> <li>• Where necessary, directional drilling will be practised to assess ore reserves situated below identified heritage resources.</li> </ul>	<p>In-  significant</p>
	<p>Noise</p>	<p>Noise  Generation</p>	<p>Operations</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction/setup, operational and decommissioning activities will be limited to daylight hours on Mondays to Saturdays and no activities on Sundays and public holidays.</li> <li>• Separation of distance of minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m to be maintained between drill sites and dwellings.</li> <li>• Noise abatement equipment, such as mufflers on diesel engines, will be maintained in good condition.</li> <li>• If intrusive noise levels are experienced by any person at any point, the source of the noise will be moved if practical, or it will be placed in an acoustic enclosure, or an acoustic barrier will be erected between the source and the recipient.</li> </ul>	<p>In-  significant</p>

<p>Exploration drilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drilling</li> <li>- Drill maintenance &amp; refueling</li> <li>- Core sample collection &amp; storage</li> <li>- Vehicle movements</li> <li>- Waste generation &amp; management</li> </ul>	Visual	Visual intrusion	Operations	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drilling rig and other visually prominent items on the site will be located in consultation with the landowner.</li> <li>• Make use of existing vegetation as far as possible to screen the prospecting operations from view.</li> <li>• If necessary, the operations can be screened</li> </ul>	In-significant
	Dust fall	Dust fall & nuisance from activities	Operations	In-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation of distance of minimum 500m, but preferably 1000m to be maintained between drill sites and dwellings.</li> <li>• Low vehicle speeds will be enforced on unpaved surfaces.</li> </ul>	In-significant
	Wildlife and Vegetation disturbance from drilling	Vegetation and fauna disturbance from drilling	Operations	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drill sites will be informed by the findings of non-invasive prospecting.</li> <li>• The disturbance and clearance of vegetation at drill pad areas will be limited to the absolute minimum required.</li> <li>• The drill sites must be clearly demarcated, and no activities may take place outside of demarcated areas.</li> <li>• Drill holes must be backfilled as soon as is practically possible after drilling is completed.</li> <li>• Drill sites must be rehabilitated by scarifying disturbed and compacted areas and spreading topsoil.</li> <li>• Disturbed areas will be revegetated with locally indigenous species as soon as possible.</li> <li>• The design of the drill fluid sump must be such that it prevents fauna from gaining access to site and becoming trapped.</li> <li>• Invasive drilling activities will be aligned in consultation with landowner not to coincide with the breeding or hunting season.</li> </ul>	In-significant

<p>Exploration drilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drilling</li> <li>- Drill maintenance &amp; refueling</li> <li>- Core sample collection &amp; storage</li> <li>- Vehicle movements</li> <li>- Waste generation &amp; management</li> </ul>	<p>Surface water and groundwater</p>	<p>Surface water and groundwater use and contamination from hydrocarbons</p>	<p>Operations</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper vehicle maintenance.</li> <li>• Refuelling will be done with care to minimise the chance of spillages.</li> <li>• A spill kit will be available on each site where prospecting activities are in progress.</li> <li>• Any spillages will be cleaned up immediately.</li> <li>• Drilling muds will contain in lined drill sumps and this material will be removed from site and disposed in a licensed disposal facility.</li> <li>• Storm water must be diverted around the drill site to prevent ingress of storm water;</li> <li>• Waste materials generated on site must be stored in suitable lidded containers and removed off site to a suitable disposal facility.</li> <li>• Waste separation must be undertaken if practical for recycling.</li> <li>• Drilling water requirements will be less than twenty cubic meters per day for prospecting.</li> <li>• The water will be sourced on agreement from an existing authorized water user.</li> <li>• The department responsible for water resources shall be consulted with regards to any water use related agreement prior to drilling.</li> <li>• No water will be abstracted in terms of sec 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998.</li> </ul>	<p>In-significant</p>
	<p>Soil</p>	<p>Contamination and disturbance of soil from drill pad preparation, compaction and soil disturbance due to topsoil stockpiling</p>	<p>Operations</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact on contamination can be reduced by the mitigating measure applicable to water contamination.</li> <li>• Limiting activities and clearance of the drill pad to the smallest area that is necessary.</li> <li>• No clear scraping (dozing) will be carried out unless absolutely necessary to establish a level drill pad.</li> <li>• All drill pads will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled removed to be spread over the disturbed area immediately after completion of the activity.</li> </ul>	

<p>Exploration drilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drilling</li> <li>- Drill maintenance &amp; refueling</li> <li>- Core sample collection &amp; storage</li> <li>- Vehicle movements</li> <li>- Waste generation &amp; management</li> </ul>	<p>Socio- economic impact</p>	<p>Conflicting land use and friction between local resident's land owners and construction personnel</p>	<p>Operations</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-invasive activities will be completed off-site.</li> <li>• During field-investigations a maximum of three specialists will require access.</li> <li>• All access will be arranged beforehand with landowner and the project manager will be present at all times and will report to the landowner when accessing and leaving the property.</li> <li>• Indemnity will be signed by all mining personnel entering the property.</li> <li>• Any other mining companies operating legally will be listed as affected parties and consulted. Areas of operations will be demarcated and no overlapping will be allowed.</li> <li>• Agreements between current mining operations and landowner will be respected and adopted as part of this operation.</li> <li>• Co-ordinate invasive activities with existing mining activities to reduce the time of disturbances</li> <li>• Landowner will be updated with regard to the progress of implementing the PWP and any invasive operation and concurrent rehabilitation will be planned in consultation with landowner.</li> <li>• All operations will be carried out under the guidance of strong, experienced manager with proven skills in public consultation and conflict resolution.</li> <li>• All personnel will be made aware of the local conditions and sensitivities in the prospecting area and the requirements of the local residents.</li> <li>• There will be a strict requirement to treat local residents with respect and courtesy at all times.</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>
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<b>Assessment of Potential Cumulative Impacts</b>					
Noise	Noise generation	Construction / set-up and operation	Medium	As above	Medium
Visual	Visual intrusion	Construction / set-up and Operation	Medium	As above	Insignificant
Dust fall	Dust fall & nuisance from activities	Construction / set-up and Operation	Medium	As above	Insignificant
Wildlife and vegetation	Soil and vegetation disturbance from drill pad preparation	Construction / set-up and Operation	Medium	As above	Insignificant
Surface water and groundwater	Soil, surface water and Groundwater contamination from hydrocarbons	Construction / set-up and Operation	Medium	As above	Insignificant

The supporting impact assessment conducted by the EAP is attached as **Appendix 1** at the end of this document

### 3.11 Summary of specialist reports.

(This summary must be completed if any specialist reports informed the impact assessment and final site layout process and must be in the following tabular form):-

<b>LIST OF STUDIES UNDERTAKEN</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIST REPORTS</b>	<b>SPECIALIST RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE EIA REPORT (Mark with anX where applicable)</b>	<b>REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE SECTION OF REPORT WHERE SPECIALIST RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.</b>
No specialist studies have been undertaken. A desktop analysis has been followed that informs the compilation of this assessment. The EMPr does however include the commitment that an independent Heritage professional be appointed to conduct a screening assessment. This will only be undertaken once non-invasive early exploration activities have been completed and, should the findings of those investigations determine that there is a need to progress to	NA		

### 3.12 Environmental impact statement

#### 3.12.1 Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;

The majority of the prospecting activities are non-invasive and hence will have no environmental or social impact. The invasive activities will entail the drilling of approximately 10 exploration holes; which will have a minimal environmental and social impact as each drill pad will be confined to an area of approximately 160m<sup>2</sup> per site. The total anticipated area for disturbance is anticipated at less than 1 Ha which need to be viewed in the context of the entire prospecting license area under application which covers more than 1433.4049 hectares. The assessed impact ratings after implementation of the mitigation measures described above are as follows:

- Cultural and heritage – **insignificant**;
- Noise – **insignificant**;
- Visual impact – **medium significance, reducing to insignificant**
- Dust fall – **insignificant**;
- Disturbance of wildlife and vegetation – **medium significance, reducing to insignificant**;
- Contamination of surface water and groundwater – **medium significance, reducing to insignificant**;
- Soil – **medium significance, reducing to insignificant**; and
- Socio - economic impact – **significant** impact reducing to **medium significance**.

All of the identified impacts will occur for a limited period and the extent of the impacts will be localised. All of the identified impacts can be suitably mitigated with the residual impact ratings being of insignificant.

The conservation status of the vegetation types in the area is regarded as “Least Threatened”; and no threatened ecosystems are present (Refer to **Figure I & j**).

The main impacts associated with the drilling activities (site disturbance) can be suitable mitigated.

After drilling activities have been completed and the drill pads rehabilitated to predrilling status, the impacts will cease to exist

#### 3.12.2 Final Site Map

Please refer to **Appendix j** for the Environmental Sensitivities Map including the area of interest (AOI) for proposed prospecting activities

#### 3.12.3 Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;

##### Positive Impacts

This application is for prospecting activities. Should favourable results be obtained from exploratory drilling, and it is believed that diamond mining will be economically viable; such mining would contribute to one of the main employment sectors of the Local Municipality. The prospecting activities themselves would not directly lead to job opportunities.

##### Negative Impacts

- Possible destruction or loss of Cultural and Heritage Resources during the construction/set-up phase as well as during the operational phase as drilling commencing;
- Noise Generation from construction / set-up and operational activities of drilling;
- Visual intrusion caused by the drilling activities in the largely rural setting;
- Dust fall & nuisance from construction / drill site set-up;



- Wildlife and vegetation disturbance from drill pad preparation during the construction / set-up and operational phase as contractors rehabilitate one site and move to the next site and prepare it;
- Surface water and groundwater contamination from hydrocarbons during the construction/set-up and operational activities which include drill rig operation and use of vehicles on site; and
- Socio-Economic impact due to conflicting land uses during the construction / set-up and operational phase.

### **3.13 Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr**

- Provide sufficient information to strategically plan the prospecting activities as to avoid unnecessary social and environmental impacts.
- Provide sufficient information and guidance to plan prospecting activities in a manner that would reduce impacts (both social and environmental) as far as practically possible.
- Ensure an approach that will provide the necessary confidence in terms of environmental compliance.
- Provide a management plan that is effective and practical for implementation.
- Through the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures it is anticipated that the identified social & environmental impacts can be managed and mitigated effectively.
- Through the implementation of the mitigation and management measures it is expected that: Heritage/cultural resources can be managed by avoidance of known resources and through consultation with landowners/stakeholders. Contractor personnel will also be briefed of these sensitivities and consequences of any damage/removal of such features; Should the exploration program advance to the drilling stage, a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment will be undertaken prior to identification of drill sites, once areas of drilling interest have been determined
- Noise generation can be managed through consultation and restriction of operating hours and by maintaining equipment and applying noise abatement equipment if necessary;
- Visual intrusion can be managed through consultation with landowners /stakeholders and by suitable siting of drill pads and use of screens (natural vegetation or shade cloth etc);
- Dust fall can be managed by reducing driving speeds when driving on unpaved roads and the use of water during drilling;
- Wildlife disturbance and clearance of vegetation at drill pad areas will be limited to the absolute minimum required and disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with locally indigenous species as soon as possible;
- Surface water and groundwater contamination by hydrocarbons can be managed by conducting proper vehicle maintenance, refuelling with care to minimise the chance of spillages and by having a spill kit available on each site where prospecting activities are in progress;
- Socio - economic impact can be managed by employing strong, experienced personnel with proven skills in public consultation and conflict resolution during stakeholder consultation phases. All prospecting personnel will be made aware of the local conditions and sensitivities in the prospecting area and that they treat local residents with respect and courtesy at all times.

### **3.14 Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Authorisation.**

It is the opinion of the EAP that the following conditions should form part of the authorisation:

- Maintain a buffer of 100m from a water course;
- Maintain a minimum 500m (preferably 1000m) buffer from any infrastructure or dwelling;
- Conduct a heritage survey of the identified drill sites once these are known and prior to any activities being undertaken at these sites;
- Landowners and land occupiers should be engaged (re-consulted) at least 1 month prior to any site activities being undertaken once drill sites are known.

### **3.15 Description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge.**

This report has been completed to the best of the EAPs ability, based on his experience and on information currently available to the EAP as well as provided by the applicant.

Comment received on the draft BAR were reviewed and incorporated into this finalised BAR. As such, the public perception of the proposed activity is known. In addition, comments and inputs received from the authorities and public provided additional information which has been considered.

Mitigation measures are proposed which are considered to be reasonable and must be implemented in order for the outcome of the assessment to be accurate.

The location of drill sites is not yet known and will be identified through the phased approach of the prospecting programme. This assessment is therefore based on a desktop approach at a broad scale and assuming that drilling could occur anywhere around the anomalies identified for this programme.

Two drill sites are anticipated, then specific focus will be given to Heritage screening and assessment along possible access routes and at potential drilling sites in order to ensure that Heritage artefacts are not inadvertently damaged.

In addition, landowners will be re-engaged at this stage to communicate the company's intent to progress to drilling and to discuss the proposed drilling activities and identified locations with the landowner at that point in time.

### **3.16 Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised**

3.16.1 Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not.

It is the opinion of the EAP that the proposed prospecting activities should be authorised. In reaching this conclusion the EAP has considered that;

- Based on historical prospecting results, there is a good possibility of encountering diamond deposits in the area
- The exploration program will be developed in a stepwise manner commencing with non-invasive activities to bring refinement to understanding of the geological anomaly.
- Should the exploration program advance to include the need for exploration drilling, the environmental impacts associated with the limited drilling activities are deemed to be minimal provided that the proposed mitigation is implemented;
- The spatial extent of the physical impact is less than 1Ha over a prospecting right license area of 735.0133 Ha hectares;
- With appropriate care and consideration, the impacts resulting from drilling can be suitably avoided, minimised or mitigated;

- With implementing the appropriate rehabilitation activities, the impacts associated with the drilling activities can be reversed.
- Without implementation of prospecting activities, the knowledge concerning the potential mineral resource within the prospecting right area will not be confirmed.

### 3.16.2 Conditions that must be included in the authorisation

It is the opinion of the EAP that the following conditions should form part of the authorisation:

- Maintain a buffer of 100m from a water course;
- Maintain a 500m (preferably 1000m) buffer from any infrastructure or dwelling;
- Conduct a heritage survey of the identified drill sites and access routes across undisturbed land once these are known and prior to any activities being undertaken at these sites;
- Landowners and land occupiers should be engaged (re-consulted) at least 1 month prior to any site activities being undertaken once drill sites are known

### 3.17 Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required.

The authorisation is required for the duration of the prospecting right which is an initial 5 years plus a potential to extend the right by an additional 3 years. Normally there is also a time delay in the granting of applications for renewal therefore a total period of 10 years may be required.

### 3.18 Undertaking

An undertaking is provided at the end of this report.

### 3.19 Financial Provision

With the repeal of Section 41 of the MPRDA (Act 28 of 2002) that requires that the owner of a mine must make financial provision for the remediation of environmental damage, regulations pertaining to the financial provision for prospecting, exploration, mining or production operations under section 44, read with sections 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) were issued in 2015.

According to regulation 7 the applicant or holder of a right or permit must ensure that the financial provision is, at any given time, equal to the sum of the actual costs of implementing the plans and report contemplated in regulation 6 and regulation 11(1). In terms of regulation 11(1) the holder of a right or permit must ensure that a review is undertaken of the requirements for (a) annual rehabilitation, as reflected in an annual rehabilitation plan; (b) final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the prospecting, exploration, mining or production operations at the end of the life of operations as reflected in a final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan; and (c) remediation of latent or residual environmental impacts which may become known in the future, including the pumping and treatment of polluted or extraneous water, as reflected in an environmental risk assessment report.

Financial provision in terms of reg. 6(c) are covered by the requirements for the actual costs of implementation of the measures required for final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the mining operations at the end of the life of operations as reflected in the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan in terms of regulation 6(b) and attached as appendix 2.

Due to the low invasive nature of the exploration operation and the fact that rehabilitation is carried out on a continuous basis as work progresses, and consists of backfilling of drill holes and cleaning up of drill sites and tracks, the quantum of financial rehabilitation required for final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the prospecting operation is calculated at less than R15 000.00 but the applicant is willing to escalate the amount to R30 000.00

#### 3.19.1 Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived.

According to regulation 6 an applicant must determine the financial provision through a detailed itemisation of all activities and costs, calculated based on the actual costs of implementation of the measures required for— (a) annual rehabilitation, as reflected in an annual rehabilitation plan; (b) final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the prospecting, exploration, mining or production operations at the end of the life of operations, as reflected in a final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan; and (c) remediation of latent or residual environmental impacts which may become known in the future, including the pumping and treatment of polluted or extraneous water, as reflected in an environmental risk assessment report (Refer Appendix 2 below)

#### 3.19.2 Confirm that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure.

The amount of R30 000.00 needed for the implementation of the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure plan will be provided to DMR in the form of a bank guarantee and the plan will be revised on an annual basis in terms of regulation 11(1) of the Nema Financial Regulations 2015.

Provision for implementation of annual rehabilitation plan to be provided as part of the environmental audit report in terms of Regulation 34 (1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014) will be provided as part of the operational budget and proof of access to the necessary fund were provided as part of the PWP together with proof of access to the necessary financial resources.

### **3.20 Specific Information required by the competent Authority**

#### 3.20.1 Compliance with the provisions of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) read with section 24 (3) (a) and (7) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). the EIA report must include the:-

##### **Impact on the socio-economic conditions of any directly affected person.**

A full consultation process has been implemented during the environmental authorisation process. The purpose of the consultation was to provide affected persons the opportunity to raise any potential concerns. Concerns raised has been captured and addressed within the public participation section of this report to inform the decision-making process. As the final positioning of the drill sites cannot be confirmed without completion of phase 1 of the prospecting work programme, a recommendation has been made to ensure that the directly affected landowners are re-consulted a minimum of 1 month prior to drilling. The purpose of the re-consultation is to allow for socio-economic impacts on directly affected persons to be raised and where possible addressed.

**Impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act.**

A Phase 1 heritage survey of the drill sites will be conducted prior to drilling in order to identify any cultural or heritage resources of significance. No drill site will be located within 50m of any identified heritage site (which may occur during the prospecting programme). Furthermore, from desktop studies undertaken, no significant heritage artefacts have been identified to occur in the area; however, these need to be confirmed by site surveys.

**3.21 Other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.**

A motivation for not investigating reasonable and feasible alternatives is provided in **Section h paragraph (ix)** above. The prospecting location has been informed by historical prospecting and production records for the area. The proposed prospecting activities requested as part of this authorisation is the only current viable manner in which a mineral resource can be evaluated to determine its economic viability.

## **4. PART B Draft Environmental Management Program Report**

### **4.1 Details of the EAP,**

This has already been covered. Refer **Section 3 paragraph (a)** of this document

### **4.2 Description of the Aspects of the Activity**

This has already been covered. Refer **Section 3 paragraph (d)** of this document

### **4.3 Composite Map**

This has already been covered. Refer Figure B.

### **4.4 Description of Impact management objectives including management statements**

The main management objectives for the invasive drilling activities are:

- Avoid potential impacts by positioning the drill sites in a manner which avoids /minimise potential impacts. This can be achieved by implementing appropriate buffer zones;
- Reduce impacts through implementing realistic operational management measures such as imposing restrictions on the time of day when drilling can take place and adherence to the site EMP; and
- Ensure that chemical and hydrocarbon spillages are avoided, where they cannot all together avoided minimised and mitigated.
- Establish appropriate waste management system
- Restore the physical impact of drilling through implementation of concurrent rehabilitation as and when drilling at one site is completed.

#### **4.4.1 Determination of closure objectives.**

- Objective 1 - To create a safe and healthy post-mining environment
  - Safe mining area
  - Limited residual environmental impact
- Objective 2 - To create a stable, free draining post mining landform, which is compatible with the surrounding landscape
  - Economically viable and sustainable land fit for grazing, as close as possible to its natural state.
- Objective 3 – To provide optimal post-mining social opportunities
  - Optimised benefits for the social environment
  - Minimal negative aesthetic impact

#### **4.4.2 Volumes and rate of water use required for the operation.**

The drilling activities will use between 5 000L to 10 000L per day which falls within “small industrial user” where the use is less than twenty cubic metres per day for prospecting. Therefore, the water that will be used for the prospecting activities will be sourced on agreement from an existing authorized water user which could be either the land owner or local municipality. No water will be abstracted in terms of section 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998 (Act no. 36 of 1998).

#### **4.4.3 Has a water use license has been applied for?**

No – Based on the limited water needs of the proposed prospecting activities, water from a legal source will be brought to the drill sites by mobile water tanker as and when required.

The department responsible for water resources shall be consulted with regards to any water related agreement with either the land owner or local municipality prior to drilling.

4.4.4 Impacts to be mitigated in their respective phases

**Measures to rehabilitate the environment affected by the undertaking of any listed activity**

ACTIVITIES	PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE of disturbance	MITIGATION MEASURES	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Non-invasive activities	Pre-Construction	735.0133 Ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All operations will be carried out under the guidance of a strong, experienced manager with proven skills in public consultation and conflict resolution, including environmental coordinator where applicable.</li> <li>• All prospecting personnel will be made aware of the local conditions and sensitivities in the prospecting area and the fact that some of the local residents may not welcome the prospecting activities in the area.</li> </ul>	Environmental Awareness Plan	Before and during prospecting activities
Site Access Access Roads (temporary, jeep track roads less than 4m wide)	Construction	±2 600m <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing farm roads and tracks must be used as far as possible;</li> <li>• Where new access tracks are required to get the drill rig to the drilling site, such tracks must be raked / scarified during decommissioning;</li> <li>• Vehicles speed must take into account the possibility of collisions with fauna.</li> <li>• All compacted roads and drill traverses will be scarified and any topsoil stockpiled to be spread over the disturbed area.</li> </ul>	Approved PWP Environmental Authorisation; NEMA Section 2 Principles.	Upon cessation of the individual activity

<p>Site establishment activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vegetation clearance</li> <li>- Topsoil stripping &amp; stockpiling</li> <li>- Drill pad compaction</li> <li>- Placement of temporary portable toilets and resting place.</li> </ul>	<p>Construction</p>	<p>160m<sup>2</sup> per drill site Max ±3 200 m<sup>2</sup> for 20 holes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake heritage survey prior to site activities in order to identify cultural/heritage features.</li> <li>• Avoid cultural/heritage impacts by maintaining 50m buffer from any identified heritage feature and demarcation.</li> <li>• Any buried artefacts that may be uncovered during site activities will require such activities to stop to assess their significance and determine appropriate mitigation measures</li> <li>• The minimal area required for site establishment must be provided.</li> <li>• The soil disturbance and clearance of vegetation at drill pad areas will be limited to the absolute minimum required and will not be dozed or scraped with vegetation roots left intact for later re-growth.</li> <li>• Topsoil must be kept aside for rehabilitation;</li> <li>• The design of the drill fluid sump must be such that it prevents fauna from gaining access to site and becoming trapped.</li> </ul>	<p>Heritage Act Environmental Authorisation; NEMA Section 2 Principles</p>	<p>Before and during drilling activities Upon cessation of the individual activity</p>
<p>Exploration drilling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drilling</li> <li>- Core or chip sample collection &amp; storage</li> </ul>	<p>Operational phase</p>	<p>Max. 20 drill holes 165mm diameter and average depth of 100m Chip samples 1.8m<sup>3</sup> per hole Max ±36m<sup>3</sup> for 20 holes Equipment laydown area &amp; Sanitation requirements &lt; 5Ha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drilling rig and other visually prominent items on the site will be located in consultation with the landowner;</li> <li>• Make use of existing vegetation as far as possible to screen the prospecting operations from view; and</li> <li>• If necessary, the operations can be screened from view by erecting a shade cloth barrier.</li> <li>• Low vehicle speeds will be enforced on unpaved surfaces.</li> <li>• Maintain a buffer of 500m between drill sites and dwellings.</li> </ul>	<p>SANS 10103 guideline GN R. 827 (NEM:AQA) GN R. 704 (NWA) NEMA</p>	<p>Upon cessation of the individual activity</p>



<p>Exploration drilling:  - Drill maintenance &amp; refuelling  - Vehicle movements  - Waste generation &amp; management</p>	<p>Operational phase</p>	<p>Sludge from drilling activities &lt;5m<sup>3</sup>  Hydrocarbon storage &lt;30m<sup>3</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oils and lubricants must be stored within sealed containment structures.</li> <li>• Fuel storage must be contained in mobile bowzers.</li> <li>• All chemicals and hydrocarbons shall be stored within 110% bund wall capacity.</li> <li>• Any mechanical equipment maintenance must be undertaken on drip trays or UPVC sheets to prevents spills/ leaks onto the soil.</li> <li>• Refuelling will be done with care to minimise the chance of spillages.</li> <li>• A spill kit will be available on each site where prospecting activities are in progress; and any spillages will be cleaned up immediately.</li> <li>• Underneath the drill rig or any equipment with potential oil spillages shall be lined with plastic liner to prevent soil and water contamination.</li> <li>• When not in use, a drip tray must be placed beneath mechanical equipment and vehicles.</li> <li>• Avoid hydrocarbon spills by employing proper vehicle maintenance.</li> <li>• A lined sump (with sufficient capacity) will be constructed to receive drill fluids and allow for evaporation should clays be intersected in the borehole.</li> <li>• Storm water must be diverted around the drill site to prevent ingress of storm water.</li> <li>• Waste materials generated on site must be stored in suitable lidded containers and removed off site to a suitable disposal facility. Waste separation must be undertaken if practical for recycling.</li> <li>• Drill muds to be contained in lined sump and disposed of off-site at licensed facility.</li> </ul>	<p>SANS 10103 guideline  GN R. 827 (NEM:AQA)  GN R. 704 (NWA)  NEMA</p>	<p>Immediately in case of spills  Upon cessation of the individual activity</p>
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Final Rehabilitation and removal of temporary infrastructure	Decommissioning	<5Ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the remote location of the site, dust emissions are unlikely to be a source of nuisance; however, the site must be wetted if required.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation and preparation for re-vegetation must be done as soon as work is completed and before moving to the next drill site.</li> <li>• The disturbed site should be rehabilitated by scarifying hardened areas and filling the sludge catch pits (if any were required).</li> <li>• Any stored topsoil should be spread over the scarified surface to promote re-vegetation and prevent soil erosion.</li> </ul>	Environmental Authorisation; NEMA Section 2 Principles	Ongoing during construction and operation phase.
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#### 4.5 Impact Management Outcomes

(A description of impact management outcomes, identifying the standard of impact management required for the aspects contemplated in paragraph ());

<b>ACTIVITY</b> (whether listed or not listed).	<b>POTENTIAL IMPACT</b>	<b>ASPECTS AFFECTED</b>	<b>PHASE</b> In which impact is anticipated	<b>MITIGATION TYPE</b>	<b>STANDARD TO BE ACHIEVED</b>
General prospecting	Conflict with other land users	Social	Life of operation	Control through monitoring & management	Impact minimised and mitigated.
Site Access	Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna	Fauna and Flora	Construction	Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Impact minimised and mitigated.
	Soil compaction from repeated use of access road to drill sites	Soil resources		Remedy through rehabilitation	
Site Establishment Drill pads and laydown area Vegetation clearance	Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna	Fauna and Flora	Construction	Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Impact mitigated end use objectives
	Noise Generation	Noise		Control through monitoring & management	Impact mitigated
	Visual intrusion	Visual		Control through monitoring & management	Impact mitigated
Site Establishment Drill pads and laydown area Topsoil stripping & stockpiling Compaction due to levelling and vehicle movement	Destruction or loss of Cultural and Heritage Resources	Cultural and Heritage	Construction	Avoidance by relocation of activity	Impact avoided
	Soil disturbance and compaction and topsoil stockpiling	Soil		Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Impact mitigated end use objectives
	Noise Generation	Noise		Control through monitoring & management	Impact mitigated
	Dust fall & nuisance from activities	Air quality		Control through monitoring & management	Impact mitigated

Erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, toilets, fuel tanker, water tanker	Visual intrusion	Visual	Construction	Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Impact mitigated end use objectives
Drilling Core and Chip sample collection & storage	Vehicle and drill noise disturbing on-site flora and fauna	Noise	Operational	Control through management and monitoring	Impact mitigated
	Dust emissions from drilling and general site activities (vehicle entrained dust)	Air quality		Control through management and monitoring	Impact mitigated
Drill maintenance & refuelling Waste generation & management facilities	Surface and ground water contamination From hydrocarbons	Soil and water		Avoidance through management and monitoring	Impact avoided
Removal of temporary infrastructure and drill site rehabilitation	Dust emissions (vehicle entrained dust)	Air quality	Decommissioning	Control through management and monitoring	Impact mitigated
	Erosion due to slow recovery of vegetation	Soil and vegetation		Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Impact mitigated

#### 4.6 Impact Management Actions

(A description of impact management actions, identifying the manner in which the impact management objectives and outcomes contemplated in paragraphs (c) and (d) will be achieved).

<b>ACTIVITY</b> whether listed or not	<b>POTENTIAL IMPACT</b>	<b>MITIGATION TYPE</b>	<b>TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS</b>
General prospecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict with other land users</li> </ul>	Control through monitoring & management	Concurrently with prospecting activities	Remain within the ambits of the Prospecting Works Programme and Environmental Authorisation.
Site Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna</li> <li>• Soil compaction from repeated use of access road to drill sites</li> </ul>	Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Immediately on cessation of drilling.	
Site Establishment Drill pads and laydown area Vegetation clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of onsite flora and fauna</li> <li>• Noise Generation</li> <li>• Visual intrusion</li> </ul>	Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation Control through monitoring & management		
Site Establishment Drill pads and laydown area Topsoil stripping & stockpiling Compaction due to levelling and vehicle movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction or loss of Cultural and Heritage Resources</li> <li>• Soil disturbance and compaction and topsoil stockpiling</li> <li>• Noise Generation</li> <li>• Dust fall &amp; nuisance from activities</li> </ul>	Avoidance by relocation of activity Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation Control through monitoring & management	Concurrently with prospecting activities as far as possible, otherwise immediately on cessation of drilling.	
Erection of temporary structures such as drill rod racks, toilets, fuel tanker, water tanker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual intrusion</li> </ul>	Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation	Immediately on cessation of drilling.	

Drilling Core and Chip sample collection & storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle and drill noise disturbing on-site flora and fauna</li> <li>• Dust emissions from drilling and general site activities (vehicle)</li> </ul>	Control through management and monitoring	Concurrently with prospecting activities as far as possible, otherwise immediately on cessation of drilling.	Remain within the ambits of the Prospecting Works Programme and Environmental Authorisation.
Drill maintenance & refuelling Waste generation & management facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil, surface and ground water contamination From hydrocarbons</li> </ul>	Avoidance through management and monitoring		
Removal of temporary infrastructure and drill site rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust emissions (vehicle entrained dust)</li> <li>• Erosion due to slow recovery of vegetation</li> </ul>	Control through management and monitoring Remedy through restriction and rehabilitation		

## 4.7 Financial Provision

4.7.1 Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they have been aligned to the baseline environment described under the Regulation.

- Objective 1 - To create a safe and healthy post-mining environment
  - Safe mining area
    - Maintain affected environment in a stable condition that will not be detrimental to the safety and health of humans and animals and that will not pollute the environment or lead to the degradation thereof.
    - No potentially dangerous areas; secured if required
  - Limited residual environmental impact
    - No surface and/or groundwater contamination
    - Waste management practices not creating or leaving legacies
    - Develop a landscape that reduces the requirement for long term monitoring and management
- Objective 2 - To create a stable, free draining post mining landform, which is compatible with the surrounding landscape
  - Economically viable and sustainable land fit for grazing, as close as possible to its natural state.
    - Improve Land use with an increased production with regard to grazing.
    - Minimise disturbance of ecology due to loss of habitat and noise/visual/dust
    - Minimise risk of erosion from either increased base flow or prospecting operations:
    - Management of air emissions to minimise nuisance effects; implementation of dust suppression activities.
    - Increase of land with agricultural potential: profiling and sloping of remaining drill sumps and removal of all drill spoils and ripping of all compacted areas to facilitate recovery of natural vegetation through colonization by dispersing species (patch dynamics)
    - Prevent long term changes in land use: revert back to mainly stock farming (grazing).
    - Prepare area to promote natural re-establishment of vegetation that is self-sustaining, perpetual and provides a sustainable habitat for local fauna and successive flora species
- Objective 3 – To provide optimal post-mining social opportunities
  - Optimised benefits for the social environment
    - Maintain positive and transparent relationships with stakeholders: maintaining communication channels to all stakeholders and forums.
    - Provide stakeholders with relevant information: making all information available to stakeholders and providing information to authorities as per legislative requirements.
    - Undertaking environmental management in accordance with the implementation, maintenance and auditing of an environmental management system.
  - Minimal negative aesthetic impact
    - Maintain affected environment in an improved state containing no foreign debris or other materials.

The legal framework within which all the above lies entails:

- Defining and meeting closure standards.
- Complying with legislation.
- Sufficient financial provision for mine closure activities.
- Monitoring and plan for latent environmental impact.

4.7.2 Confirm specifically that the environmental objectives in relation to closure have been consulted with landowner and interested and affected parties.

The closure objectives were reported in the draft BAR as well as the Final Rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan Including Environmental Risk Assessment and was made available to all registered interested and affected parties.

4.7.3 Provide a rehabilitation plan that describes and shows the scale and aerial extent of the main mining activities, including the anticipated mining area at the time of closure.

Refer Final Rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan Including Environmental Risk Assessment appendix 2.

4.7.4 Explain why it can be confirmed that the rehabilitation plan is compatible with the closure objectives.

The closure objectives are to return the land disturbed by drilling activities back to its original condition. The rehabilitation plan provides the detail on how this will be achieved. Through experience, it can be confirmed that effective rehabilitation of drill sites is possible and achievable with the rehabilitation plan set out in appendix 2.

4.7.5 Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline  
As per Part A, Section (s) (i) of this report

4.7.6 Confirm that the financial provision will be provided as determined.  
As per Part A, Section (s) (ii) of this report.



**4.8 Mechanisms for monitoring compliance with and performance assessment against the environmental management programme and reporting thereon, including**

- 4.8.1 Monitoring of Impact Management Actions
- 4.8.2 Monitoring and reporting frequency
- 4.8.3 Responsible persons
- 4.8.4 Time period for implementing impact management actions
- 4.8.5 Mechanism for monitoring compliance

SOURCE ACTIVITY	IMPACTS REQUIRING MONITORING PROGRAMMES	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MONITORING PROGRAMMES)	MONITORING AND REPORTING FREQUENCY and TIME PERIODS FOR IMPLEMENTING IMPACT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
All Prospecting Activities	N/A	Ensure that the prospecting programme is being implemented in line with the approved prospecting works programme	Site Manager and Geologist	<b>Annual</b> Submit a prospecting progress report to DMR
	All commitments contained in the BA Report and accompanying EMPr	Ensure commitments made within the approved BAR and EMPr are being adhered to.	Site Manager and independent EAP	<b>Annual</b> Undertake and submit an environmental performance audit to DMR
Site establishment	Visual inspection of soil erosion and/or compaction	All exposed areas, access roads, the drill site and soil stockpiles must be monitored for erosion on a regular basis and specifically after rain events.	Site Manager Contractor (or sub-contractors)	<b>Weekly, and after rain events</b> Weekly monitoring reports to be signed-off by the Site Manager Corrective action to be confirmed and signed-off by the Site Manager Consolidated monthly monitoring reports (including confirmation of corrective action taken, with photographic evidence) to be submitted to the Site Manager.
Drilling Activities	Visual inspection of biodiversity impacts	Visual inspection of drill site activities and other possible secondary impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the fire brake is maintained.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of drill pads</li> <li>• Records of water intersections on borehole logs</li> <li>• Monitor groundwater quality and level within 500m from a drill site (If any).</li> <li>• Control and minimise the development of new access tracks</li> <li>• Appropriate storage and handling of topsoil</li> </ul>		

Drilling Activities	Visual inspection of pollution incidents, the integrity of secondary containment structures and waste management Housekeeping & maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All secondary containment structure will be inspected on a daily basis to confirm the integrity thereof and to identify potential leaks timeously.</li> <li>• All spill incidents will be reported and corrective action taken in accordance with an established spill response procedure.</li> <li>• Standard waste management practices must be implemented to prevent contamination and littering.</li> </ul>	Site Manager Contractor (or sub-contractors)	<p><b>Daily</b> Weekly monitoring reports to be signed-off by the Site Manager Corrective action to be confirmed and signed-off by the PSM Consolidated monthly monitoring reports (including confirmation of corrective action taken, with photographic evidence) to be submitted Report incidents in terms of the relevant legislation, including the MPRDA, NWA and NEMA.</p>
Post Drilling Post Closure	Groundwater Revegetation Stability Soil erosion Alien invasive species	<p>Inspection of all rehabilitated areas to assess whether soil erosion is occurring and to implement corrective action where required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify any areas of subsidence around drill holes and under take additional backfilling if required.</li> </ul>	Site Manager	<p><b>Bi-Annual</b> A final audit report for site closure must be submitted by the DMR for approval</p>

#### **4.9 Indicate the frequency of the submission of the performance assessment/ environmental audit report.**

An external environmental performance audit and the BA & EMPr performance assessment shall be conducted annually interchangeably by an independent environmental assessment practitioner and internal environmental assessment practitioner, respectively.

#### **4.10 Environmental Awareness Plan**

4.10.1 Manner in which the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work.

Training is part of its Induction process and environmental Management System (EMS). The induction includes:

- Awareness training for contractors and employees;
- Job specific training – training for personnel performing tasks which could cause potentially significant environmental impacts;
- EMS training;
- Comprehensive training – on emergency response, spill management, etc;
- Specialised skills; and
- Training verification and record keeping

Before commencement of the prospecting activities all employees and contractors who are involved with such activities should attend relevant induction and training. It is standard practice for employees and the employees of contractors that will be working on a new project or at a new site to attend an induction course where the nature and characteristics of the project and the site are explained.

The training course should include key information abstracted from the EMP pertaining to the potential environmental impacts, the mitigation measures that will be applied, the monitoring activities that will be undertaken and the roles and responsibilities of contractors' and personnel.

The full EMP document is also made available to attendees.

4.10.2 Manner in which risks will be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment.

Environmental risks and how to manage them are dealt with in the induction course referred to in section (m) (i) above. If an incident of environmental pollution or damage does occur it is analysed and appropriate prevention and/or mitigation measures are developed. These measures are added to the EMP and conveyed to the relevant personnel.

All unplanned incidents with the potential to cause pollution or environmental degradation or conflict with local residents will be reported to the Mineral Resources Manager within 24 hours.

#### **Hydrocarbon Spills**

Hydrocarbon spills that are considered to be emergency incidents are large-scale spills (cover a surface area >1m<sup>2</sup>), resulting from situations such as; a leaking diesel bowser, an oil drum that is knocked over, large spillages from equipment, etc.

Activities that are involved in the clean-up of such instances include:

- The containment of the spill,
- The removal of all contaminated material, and
- The disposal (at a licenced hazardous disposal facility) or bioremediation (at a licenced facility) of this material.

**Fire**

There is the potential for fire to occur in the following locations of the drill site:

- Veld fires across vegetated areas; and
- Vehicles and equipment.

**Veld fires:** Any person who observes the fire must report it to the fire brigade immediately and then to their supervisor. If possible, additional personnel may be sent to contain the fire, but only if the lives of the personnel will not be endangered.

**Vehicles and Equipment:** Fire extinguishers will be available at the site where drilling activities will take place and in the vehicles. All staff members will be trained in the use of fire-fighting equipment.

**4.11 Specific information required by the Competent Authority**

(Among others, confirm that the financial provision will be reviewed annually).

Not applicable at this stage

**5. Undertaking**

The EAP herewith confirms

the correctness of the information provided in the reports

the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs

the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and

that the information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties are correctly reflected herein.

Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

**N.J. van Zyl Private Enterprise**

Name of company:

**10 April 2017**

Date:

**-END-**

**Appendix 1: Impact assessment**

**Appendix 2: Final Rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan  
Including Environmental Risk Assessment**

**Appendix 3: Public Participation Process**