

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## Application:

Mining Permit for Coal on  
portion of portion 32 of the farm  
Blesboklaagte 296 JS

## Prepared by:

  
Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd

## Prepared for:

Thongwane 307  
Holdings (Pty) Ltd

Local Municipality: Emalaheni

## INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Consultant by **Thongwane 307 Holdings (Pty) Ltd** to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), compile Basic Assessment Report (BAR) & 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, situated under Local Municipality of Emalaheni, under Nkangala District Municipality jurisdiction of Emalaheni Magisterial District in Mpumalanga Province with **DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/3/ (13286) 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 (BAR & EMPr), both negative and positive, will be submitted and made available to the relevant Departments such as the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy if requested, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), 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 Masindi Nefale** through given means of communication also attached there.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mining Permit Application has been submitted for the extraction of **Coal** on the property mentioned above. This Mining Permit Area, as seen in figure 1 & 2 below, is situated approximately 5.13 km North-West of Emalaheni/Witbank town and approximately 1.86 km North of Ackerville.

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 5Ha as per mining permit requirements. The topsoil will be stockpiled in the form of a berm alongside the boundary of the mine 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 pit, 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 pit (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 827: 2013).

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.

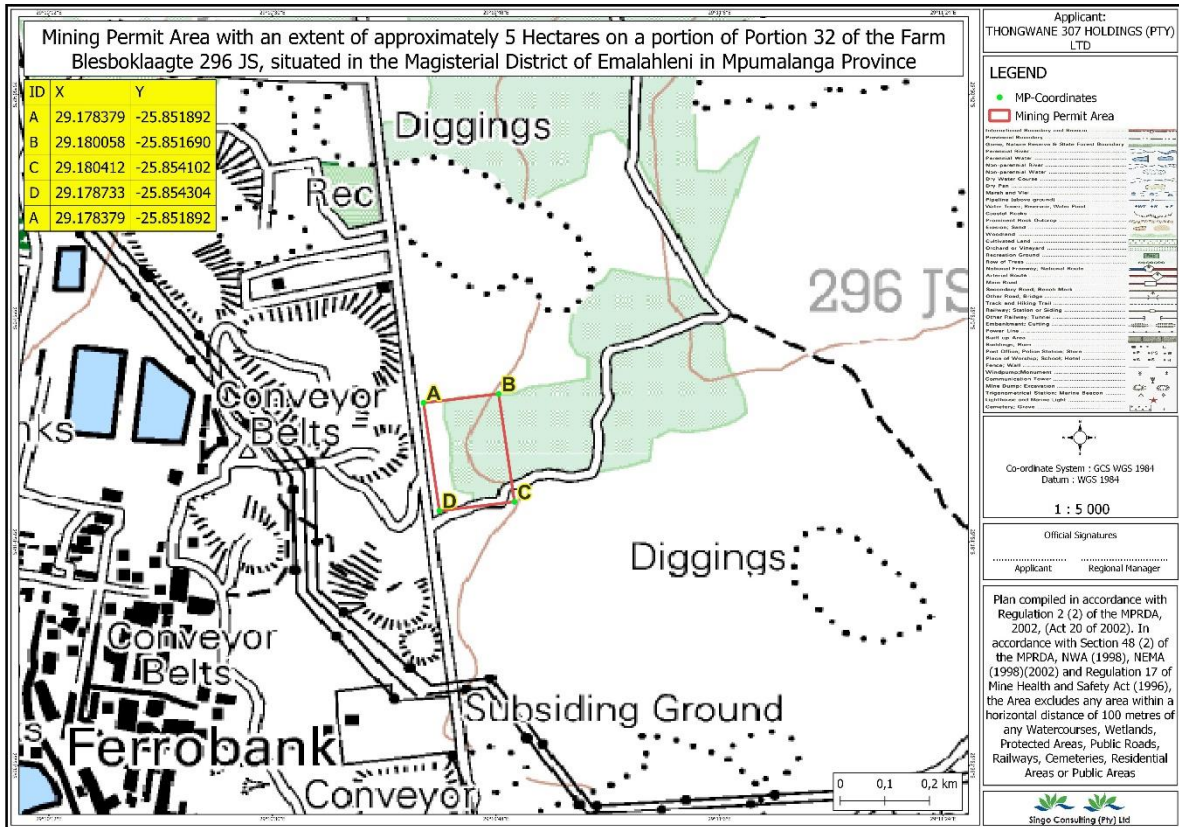


Figure 1: Regulation 2.2 Map of the proposed project area (A: -25.851892;29.178379)

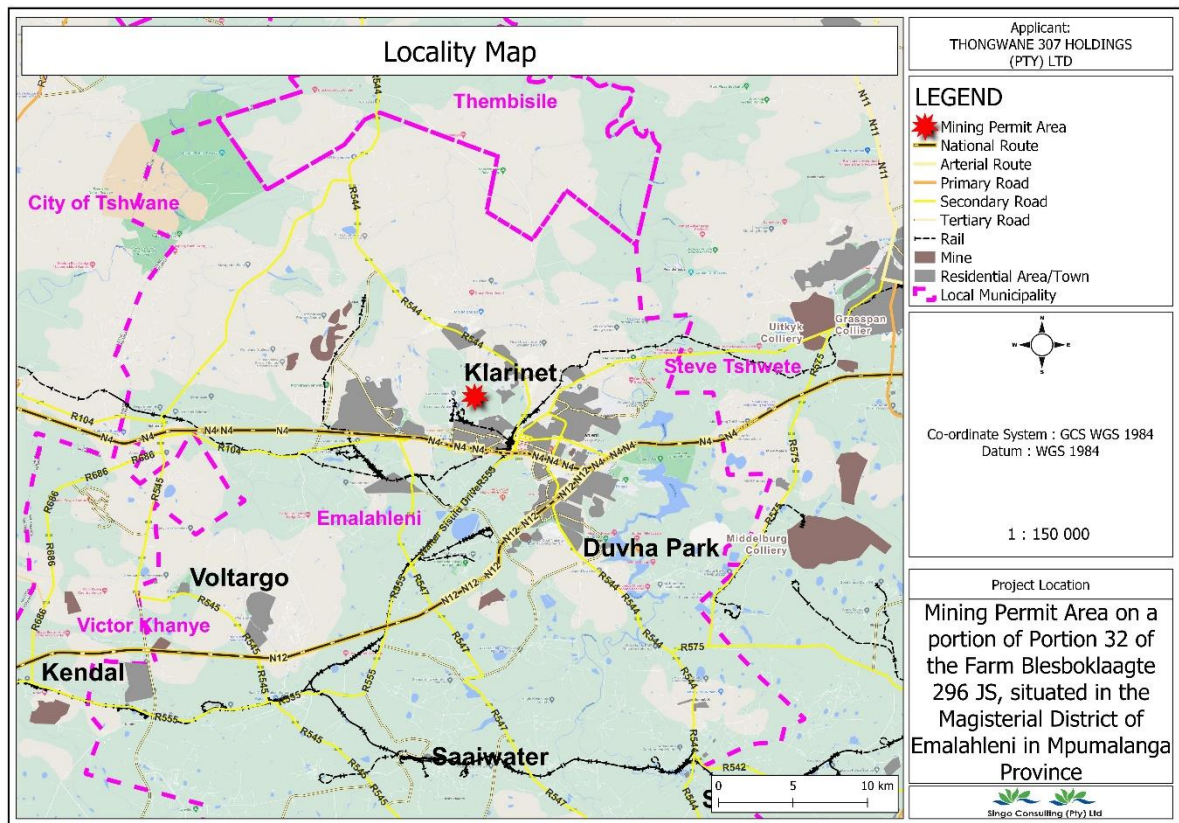


Figure 2: Locality Map of the proposed project area

## **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. Public Participation Process presents to I&APs, an opportunity to understand what the project is about, and affords them an opportunity to make valuable contributions towards the EIA process (BAR & EMPr).

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 specific proposed project, I&APs will be given a period of 30 days (Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 to Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2022) to comment and raise issues/concerns with regards to this BID.

Kindly keep the following dates:

- + Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2022**
- + Review of draft BAR & EMPr: **Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 to Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**
- + Submission of the Final BAR & EMPr: **11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**

Comments on the BAR and EMPr must be submitted to Ms Masindi Nefale no later than **Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**



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**REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET**

Mining Permit Application on portion of portion 32 of the farm Blesboklaagte 296 JS  
with DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/3/ (13286) MP.

Attention: **Masindi Nefale**

Email: [masindi@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:masindi@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.	