



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Water Abstraction and In-stream Use
Sub-Directorate Environment & Recreation
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The Chief Operating Officer
Exxaro Resources Limited
PO Box 9229
Pretoria
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For attention: Mr. S.A Nkosi
Cc: Mr. Malusi Buthelezi attention

Dear Sir

COMMENTS ON THE EXXARO COAL MPUMALANGA (Pty) Ltd: NORTH BLOCK COMPLEX – BELFAST PROJECT, MPUMALANGA, WULA APPLICATION CONCERNING SECTION 21 (c) & (i) WATER USES OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998)

The original layout plan for the North Block Complex of the Belfast Project (Figure 1) was posing a threat to the watercourses (red areas) of the Inkomati River headwaters and requiring an enormous offset (financial and ecological) compensation by Exxaro which seems impractical and unsustainable and thereby placing an extra legal liability and accountability on the board. The Inkomati River in this part of the catchment is critical for clean water supply to the Nooitgedacht and Vyeboom Dams that supply high quality water to industries and mines in the Olifants River catchment.

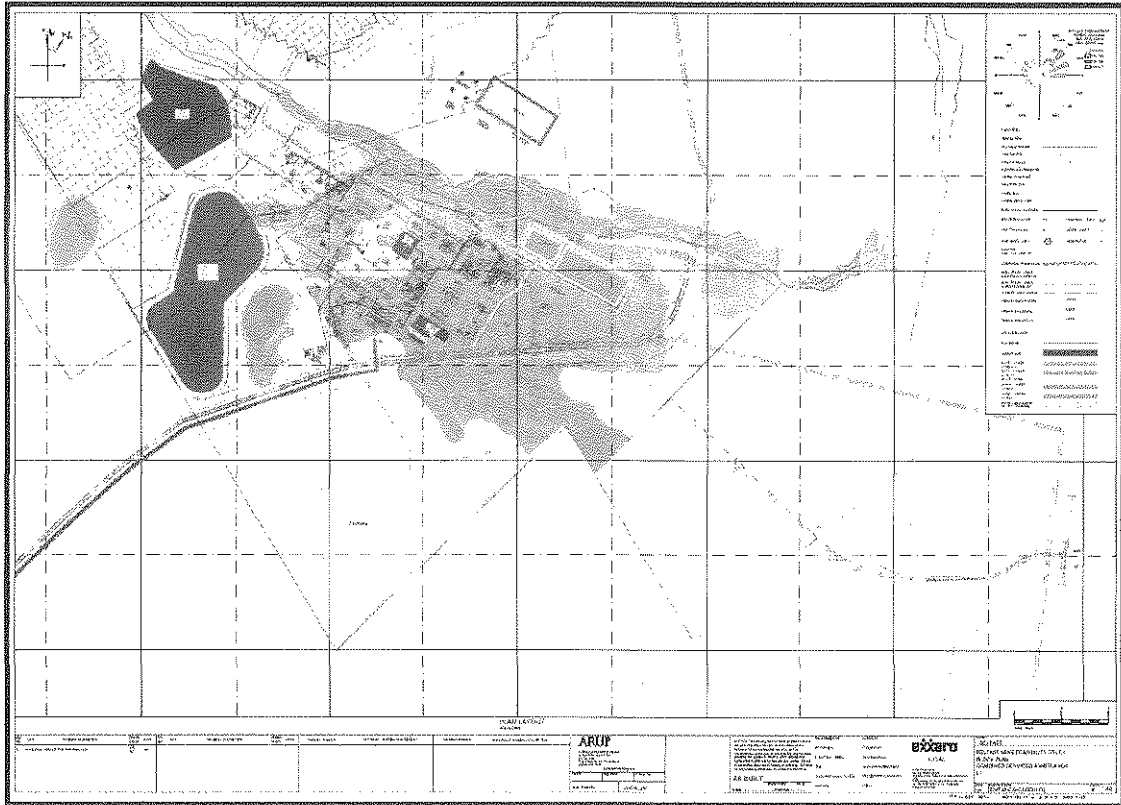


Figure 1. Original layout plan.

With a positive collaboration between the Department and certain Exxaro staff on the Section 21 (c) & (i) (National Water Act, 1998) concerns, as indicated hereunder, a revised layout plan (Figure 2) was realised that addresses water resource management in a desired way with a few minor modifications still to be addressed (like the pans). With this kind of attitude and appreciation of sustainable development (ecological, economical and social), authorisation of mining water uses is on an accommodating, practical level to the benefit of all involved.

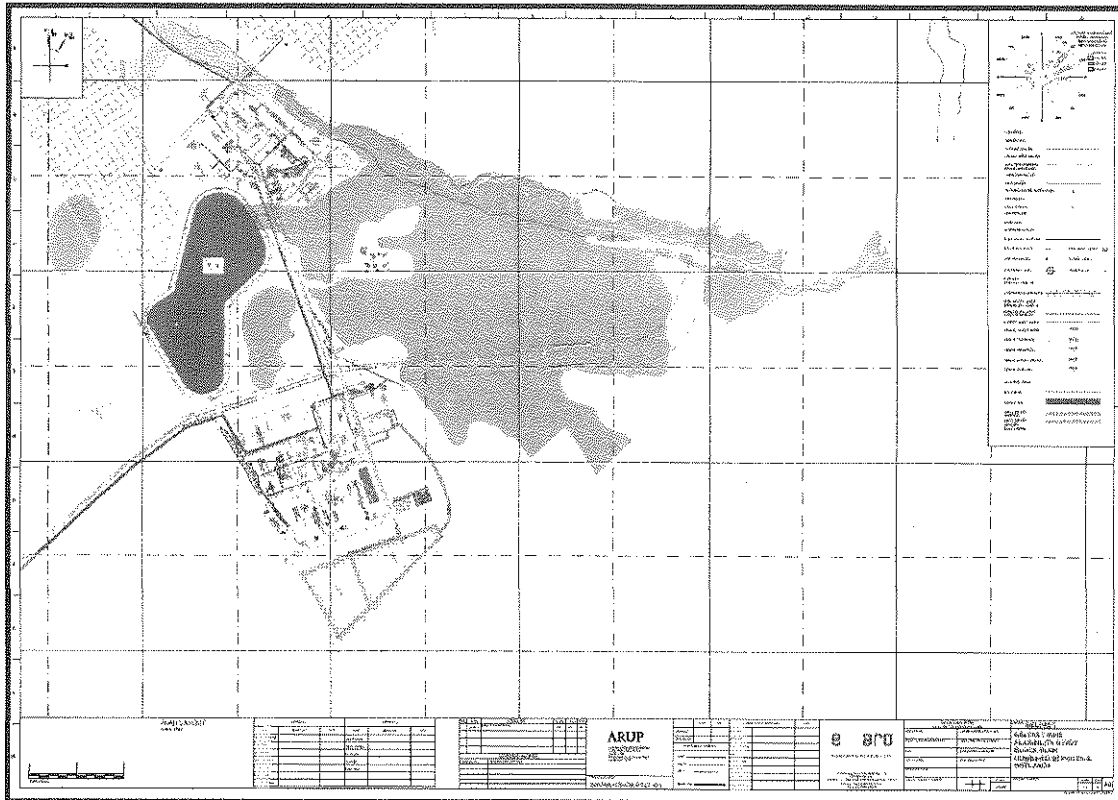


Figure 2. New layout plan.

The following staff members of Exxaro are acknowledged in the process:

1. Mr. Johan van der Bijl – Exxaro – Project Manager
2. Mr. Daan Killian – Exxaro – Senior Civil Engineer
3. Mr. Francois Booyens – Exxaro – Senior Electrical Engineer
4. Mr. Mato Modibedi – Exxaro – Senior Mechanical Engineer
5. Mr. Siphosikhosana – Exxaro – Senior Process Engineer
6. Mr. Danie Lourens – Exxaro – Principal Mining Engineer
7. Mr. Japie Nolte – Exxaro – Senior Automation Architect
8. Ms. Berdine Marais – Exxaro – Industrial Engineer
9. Mr. Koos Fleming – Exxaro – Draughtsman
10. Ms. Melanie Venter – Exxaro – Project Administrator
11. Mr. Rob Carswell – Exxaro – Project Planner
12. Ms. Igna Dougal – Exxaro – Environmental Specialist
13. Mr. Malusi Buthelezi – Exxaro – Manager, Environmental Projects
14. Mr. Koos Smit – Exxaro – Senior Environmental Specialist
15. Mr. Charles Linstrom – Exxaro – Hydrologist

Mine planning as highlighted through the change in plans from Figure 1 to Figure 2 is acknowledging the mandate of the Department and water security to the South African public through responsible mining. With the common shared view between the Department and Exxaro on this matter, it is a pleasure and privilege to work with such a professional team representing Exxaro and hopefully their task will be recognised and appreciated by the Board and utilised in future applications concerning at least this water use.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Meulenbeld', written in a cursive style.

Mr Trevor Balzer
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
Letter signed: Dr Paul Meulenbeld (Pr Sci Nat)
SCIENTIFIC MANAGER: ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
DATE: 8 November 2013