

**Notice of an Integrated Regulatory Process for Environmental Authorisation, a Waste Management Licence and an Integrated Water Use Licence for the proposed Alexander Mining Project for Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd, Mpumalanga**

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



**August 2022**



<b>Name of applicant:</b>	Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd
<b>Project name and applications:</b>	<p>Alexander Mining Project</p> <p>Application for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Authorisation (EA) through a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&amp;EIR) process and the compilation of an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998; NEMA) and its Regulations;</li> <li>• Waste Management Licence (WML) in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008; NEM:WA); and</li> <li>• Integrated Water Use Licence (IWUL) in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998; NWA), including an Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP).</li> </ul>
<b>Properties:</b>	The mining right of the proposed Alexander Mining project belongs to Sasol Mining (Ref MP 30/5/1/2/2/ 10125MR). The farm properties to be affected by the proposed project are listed on page 7. Please refer to the map on page 8 which shows the location of all the above properties.
<b>Competent authorities:</b>	The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) for the EA and WML and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for the IWUL.
<b>Local authorities:</b>	Emalahleni Local Municipality (EML) and Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (GMLM) within the Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) and Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM)
<b>EAP (Environmental Assessment Practitioner):</b>	Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd Engineering & Environmental Consultants (J&W)

## Content and purpose of this Background Information Document

This document provides background information regarding the proposed Alexander Mining Project. The application is undertaken by Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd (Sasol Mining).

Sasol Mining has appointed Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd Engineering and Environmental Consultants (J&W) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an Integrated Regulatory Process for Environmental Authorisation (EA), a Waste Management Licence (WML) and an Integrated Water Use Licence (IWUL). The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) is the competent authority in terms of the required EA and WML and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for the IWUL.

The purpose of this document is to announce the proposed project to assist stakeholders to:

- Register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) to be kept informed about further opportunities to participate in the proposed project; and
- Raise any concerns they may have regarding the proposed project.

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

As an I&AP, you will be included in the stakeholder database and receive further documents for comment. Your comments will ensure that all relevant issues are incorporated. Please complete and submit the enclosed registration/comment sheet, call or email J&W if you wish to raise any concerns regarding the proposed project. All documents will be available on the internet at [www.jaws.co.za](http://www.jaws.co.za). *As per the requirement of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI), Act No. 14 of 2013 you are herewith notified that you may exercise your right to leave the Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) List. Should you elect to remain as part of the I&AP List for the study, it will be accepted that you have consented to being a part of the list and that your personal information will be noticeable to employees of J&W engaged with the public participation process. All such employees agree not to make use of such personal information for whatsoever reason, without obtaining the consent of the relevant person(s). As such, by participating in this process, you consent to the use of your contact information and comments for the purposes of the study as per the regulations. Please visit [www.jaws.co.za](http://www.jaws.co.za) for more information on the protection of personal information.*

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT

The Consultation Scoping Report (CSR) will be available for your review from **24 August 2022 to 23 September 2022** at public places (see page 6) or on the website – [www.jaws.co.za](http://www.jaws.co.za).

## Project description

Sasol Mining operates several underground coal mines near Secunda in Mpumalanga Province. To ensure an uninterrupted coal supply to the Sasol Operations (SO) in Secunda, Sasol Mining has acquired new reserves and in future will deploy its mining activities into these new areas. These areas are the Alexander Block 2, 3 and 4. For the purposes of this application, opencast mining will only take place at Block 2 herein referred as the “Alexander Mining Project”.

The Alexander mining right (inclusive of Alexander Block 2, 3 and 4), with DMRE reference number MP 30/5/1/2/2/10125MR, was transferred from Anglo American Inyosi Coal (Pty) Ltd (AAIC) to Sasol Mining on 29 April 2018.

The Alexander coal reserves are required to replace coal currently purchased from the Isibonelo Colliery, when the Isibonelo operations cease. A combination of Sasol Mining operations is scheduled to supply coal to SO.

The proposed Alexander Mining Project is a greenfields project that will include opencast mining operations at Block 2, to extract coal from the No.4 and No.5 Coal Seams.

Sasol Mining has indicated that they may decide to mine additional areas of the remaining reserves at Alexander in future via underground mining, however this is not currently in the project plan and has not been assessed as part of this study. A new environmental application and licensing process would be required for additional mining, should Sasol Mining decide to mine these areas in future.

The Alexander Mining Project also includes the development of the following surface infrastructure at Block 2 and surrounds:

- Mine complex (including offices, parking, change houses, workshops, substation, haul roads, Run of Mine (ROM) tip, temporary coal stockpile, Pollution Control Dam (PCD), canals, contaminated and topsoil stockpiles, a Sewage Treatment Plant, etc);
- Overland conveyor;
- Access roads;
- Powerlines; and
- Potable and dirty water pipelines

Access to the mine will be provided from the provincial road R545 (P52/3) via the district road D620. Access to the mine from Secunda/Trichardt can also be obtained from the gravel district roads D618/D450. Due to the proposed footprint of the Alexander Mine, district road D618 will need to be closed from the regional road R545 up to the intersection with district road D450. District road D450 will also be closed for a section and re-routed in order to accommodate the footprint of the mine. Sasol Mining is undertaking this process in collaboration with the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (MDPWRT).

The opencast mining activities at Alexander are envisaged to commence in 2023 and be completed by the year 2036.

Please refer to the Consultation Scoping Report for detailed description of proposed activities and surface infrastructure.

## Site Location

The Alexander Mining Project is located approximately 12 km northwest of Bethal and directly to the south and south-east of Kriel in the Mpumalanga Province. The target mineral resource lies between the R547 provincial road to the west and the R35 provincial road to the east. Alexander's mining right application area is approximately 10,700ha of which ~ 640ha covers the mine plan.

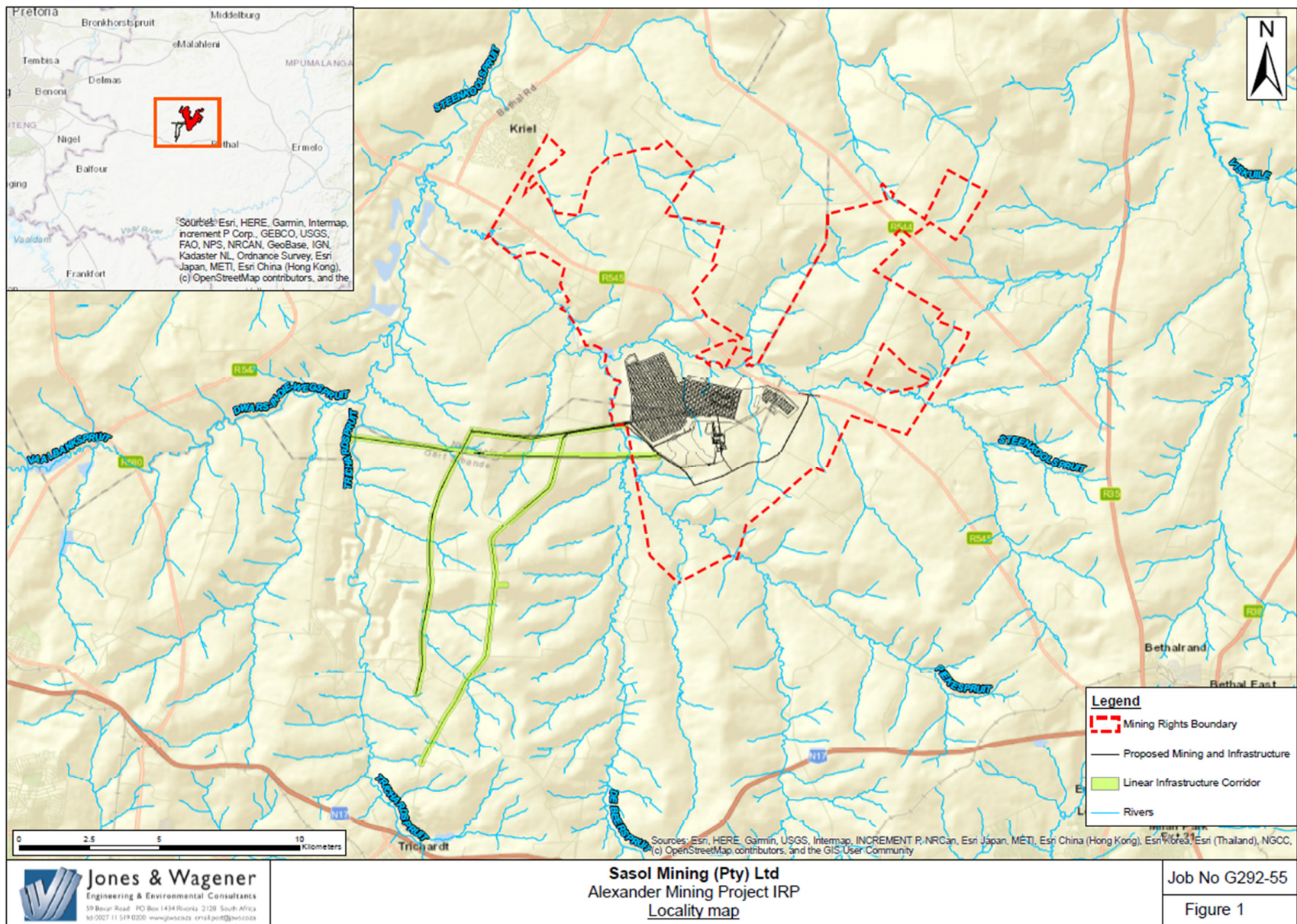


Figure 1: The Alexander Mining Project – Locality Map.



## Legislative requirements

The environmental applications foreseen for the Alexander Mining Project include:

- Application for Environmental Authorisation through a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process and the compilation of an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998; NEMA) and its Regulations;
- Waste Management Licence (WML) Application in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008; NEM:WA); and
- Integrated Water Use Licence (IWUL) Application in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998; NWA), including an Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP).

The first two requirements outlined above, will be addressed in an Integrated Environmental Authorisation as allowed for in Section 24L of NEMA and Section 25(3) of Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 326, as amended.

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999, NHRA) has been undertaken.

**EA Application:** The proposed developments will likely trigger the activities below which are listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Listing Notices published under GNR 983 – 985 in Government Gazette 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended by GN 327 of 7 April 2017 and by GN 517 of 11 June 2021.

Description of Activity as per Regulations	Name of Activity	Applicable Listing Notice
The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, waste water, return water, industrial discharge or slimes (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more	Dirty water pipelines, including pipelines from the pit to the PCD, pipelines from the office complex to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), pipeline from the Riversdale underground compartment to the service water reservoir, and dirty stormwater management infrastructure	Activity 10 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
The development of (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse	Development of opencast mining pits, reservoir, conveyors, roads, pipelines, powerlines, mine complex, topsoil stockpiles, contaminated stockpiles, and associated infrastructure within watercourses and within 32m of a watercourse.	Activity 12 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
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.	Storage of chemicals within the Explosives magazine Storage of fuel and chemicals within the mine complex workshops	Activity 14 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse	The stripping and excavation of soil in proximity to a watercourse for the development of infrastructure or mining	Activity 19 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an amendment or variation to a right or permit in terms of section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required for the exercising of such exempted activity.	The mining right Ref MP 30/5/1/2/2/ 10125MR is being amended by Sasol in terms of Section 102 of the MPRDA, following their acquisition of this mining right.	Activity 21D of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327, amended in GN517 of 11 June 2021)
The development of a road (i) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres	Construction of gravel roads with a reserve of 25 m (including the temporary access toad from the D618) and new sections of the D450 and D620 (which will have a road reserve of 40 m). Construction of internal mine roads with a reserve of 12.5 m. Upgrade of an intersection of a provincial road and upgrade and diversion of a district road.	Activity 24 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2 000 cubic metres but less than 15 000 cubic metres.	Construction and operation of a sewage treatment plant at the mine complex	Activity 25 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres; excluding where widening or lengthening occur inside urban areas.	Upgrading of the existing D620 road and potential lengthening by diversion. Upgraded public roads have a 40 m road reserve. Widening of existing D618, D450, and D620 road by more than 6 m.	Activity 56 of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)
The development of facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity which requires a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution or effluent.	Activities requiring a water use licence: • ROM stockpile • Dust suppression using mine impacted water • PCD • Sumps within mine complex • Overburden stockpiles • Dirty water channels, sumps, and pipelines • Overburden stockpiles • STP and drying beds • Infrastructure and mining pits within 500m of a watercourse	Activity 6 of Listing Notice 2 (GNR 325)

Description of Activity as per Regulations	Name of Activity	Applicable Listing Notice
The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required.	Clearing of vegetation for infrastructure, mining complex, stockpile areas, mining pits	Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 (GNR 325)
Any activity including the operation of that activity, which requires a mining right in terms of section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice, in Listing Notice 1 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the mining right.	Opencast mining pits and related activities	Activity 17 of Listing Notice 2 (GNR 325, amended in GN517 of June 2021)
The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. Mpumalanga i. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.	Clearing of vegetation for infrastructure, mining complex, stockpile areas, mining pits, within a CBA.	Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324)
The development of ii. dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or iii. infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas: (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	Development of opencast mining pits, reservoir, conveyors, roads, pipelines, powerlines, and associated infrastructure within watercourses and within 32m of a watercourse. Development of a post-closure stormwater management dam within a watercourse.	Activity 14 of Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324)
The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	The D450 road will be lengthened by ~1 km within CBAs.	Activity 18 of Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324)

**WML Application:** The proposed developments will likely trigger the Waste management activities below in terms of NEM:WA (GN 921 (2013) as amended in GN 332 (2014), GN 633 (2015), GN 242 (2017) and GN 1094 (2017)).

Description of Activity as per Regulations	Name of Activity	Applicable Listing Notice
The construction of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category B of this Schedule (not in isolation to associated waste management activity).	Construction of overburden stockpiles, associated liners and water management infrastructure	Category B, Activity 10
The establishment or reclamation of a residue stockpile or residue deposit resulting from activities which require a prospecting right or mining permit, in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).	ROM stockpiles Overburden stockpiles	Category B, Activity 11
Activity 1: The storage of general waste at a facility that has the capacity to store in excess of 100m3 of general waste at any one time, excluding the storage of waste in lagoons or temporary storage of such waste. Activity 2: The storage of hazardous waste at a facility that has the capacity to store in excess of 80m3 of hazardous waste at any one time, excluding the storage of hazardous waste in lagoons or temporary storage of such waste	Storage of general or hazardous waste at the mine complex (waste stockpiles, yards etc.)	Category C, Activities 1 and 2

The EA and WML Application entails a Scoping phase and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase. During Scoping, issues for investigation during the EIA phase are identified. This information is compiled into a Consultation Scoping Report which will be made available for public comment from 24 August 2022 to 23 September 2022. The final Scoping Report will be submitted to the DMRE Mpumalanga Regional Office for approval in order to continue with the EIA phase.

During the EIA phase, potential impacts are determined, and management measures are proposed to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. The consultation EIA, together with the draft IWUL report will be made available for public comment and submitted to the DMRE and the DWS for decision making. The EIA will also contain the results of a number of specialist assessments, including studies on:

- Aquatic biodiversity
- Surface water
- Wetlands
- Terrestrial flora and fauna
- Soil, land use and land capability
- Blasting and vibrations
- Hydrogeology
- Acid Mine Drainage Strategy
- Heritage and palaeontology
- Visual impact
- Socio-economic impacts
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Climate Change Assessment
- Traffic Assessment

**IWUL Application:** An IWUL application will be submitted under the NWA and Regulations regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals:

Water uses in terms of Section 21 of the NWA that are associated with the proposed Alexander Mining Project are:

Section 21 Water Use	Reason
Section 21(a): Taking water from a water resource	Abstracting water from pit to allow for mining Abstraction of water from Riversdale underground compartment for service water during mining
Section 21(c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse and/or S21(i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse	All activities taking place within 500 m of a wetland or 100 m of a watercourse will be licensed under Section 21 c and i: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining complex</li> <li>• Opencast mining pits and stockpiles</li> <li>• Linear infrastructure</li> </ul>
Section 21(f): Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource.	Discharge of treated sewage effluent
Section 21(g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource	Dust suppression using mine water. PCD Sumps within mine complex ROM stockpile Overburden stockpiles Dirty water channels and sumps Sewerage Treatment Plant Disposing of contaminated water to underground workings at Syferfontein
Section 21(j): Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people	Removal of water from pit to allow for mining.

## How can you become involved?

Stakeholders are invited to contact J&W to register as an I&AP for the integrated EA and IWUL application process and to comment on any of the reports that will be produced as part thereof. Your comments made during the process will be recorded in a Comments and Responses Report (CRR), which will form part of the reports that will be submitted to the authorities. The contributions made by stakeholders from all sectors of society will ensure informed decision-making. You are invited to participate freely and to submit any comments or information you feel may be useful to the process in writing. To ensure that you are registered as an I&AP and that you receive updated project information please complete the attached registration and comment form.

## Availability of the Consultation Scoping Report for review

The Consultation Scoping Report is available for public review for a period of 30 days, from **24 August 2022 to 23 September 2022** at the public places listed below.

Printed Copies	
Bethal Public Library: Danie Nortje Street, Bethal	
Kriel Public Library: Cnr Quinton and Heinrich str, Kriel	
Electronic Copies	
Website download	<a href="http://www.jaws.co.za">www.jaws.co.za</a>

You are encouraged to comment on the Consultation Scoping Report in any of the following ways:

- Writing a letter, producing written submissions;
- Sending an email, fax or contact the public participation practitioner by telephone; or
- Attending a stakeholder meeting where the contents of the Consultation Report will be presented and discussed. The meeting will take place on 8 September 2022. Please register to attend the meeting by completing the comments and registration sheet.

The diagram on page 7 indicates the phases and an outline of the steps to be followed in each phase and where stakeholders can contribute.

## Public Participation Enquiries

Anelle Lötter / Gina Martin  
Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd Engineering and Environmental Consultants,  
P O Box 1434, Rivonia, 2128, Tel: 011 519 0200,  
Email: [anelle@jaws.co.za](mailto:anelle@jaws.co.za) / [gina@jaws.co.za](mailto:gina@jaws.co.za)



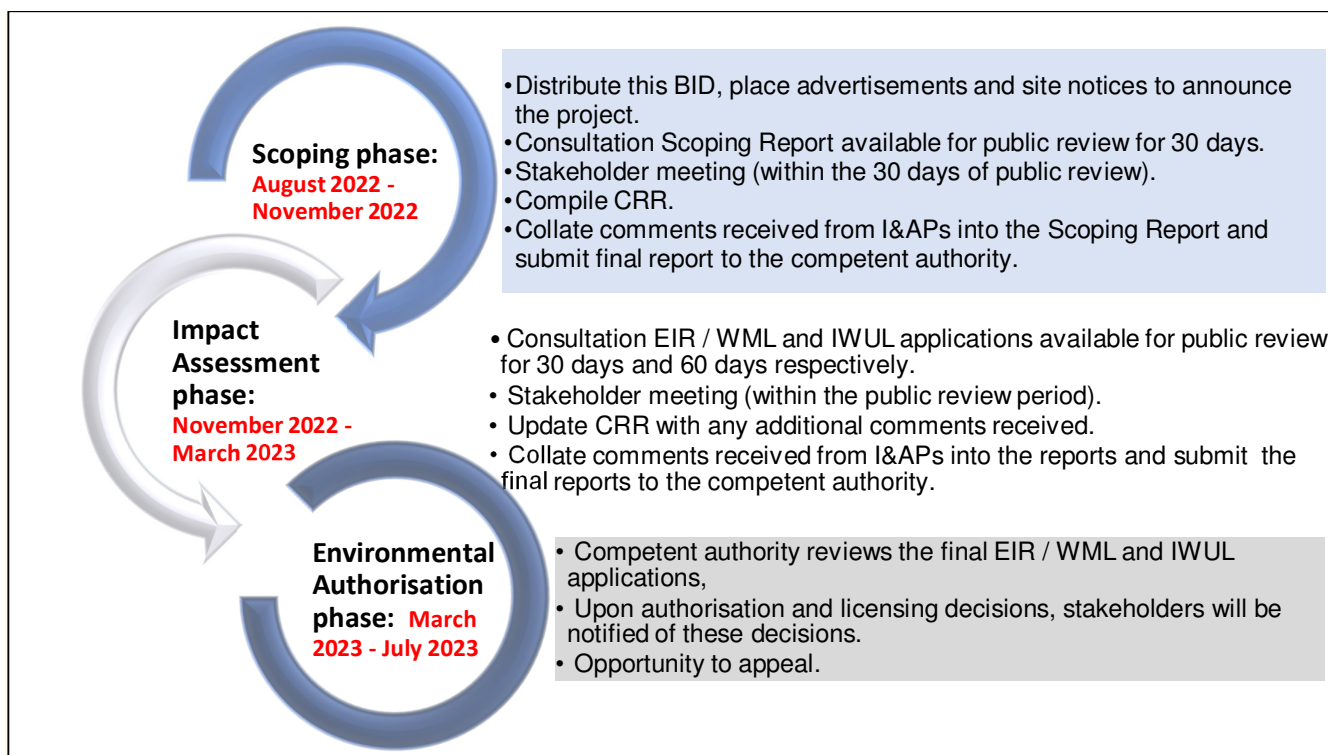


Figure 2: Diagram showing the milestones of the integrated process which will be followed

## Properties potentially affected

The detail of the properties potentially affected by the proposed development activities are provided below:

Farm name	Portion
RIETFontein 101 IS	1/101
RIETFontein 100 IS	15/100
ALEXANDER 102 IS	3/102
	12/102
	14/102
	1/102
	9/102
	5/102
	4/102
	13/102
	10/102
	2/102
	8/102
	6/102
BOSCHMANSKRAAL 113 IS	4/113
BRAKFontein 117 IS	RE0/117
	5/117
	6/117
RIVERSDALE 119 IS	RE1/119
	13/119
SYFERFontein 115 IS	9/115
	2/115
	6/115
	15/115
	10/115
	5/115
	7/115
	11/115
K-STAD 79 IS	14/115
	19/79
K-STAD 79 IS	9/79
WITBANK 576 IS	0/576

Farm name	Portion
WITBANK 80 IS	24/80
	27/80
	29/80
	30/80
	31/80
	6/80
	8/80
	11/80
	25/80
	23/80
WITRAND 103 IS	33/80
	28/80
	32/80
	6/103
CALEY 77 IS	5/103
	00R/77
VANSCHALKWYKSRUST 118 IS	1/118
	2/118
	9/118
	RE8/118
WELTEVREDEN 116 IS	3/116
	7/116
TWEEDRAAI 139 IS	8/116
	6/139
	10/139
	12/139
	15/139
	22/139
TRICHARDTSFontein 140 IS	24/139
	RE10/140
FRISCHGEWAAGD 142 IS	3/142



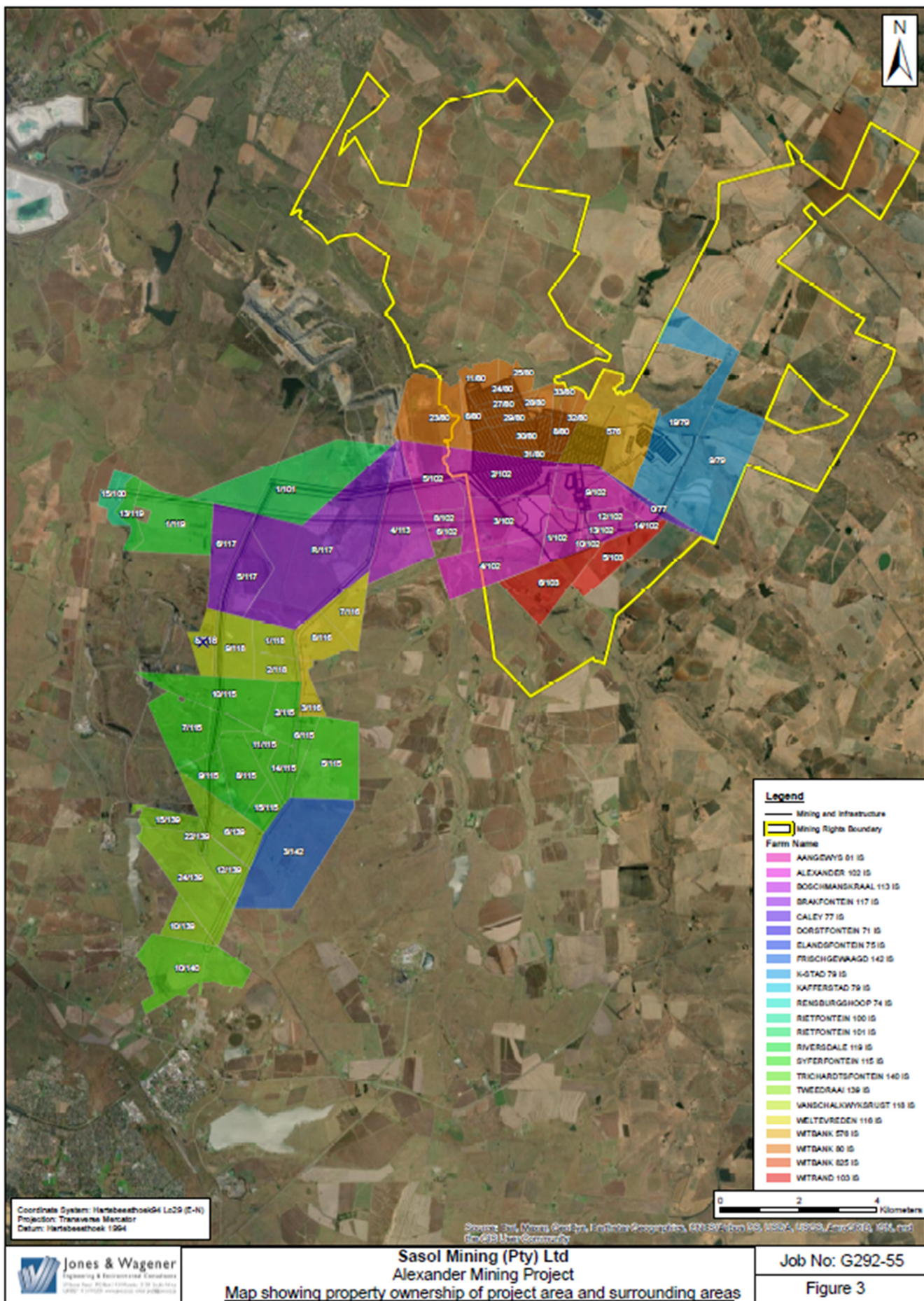


Figure 3: The Alexander Mining Project – Property ownership.



## REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

<b>Personal information</b>			
First Name and Surname:			
Please indicate whether you are registering as a Community / Organisation / Farm or Business and provide the name:			
Physical address:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
Email:			
<b>General interest in the project</b>			
Do you have any specific comments regarding the proposed Alexander Mining Project?			
<b>If you know of anyone who should be informed about the project, please provide their contact details:</b>			
First Name and Surname:			
Community / Organisation / Farm:			
Address:			
		Telephone:	
		Cell:	
		Email:	
<b>Please record the following comments I have on the Consultation Scoping Report</b>			
<b>I would like to attend the stakeholder meeting (please indicate with X)</b>			
8 September 2022, Bethal			

Anelle Lötter, Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd Engineering & Environmental Consultants, P O Box 1434, Rivonia, 2128,  
Tel: (011) 519 0200. Email: [anelle@jaws.co.za](mailto:anelle@jaws.co.za)