

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

<b>Application:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Prepared for:</b>
Mining Permit for Coal on portion of Portion 32 of the Farm Blesboklaagte 296 JS		 Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd	Opulous Coal (PTY) LTD
Magisterial District:	eMalahleni		

## INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Opulous coal (Pty) Ltd to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Compile an Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr) and undertake Public Participation Process (PPP). This is done for processes of acquiring Environmental Authorization for the proposed Mining Permit Application within **portion of Portion 32 of the Farm Blesboklaagte 296 JS**, under the **Magisterial District of Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Province** with **DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13290 MP**.

The Purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a perfunctory description of the project and outline EIA processes to be followed and contributions from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the issues related to the project in question, allowing comments and concerns to be raised.

Results of the EIA, both negative and positive will be submitted and made available to the relevant Departments such as the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and if requested Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Water and Sanitation, Landowners, and other interested stakeholders.

This Background Information Document therefore requests and invite I&APs to comment on the environmental, physical, social and economic impacts associated with the proposed Mining Activities. Be assured that your comments are of great value as they ensure that relevant issues are taken into consideration. Attached at the end of this document is a registration form, kindly complete it and send it back to **Ms Buhle Malatjie** through given means of communication also attached there.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mining Permit Application has been submitted for the extraction of **Coal** resources on the property mentioned above. The Mining Permit is situated approximately 4.25 km Northwest of Witbank and approximately 5.36 km North-West of Die Heuwel, refer to figure 1 and 2 below.

Mining activities will be undertaken over a period of two (2) years. This project will entail an open cast method of excavation. The mine design will be developed according to the dimension of the applied mineral deposit within the project area, but overall mining activities will be limited to an area of 5 Ha as per mining permit requirements. The topsoil will be stockpiled elsewhere on site preferably next to the farm boundary and will be used during rehabilitation period. Once a box cut has been made, the overburden and mineral resources where necessary will be loosened by blasting. The loosened material will then be loaded onto trucks by excavators. A haul road will be situated at the side of the open cast, forming a ramp up which trucks can drive, carrying ore and waste rock. Waste rock will be piled up at the surface, near the edge of the open cast (waste dump). The waste dump will be tiered and stepped, to minimize degradation. All the activities will be guided by the project's EMPr such that the project does not impact the environment negatively.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Therefore, EIA process through BAR & EMPr to be undertaken will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and Environmental Impact Assessment regulations as amended (April 2017).

The activity is to extract the existence and occurrence of the applied mineral therefore, this will be conducted in accordance with Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 of 2002). Other regulatory guidelines to be followed include National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), National Air Quality Standards (GN 1210: 2009) and National Dust Control Regulations (GN 275: 2017).

These all will accurately be followed to ensure that identified impacts are assessed and mitigated according to their significance so that the protection of the receiving environment and populations is met.

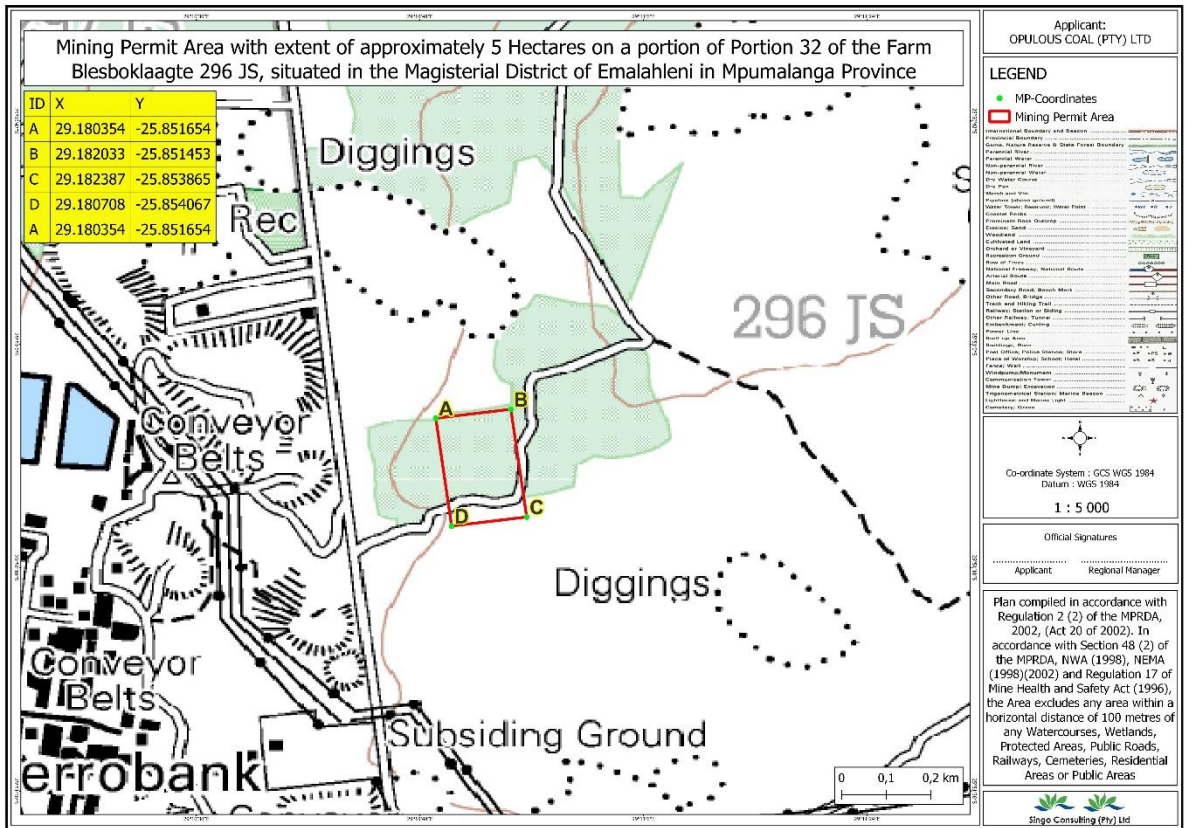


Figure 1: REG 2.2 Map of the proposed project area (29.180354, -25.851654)

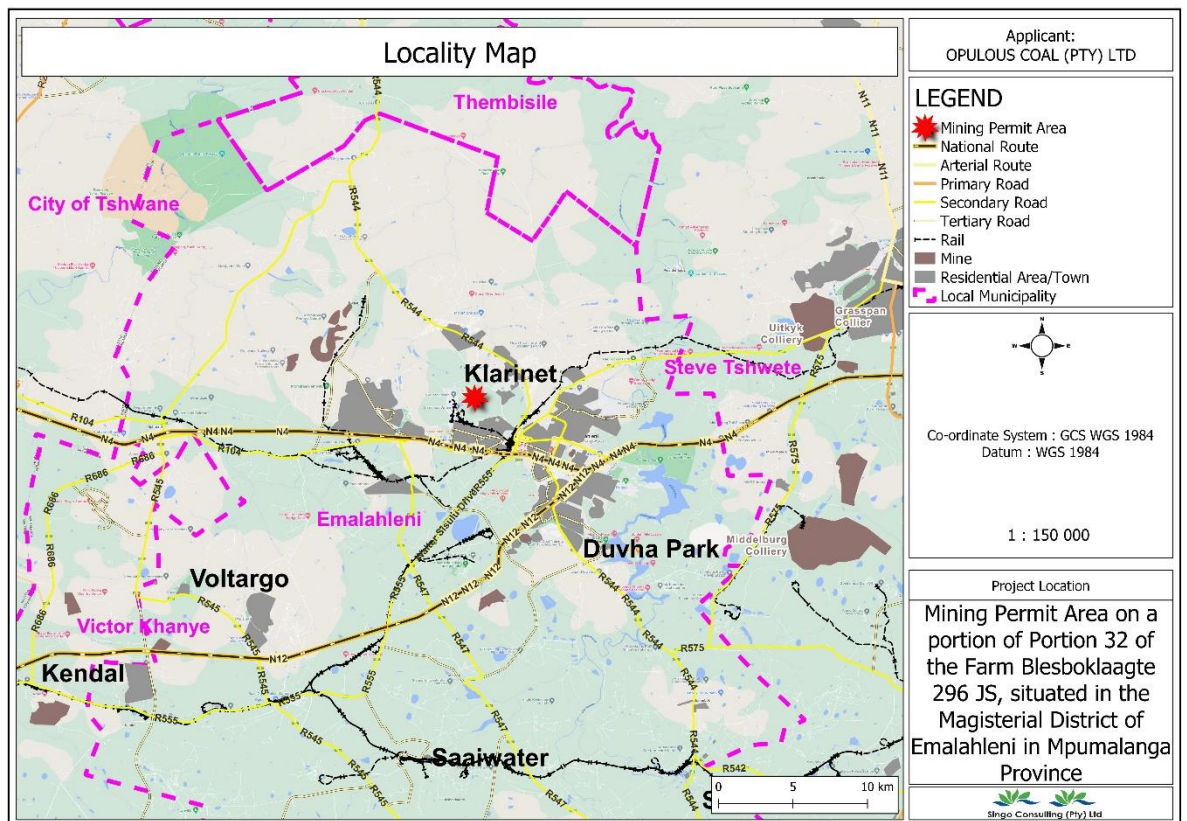


Figure 2: Locality map of the proposed project area

## **BASIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESSES**

These are planning and decision-making tools used in identifying potential environmental, economic and social consequences of a proposed activity prior the commencement of the activity.

These together with the public issues and concerns are to be identified sufficiently early so that they can be assessed and incorporated into the final reports when/if necessary.

These tools are regarded crucial because they are utilized in order to demonstrate to the relevant stakeholders about the potential impacts, which in turn leads to the Mining application process being a success or declined.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Public Participation remains a cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. It ensures provision of relevant and enough information with openness and transparency. The key objectives of the Public Participation Process (PPP) during the EIA Process is to afford I&APs an opportunity to understand the proposed project and to provide valuable contributions during the planning phase.

I&AP can be any person, group of persons or organization interested in or affected by the proposed activity, and any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity.

For this proposed project, I&APs will be given a period of 30 days to comment and raise issues/concerns with regards to this BID.

Kindly keep the following dates:

- ❖ Announcement of project: **5<sup>th</sup> August 2022**
- ❖ Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **On-going throughout the process of compiling the BAR & EMPr**
- ❖ Review of Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr): **Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 - Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.**

Hard copy reports will be made available at **Klarinet Public Library** (Blesboklaagte 296-JS, Emalahleni), **Lynville Public Library** (Vector Road, Lynville, Emalahleni, 1034) and **eMalahleni Local Municipality** (Civic Centre, Cnr Mandela & Arras Streets, eMalahleni), electronic copies of the Draft BAR & EMPr will be available upon request from Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, using the EAP's contacts below. Comments on the draft BAR and EMPr to be submitted no later than the **5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.**



Office No: 870  
 Balalaika Street,  
 Tasbet Park Ext 2, Witbank  
 1040  
 Tel: +27 72 832 1117/ +27 13 692 0041  
 Fax: +27 86 514 4103  
 Email: [buhle@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:buhle@singoconsulting.co.za)  
[admin@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:admin@singoconsulting.co.za)

**Registration form**

Mining Permit Application on portion of Portion 32 of the Farm Blesboklaagte 296 JS  
by Oplous Coal(Pty) Ltd

(DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13290 MP)

Attention: **Ms Buhle Malatjie**

Email: [buhle@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:buhle@singoconsulting.co.za)

Title	Name	Surname	
Company			
Designation			
Address			
Tel No.		Fax No.	
E-mail		Cell No.	
I would like to receive my notifications be (mark with "X"):		Post <input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Fax: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate why you would have an interest in the above-mentioned project.</b>			
<b>Please provide your comments and questions here:</b>			
<i>Please feel free to attach a separate document</i>			
<b>Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:</b>			
Full name		Company	
Address			
E-mail		Contact No.	