

Background Information Document

PROJECT:	Application for an Integrated Environmental Authorisation for a Mining Permit and associated Waste Management License.
MINERAL:	Stone Aggregate / Sand (manufactured from hard rock) St & QH
REF No:	EC 30/5/1/3/2 (10644) MP
APPLICANT:	Transkei Quarries (Pty) Ltd
LOCATION:	A portion of unregistered stateland and ervens 201, 202 of Ngqunge (known as Location 18), Magisterial District of Umtata.
CONSULTANT:	Umhlaba Environmental Consulting CC
COMMENT CLOSING DATE:	15 th April 2021

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- Provide an overview of the proposed project and Environmental Authorisation.
- Invite potential Interested & Affected Parties to participate in the process.

PROJECT LOCATION

The application area covers 5 Ha over the above mentioned properties and is located approximately 50km south of the Umtata and 70km north of Butterworth along the N2 in the Transkei. (see Figure 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Transkei Quarries believe that there is an opportunity to restart intermittent small scale open cast mining operations at the old Yomba quarry on the N2 between Butterworth and Umtata. The quarry was previously mined to provide aggregate during the N2 highway upgrade project and is currently dormant. The old mining permit has now expired therefore Transkei Quarries are applying for a mining permit for 2 years to restart operations. A proposed site layout plan is given in Figure 2.

The following would be applicable to the intended mining operations:

- Mining would commence from the high wall left off from the historic activities
- All mining would be done using mobile equipment and follow the following general sequence;
 - Topsoil would be removed and used for concurrent rehabilitation
 - Any overburden (of which there is very little) would be used to slope finished benches as part of concurrent rehabilitation
 - The hard rock would be loosened by conventional drilling and blasting activities. The mine would result in 2 benches each which would be around 5m in height.

- The loosened rock would be crushed through a mobile crusher which would be diesel operated and positioned in the pit adjacent to the mining face.
- Crushed products would be stockpiled at the existing stockpile location from which the products can be sold into the Eastern Cape aggregate market.

Mining activities would be intermittent. Effectively the stockpile area will be filled up and then mobile mining would be implemented once the existing stockpile is depleted. It is anticipated that mining would take place in 2 quarters of each year.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS TRIGGERED

The following environmental authorisations are required to facilitate all the proposed activities;

- GNR327: Activity 21 – application for a mining permit.
- GNR327: Activity 27 – clearing of indigenous vegetation greater than 1ha but less than 20ha.
- GNR327 Activity 22 – The decommissioning of any activity requiring a closure certificate.
- GNR633: Activity 15 (Category A) - The establishment or reclamation of a residue stockpile or residue deposit resulting from activities which require a mining permit.

These activities require that a Basic Assessment process (BA) contemplated in Regulations 19 and 20 of the 2014 EIA regulations (as amended) must be followed.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In brief this process includes:

- Compiling a draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) following the DMRE template which provides detail on the activities proposed, record of public participation, an assessment of the identified impacts, and an outline of measures to manage these impacts.
- Making this draft BAR available for review to registered I&AP's for a 30 day period. The draft BAR will be available at www.umhlaba.co.za.
- Incorporating I&AP feedback and finalising the BAR for submission to the DMRE (within 90 days of submitting the application)
- Evaluation of the submitted BAR by the DMR to either grant or refuse the authorisation (within 107 days of submitting the final BAR).
- Notification of registered I&AP's of the RoD and process to appeal the decision.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

If you are interested in this project you are requested to:

- **Register** as an I&AP with Umhlaba, who will include you on the "*I&AP Register*" in order for you to receive future project information and/or formally record issues and concerns (comments). To register, please complete and return the attached comment form to the contact details provided.
- **Access** project information that is made available to you (only registered I&AP's will be notified) in order to provide feedback within the required timeframe. Information will be made available on the Umhlaba website and notifications will be sent via email and sms.
- **Attend** the public meeting (if applicable).
- **Communicate** with the EAP to raise your further comments in order that they can be included and addressed within the application documents submitted to the DMRE.

PUBLIC MEETING

If significant interest in the project is shown, a public meeting will be held. If little interest is shown from the notification process, then one on one meetings will be held with interested parties. This will be confirmed to all registered I&AP's by way of email and sms notifications.

CONTACT US

Please contact **Andrew Nicholson** of Umhlaba Environmental Consulting CC who is the appointed EAP for this application, **before 15th April 2021**, to raise your queries or comments on the draft BAR, or any other concerns regarding this application. Please use the attached comment form or alternatively submit your comments directly in writing to the following contact details:

Tel: 011 791 3389 / 073 431 4006

Fax: 011 791 3384

Email: andrew@umhlaba.co.za

Postal: PO Box 731504, Fairland, 2030

Website: www.umhlaba.co.za

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
CA	Competent Authority
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
RoD	Record of Decision

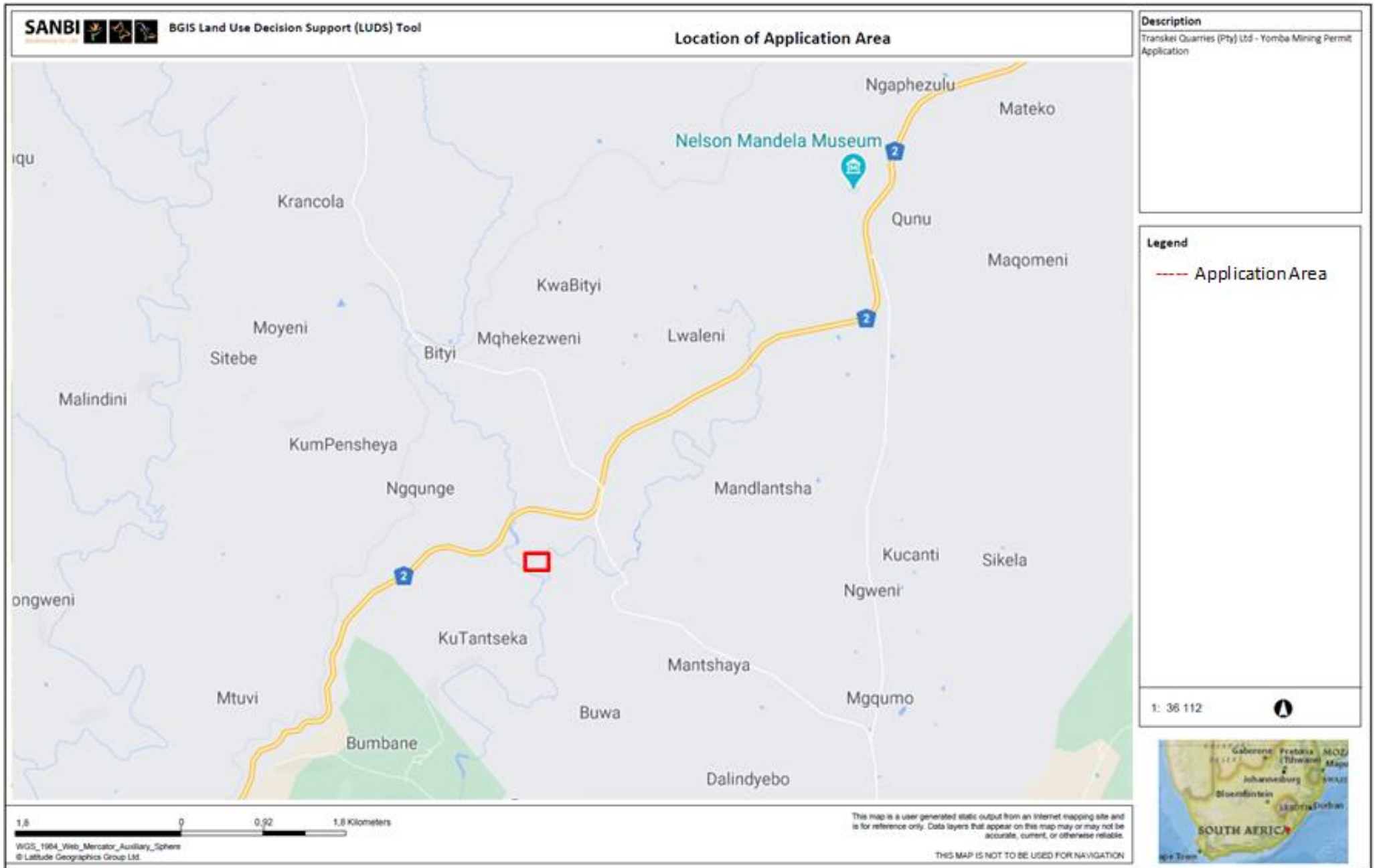


Figure 1: Location of the proposed mining permit area.

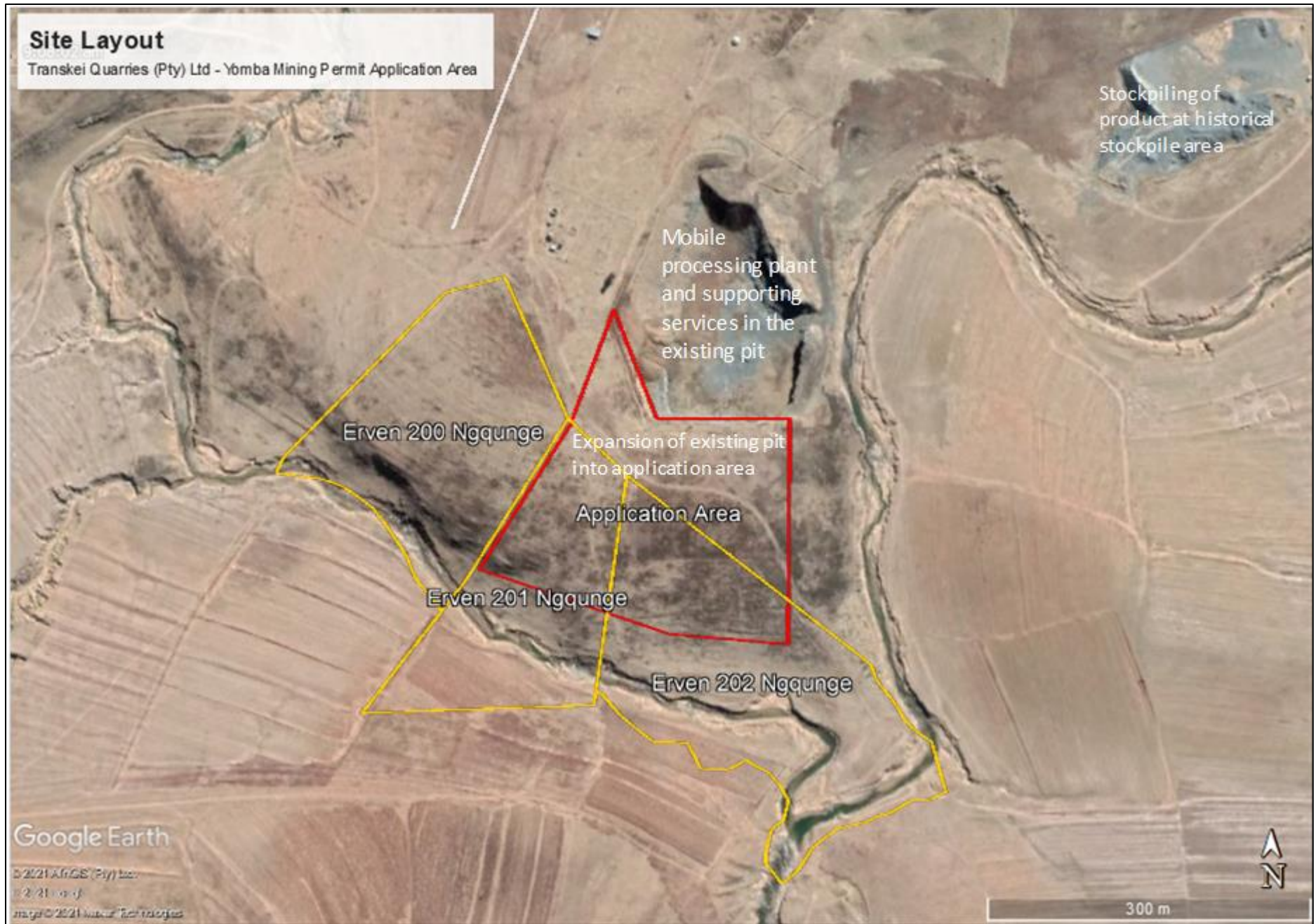


Figure 2: Indication of the proposed site layout of the mining permit area.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
Mining Permit Application – EC 10644 MP

Your Name: _____ Date: _____
Property _____
Description: _____

Contact Details:

Tel: _____ Email: _____
Cel: _____
Your preferred method of communication: SMS Email

What is your Interest in the Project: Mark with (X)

Business / Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential / Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surrounding Landowner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify: _____	

Comments / Concerns / Suggestions (attach additional pages if necessary):

Examples of questions to ask yourself:

- What are your current land uses (e.g. residential, agricultural, retail, any other) how will the activities impact on this use?
- How do you consider the proposed activities will impact on you or your socio-economic conditions?
- Are there any specific environmental / cultural / heritage features on site which you feel require protection.
- What impacts do you believe the activities will have on you?

Return to: Andrew Nicholson
Email: andrew@umhlaba.co.za
Post: P.O. Box 731504, Fairland, 2030
Fax: 011 791 3384

