

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Mining Permit and Environmental Authorization Application for the extraction of Torbanite/
Oilshale, Sand (General), Stone aggregate, Gravel, Coal and Pseudocoal on Portion of
portion of the remaining extent of the farm Hartogshof 413 JS, located in the Magisterial
district of Middelburg in Mpumalanga Province

DMRE Ref: MP30/5/1/1/3/13497 MP

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2023

INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner by **Bheumdeni Investment (Pty) Ltd** to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), undertake public participation Process (PPP), then Compile a Basic Assessment Report and an Environmental Management Programme (BAR& EMPr). This is done for processes of acquiring Environmental Authorization and Mining Permit for the extraction of **Torbanite/ Oilshale, Sand (General), Stone aggregate, Gravel, Coal and Pseudocoal on Portion of portion of the remaining extent of the farm Hartogshof 413 JS**, located in the Magisterial district of Middelburg in **Mpumalanga Province**.

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002) and EIA regulations 2014, published under Government Notice No. 982 in Gazette No. 3822 of 8 December 2014, amended on 7 April 2017 and by GN 517 on 11 June 2021, that Bheumdeni Investment (Pty) Ltd has an intention to mine the above-mentioned minerals on the above-mentioned property.

This Background Information Document (BID) is intended to provide a brief description of the project, outline the EIA procedures to be followed, and obtain inputs from interested and affected parties (I&APs) on relevant project-related issues. Therefore, the I&APs are requested and invited to make preliminary comments based on this background information document on the physical, social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed mining activities. Please know that your inputs are highly valued as they help highlight relevant concerns and aspects that needs to be considered.

To register as an I&AP and provide your interest and concerns regarding the proposed project, fill in the form attached at the end of this document and return it to **Ms. Boitumelo Moholola** using the contact information on the form.

The results of the EIA, both negative and positive with mitigation/ management measures will be compiled into a BAR&EMPr that will be made available to relevant state Departments such as the Department of mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Department of water and sanitation (DWS) as well as landowners(s)/ lawful occupier(s), interested and affected parties and other relevant stakeholders for review and comments for a period of at least 30 calendar days excluding public holidays.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bheumdeni Investment (Pty) Ltd has applied for a mining permit and environmental authorisation to extract Torbanite/ Oilshale, Sand (General), Stone aggregate, Gravel, Coal and Pseudocoal on Portion of portion of the remaining extent of the farm Hartogshof 413 JS, located in ward 9 of Steve Tshwete local Municipality in the Magisterial district of Middelburg in Mpumalanga Province as shown in figure 1 and 2 below.

The mining permit area is located approximately 17 km east of Middelburg town, approximately 1.5 km southeast of Bigman colliery and approximately 2.5 km southwest of Pan Silo- Afgri as shown in figure 3 below.

Mining Permit shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of issuing and may be renewed for three periods each which may not exceed one year. The mine design will be developed according to the dimension of the applied minerals deposits within the project area, but overall mining activities will be limited to an area of 5 Ha as per mining permit requirements. The method that will be employed to mine is a very basic form of open cast mining.

The overburden and mineral resources where necessary will be loosened by blasting and subsequently be loaded by a front- end loader into haulage trucks. The mined minerals will then be crushed and screened utilizing a mobile crushing and screening plant.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As a result, the EIA process will be carried out in line with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations as amended in April 2017. The activity will be carried out in compliance with the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002). Other regulatory standards to be followed include the 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. All of the above shall be strictly adhered to in order to ensure that the observable repercussions are assessed and reduced in accordance with their significance, so assuring the preservation of the receiving environment and population.

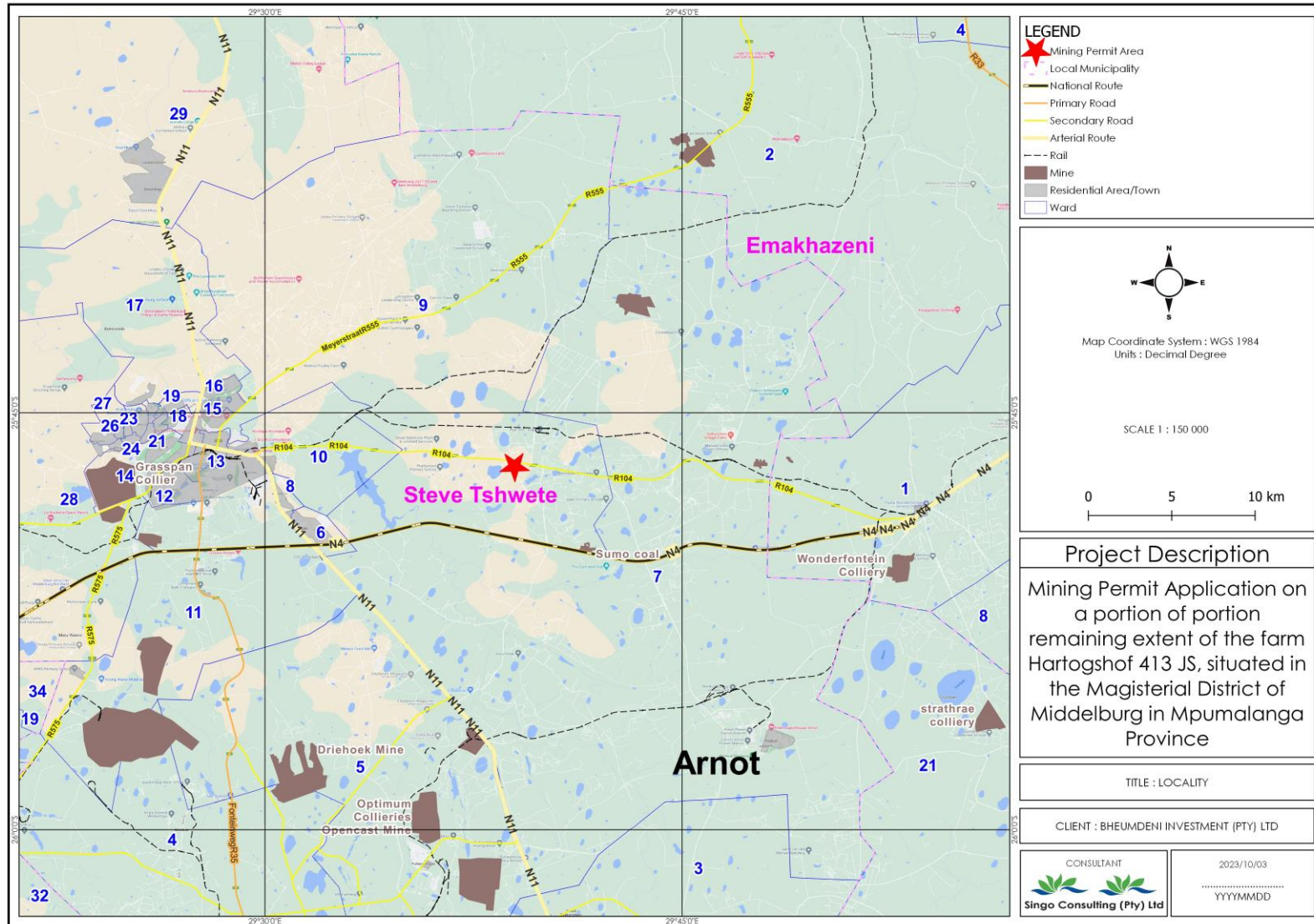


Figure 1: Locality Map of the application area

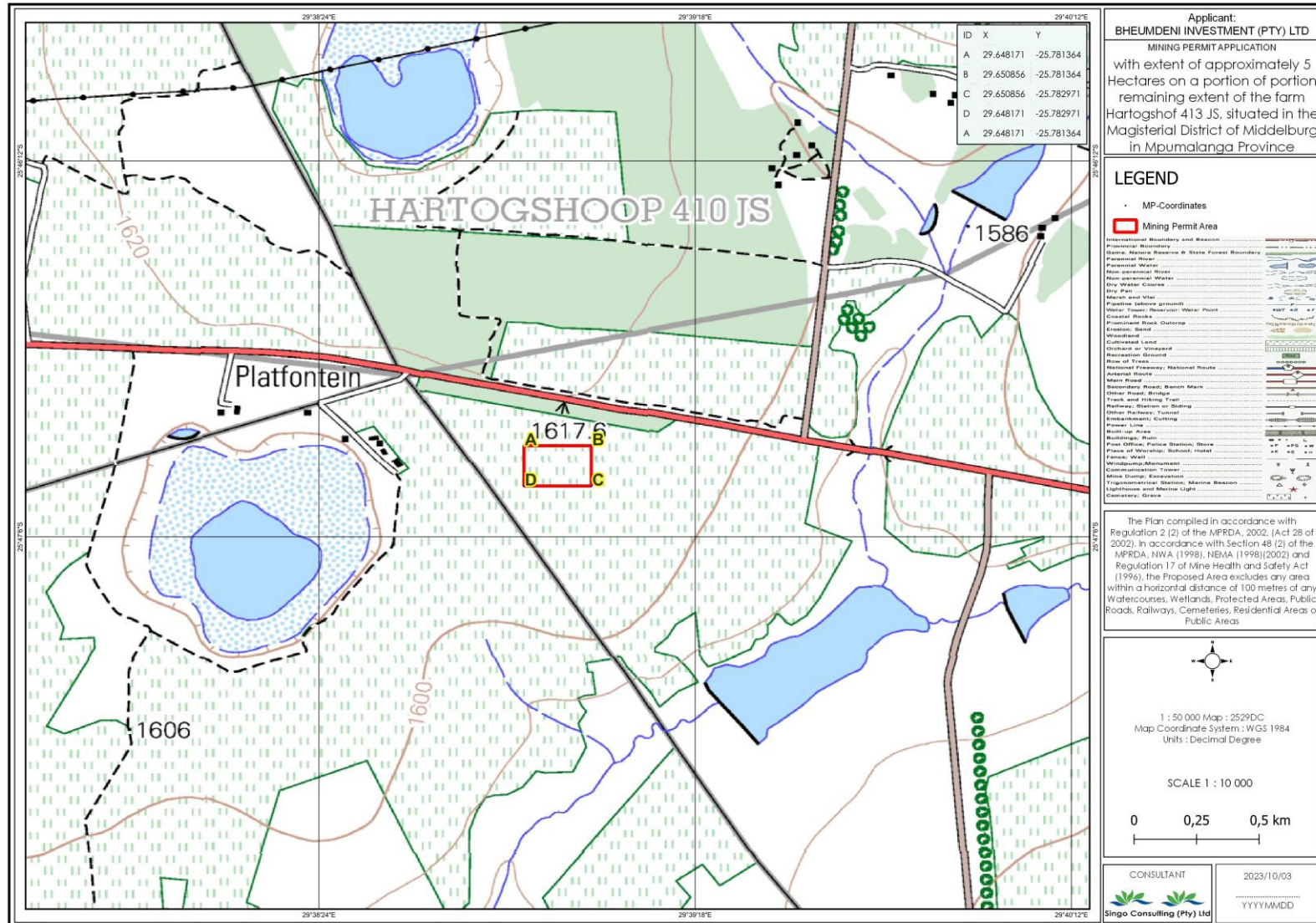


Figure 2: Regulation 2.2 of the application area. (A: -25.781364, 29.648171)

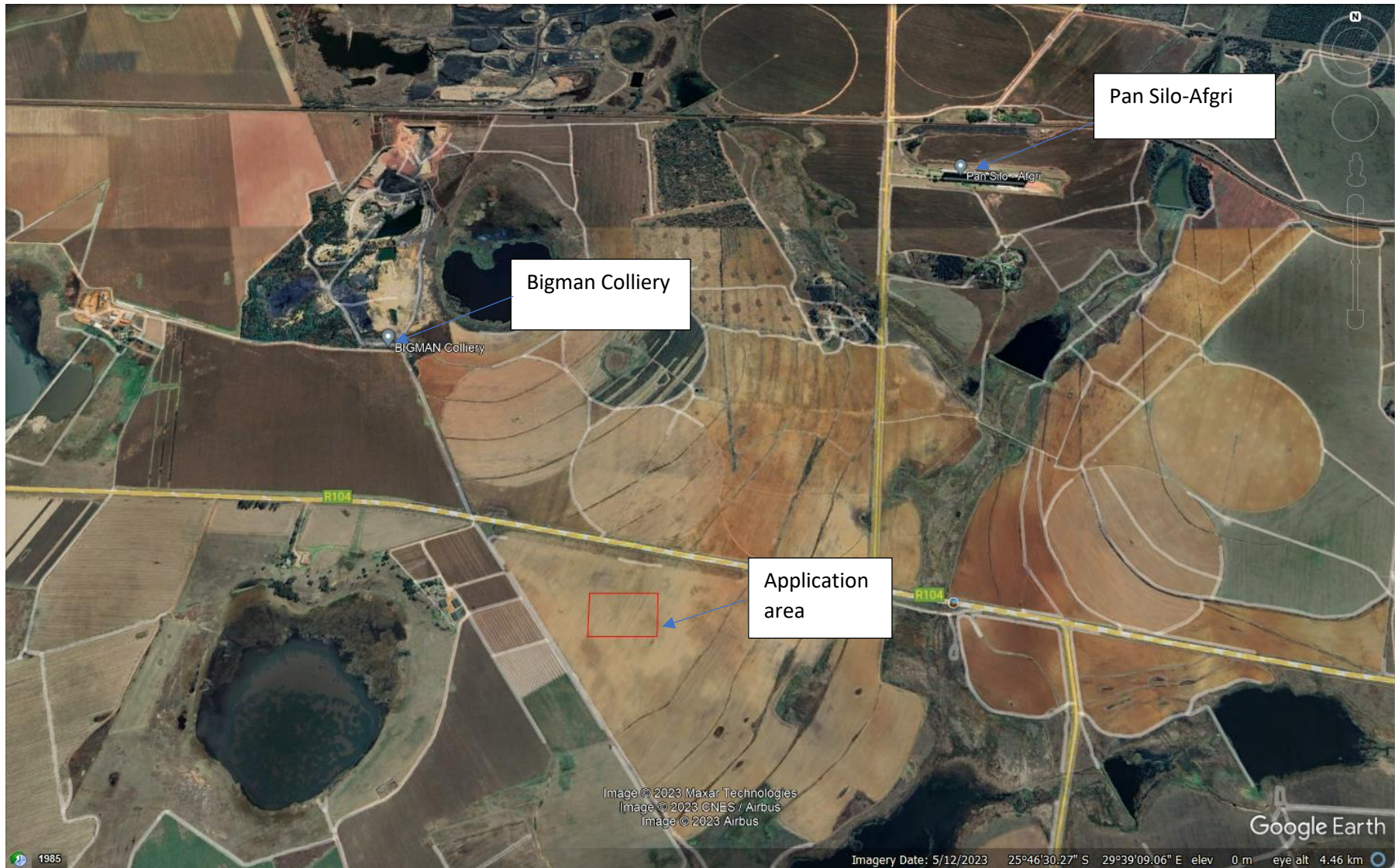


Figure 3: Google Earth View of the application area

BASIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

These are planning and decision-making methods to identify potential environmental, economic, and social repercussions of a proposed activity before it begins. These, along with public issues and concerns, must be detected early enough to be analysed and integrated into final reports when/if necessary. These tools are seen as critical since they are used to demonstrate to the key stakeholders the potential implications, which ultimately determines whether the mining application process is successful or unsuccessful.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The process of Environmental Impact Assessment continues to rely heavily on public participation. It guarantees that relevant and sufficient information is provided in an open and transparent manner. The Public Participation phase provides a chance for I&APs to learn about the project and make vital comments to the EIA process. I&AP can be any individual, group of individuals, or organisation interested in or affected by the planned activity, as well as any organ of state with authority over any component of the activity. The primary goal of PPP is to provide an opportunity for I&APs to comment and provide valuable suggestions throughout the project's development phase.

For this specific planned project, I&APs will have 30 days to comment and voice issues/concerns about this BID.

Please note the following:

- A Newspaper notice was published in the local newspaper, Middleburg Observer on the **13th of October 2023**.
- A2 site notices will be placed around the farm boundary, local library and municipality notices board and identified public spaces.
- The Draft BAR & EMPr will be made available at **Middelburg Public Library**
- The draft BAR & EMPr will be available for review from **Monday the 30th of October 2023 to Tuesday the 28th of November 2023 (Excluding public holidays)**.
- Electronic copies of the DBAR and EMPr will be made available upon request from **Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd** via emails, Dropbox links, Google Drive, We Transfer, and so on, using the candidate EAP's contact details on the comment form.



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REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET (DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13497 MP).

Attention: **Ms Boitumelo Moholola**

Email: boitumelo@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"/>
	SMS:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax: <input type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate why you would have an interest in the above-mentioned project.			
Please provide your comments and questions here:			
<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.		

