

# Basic Assessment (BA) for the proposed Prospecting Right Application on the Farm Rooipan 96IQ (RE/5) in the Ventersdorp Municipality, North West Province

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

(DMR Ref: NW30/5/1/1/2/11687PR)

June 2015



### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been structured to provide all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a brief overview of the proposed project activities as well as the associated Environmental Authorisation Processes. Furthermore this BID also intended to provide I&APs with information relating to the manner in which I&APs can voice any issues concerning the proposed Application. The compilation and distribution of this BID form part of the Public Participation Process for the proposed Application.

This BID also provides I&APs with the opportunity to register as stakeholders in this process; and comment on the proposed Application.

When you complete and return the registration form included with the BID, you will be included in the stakeholder database and receive further documents for review and comment/s. Your comments will ensure that all issues of concern are incorporated. To raise your concerns, please complete the enclosed registration sheet, write a letter, call or e-mail the public participation office. All documents will be available on Zitholele's website:  
<http://www.zitholele.co.za/ba-rooipan>

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## 1. BACKGROUND

JHB Marketing CC has submitted a Prospecting Right Application to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) on Monday, 27 April 2015. The prospecting activities include site establishment and trenching. The property associated with the Prospecting Right is on the Farm Rooipan 96IQ (RE/5) situated 17km north-west of Carletonville along the N14 within the Ventersdorp Municipality, North West Province. The minerals applied for are manganese ore, iron ore and gold and will cover a prospecting area of approximately 551 hectares.

JHB Marketing CC has appointed Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd (Zitholele) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP), to compile submit an application for Environmental Authorisation, an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and to undertake the Public Participation Process for the Prospecting Right Application.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Prospecting Right Application has been submitted by JHB Marketing CC for the prospecting of manganese ore, iron ore and gold on the Farm Rooipan 96IQ (RE/5) situated. The Prospecting Right area applied for is located approximately 17km north-west of Carletonville along the N14 within the Ventersdorp Municipality, North West Province (*see Figure 1*).

Prospecting activities will be undertaken over a period of 30 months and the application is for both invasive and non-invasive methods. Invasive methods are activities that result in land disturbances and comprise of trenching/drilling, sampling and sampling storage. Non-invasive methods are methods that do not cause disturbances to the land and include desktop research and include detailed geophysical surveys.

## 3. PROJECT MOTIVATION

South Africa is one of the wealthiest mineral jurisdiction in the world. The mining industry remains the biggest contributor to the country's gross domestic product. With significant iron and manganese resources, South African mining and mining real estate remains attractive for development. Further advances in prospecting and eventual mining applications would lead to more community involvement within projects and result in more sustainable job creation strategies within the surrounding communities as well as attracting foreign investment. Detailed technical information will be included in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR).

## 4. PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION PROCESS

In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), JHB Marketing CC is required to consult with I&APs. Comments, issues and concerns received from I&APs will be recorded and included in the Issues and Responses Report (IRR) which forms part of the BAR and which will be submitted to the DMR.

The BAR will be compiled and implemented to ensure that potential impacts associated with the proposed prospecting activities are mitigated and managed. It will also contain results from specialist opinions for ecology and heritage. The BAR needs to include the following:

- Describing the environment that is likely to be affected by the proposed prospecting;
- Identifying and assessing the significance of the potential impacts of the proposed prospecting on the environment, socio economic conditions and cultural heritage; and
- Evaluating the proposed mitigation measures to minimise any negative impacts and to enhance any possible impacts.

## 5. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS - NEMA

As the proposed project triggers Listed Activity 20 as published in Government Notice No. 983 of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 which includes:

- A site establishment
- Equipment storage
- Access road
- Trenching

## 6. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Assessment (BA) is used to obtain an objective view of the potential environmental and social impacts that could arise during the investigation, construction and operation of a proposed project. A critical element of the BA Process is the Public Participation Process (PPP) that gives I&APs an opportunity to provide comments on a proposed development. The outcome of the Basic Assessment Process will be documented in the BAR. The BAR will also include the following:

The Basic Assessment Process is intended to provide the Competent Authority (DMR) with sufficient information to make an informed decision with regards to granting or refusing the Environmental Authorisation.

- Identify the potential impacts of the proposed development;
- Record the issues, concerns and suggestions raised by I&APs; and;
- Outline the measures to be taken to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

The Basic Assessment Process comprised of a technical component and a public participation component which be carried out concurrently (refer to **Figure 2**).

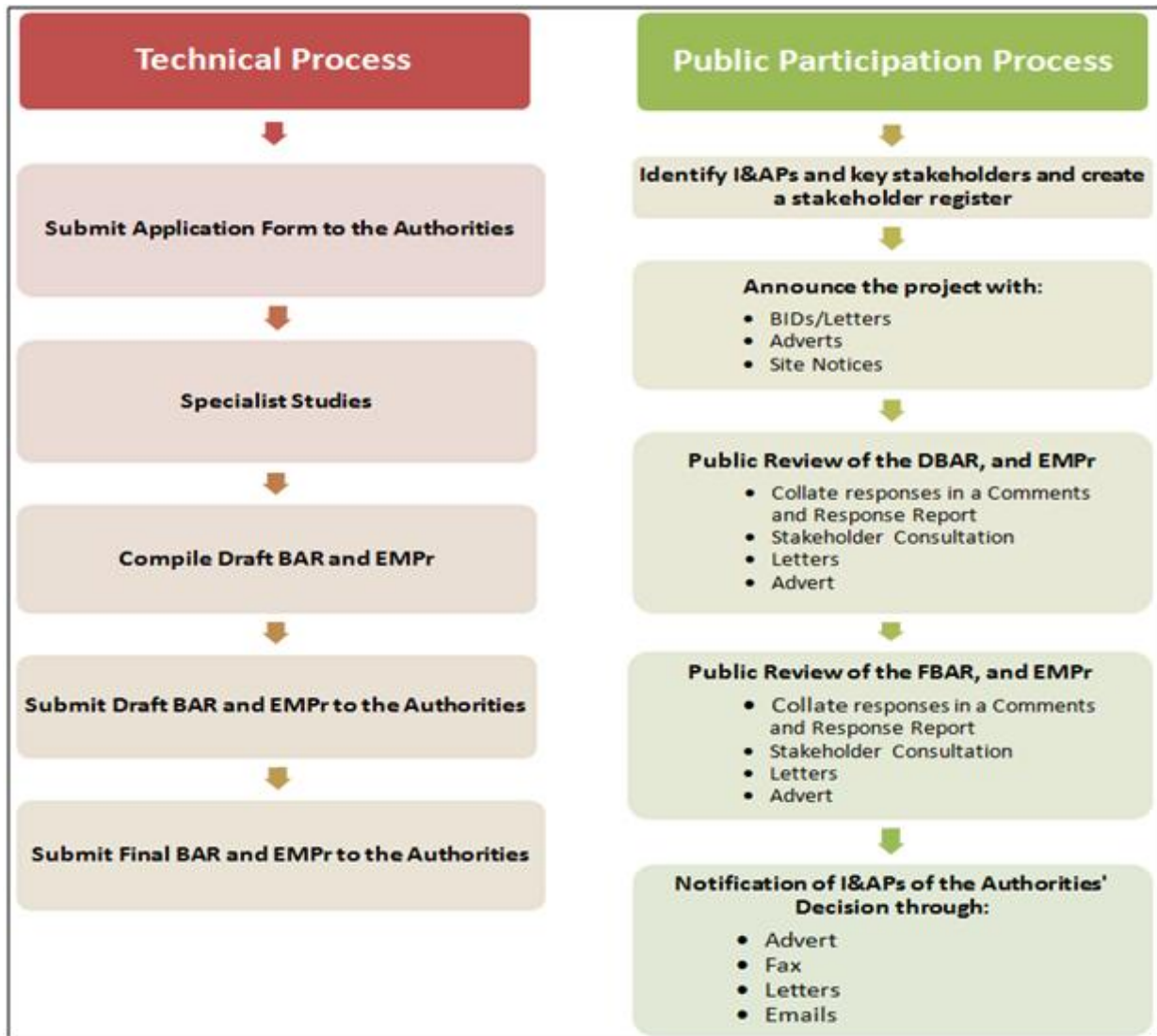


Figure 2: Integrated Technical

## 7. Basic Assessment Process (Technical component)

The Technical component is divided into two phases: The Inception Phase; and the Basic Assessment and Investigation Phase.

### a) Application / Notification Phase

The Basic Assessment Process is initiated with the submission of the Application for Environmental Authorisation Form to the Competent Authority (DMR). During the Application / Notification Phase the proposed alternatives are screened for potential environmental and social impacts. Furthermore during this phase, a field inspection of the site is undertaken together with independent specialists.

### b) Basic Assessment and Investigation Phase

During the Basic Assessment Phase, two Specialist Opinions (refer to Table 1) will be carried out to inform the BA Process. The findings of the Specialist Opinions, together with input from the PPP will be incorporated into the BAR. A Draft BAR will be available for public comment before the document is finalised and submitted to the DMR for review and decision-making

Table 1: Environmental Issues to be Investigated during the BA

SPECIALIST STUDY	SPECIALIST UNDERTAKING THE STUDY
Ecological Opinion	Andrew Zinn - Golder Associates
Heritage Opinion	Jaco van der Walt - Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting

## 8. Basic Assessment Report

The **draft Basic Assessment Report** (draft BAR), which will provide a detail account of the Basic Assessment Process and proposed project activities will be placed for public review for a period of 30 days. All I&APs will be notified of the availability of the **draft BAR**. Comments on the proposed project and draft BAR that are received from I&APs, during the commenting period, will be responded to and recorded in the **final BAR**. The **final BAR** will simultaneously be submitted to the Competent Authority (for review and decision making) and placed for public review.

The **draft BAR** will be made available for public review from **Friday 12 June 2015 to Tuesday 14 July 2015** at the following public places:

Venue	Contact Person	Contact Number
Ventersdorp Public Library, 1 Van Tonder Singel, Ventersdorp	Louise Mohulatsi	018 264 8572
Roodepoort Public Library, Cnr Berlandina & Hodgson Streets Roodepoort	Mashudu Singo	011 763 1031
Carletonville Public Library, Cnr Celestine & Emerald Streets, Carletonville	Carol Skuce	018 788 9541/39
Khutsong South Public Library, Can Ndzeke Street, Khutsong	Mandi Busakwe	083 570 5824

## 9. Decision-making (Environmental Authorisation)

Based on the information provided in the final Basic Assessment Report, the Competent Authority (DMR) will make a decision regarding the granting of Environmental Authorisation (EA). The granting of EA will support the Applicant's application to the DMR. Once the Competent Authority has reached a decision, with regards to granting EA, all registered I&APs will be notified thereof. An appeal process is associated with the EA and this process will be included in the notification of the EA.

The Basic Assessment Process will be concluded by the notification of I&APs of the decision made by the Competent Authority.

## 10. Public Participation Process

As an important element in undertaking the BA for the proposed project, Zitholele Consulting will also conduct the public participation as set out in Regulations 39 to 44 of the NEMA. This component will enable stakeholders to influence the course of the investigations and to review the findings of the independent studies that are to be undertaken. The steps of the public participation component are outlined below. The following activities will be implemented to achieve the aforementioned objectives:

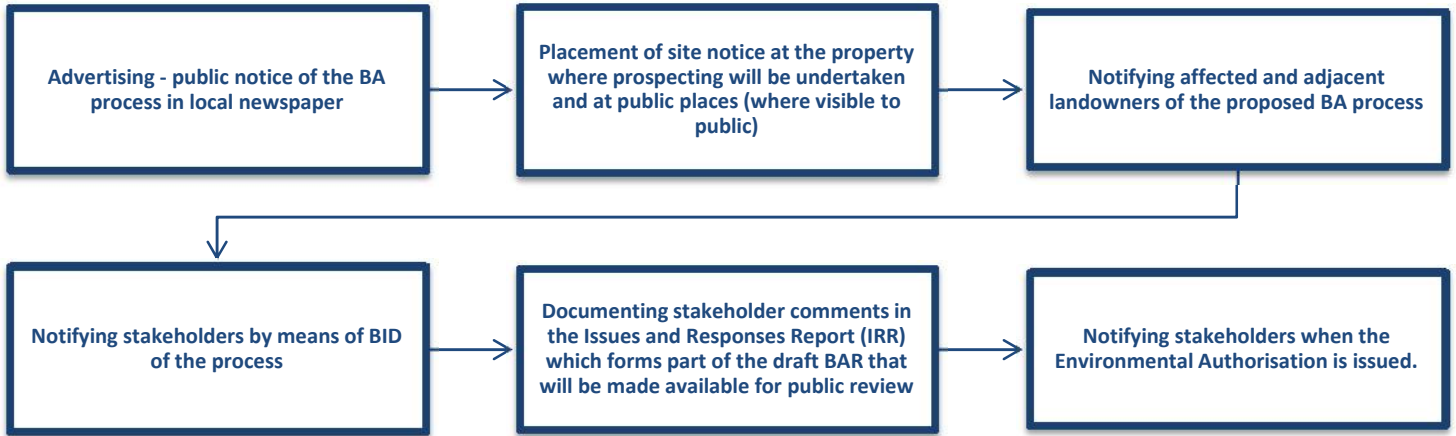
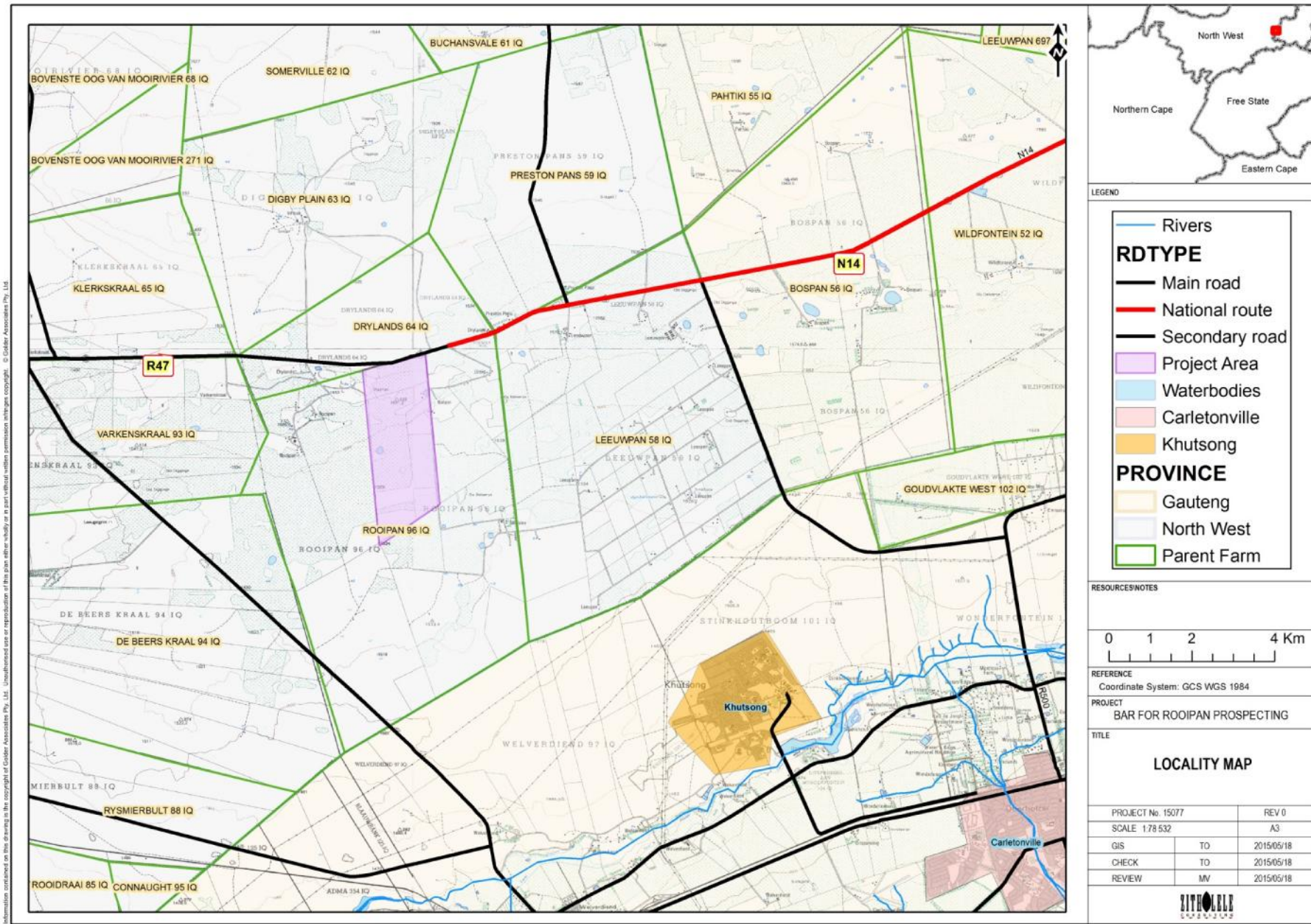


Figure 2: Process Flow of the Public Participation Process



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Figure 1: Locality Map