

## **NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED NOOITGEDACHT COLLIERY (THE PROJECT)**

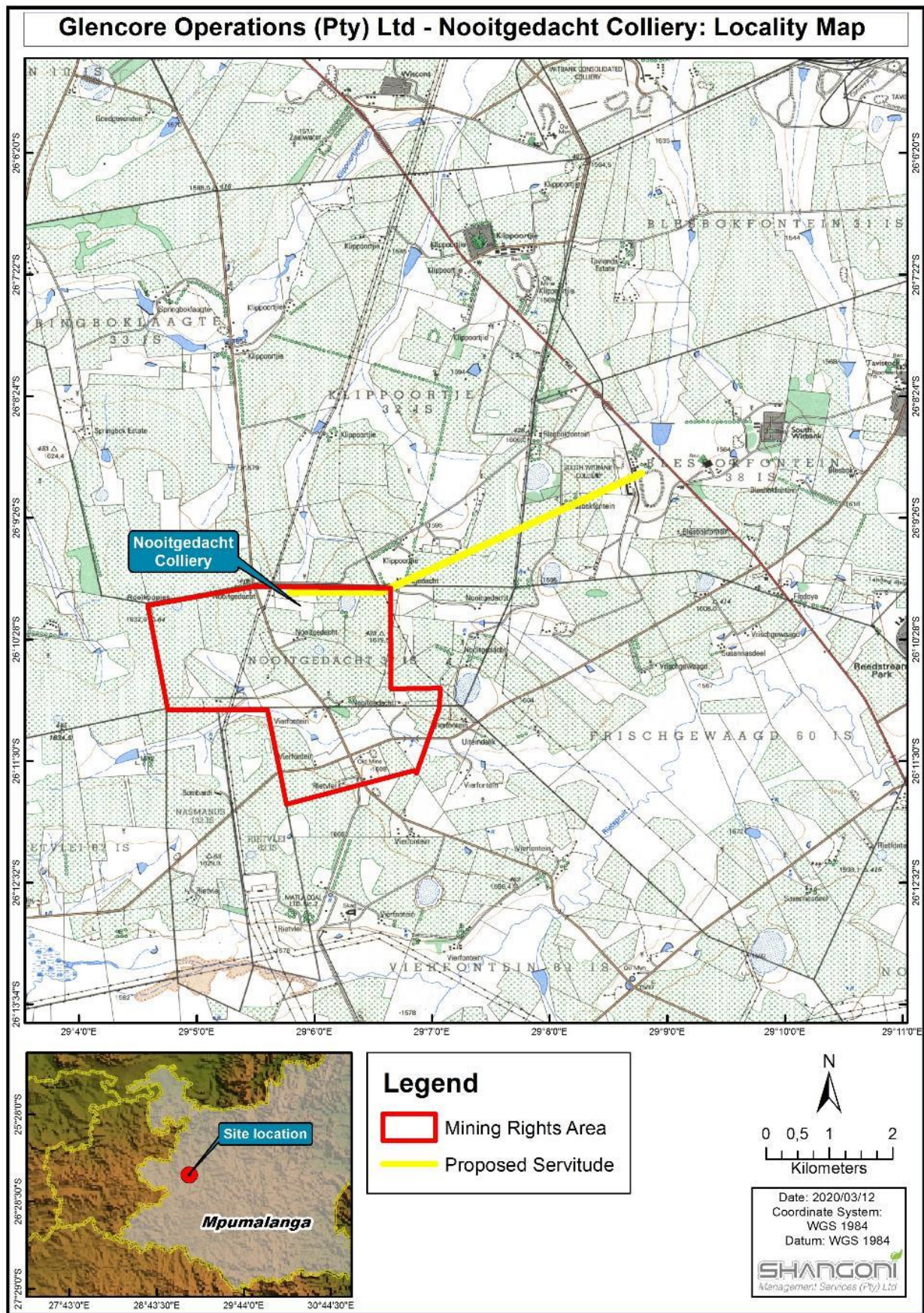
This letter gives notice to potential Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") about where information can be obtained in respect of the application for environmental authorisation, as well as the opportunity I&APs have to comment on the Scoping Report ("SR").

### **BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT**

The proposed Nooitgedacht Colliery will be located approximately halfway between Bethal and Ogies (30 km), in the province of Mpumalanga. Anglo Operations Proprietary Limited ("AOPL") previously conducted underground coal mining operations at the Nooitgedacht Colliery and specifically at the No. 5 Seam. Glencore Operations South Africa ("GOSA") now proposes to mine the No. 4 seam and the No. 2 seam below the No 5 seam workings. Such mining will take place under the mining right (MP 30/5/1/2/2/303 MR) that was approved as part of the Section 11 mining right transfer on 19 February 2019. The bord and pillar mining method will be used, using Continuous Miners ("CM") feeding shuttle cars. Coal mined will either be placed on a conveyor or will be trucked to GOSA's South Witbank Colliery ("SWC") processing plant. A 40-meter-wide servitude is proposed for this. Access to the underground workings will take place via a decline shaft. The location of the decline shaft will be on the same area that was previously used by AOPL. Proposed surface infrastructure will further include for offices, carparks, change houses, workshops, etc. A topsoil stockpile and waste rock dump will be established as part of the sinking of the decline shaft. An emergency ROM stockpile area will also be constructed and will be used during conveyor/truck downtime and / or maintenance. Two Pollution Control Dams ("PCD") will be constructed as part of the Nooitgedacht Colliery.



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## **LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Procedure applied to the application**

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (“S&EIR”) will be required in compliance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 4 December 2014) (“GN R982”), as amended, for the authorisation of listed activities contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GN R983 of 4 December 2014) (“GNR 983”), as amended, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN R984 of 4 December 2014) (“GNR 984”), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 (GN R985 of 4 December 2014) (“GNR 985”), as amended and published in terms of Sections 24(2), 24 (5), 24D, 44 and 47(A) (1)(b) of the NEMA. A Water Use License Application (“WULA”) is also required for water use activities contained in Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998. The application process will be undertaken according to GNR 267 (Regulations regarding the procedural requirements for water use licence applications and appeals), dated 24 March 2017.

### **Applications submitted to competent authority**

An application for environmental authorisation was submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (“DMRE”) on 9 November 2020.

### **Listed activities applied to the application**

The listed activities that will be applied for include Activities 10(i), 10(ii), 12(ii)(a), 14, 19, 24(ii), 25 and 27 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983 of GG 38282 of 4 Dec 2014, as amended) and Activities 6, 11, 17(a) and 17(b) of Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984 of GG 38282 of 4 Dec 2014, as amended). The water use licence activities that will be applied for are: Section 21(a), 21(b), 21 (c), 21(f), 21(g), and 21(i).

### **Legislation associated with the application**

South African legislation requires that a Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Report be compiled in accordance with Regulation 21 of Chapter 4 of GNR 982 and an amendment to the Environmental Management Programme Report (“EMPr”) in accordance to Regulation 31 of Chapter 5 of GN R982. Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd (“Shangoni”) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (“EAP”), in terms of Regulation 12 of GN R982, to undertake and manage the processes to apply for the required environmental authorisations. Furthermore, Shangoni meets the requirements of an EAP contemplated in Regulation 13 of GN R982.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

### **Background information**

Anglo American Thermal Coal (a division of Anglo Operations Proprietary Limited) (“AOPL”) was the holder of two mining rights for coal in respect of an area known as the Nooitgedacht Colliery. AOPL



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previously conducted underground coal mining operations at the Nooitgedacht Colliery and specifically at the No. 5 Seam The following information is applicable to the two mining rights:

- Mining right 1 - Reference No. MP 30/5/1/2/2/303 MR) ("303 MR") - This mining right was originally held under ML 11/2004 (DME reference OT 5/3/2/631), issued on 27th April 2004, and thereafter held by AOPL as a registered converted mining right (303 MR). The following properties were included under this mining right:
  - Mineral Area 2 on Portion 1 of the farm Nooitgedacht 37 IS, and
  - Mineral Area 3 (a portion of Mineral Area 1) on Portion 11 of the farm Nooitgedacht 37 IS.
- Mining right 2 - Reference No. MP 30/5/1/2/2/236 MR) ("236 MR") – This mining right was originally held under an old order mining right, namely, ML 13/1997 (DME reference OT 5/3/2/95) issued on 15 May 1997 and thereafter under a registered converted mining right (236 MR). The following properties were included under this mining right:
  - Farm Nooitgedacht 37 IS - RE, portion 13, portion 14, RE portion 2, portion 10, portion 15, portion 16, RE portion 3, portion 4, portion 5, portion 6, portion 7, portion 8 and portion 9.
  - Farm Vierfontein 61 IS – RE, portion 8, portion 33, portion 35, portion 36, portion 37, portion 38 and portion 41.

On 28 November 2017, a mining right transfer from AOPL to Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("GOSA") in terms of Section 11(1) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) ("MPRDA") was submitted to the then Department of Mineral Resources ("DMR"), now known as the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy ("DMRE"). On 20 August 2018, DMRE granted consent to transfer the mining rights from AOPL to GOSA and on 19 February 2019 the notarial deed of cession of the mining right (MP 30/5/1/2/2/303 MR) was signed by all relevant parties. The following properties were included in this notarial deed:

- Farm Nooitgedacht 37 IS - RE, RE portion 1, RE portion 2, RE portion 3, portion 4, portion 5, portion 6, portion 7, portion 8, portion 9, portion 10, portion of portion 11, portion 13, portion 14, portion 15 and portion 16.
- Farm Vierfontein 61 IS – RE, portion 8, portion 33, portion 35, portion 36, portion 37 and portion 38.

GOSA now proposes to mine the No. 4 seam and the No. 2 seam below the No 5 seam workings. Digby Wells, for AOPL, submitted an EMPr amendment under Section 102 of the MPRDA in June 2014, to include for the mining of the No. 4 seam and the No. 2 seam. This amendment did not consider any surface infrastructure at the Nooitgedacht Colliery with the described approach (then) to access the underground area from the existing C11 Shaft and South Witbank Colliery Shaft. Also, no NEMA listed activities were applied for as part of this amendment. This Section 102 amendment was approved by the DMRE on 19 September 2019, as was issued to AOPL.

### Mineral to be mined

The mineral to be mined is coal located at the No. 4 and No. 2 seam.

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### Mining method

The bord and pillar mining method will be used, using Continuous Miners (“CM”) feeding shuttle cars (see Figure 5 below). No secondary mining (stooping) will be done.

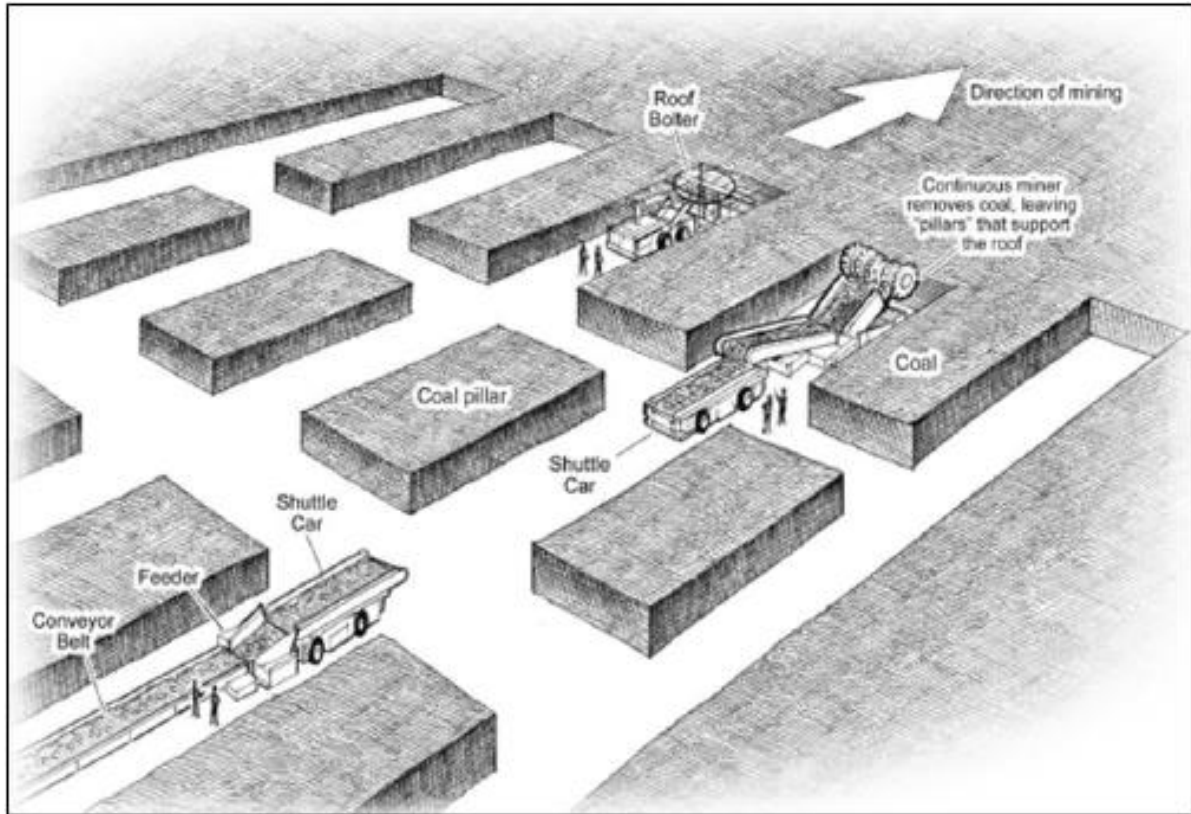


Figure 2: Bord and pillar mining method ([www.interdisciplinaryenergystudy.org](http://www.interdisciplinaryenergystudy.org))

The No. 4 seam is at an approximate depth of 80 m below surface. The No. 2 seam is 24 m below the No. 4 seam (104 m below surface). The No. 4 coal seam, which is approximately 4 m thick, contains a resource of 58 million tons (“Mt”) of coal in-situ, with 17.2 Mt of Run of Mine (“RoM”) planned. The No. 2 seam is approximately 6 m thick and contains a resource of 67 Mt of coal in-situ, with 16.5 Mt of RoM planned.

### Mineral processing

Coal mined will either be placed on a conveyor or will be trucked to GOSA’s South Witbank Colliery (“SWC”) processing plant. A 40-meter-wide servitude is proposed for this. RoM coal will be beneficiated in a double stage coal handling and processing plant and will be railed and transported to Richards Bay Coal Terminal (“RBCT”).

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### Project infrastructure

Access to the underground workings will take place via a decline shaft. The location of the decline shaft will be on the same area that was previously used by AOPL. Proposed surface infrastructure will further include for offices, carports, change houses, workshops, etc. A topsoil stockpile and waste rock dump will be established as part of the sinking of the decline shaft. An emergency RoM stockpile area will also be constructed and will be used during conveyor/truck downtime and / or maintenance. One Pollution Control Dam ("PCD") and one shaft dirty water sump will be constructed as part of the Nooitgedacht Colliery.

### Electricity

Electricity is already supplied by Eskom to SWC and this supply will be extended to the Nooitgedacht Colliery mining area. Electricity infrastructure from SWC to Nooitgedacht Colliery will be situated within the 40 m wide servitude.

### Roads

The Nooitgedacht Colliery will be accessed on a provincial gravel road at right angles to the R545. The gravel road will be used by mine personnel and construction vehicles during the construction phase. Haul trucks conveying ore from Nooitgedacht Colliery to SWC plant, should this be considered the preferred option, will be restricted to the new servitude to be constructed.

### Potable and process water supply

Potable water is to be sourced from boreholes and are required to supply the underground workings as well as the administration offices and workshop. A maximum consumption of 77 litre per person per day is assumed and a total minimum consumption of 65 m<sup>3</sup>/d and a maximum consumption of 72 m<sup>3</sup>/d is required. Taking losses into account, the borehole needs to supply a maximum of 74 m<sup>3</sup>/d of potable water to the mine.

For the operation of the Continuous Miners ("CM"), a demand of 151 m<sup>3</sup>/d is assumed. This value includes dust suppression required for underground usage. Water for the CM will be sourced from the PCD.

### Storm water management

A storm water model has been prepared for the Nooitgedacht Colliery (Golder Associates, 2020). A clean and dirty storm water system layout has been prepared, with accompanying vertical profiles and geometric details to support engineering design of the system, in compliance with regulatory requirements and in support of the environmental authorisations for the operation.

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### Non-mineral waste management

#### **Industrial and hazardous waste disposal**

Industrial waste from the Nooitgedacht Colliery will be collected on a routine basis and sent to a central waste storage and handling area and removed off-site. Used oils are to be collected and recycled by a contractor. Hazardous waste will be removed off-site by a licenced hazardous waste contractor to an appropriate hazardous waste disposal site. The management of industrial and hazardous waste will be undertaken in accordance with a documented waste management procedure.

#### **Domestic waste disposal**

Domestic waste will include amongst other general paper waste, food residue, glass and plastic bags and bottles (if any). Domestic waste from the various areas at Nooitgedacht Colliery will be collected and disposed of at an appropriate local municipal waste disposal facility. The management of domestic waste will be undertaken in accordance with a documented waste management procedure.

### Life of Mine ("LoM")

Nooitgedacht Colliery will be mined for a 12-year life of mine. The 4 Seam will be mined during the first 7 years of the life of the operation. Mining of the 2 Seam will commence in year 6 and will continue until the life of mine.

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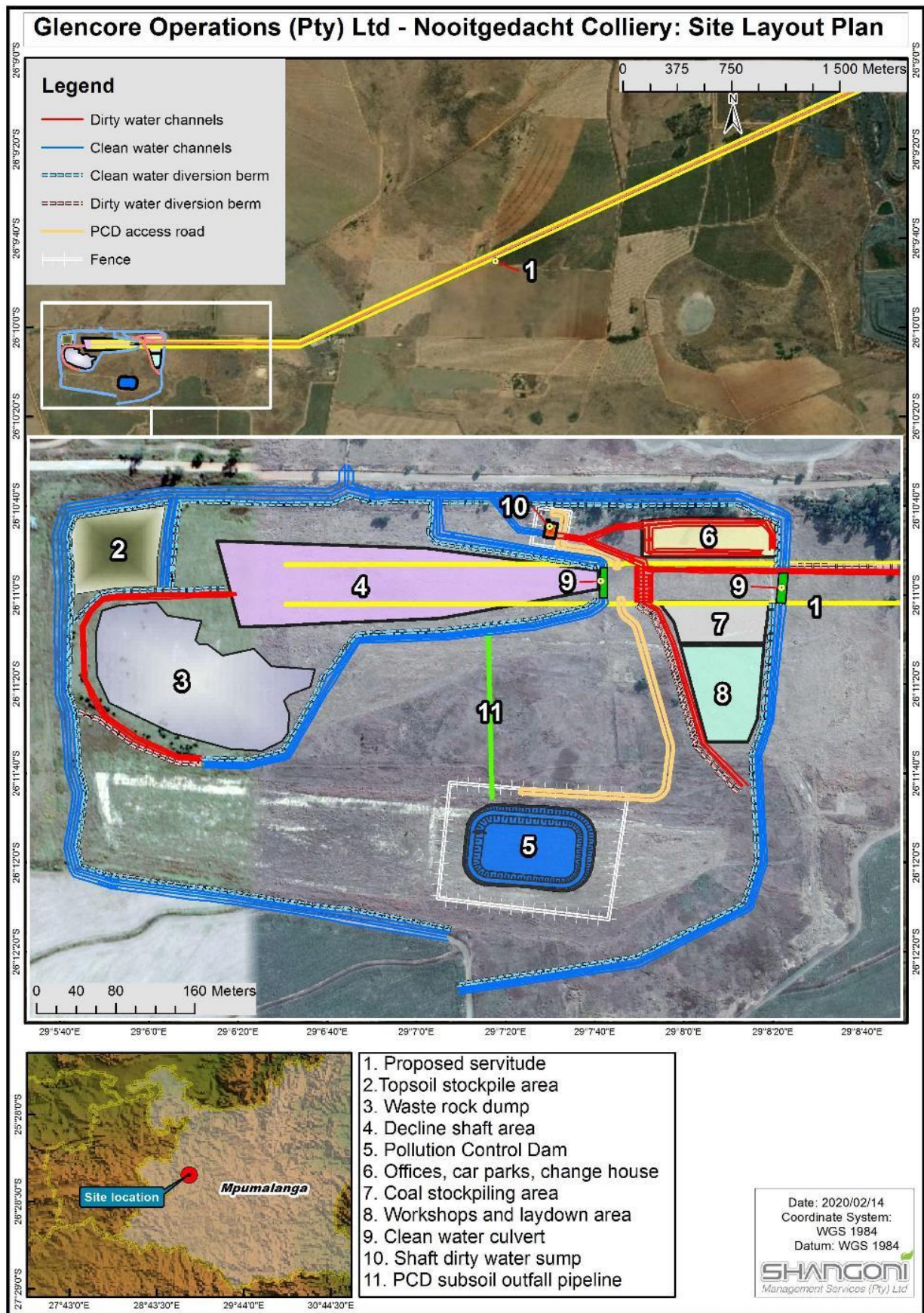


Figure 3: Nooitgedacht Colliery site layout plan



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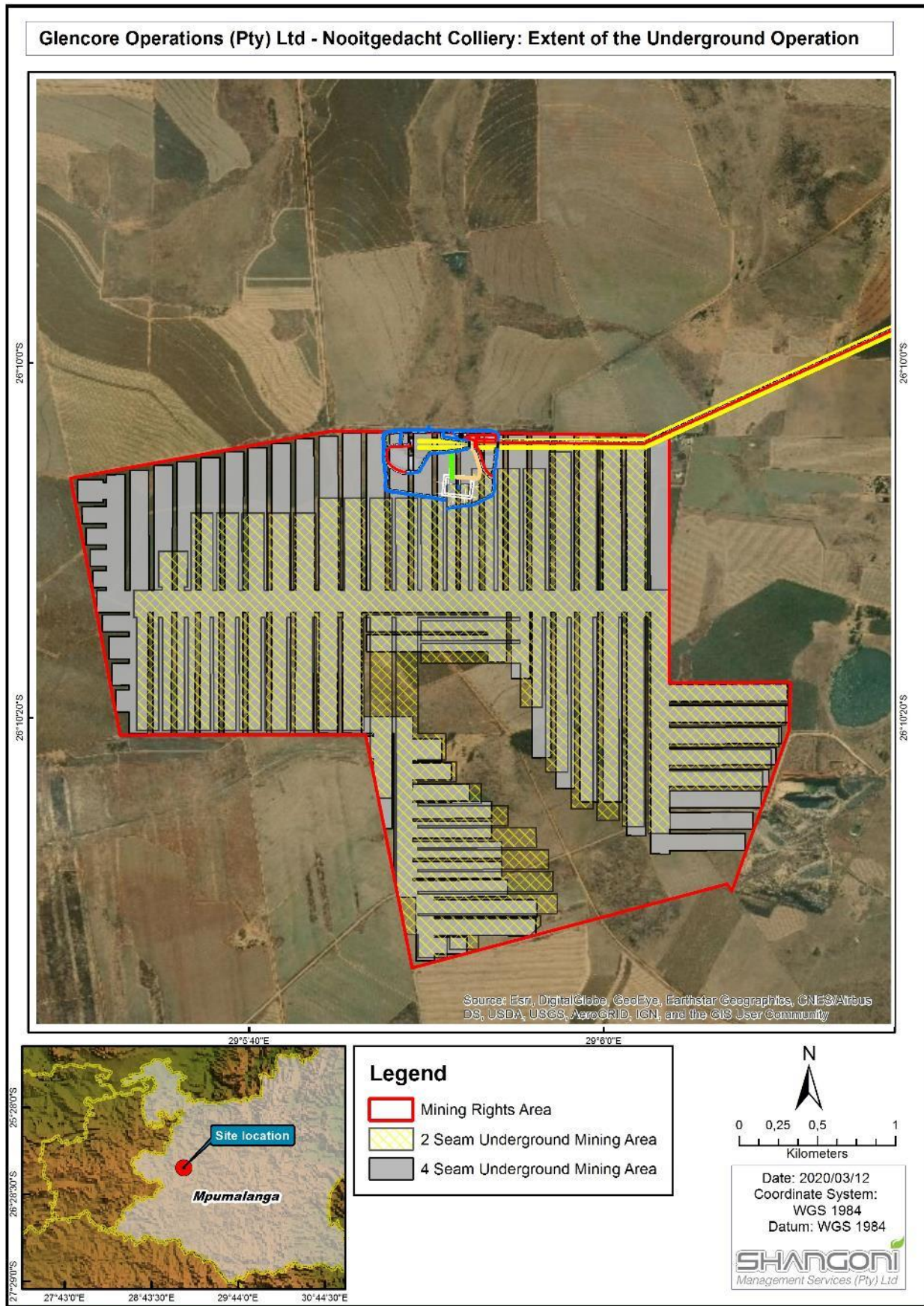


Figure 4: Layout map of the project area

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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

South Africans have a right to be informed about potential decisions that may affect them and to be afforded an opportunity to influence those decisions. This notification forms part of a Public Participation Process as part of the project. It describes the various components of the project to enable I&APs to get a better understanding of the potential environmental and social impacts that could be expected from the proposed project. It also outlines the process and the opportunities for the public to become involved during the course of the study.

#### **Register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)**

You may register as an I&AP. To register as an I&AP of this project, or to obtain more information or submit comments, please request a Registration Form from Shangoni and return it together with any comments to Shangoni by no later than 11 December 2020 at the details provided below.

#### **Newspaper advertisements**

A newspaper advertisement notifying potential I&APs of the Project was placed in the Witbank News Newspaper on 12 November 2020.

#### **Availability of the draft Scoping Report (SR)**

The draft SR will be made available to the public for review for a period of 30 days from 12 November 2020 to 11 December 2020 on the Shangoni's website ([www.shangoni.co.za](http://www.shangoni.co.za)). E-mail or fax your comments to Shangoni (details provided below) by no later than 11 December 2020.

#### **Where to obtain more information**

To obtain additional information please contact the EAP at the details provided below:

**Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):** Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd

**Contact person:** Nico Brits

**Tel:** 012 807 7036

**E-mail:** [nico@shangoni.co.za](mailto:nico@shangoni.co.za)

**Fax:** 012 807 1014

**Postal Address:** P. O. Box 74726, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete this form and return it to Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd to ensure that you are registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).

By answering the questions below, you will help us to develop a better understanding of your information requirements. The form also gives you the opportunity to make comments regarding the project. Additional pages may be attached should this be required.

**I&AP Details:**

Full name and surname:

Contact details:

Physical address:

Postal address:

Preferred method of communication:

Preferred telephone number:

Organisation/Representative:

Farm name, number and subdivision or

Street Address (if applicable):

Tel (w):

Tel (h):

Fax:

Cell:

e-mail:

☐ fax ☐ e-mail ☐ post

☐ cell ☐ home ☐ work

**Questions**

1) Where did you get information about the proposed project?

☐ Newspaper advertisement ☐ notice board ☐ flyer ☐ other (please specify)

2) Do you represent a company/organisation or is your interest on behalf of yourself?

3) Do you know of anyone that is affected by the proposed activity who was not informed of the project? (Please provide contact details)

4) Do you have any specific concerns or comments regarding the proposed project?

**YES**

**NO**

**If yes, please indicate what the comments are?**



[illegible]

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SHANGONI**  
Management Services (Pty) Ltd