

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**Proposed Prospecting Right Application of Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale on portions 1,3,4,6 and 8 of Wallenton 11582 GU, Shorrocks Hill Farm 11561 GU and Shorragh 14625 GU.**

Prepared by:



Prepared for:

MTHONJANENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND UTHUNGULU  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, UNDER EMPANGENI MAGISTERIAL  
DISTRICT.



## INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Consultant by **Raycom Resources (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 Prospecting Right application on portions 1,3,4,6 and 8 of Wallenton 11582 GU, Shorrocks Hill Farm 11561 GU and Shorragh 14625 GU, situated in Mthonjaneni Local Municipality and Uthungulu District Municipality, Under Empangeni Magisterial District, **DMRE Ref: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11002 PR**).

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 & Energy and if requested, Environmental Affairs, 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 Prospecting 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 Rudzani Shonisani** through given means of communication also attached there.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prospecting Right Application has been submitted for the prospecting of **Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale** on the properties mentioned above.

This Prospecting Area, as seen in figure 1 below is located approximately 14km northwest of the town of Empangeni. It occurs along the R34 road.

Prospecting activities will be undertaken over a period of five (5) years and are designed in phases, each phase conditional on the success of the previous phase. Both invasive and non-invasive methods will be implemented. Desktop study of the area has commenced, and this incorporates desktop geographical and geological mapping.

This will be followed by detailed geochemical and geotechnical surveys. In turn, this is followed by detailed geophysical studies and later, a detailed drilling, sampling, assaying and mineralogical study. Percussion drilling and Diamond methods will be utilised to prospect in situ coal ore deposits. To ensure or minimise impacts on the receiving environment, All the activities will be guided by the project's EMP.

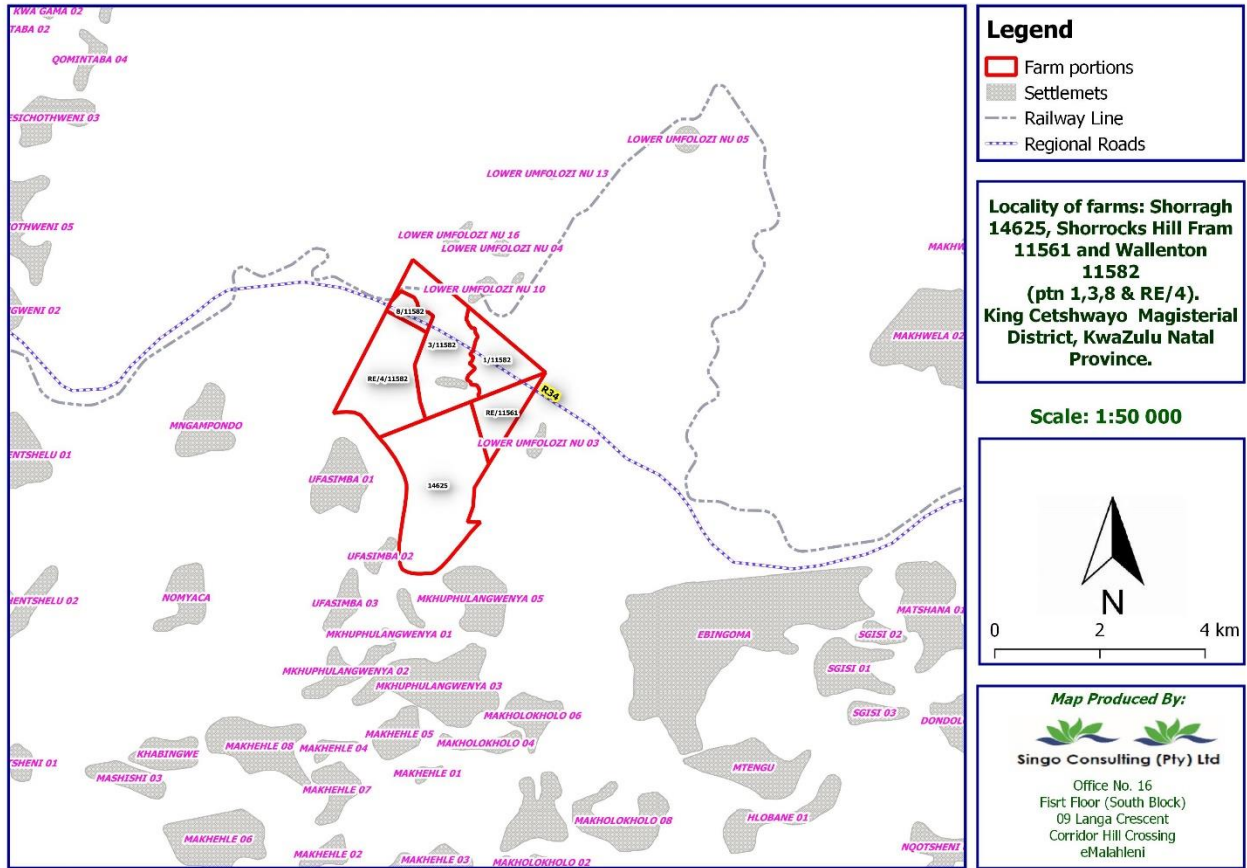


Figure 1: Locality Map of the Proposed Project Area.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Therefore, EIA process to be undertaken will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 38 of 1998) and Environmental Impact Assessment regulations as amended (April 2017).

The activity is to prospect the existence and occurrence of Coal and Pseudocoal 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.

## 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.

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 during the Scoping phase 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, IAPs 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 the Prospecting Right Application: **Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2020**
- ❖ Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020- Friday the 08<sup>th</sup> of January 2021**
- ❖ Review of Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr): **Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 until Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2021**
- ❖ Submission of the Final BAR & EMPr: **Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.**

**Due to risks associated with Covid-19 mass meeting will be held, however adhering to covid-19 regulations. Hard copies reports will be made available at any public place or premises closed to the public when requested to curbe the spread of Covid-19 and also to adhere with the regulation(Section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act) . Electronic copies will be made available upon request from Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, using the detailed EAP'S contact's below, via emails; Dropbox link; Google drive; WeTransfer, etc.**



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**REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET FOR: PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION OF COAL, PSEUDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OIL SHALE ON PORTIONS 1,3,4,6 AND 8 OF WALLENTON 11582 GU, SHORROCKS HILL FARM 11561 GU AND SHORRAGH 14625 GU. DMRE Ref: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11002 PR).**

Attention: **Rudzani Shonisani**

Email: [rudzani@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:rudzani@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>		
Please feel free to attach a separate document		
<b>Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:</b>		
Full name	Company	
Address		
E-mail	Contact No.	