

APPLICANT: SISHEN IRON ORE COMPANY (PTY) LTD

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS AND WATER USE LICENCE (WUL)

APPLICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AIRFIELD NEAR POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE

1. Introduction

Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd ("SIOC") – Kolomela mine proposes to develop an airfield, approximately 11.6 km south of the town of Postmasburg, in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed facility will cover approximately 80 hectares and will be located on the Portions 1 and 2 of Farm Plaas 538 Hay RD (Gruispan) in the Tsantsabane Local Municipality.

Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required for the following Listed Activities contained in regulations published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"):

- **Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983), Activity 12:** Development of infrastructure >100 m² within a watercourse; **Activity 14:** Development of facilities, for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good; **Activity 24:** Development of a road where the road >8 metres; and **Activity 28:** Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or game farming.
- **Listing Notice 2 (GN R. 984), Activity 6:** Development of facilities/ infrastructure for any purpose or activity which a permit or licence is needed for the generation/release of emissions, pollution, or effluent; **Activity 8:** Development of airports; runways or aircraft landing strips >1,4 kilometres; and **Activity 15:** Clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

A Scoping and full Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") process is undertaken in terms of the EIA Regulations (GNR 326 of 2017). The Competent Authority ("CA") responsible for decision making and authorisation is the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform. A Water Use Licence ("WUL") application will also be submitted for Activities (a), (c) and (i) and (g) in terms of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998) ("NWA").

A public participation process is undertaken in terms of the EIA regulations (GNR 326 of 2017) and the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GNR. 267 of 2017) to inform all relevant Interested and Affected Parties ("IAPs") of the proposed project and allow IAPs to comment. This letter serves to **notify you as a landowner, lawful occupier, interested or affected party of the EIA and WUL application processes that are being undertaken.**

EXM Environmental Advisory (Pty) Ltd ("EXM") has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") responsible for undertaking the required environmental legislative processes and public consultation process.

PURPOSE:

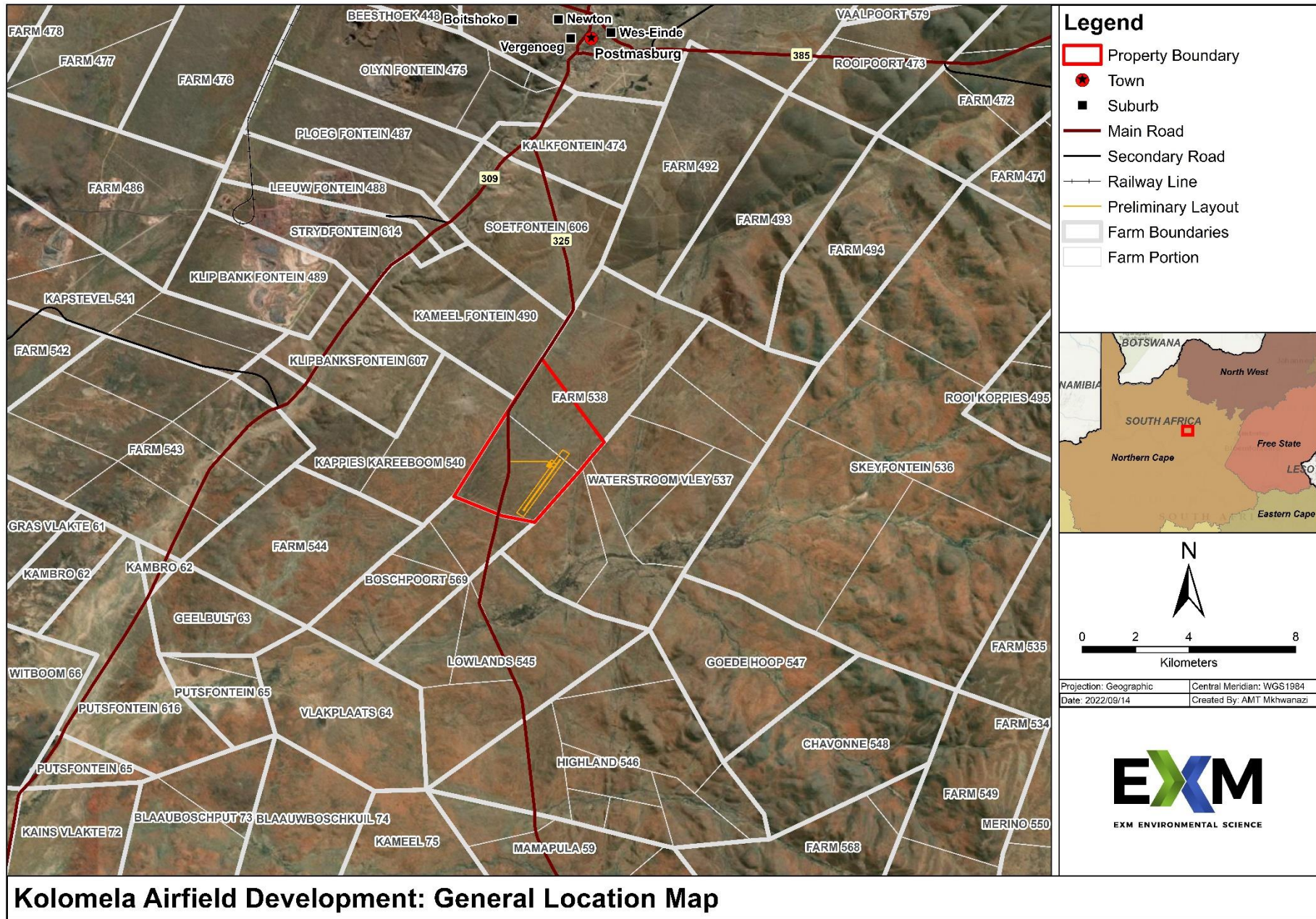
This document serves to:

- Notify you of the EIA process and WUL application
- Describe the application processes.
- Inform you how you can provide input into the process.

YOUR ROLE:

As an interested and affected party, your role is to:

- Ask questions, raise issues and concerns.
- Attend public meetings.
- Review and provide comment on environmental reports.



Kolomela Airfield Development: General Location Map

FIGURE 1: GENERAL LOCATION OF PROPOSED AIRFIELD

2. Project Description

Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd ("SIOC") – Kolomela mine proposes to develop an airfield on Portions 1 and 2 of Farm Plaas 538 Hay RD (Gruispan), approximately 11.6 km south of the town of Postmasburg, Tsantsabane Local Municipality. The airfield will be used to accommodate air traffic related to passengers travelling to and from Kolomela mine, which is currently accommodated by Tommy's Airfield, situated 10km north west of Postmasburg. Tommy's Airfield does not have sufficient capacity to convey the current air traffic, resulting in overflow passengers flying to Kathu and travelling over 100 km by road.

The footprint of the project will cover approximately 80 hectares and will entail the development of the following structures/infrastructure.

- A runway (2.5 km in length and 30 m wide);
- Helipad(s);
- Fuel farm to house fuel storage tanks;
- Water storage tanks;
- Access road;
- Parking area;
- Septic tanks and evapotranspiration beds;
- Terminal building and supporting facilities;
- Waste management area; and
- Small scale solar farm.

The facility will require approximately 21m³ of water per day and will be sourced from on site boreholes. A borrow pit will also be developed for the sourcing of fill material that will be used in construction, subject to geotechnical investigations.

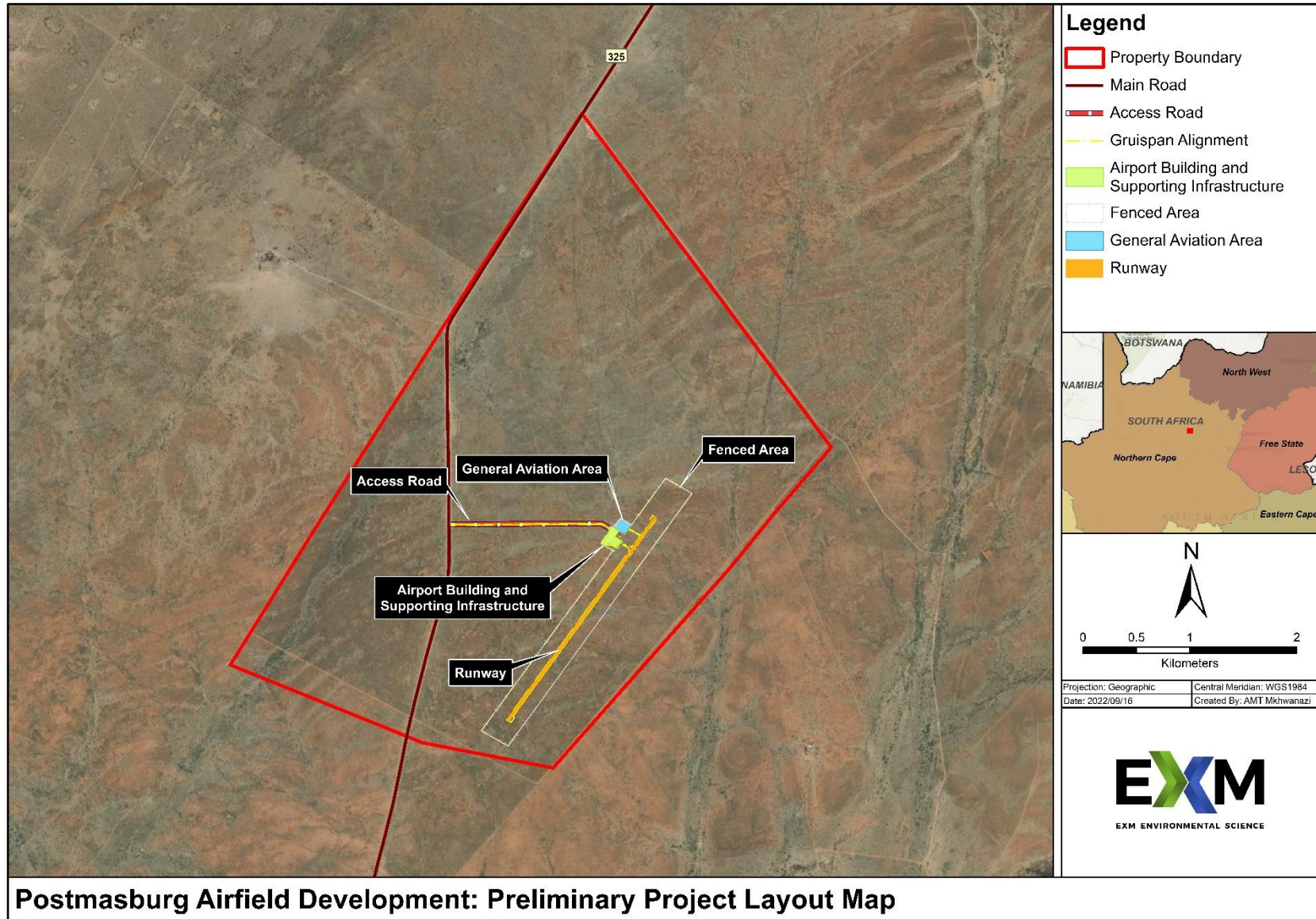


FIGURE 3: INITIAL SITE LAYOUT OF PROPOSED AIRFIELD

3. Environmental Approvals Required

3.1 National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)

The proposed airfield triggers Listed Activities in terms of Listing Notices 1 (GN R. 327 of 2017) and 2 (GN R. 325 of 2017) published in terms of the EIA Regulations. A Basic Environmental Assessment is required for Listed Activities in GN R. 327 while a Scoping and full EIA must be undertaken for Listed Activities in GN R. 325. The following Listed Activities will be triggered, and a full Scoping and EIA process must be undertaken.

Table 1: Listed Activities triggered by the Project

Applicable Regulation		Infrastructure triggering the Listed Activity
<u>Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983 as amended in 2017)</u>		
Activity 12	The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more, where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse. (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse	Several pans (water courses) are situated on the property which will potentially be impacted by the project footprint. A WUL application will be submitted to obtain authorisation in terms of activities listed in Section 21 of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998).
Activity 14	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.	The development will entail the storage of fuel that will be used in the re-fuelling of airplanes.
Activity 24	The development of a road— (i) [a road] for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route determination in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of 2006 or activity 18 in Government Notice 545 of 2010; or (ii) [a road] with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres. but excluding a road— (a) [roads] which [are] is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014. (b) [roads] where the entire road falls within an urban area; or i. (c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.	The length of the access road that will be constructed as part of the project will be approximately 2.5 km and will be wider than 8 meters.
Activity 28	Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes, or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or	The property on which the proposed airfield is used for the purpose of cattle farming.

Applicable Regulation		Infrastructure triggering the Listed Activity
	(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.	
Listing Notice 2 (GN R. 984 as amended in 2017)		
Activity 6	The development of facilities or infrastructure for any purpose or activity which a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the generation of release of emissions, pollution, or effluent.	Effluent will be released from the on-site septic tanks into evapotranspiration beds which requires a WUL in terms of activities listed under Section 21 of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998).
Activity 8	Activity 8. The development of— (i) airports; or (ii) runways or aircraft landing strips longer than 1,4 kilometres.	The project entails the development of an airfield with a runway exceeding 1,4km.
Activity 15	Activity 15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The project footprint will cover approximately 80 hectares and will entail the clearance of indigenous vegetation exceeding 20 hectares.

The regulated timeframes for the EIA process, as provided in the EIA Regulations, are provided below.



FIGURE 3: EIA POCES

3.2 National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998) (“NWA”)

The purpose of the National Water Act (“NWA”) (No. 36 of 1998) is to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed, and controlled. Section 21 of the NWA contains a list of activities that require a Water Use Licence (“WUL”) prior to commencement. Based on the available information, the following Section 21 water uses will be triggered by the project and therefore a WUL will be required prior to commencement. The WUL application process is regulated by the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GN.R. 267 of 2017).

Table 2: Section 21 water uses to be included in the IWULA

Water Use	Activity Description	Infrastructure/activity
Section 21 (a)	Abstraction of groundwater from a borehole.	Abstraction of water from an on-site borehole
Section 21 (c&i)	Infrastructure that will impact directly on water courses	Establishment of infrastructure footprint on water courses or within 500m of wetland pans.
	New infrastructure within 500 m regulated zone of a wetland/watercourse (specific infrastructure to include in the IWUL application will be confirmed after review of specialist findings)	
Section 21 (g)	Discharging water containing waste into a water resource and disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.	Septic tanks and evapotranspiration beds.

4. Public Participation Process

A public participation process is being undertaken as part of the EIA and WUL applications. The process is conducted in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations (GNR. 627 of 2017) as well as the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GNR 267 of 2017) promulgated under the NWA.

Stakeholders are offered the opportunity to be informed about the application, raise comments, issues, or concerns, and provide input into the application and reports.

Interested & Affected Parties are invited to participate in the environmental process. You can provide input by:

- Registering as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP);
- Asking questions and raising initial concerns by completing and returning the response sheet (attached);
- Reviewing and providing comment on reports.

All registered I&APs will be informed when documents will be available for review. Should you have questions or require more information, **please contact:**

Thashnee Moodley

EXM Environmental Advisory (Pty) Ltd

Cell: 072 555 2643

Email: thashnee@exm.co.za

Postnet Suite 211

Private Bag x0001

Ballito

4420

Yours sincerely

Trevor Hallatt (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)

EXM Environmental Advisory (Pty) Ltd

Postnet Suite 211, Private Bag x0001, Ballito, 4420

