

Comments and Response Report
Project Name: Northam Zondeinde Shaft #3
Prism Project Ref: 21863
Reference Number: LP30/5/1/2/2/37MR

No	Association					Interest	Date	Category	Comments	Responses	Cross Reference in Scoping/EIA Report
	Title	Name	Surname	Capacity	Organisation/ Affiliation						
Comments during Initial Notification Phase/Registration Period and Review of the Scoping Report											
1	Mr	T. G	Ramagaga	Municipal Manager	Thabazimbi Local Municipality	Commenting Authority	24/07/2019	General	Acknowledges the Draft Scoping Report and will not be objecting any aspect of the report, however, a copy of the Final Scoping Report must be made available to the Municipality, as well as other engagement processes and information as the processes continue. Further comments to be furnished by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).	Thank you for your interest and comments. A copy of the Final Scoping Report will only be made available electronically, however, a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be delivered to your offices. Comments have been received from LEDET.	Scoping Report
2	Ms	MC	Rodgers	Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Management	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET)	Commenting Authority	02/08/2019	Legislation and policies	The headings in Table 5 (3.1 Listed Activities) lists 2010 EIA Regulations Listing Notices. Kindly amend to reflect correct listing notices as reflected elsewhere in the table.	The headings in the table were amended.	Scoping Report: 3.1 Listed Activities: Table 5.
3								Legislation and policies	The project description should be detailed to clearly illustrate why the listed activities indicated, are relevant. Kindly clarify which aspects of the project triggers activity 6 of Listing Notice 2 of 2014. Also indicate which other permits or licenses are required and whether or not they have been applied for.	The project description has been updated in the final report. Activity 6 of Listing Notice 2 is relevant to the disposal of waste or water containing waste into pollution control dams, for which a water use licence or an amendment to a water use licence will be required. The amendment of the Northam Zondereinde Mine Integrated Water Use Licence, will be applied for during the EIA phase of the application, when detailed information is available. No other licences or permits in terms of any environmental legislation are required for the proposed activities.	Scoping Report: 3.1 Listed Activities: Table 5.
4								Legislation and policies	Please note that in terms of regulation 7 (Q of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, it is required that application for, if any, atmospheric emission license required in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act N0.39 of 2004), water use license in terms of National Water Act, 1998 (Act n0.36 of 1998), etc. be run concurrently with the EA application process.	The amendment of the Northam Zondereinde Mine Integrated Water Use Licence, will be applied for during the EIA phase of the application, when detailed information is available. No other licences or permits in terms of environmental legislation are required for the proposed activities.	Scoping Report: 3.1 Listed Activities: Table 5.
5								Legislation and policies	In order to confirm whether Listing Notice 3 activities may be applicable, it may have to be established if the Madeleine Robinson Nature Reserve was proclaimed as such or not.	In terms of the Limpopo Conservation Plan the Madeleine Robinson Nature Reserve is not proclaimed as a protected area (refer to Figure 14 of the Scoping Report). Further, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) maintains a Protected Areas Register (PAR) as required by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) [as amended] (NEMPAA). In order to confirm that the aforementioned reserve was not proclaimed, the PAR was assessed (https://portal.environment.gov.za/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=54487a82b-abf4a7e9ab3a42aacabdf84). In terms of the PAR, the Madeleine Robinson Nature Reserve is not a proclaimed protected area in terms of NEMPAA. The PAR did however indicate that the Sharme Private Nature Reserve, located approximately 5 km south-east of the study area, is a proclaimed protected area in terms of NEMPAA. Based on this information, an assessment was undertaken to confirm whether any listed activities in Listing Notice 3 would be triggered. This assessment indicated that no further activities (than those already identified and included in the Application form) are triggered by the proposed development: •The only listed activity that the proposed development may potentially trigger is Activity 4 of Listing Notice 3 (GNR 985) (LN3), which involves the development of a road wider than 4 m. •Based on the layout and desktop information available, that the proposed road does not fall within any National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy focus area or within the 5 km buffer of a protected area (please note that as the reserve is not a national park, only the 5km buffer applies). •Whilst part of the footprint of the proposed development and/or service installations (other than the road) may fall within the 5 km buffer, these activities are not listed in LN3. •Please refer to the attached figure which indicates Protected areas, the associated 5km buffers as well as the NPAES areas in relation to the proposed road. This figure will be included in the Final Scoping Report. Please note that the sensitivity assessment will be updated during the EIA phase once the layout has been finalised and all specialist studies completed.	Scoping Report: Section 3.1 Listed Activities: Table 5 and Section 6.4.2 Figure 14.
6								General	Kindly provide two electronic copies (CDs) of EIAR.	Noted. Two electronic copies (CDs) of the EIAR will be provided to LEDET for review.	
7	Mr	TR	Ngoasheng	Environmental Impact Management: Waterberg District	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET)	Commenting Authority	06/08/2019	Legislation and policies	It appears as though there is evidence of disturbance of the site. Has the mine commenced with construction?	The disturbance is part of specialist investigations - required for the EIA phase - involving geo-technical drilling and deep geological drilling for which platforms had to be built. This information is imperative to the EIA and will inform the impact assessment. It will also inform whether the project will be feasible and practically executable. The area of disturbance is less than 1 hectare and does not fall within any areas listed in notice 3.	

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8	Mr	Phillip	Hine	Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Competent Authority	08/08/2019	Heritage	The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that several archaeological sites are known to exist and are on record for the larger study area. These sites consist of Middle Stone Age (MSA) open air sites, Late Iron Age (LIA) stone walled settlements and graves. The APM unit therefore requests that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be conducted, by a suitably qualified archaeologist, in terms of section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25 of 1999 as part of the EA process.	A Phase 1 HIA will be conducted during the EIA phase of the application and will be uploaded onto the SAHRIS system for review by SAHRA.	Scoping Report: Section 7.3
9								Heritage	No palaeontological studies are required as the development area is of insignificant palaeontological sensitivity according to the SAHRIS PalaeoMap.	Noted.	Scoping Report: Section 7.3
10								Impact assessment	The draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), when it is made available for public review, must be submitted with its appendices to the case on SAHRIS. Further comments will be made when the requested HIA report and environmental documents have been attached to the case for review.	Noted. The EIAR with its appendices will be uploaded onto the SAHRIS system.	Scoping Report: Section 7.3
11								General	Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.	Thank you, noted.	
DMR Comments - Acceptance of Scoping											
12	Mr / Ms	Thivhulawi / Mashudu	Kolani / Mudau	Regional Manager: Mineral Regulation / Case Officer	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Competent Authority	16/10/2019	Legislation and policies	The Department found the submitted Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment to comply with the minimum requirements of Appendix 2(2) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014 and accepts the SR in terms of Regulation 22(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.	Thank you, noted.	EIA / Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) Report
13								Legislation and policies	The EAP may proceed with the EIA process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA as required in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.	Thank you, noted.	
14								Public participation	Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This includes but is not limited to the Provincial Environmental Department (LEDET), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the local municipality. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof of the attempts that were made to obtain comments should be submitted to the Department.	All relevant departments were notified, and this report made available for comment. The EIR and EMPr Report was available for review and comment from 28 October 2019 to 26 November 2019. Public Meeting: All registered and potential I&APs were also invited to a public meeting on Monday 04 November 2019 from 11h00 – 12h30. However, no I&APs were in attendance on the day. Subsequently, emails were sent to all relevant Organs of State to remind them to send comments on the Draft EIA/EMPR report on or before 26 November 2019.	EIA/EMPR Report: Section 6 and Appendix 9
15								General	In addition, the following information are required for the EIR and EMPr which needs to be submitted to this office as prescribed:	-	-
16								Public participation	Consultation with all interested and affected parties and provide proof that the concerns have been raised, addressed and incorporated into the EIA and EMP. Include the proof of detailed participation and the results thereof. Notwithstanding the geographical location (i.e. in relation to town and communities/farmlands) and ownership of the area applied for, please note that as part of the results of Public Participation the following details must be indicated: <input type="checkbox"/> Date of public meetings; <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes of the meetings; <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance register with name of the organisation, contact number and the signature thereof; <input type="checkbox"/> Views and concerns of the interested and affected parties, etc.	All relevant departments were notified, and this report made available for comment. The EIR and EMPr Report was available for review and comment from 28 October 2019 to 26 November 2019. Public Meeting: All registered and potential I&APs were also invited to a public meeting on Monday 04 November 2019 from 11h00 – 12h30. However, no I&APs were in attendance on the day. Subsequently, emails were sent to all relevant Organs of State to remind them to send comments on the Draft EIA/EMPR report on or before 26 November 2019. (Refer to Section 6 and Appendix 9 for all proof of public participation and efforts made to obtain comments from stakeholders.	EIA/EMPR Report: Section 6 and Appendix 9
17								Public participation	Also note that you may employ different methods to inform interested and affected parties about the public participation such as newspaper advert, notification letters, public notices, etc. However, these methods shall not be viewed as results of public participation rather means of notifying different parties.		
18								Ground water	A specialist must investigate the impact of the proposed project on surface and groundwater resources and deduce mitigation measures thereof and performance monitoring standards.	Refer to specialist reports.	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10,1
19								Heritage	An Archaeological Impact Assessment must be conducted to determine if there will be any graves, old houses, signs of historical significance and/or materials of archaeological importance. Incorporate recommendations of such report into the EIA and EMP.	Refer to specialist reports.	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10,4
20								Visual Impact	Measures to mitigate visual impacts of the activities must be developed.	Refer to Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for mitigation measures.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section
21								Monitoring and Auditing	Commitment on monitoring and indication of the standards, methods and the frequency of submission of an environmental audit report/performance assessment report to this department.	Refer to Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for mitigation measures.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section
22								Silt, noise, dust	Clear and specific standards for silt, noise and dust levels and commitment to monitoring levels.	Refer to Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for mitigation measures. Also refer to the relevant specialist reports.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section & Appendix 10
23								Impact assessment	The inclusion of the procedures that relate to emergencies and proposed remediation hereto, for example: discuss the contingency plans with respect to floods, accidental spills and management of hazardous materials such as oil, diesel, etc; in the proposed mining area.	Refer to Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for mitigation measures.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section

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24							General	Details of the future land use for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years.	The infrastructure on the study area will be decommissioned and rehabilitated to its pre-development land use as far as possible. Should this be different, the appropriate approvals will be applied for at that stage. Depending on the environmental legislation at that stage, a separate application for the decommissioning must be applied for prior to decommissioning of any infrastructure in the project area.	Section 1.2.1	
25							General	The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated.	Refer to the site layout plans	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 8	
26							Legislation and policies	Should a Water Use Licence be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.	A Water Use Licence Application was submitted. Proof is attached in Appendix 14.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section & Appendix 14	
27							Specialist studies	Possible impacts and effects of the development on the vegetation ecology with regard to lowland-highland interface in the locality should be indicated.	Refer to the relevant specialist reports.	EIA/EMPR Report: Section 6.4 & Appendix 10	
28							Specialist studies	The impacts of the proposed facility on avifauna and bats must be assessed in the EIA.	Refer to the relevant specialist reports.	EIA/EMPR Report: Section 6.4 & Appendix 10	
29							Impact assessment	Possible impacts and effects of the development on the surrounding industrial area.	Note that the proposed development is NOT surrounded by an industrial area. Erratum in statement. Same was addressed with DMR.	-	
30							Services - existing and/or required	Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained?	Refer to the project description and scope of overall project and Appendix 13.	EIA/EMPR Report: Section , & Appendix 13	
31							Monitoring and Auditing	A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.	Refer to Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for mitigation measures for both the construction and operational phases of the proposed project.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section	
32							Impact assessment	Should blasting be required, appropriate mitigation measures should be provided.	Refer to Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for mitigation measures.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section	
33							Specialist studies	You are advised to also undertake studies which may be relevant during the impact analysis.	Refer to the specialist reports.	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10	
34							Legislation and policies	The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 with regards to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.	Refer to the process description.	EIA/EMPR Report: Section 1 & 4	
35							Project description	Please ensure that the EIAR includes the A3 size locality maps of the area and illustrates the exact location of the proposed development. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes: Ø Maps are relatable to one another; Ø Co-ordinates; Ø Legible legends;	Refer to the Appendix 4 for the required locality plans. Also refer to the relevant specialist studies.	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 4	
36							Legislation and policies	Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subjected to any permits or authorisations in terms of the provisions of any Specific Environmental Management Acts (SEMAs), proof of such application will be required.	No permits or authorisations in terms of the provisions of any SEMAs is required for the proposed project.	-	
37							General	You are requested to submit three (3) hard copies of the EIAR and EMPr on prescribed time frames in terms of Regulation with at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete EIAR and EMPr to this Regional Office. Please note that such copies are not including the hard copies which to be forwarded to organs of state administering a law relating to matters affecting the environment. You are therefore requested to consult with every organ of state that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to this application of environmental authorisation and submit the comments to this department.	Noted	EIA/EMPR Report: Section 6.2 Appendix 9	
38							Legislation and policies	Your attention is brought to Section 24F of the NEMA which stipulates "that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the competent authority".	Noted.	-	

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39	Mr	T. G	Ramagaga	Municipal Manager	Thabazimbi Local Municipality	Commenting Authority	27/11/2019	Monitoring and Auditing	<p>The Thabazimbi Local Municipality acknowledges the EIA and EMPr report as submitted for the project. On overall scrutiny of the content of the report submitted before the Municipality, the following should be noted:</p> <p>Thabazimbi Municipal area is the most climate change impacted jurisdiction in the Waterberg Region due to issues of air pollution, water pollution, land pollution and ecological degradation. Hence, the mitigation measures as contained in the EMPr report as submitted to the Municipality are binding and shall be implemented to minimise the environmental impacts as identified and unforeseen.</p>	Noted.	EIA/EMPR Report: Part B EMPr section
40	Mr	Phillip	Hine	Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Competent Authority	15/11/2019	Heritage	<p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that the Scoping Report has not incorporated the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and therefore alternative locations for the proposed development must be investigated as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase as per section 38(3)f of the NHRA, as there are highly sensitive heritage sites that are highly likely to be impacted on by the mining activities.</p> <p>SAHRA requests that the HIA report be amended to include the distances of the development area to the outer edge of heritage sites. The amended HIA must be submitted to the case on SAHRIS along with the Scoping Report appendices and the draft EIA with appendices before further comments can be made.</p>	<p>20/11/2019</p> <p>Thank you for the comments received on the application, dated 15 November 2019. Please note that the EIA Report have been uploaded onto the system now (we experienced problems earlier), and a heritage sensitivity map, indicating that the footprint of the development will not encroach onto the high sensitive areas, as also indicated in the heritage report.</p> <p>All the mitigation measures as per SAHRA'S comments and the Heritage Study have been included in the EMPr.</p> <p>Kindly provide us with your final comments on the application as soon as possible.</p>	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10.4
41	Ms	Nokukhanya	Khumalo	Case Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Competent Authority	22/11/2019	Heritage	<p>In assessing the HIA we noted the heritage sensitivity areas presented in the map but as stated in the comment, it was not sufficient information to make a decision on the heritage site. An assessment of an alternative location or relocating the proposed site further away to allow for the retention of the entire site must be explored and not just partial conservation of the site. The site should be assessed as a whole and within its context in the greater landscape as well as provide distances to the nearest proposed activity area so that the long term conservation of the site is assessed. All of the above was not included in the HIA therefore, SAHRA requires the HIA to be amended to include these assessments.</p>	<p>26/11/2019</p> <p>Further to your comments below and interim comments dated 15 November 2019. Please find attached the revised heritage study.</p> <p>I also uploaded the report to the heritage report on SAHRIS. Note that no location alternatives were assessed as part of the EIA process, because although 10 other locations have preliminary been assessed by the mine, no feasible location alternatives were identified to the proposed location. However, the layout alternative assessed in the EIA have been amended according to the heritage and ecological sensitivities found on the wider study area and the proposed alternative was arrived at, which excluded most sensitivities on the site.</p> <p>Please specifically refer to Figures 25 – 29 and sections in red in the revised heritage report, as well as Pages 107 - 110 and Pages 172 – 174 of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Please let me know if this is in order and kindly provide us with your final comments as soon as possible.</p>	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10.4
42	Ms	Nokukhanya	Khumalo	Case Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Competent Authority	22/11/2019	Heritage	<p>Thank you for considering our comments thoroughly, we will try to process this case as soon as possible.</p>	-	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10.4
	Ms	Nokukhanya	Khumalo	Case Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Competent Authority	6/12/2019	Heritage	<p>SAHRA Final comment:</p> <p>The revised HIA report clarified that the medium significance areas contain only isolated artefact finds but may have deep subsurface deposits. The author recommends this area must be mitigated.</p> <p>The high sensitivity zones of the identified site contain stone walled enclosures and middens and that area will be conserved for long term conservation. SAHRA had requested that the HIA assess potential alternatives to the Shaft complex, however, the only viable alternative will directly impact the high sensitivity sections of the Iron Aged Stonewalled settlement.</p> <p>An allowance of a 30 m buffer zone from the closest heritage feature from the shaft complex and 86 m from the furthest heritage feature.</p> <p>The high significant areas should be avoided, and areas of medium sensitivity must be test excavated to test for subsurface deposits. These areas should be monitored during construction and the chance find procedure, provided under section 9.1, should be implemented for the project as well as a site development plan as part of the EMPr.</p> <p>SAHRA accepts the amended HIA and recommendations provided in the report. The HIA sufficiently address the concerns raised on 15/11/2019 Interim Comment. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed project on condition that the recommendations provided in the HIA report are included in the EMPr as well as the additional conditions listed in the comment.</p>	Noted with thanks. The recommendations and conditions are included in the EMPr.	EIA/EMPR Report: Appendix 10.4

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43	Ms	Motsei	Matlala	Land Use Officer	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Commenting Authority	14/11/2019	General	Your application bearing reference 21863 Northam Zondereinde 3 Shaft dated 25 October 2019 refers. Kindly provide the department the title deeds of the property. The extent sizes of the properties are needed.	25/11/2019 In response to your query below and our telephone conversation earlier today, the following: 1. We attach the title deeds for the Remainers of the Farms Elandsfontein 384 KQ and Zondereinde 384 KQ. 2. Northam Platinum Ltd ("Northam") has purchased a portion of the Remainder of the Farm Elandsfontein 384 KQ from Rustenburg Platinum (Pty) Ltd and the property is in the process of being sub-divided into Portions 3 and 4 of the Farm Elandsfontein 386 KQ, which will be transferred to Northam. The diagrams for Portions 3 and 4 are attached. These diagrams have been approved by the then Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ("DAFF") and the Municipal Council. They are awaiting approval by Surveyor General's Office. 3. Approval from DAFF under the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70 of 1970 was obtained for the subdivision and a notarial tie agreement concluded between Northam and the Municipality for Portions 3 and 4 of the Farm Elandsfontein 386 KQ. 4. The Project will take place on a portion of the Remainder of the Farm Zondereinde 384 KQ and a portion of the Remainder of the Farm Elandsfontein 386 KQ (in particular Portions 3 and 4).	-