

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Hotazel Manganese Mines (Pty) Ltd (HMM), a subsidiary of South32 Limited (South32), owns and operates the underground Wessels Manganese Mine (Wessels Mine) located approximately 15 km north of the town of Hotazel, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality (JTGDM) and the Joe Morolong Local Municipality (JMLM), Northern Cape province.

HMM holds and operates in accordance with the following authorisations (attached as Appendix A):

- A Converted Old Mining Right (MR) issued in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) [previously the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) Ref: 03/2006(MR)] issued on 16 January 2006; and
- An approved amended Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) issued in terms of the MPRDA [DMRE (previously the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) Ref: NC30/5/1/2/3/2/1(253) MR] dated 16 March 2018.

The Wessels Mine is located on the farms Dibiaghomo 226, Wessels 227 and Dikgatlong 268 and comprises vertical and incline shafts for access to underground areas, waste rock dump (WRD) and stockpile areas, along with support services and infrastructure. As part of its on-going mine planning, HMM has identified the need to upgrade the existing railway infrastructure at the Wessels Mine. In this regard, HMM is proposing to design a new rail balloon and upgrade the existing railway infrastructure (the proposed project).

### SUMMARY OF AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENTS

Prior to the commencement of the proposed project, the following is required:

- An amended EMPR in terms of Section 102 the MPRDA from the DMRE; and
- An Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) from the DMRE.

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SLR), an independent firm of Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs), has been appointed by HMM to manage the amended EMPR and EA processes.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

This Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been distributed for a 30-day comment period from 10 September to 11 October 2021 in order to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with an opportunity to comment on any aspect of the Basic Assessment (BA) process and the proposed project. Copies of the full report have been made available on the SLR website ([www.slrconsulting.com](http://www.slrconsulting.com)) and the SLR data-free website (<https://slrpublicdocs.datafree.co/public-documents>). Any comments should be forwarded to SLR at the

address, telephone or email address shown below<sup>1</sup>. For comments to be included in the revised BAR, comments should reach SLR **by no later than 11 October 2021**.

**SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd**  
**Attention: Mrs Rizqah Baker**  
**Post: PO Box 1596, Cramerview, 2060\***  
**Tel: 011 467 0945**  
**Email: rbaker@slrconsulting.com**  
 \*(if using post, please call SLR to notify us of your submission)

## SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND SIGNIFICANCE

The potential impacts associated with the project activities and infrastructure can be categorised into those that have very low, low, medium, high, very high or insignificant significance in the unmitigated scenario. A summary of the identified impacts is provided in the table below.

Aspect	Potential Impact	Cumulative impact significance of the impact	
		Unmitigated	Mitigated
Geology	Loss and sterilisation of mineral resources	INSIGNIFICANT	
Topography	Altering topography	INSIGNIFICANT	
	Hazardous excavations and infrastructure resulting in safety risks to third parties and animals	Medium	INSIGNIFICANT
Soil and land capability	Soil erosion	High	MEDIUM
	Disturbance of original soil profiles	Medium	VERY LOW
	Chemical pollution of soils	Medium	VERY LOW
Biodiversity	Physical destruction and disturbance of floral species	Medium	LOW
	Physical destruction and disturbance of faunal species	Medium	LOW
Surface water resources	Alteration of natural drainage patterns	INSIGNIFICANT	
	Contamination of surface water resources	INSIGNIFICANT	
Groundwater	Contamination of groundwater resources	INSIGNIFICANT	
Air quality	Air pollution	INSIGNIFICANT	
Noise	Increase in disturbing noise levels	INSIGNIFICANT	
Visual	Negative visual views	INSIGNIFICANT	
Traffic	Road disturbance and traffic safety	INSIGNIFICANT	
Cultural/heritage and palaeontological resources	Loss of cultural/heritage and palaeontological resources	INSIGNIFICANT	
Socio-economic	Inward migration and economic impact	INSIGNIFICANT	
	Change in land use	INSIGNIFICANT	

<sup>1</sup> By providing your personal information to be registered as an I&AP for this project, you consent to SLR keeping and using your personal information as part of a contact database for this and other EIA projects and processes; contacting you about these projects; disclosing it to other authorised parties for lawful purposes, including transferring to other countries; processing it for lawful purposes (fulfilling contractual, legal and public policy obligations, and protecting legitimate interests SLR and other authorized parties). SLR will only collect the necessary personal information. SLR (and any authorised parties) will only use it for lawful purposes, and use reasonable, appropriate security safeguards to protect it, reasonably prevent any damage to, or loss, unauthorised access, or disclosure thereof. **Your rights:** You may request SLR to provide you with names of the authorized parties, and details of your personal information held in the I&AP database. You may object to the processing thereof, or request to correct, delete or destroy it, at any time by contacting SLR by email or in writing. However, you understand that SLR (and any authorised parties) may not be able to delete or destroy it for legal or public policy reasons. SLR will provide you with the reasons. You may lodge a complaint with the information regulator at: <https://justice.gov.za/infocreg/>. Link to SLR's privacy policy: <https://cdn.slrconsulting.com/uploads/2020-08/slr-privacy-notice.pdf>

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The assessment of the proposed project presents the potential for negative impacts to occur (in an unmitigated scenario) on the biophysical environments both on the project footprint and in the surrounding area. With the implementation of management actions, these potential impacts can be prevented or reduced to acceptable levels. It follows that provided the EMPR is effectively implemented, there is no reason from a biophysical, cultural/heritage or socio-economic standpoint why the proposed project should not proceed.