

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Mining Permit and Environmental Authorization application for Coal on portion of the remaining extent of portion 10 of the farm Hartbeestspruit 281 JS, situated in the Magisterial District of eMalahleni in Mpumalanga Province.



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VERNEXC HOLDINGS

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DMRE REF: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13909 MP

2023

INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Consultant by **Vernexc Holdings** to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Compile a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and 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 for **Coal** on **portion of the remaining extent of portion 10** of the farm **Hartbeestspruit 281 JS**, under the Magisterial District of eMalahleni, Mpumalanga Province.

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, landowner and other interested stakeholders. This BID therefore requests and invite I&APs to comment on the environmental, physical, social and economic impacts associated with the proposed Mining permit 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 Dineo Makhubela** through given means of communication also attached there.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mining Permit Application has been submitted for the extraction of **Coal** resource on the property mentioned above. This Mining Permit Area, as seen in Figure 2 and Figure 3 below, is situated approximately 4.28 km northeast of Bulpan and approximately 14.2 km north of Ackerville Settlement.

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 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. The following simplified diagram depicts the sequence of events in open-cast mining:



Figure 1: Process for open cast mining

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Therefore, EIA through BAR & EMPr process 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 includes National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), National Air Quality Standards (GN 1210: 2009) and National Dust Control Regulations (GN 827: 2013) as amended. 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.

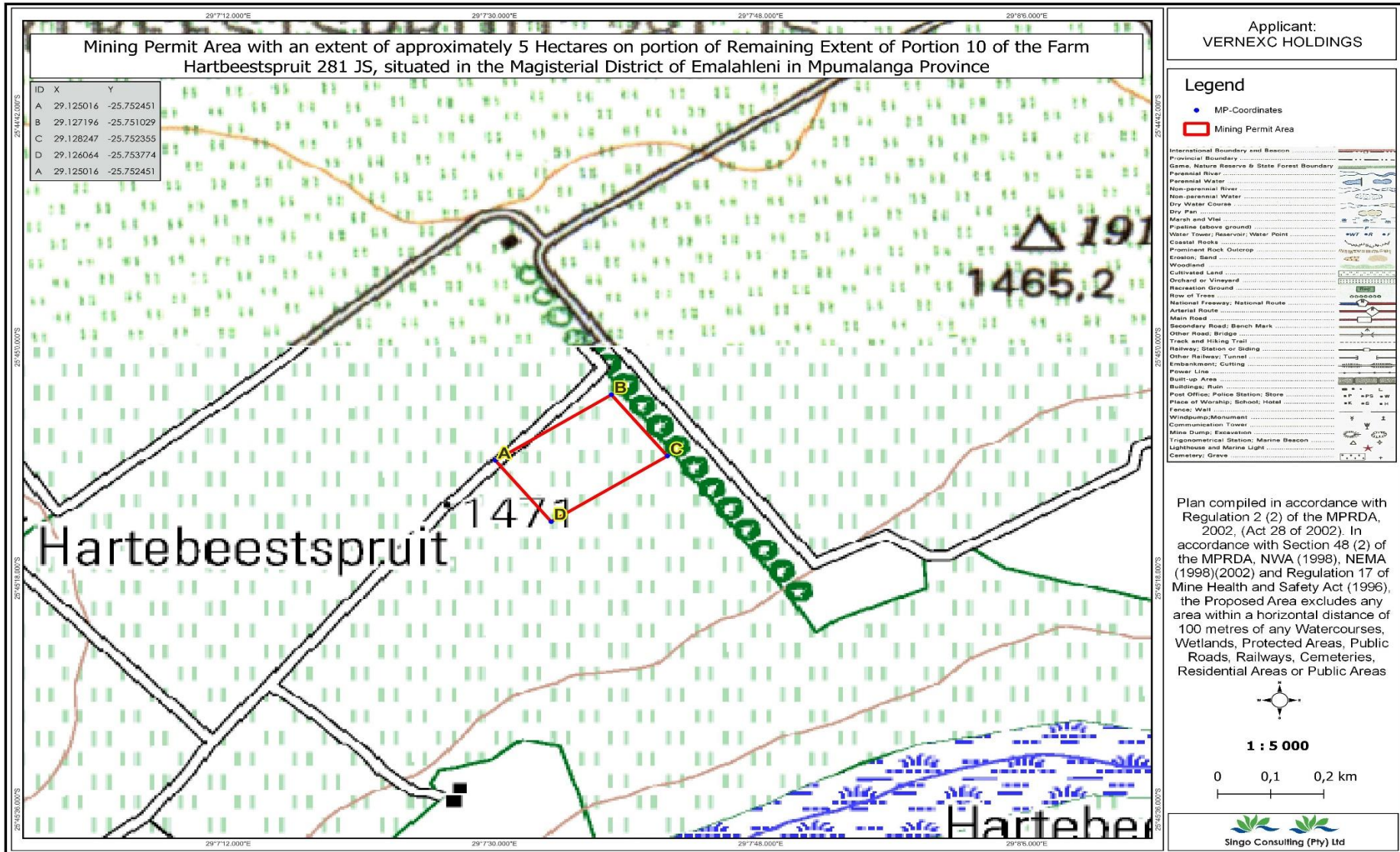


Figure 2: Regulation 2.2 map of the proposed project area. (A: -25.752451,29.125016)

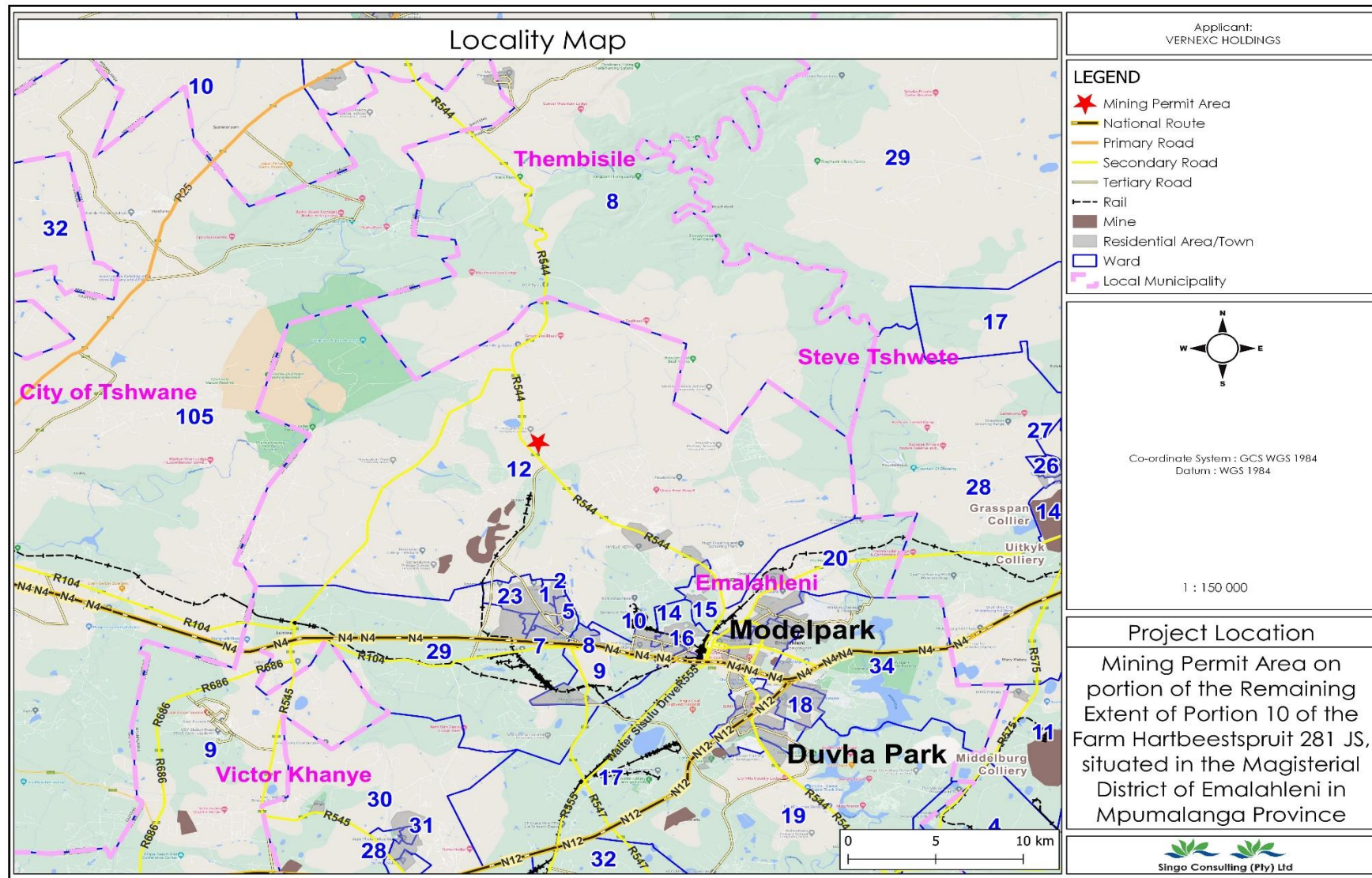


Figure 3: Locality map of the project area

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 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. 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. The key objective of PPP is to afford the I&APs with an opportunity to comment and provide valuable inputs during the planning phase of the project.

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

Please note the following:

- A Newspaper Notice will be published in the local paper, **Witbank News/Nuus on the 16th of December 2022**
- A2 site notices will be placed around the **farm boundary, local library notices board and identified public spaces.**
- The Draft BAR & EMPr will be made available at **Klarinet Public Library** (Blesboklaagte 296-Js, eMalahleni) and **eMalahleni Local Municipality** (29 Mandela St, Witbank, Emalahleni, 1034)
- The Draft BAR & EMPr will be available for review from the **08th of February 2023** to the **09th of March 2023**
- Electronic copies (via emails; Dropbox link; Google drive; WeTransfer, etc) will be made available upon request from Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, using the contact details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Environmental Technician (Envir. Tech.) below.
- Comments on the DBAR & EMPr must be submitted no later than **09th of March 2023** to the Envir. Tech (Dineo Makhubela).



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REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET

Mining Permit and Environmental Authorization application for Coal on portion of the remaining extent of portion 10 of the farm Hartbeestspruit 281 JS, under the Magisterial District of eMalahleni, Mpumalanga Province with DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13909 MP.

Attention: **Ms Dineo Makhubela**

Email: dineo@singoconsulting.co.za

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|---|--|------|-------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 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: |
| | | | SMS: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fax: |
| Please indicate why you would have an interest in the above-mentioned project. | | | | | |
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| Please provide your comments and questions here: | | | | | |
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| <i>Please feel free to attach a separate document</i> | | | | | |
| Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties: | | | | | |
| Full name | | | Company | | |
| Address | | | | | |
| E-mail | | | Contact No. | | |