



mineral resources

Department:
Mineral Resources
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SCOPING REPORT

FOR LISTED ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PROSPECTING RIGHT AND/OR BULK SAMPLING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING TRENCHING IN CASES OF ALLUVIAL DIAMOND PROSPECTING.

SUBMITTED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, 2008 IN RESPECT OF LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (MPRDA) (AS AMENDED).

NAME OF APPLICANT: **Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.**

TELNO: **082 808 1850**

FAX NO: -

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: **P.O. Box 20576, Noordbrug, 2522**

FILE REFERENCE NUMBER SAMRAD: **NC30/5/1/1/2/ 13309 PR**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 as amended), the Minister must grant a prospecting or mining right if among others the mining "will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment".

Unless an Environmental Authorization can be granted following the evaluation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Management Programme report in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), it cannot be concluded that the said activities will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment.

In terms of section 16(3)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, any report submitted as part of an application must be prepared in a format that may be determined by the Competent Authority and in terms of section 17 (1) (c) the competent Authority must check whether the application has taken into account any minimum requirements applicable or instructions or guidance provided by the competent authority to the submission of applications.

It is therefore an instruction that the prescribed reports required in respect of applications for an environmental authorization for listed activities triggered by an application for a right or permit are submitted in the exact format of, and provide all the information required in terms of, this template. Furthermore please be advised that failure to submit the information required in the format provided in this template will be regarded as a failure to meet the requirements of the Regulation and will lead to the Environmental Authorization being refused.

It is furthermore an instruction that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner must process and interpret his/her research and analysis and use the findings thereof to compile the information required herein. (Unprocessed supporting information may be attached as appendices). The EAP must ensure that the information required is placed correctly in the relevant sections of the Report, in the order, and under the provided headings as set out below, and ensure that the report is not cluttered with un-interpreted information and that it unambiguously represents the interpretation of the applicant.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

1. The objective of the scoping process is to, through a consultative process—
 - a. identify the relevant policies and legislation relevant to the activity;
 - b. motivate the need and desirability of the proposed activity, including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location;
 - c. identify and confirm the preferred activity and technology alternative through an impact and risk assessment and ranking process;
 - d. identify and confirm the preferred site, through a detailed site selection process, which includes an impact and risk assessment process inclusive of cumulative impacts and a ranking process of all the identified alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, and cultural aspects of the environment;
 - e. identify the key issues to be addressed in the assessment phase;
 - f. agree on the level of assessment to be undertaken, including the methodology to be applied, the expertise required as well as the extent of further consultation to be undertaken to determine the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site through the life of the activity, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts to inform the location of the development footprint within the preferred site; and
 - g. Identify suitable measures to avoid, manage, or mitigate identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

CONTENT OF THE SCOPING REPORT

2. Contact Person and correspondence address

a) Details of:

i) The EAP who prepared the report

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(a)(i)

Name of the Practitioner:

DERA Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Ms. Esna Erasmus

Tel No.: 018-468 5355

Fax No. : 018-011 3760

E-mail address: dera.office@dera.co.za

ii) Expertise of the EAP.

(1) The qualifications of the EAP

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1) (a)(ii)

The EAP, Ms HM (Esna) Erasmus has a National Diploma in Agriculture Resource Utilization and a Baccalaureus Technologiae degree in Agricultural Management. She also completed the subjects for her Master Degree in Environmental Analysis & Management at NWU. See **Figure 1 & 2** for copies of his qualifications and CV. She is further registered at the International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa (*IAIAsa*), **membership No: 6502** and is registered at Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (**EAPASA**), **registration No: 2020/2909**.



Figure 1: Copy of Qualification

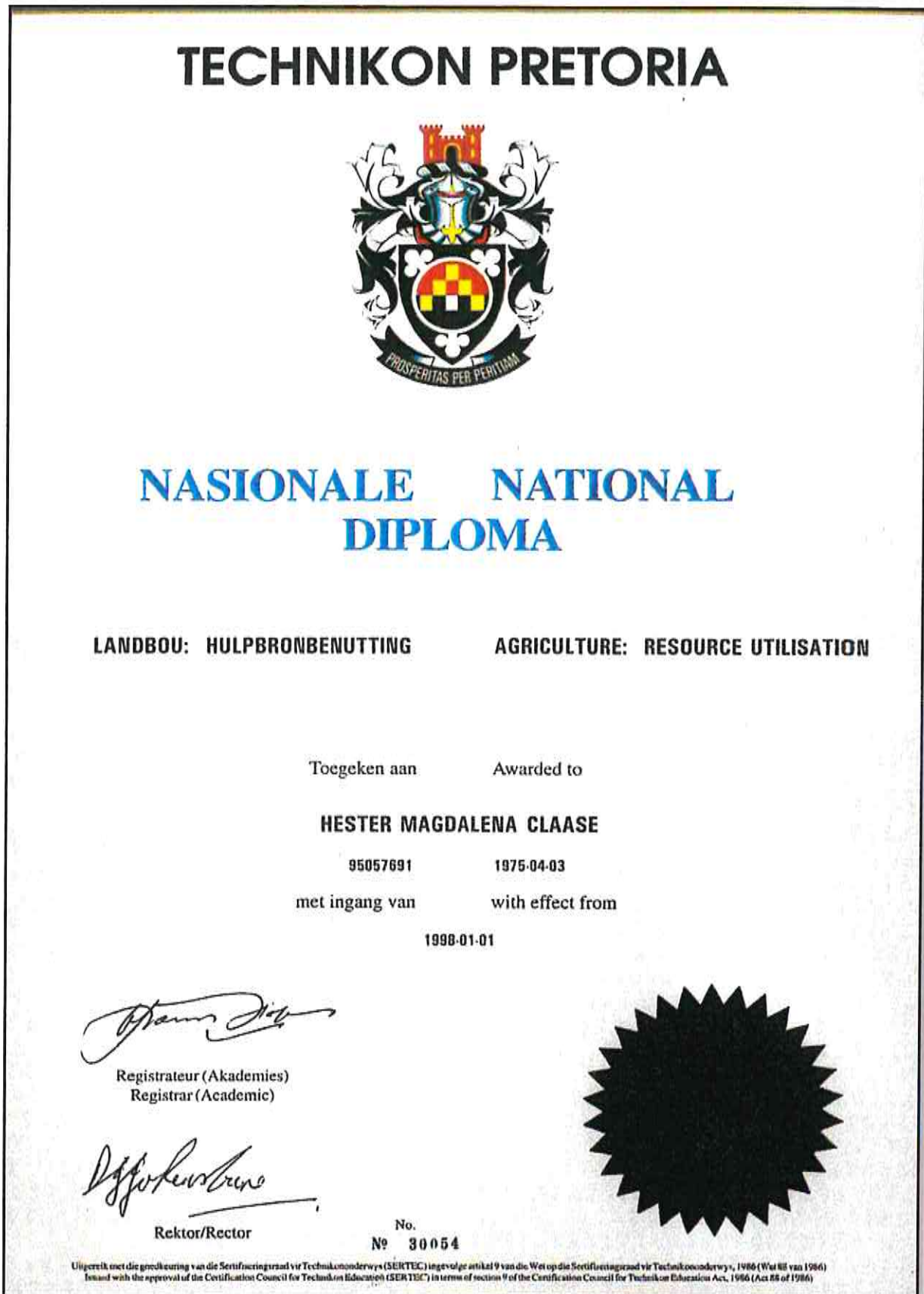
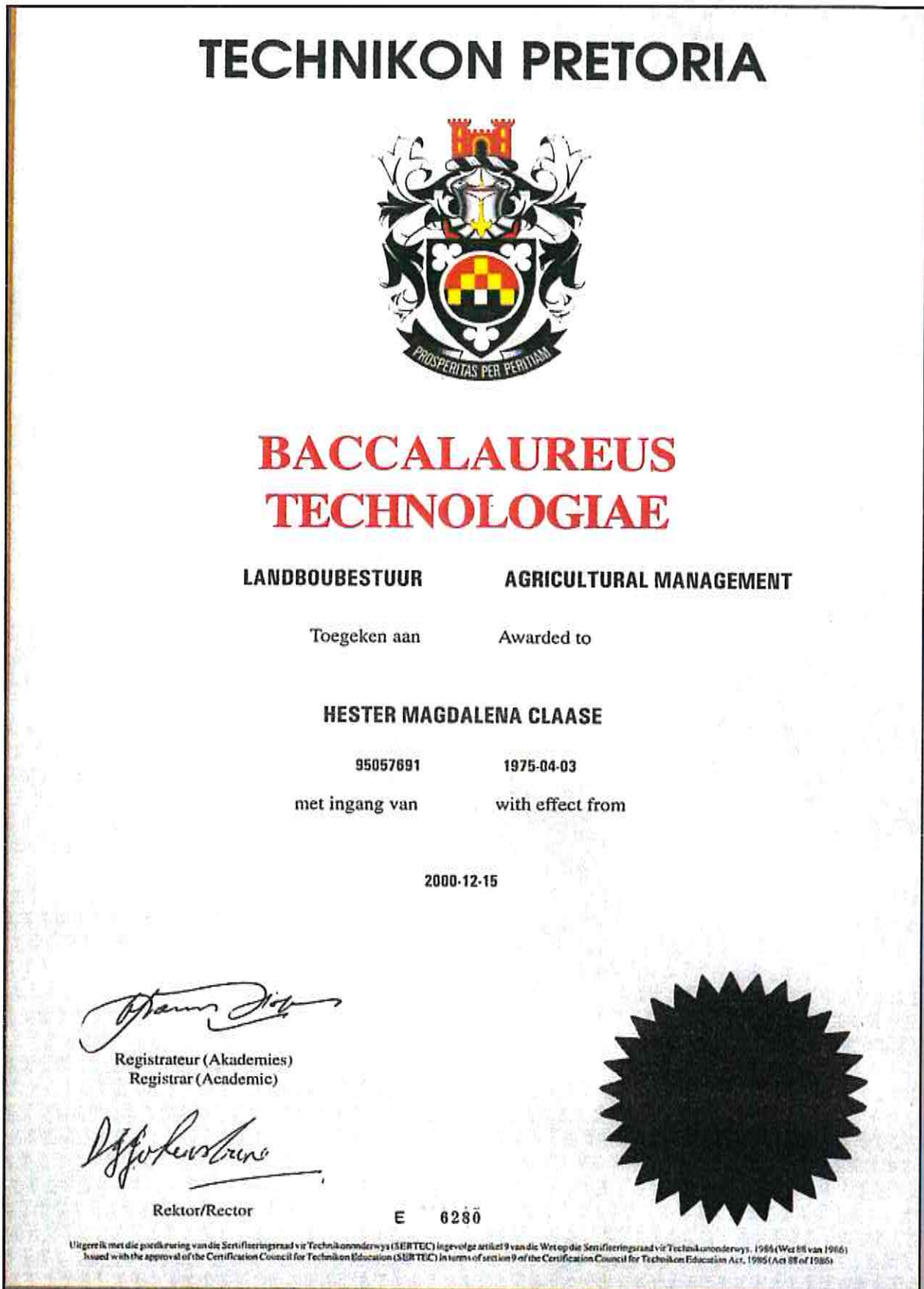


Figure 2




(2) Summary of the EAP's past experience.

HM (Esna) Erasmus is an environmental practitioner with 24 years' experience in Agricultural and Mining Management and Science. Experience in the field of inspection and evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessment in North West. Since 1998 involvement in mining activities with Department of Minerals and Energy in the North West Province as representative for National Department of Agriculture Dir. LRM in the following: Evaluation of Environmental Management Reports Inspection and evaluation of all different mining entities in North West Province. A member of the Slimes Dam Core Committee of North West Province. Involved in the compiling of a strategy for rehabilitation of Gold slime Dams in NW. Give inputs and comments on the revision of EMPR for small scale diamond mining. Involve in setting a strategy to encounter the impact of small scale mining on the environment in North West. See **Figure 3** below Curriculum Vitae of H.M. Erasmus.


Figure 3: CV


ESNA ERASMUS


ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER




CONTACTS

 esnae@dera.co.za

 +27 83 4525917

 <http://za.linkedin.com/in/esna-erasmus-1881aba3/>

 Klerksdorp, North-west Province, South Africa

SKILLS

- Report writing
- Conduct auditing
- Bilingual (English/Afrikaans)
- Computer Proficient
- Report generation and analysis
- Verbal and written communication
- Computer Literate
- Project Management
- Results-orientated
- Conduct risk assessments

ABOUT ME

Environmental practitioner with 22 years' experience in Agricultural and Mining Management and Science.

Experience in the field of inspection and evaluation of Environmental impact Assessment in North West.

Since 1998 involvement in mining activities with Department of Minerals and Energy in the North West Province as representative for National Department of Agriculture Dir. LRM in the following:

- Evaluation of Environmental Management Reports
- Inspection and evaluation of all different mining entities in North West Province.
- A member of the Slimes Dam Core Committee of North West Province.
- Involved in the compiling of a strategy for rehabilitation of Gold slime Dams in NW.
- Give inputs and comments on the revision of EMPR for small scale diamond mining.
- Involve in setting a strategy to encounter the impact of small scale mining on the environment in North West.

WORK EXPERIENCE

JAN 1998 **SENIOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION INSPECTOR**
JUN 2002 *National Department of Agriculture – Potchefstroom, SA*

Manage Administration of Act 43 of 1983, Agricultural Resource Conservation act in North West Province.

Management of personnel and personnel related matters.

Management of budget for Potchefstroom office of Directorate Land Resource Management.

JUL 2002 **SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER**
FEB 2004 *Department of Minerals and Energy – Klerksdorp, SA*

Administration of Act 50 of 1991, the Minerals Act in the North West province.

Evaluation of EMPR's and EIA's.

Audit and compliance inspections of mining operations.

MAR 2004 **ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER**
PRESENT *DERA Environmental Consultants – Klerksdorp, SA*

Compiling and submission of mining related applications; manage and compile legal environmental documents.

Monitoring work to evaluated compliance to environmental legislation; evaluating outstanding rehabilitation liabilities for mining companies.

Risk assessment and applications for closure certificates.

Compile EMPR/EIA for Mining Rights and compilation of EMPlan's for Prospecting and Mining Right applications.

Compile BAR & EMPR's in support of applications for listed activities under NEMA such as Chicken Broilers, Feed lots, Fuel Storage, ect.

Manages consultation between Departments and applicants.

EDUCATION



<u>1993</u>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA <i>Middelburg High School -- Middelburg, Mpumalanga, SA</i> English Afrikaans Biology History Geography Accounting</p>
<u>1998</u>	<p>NATIONAL DIPLOMA: AGRICULTURE: RESOURCE UTILISATION <i>Tshwane University of Technology – Pretoria, Tshwane, SA</i> Animal Production I Computer Application I Pasture Science I Physical Science I Agricultural Marketing II I, II and III Poultry Production II Crop Production I, II Agricultural Soil Science I Agricultural Mechanization I Agricultural Production Management III Agricultural Extension II Large Stock Production II Horticulture III Agricultural Anatomy & Physiology I Farm Planning I Soil Conservation II</p>
<u>2000</u>	<p>BACCALAUREUS TECHNOLOGIAE: AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT <i>Tshwane University of Technology – Pretoria, Tshwane, SA</i> Financial Management IV Strategic Management IV Plant Production IV Leadership Development II</p>
<u>2004</u>	<p>MATERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT- uncompleted <i>North-West University -- Potchefstroom, North West</i> Introduction to environmental management Applied Environmental Management Environmental Management Theoretical Hydrology Urban Ecology introduction to GIS Applied GIS Applied Hydrology Environmental Analysis Research Proposal - uncompleted Final dissertation - uncompleted</p>

SHORT COURSES



- Computer training Dbase IV
- Seminar in public speaking
- Veld assessment course
- Resource Identification and utilization course – September 1998
- Introduction to GIS – June 2001
- Persuasion skills
- Wetlands identification
- Wetlands Rehabilitation – August 2001
- Management skills
- Environmental Risk Assessment and Management – August 2005
- Mining and the Environment – October 2003

EIA- EXPERIENCE

The following list of EIA's was just some that was done by me:

- FJ de Beer (Doornfontein) -- was done as part of a Prospecting Right Application with Bulk Sampling, my role entailed: site visit, impact assessment and evaluation and compilation of report and handling of application process.
- Hartzer & Steyn Beloggers (Zwartplaat) - was done as part of Mining Right Application with Bulk Sampling, my role entailed: site visit, impact assessment and evaluation and compilation of report and handling of application process.
- Bethlehem Sand en Klip CC (Killarney) - was done as part of Mining Right Application, my role entailed: site visit, impact assessment and evaluation and compilation of report and handling of application process.
- KMF Agro Processing (Pty) Ltd (Rietfontein) - was done as part of an Environmental Authorization for a listed activity, for the construction of Chicken slaughter facility, my role entailed: site visit, impact assessment and evaluation and compilation of report and handling of application process.
- Summit Ridge (Graslaagte) - was done as part of an Environmental Authorization for a listed activity for feed mill for chicken feed, my role entailed: site visit, impact assessment and evaluation and compilation of report and handling of application process.

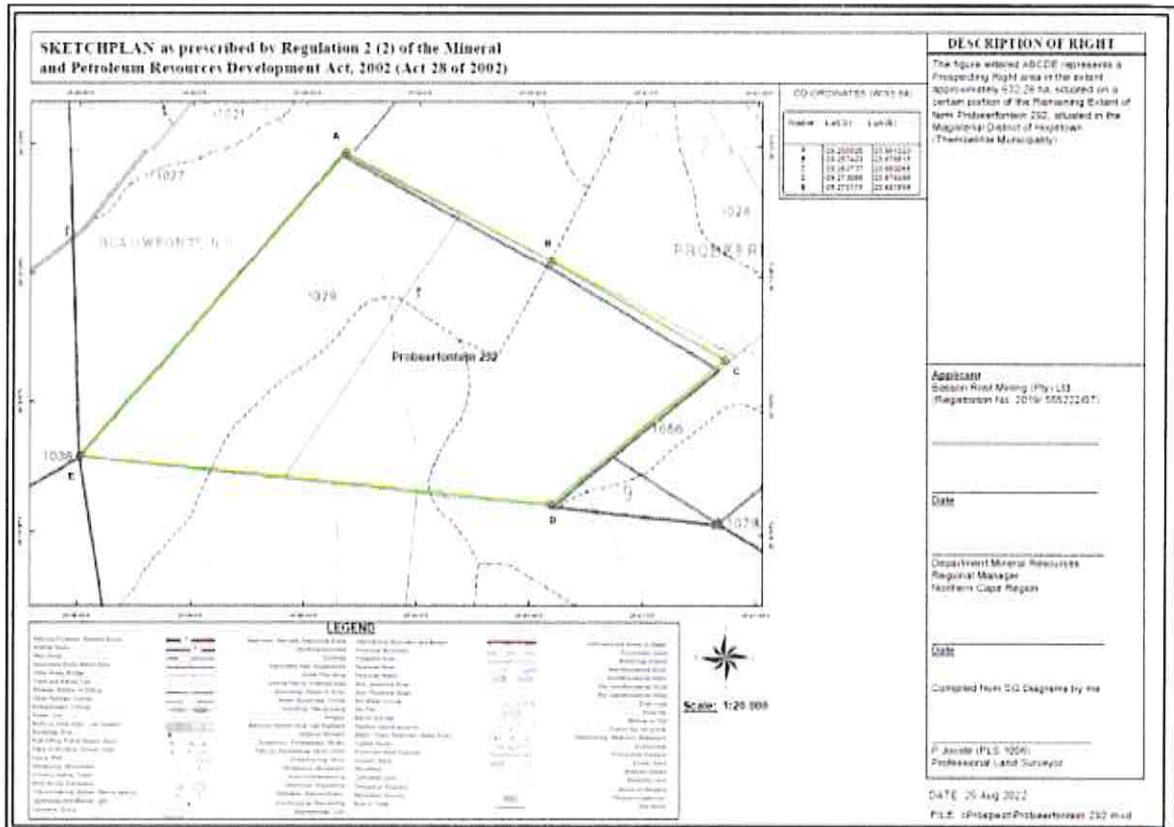
**[Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.- certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Probeerfontein 292] -
NC 30/5/1/1/2/13309 PR**

b) Location of the activity

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(b)(i),(ii),(iii)

(i) 21 digit Surveyor General Code for each farm	C03300000000029200000																					
(ii) Farm Name:	Probeerfontein 292 ➤ certain portion of the Remaining Extent																					
(iii) Coordinates - Co-ordinates List WG 27°	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">CO-ORDINATES (WGS 84)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Lat(S)</th> <th>Lon(E)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>-29.250528</td> <td>23.661223</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>-29.257423</td> <td>23.676515</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>-29.263737</td> <td>23.689265</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>-29.273068</td> <td>23.676498</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-29.270119</td> <td>23.641899</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CO-ORDINATES (WGS 84)			Name	Lat(S)	Lon(E)	A	-29.250528	23.661223	B	-29.257423	23.676515	C	-29.263737	23.689265	D	-29.273068	23.676498	E	-29.270119	23.641899
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D	-29.273068	23.676498																				
E	-29.270119	23.641899																				
Application area (Ha)	632,29 ha																					
Magisterial district:	The area is situated in the Hopetown District of the Northern Cape . Douglas is the nearest town to the application area (26 km north of application area).via the R357 and R3112. The town is in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa 90 kilometres by R357 road west from the city of Kimberley.																					
Distance and direction from nearest town	Approximately 68 km north, north-west of Hopetown and 26 km south-east of Douglas.																					
Minerals applied for	Stone Aggregate, Gravel																					

Figure 4: Sketch Plan



c) **Locality map**

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(c)(i)(ii)

(i) & (ii)

See below and Appendix 1(a) - Locality Map indication where the applied area are situated within the district of Hopetown, Northern Cape Province and **Location of application area (Figure 5)**. The area is situated in the Hopetown District of the Northern Cape. Douglas is the nearest town to the application area (26 km north of application area).via the R357 and R3112. The town is in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, 90 kilometers by R357 road west from the city of Kimberley.

Appendix 1(a) – Locality Map

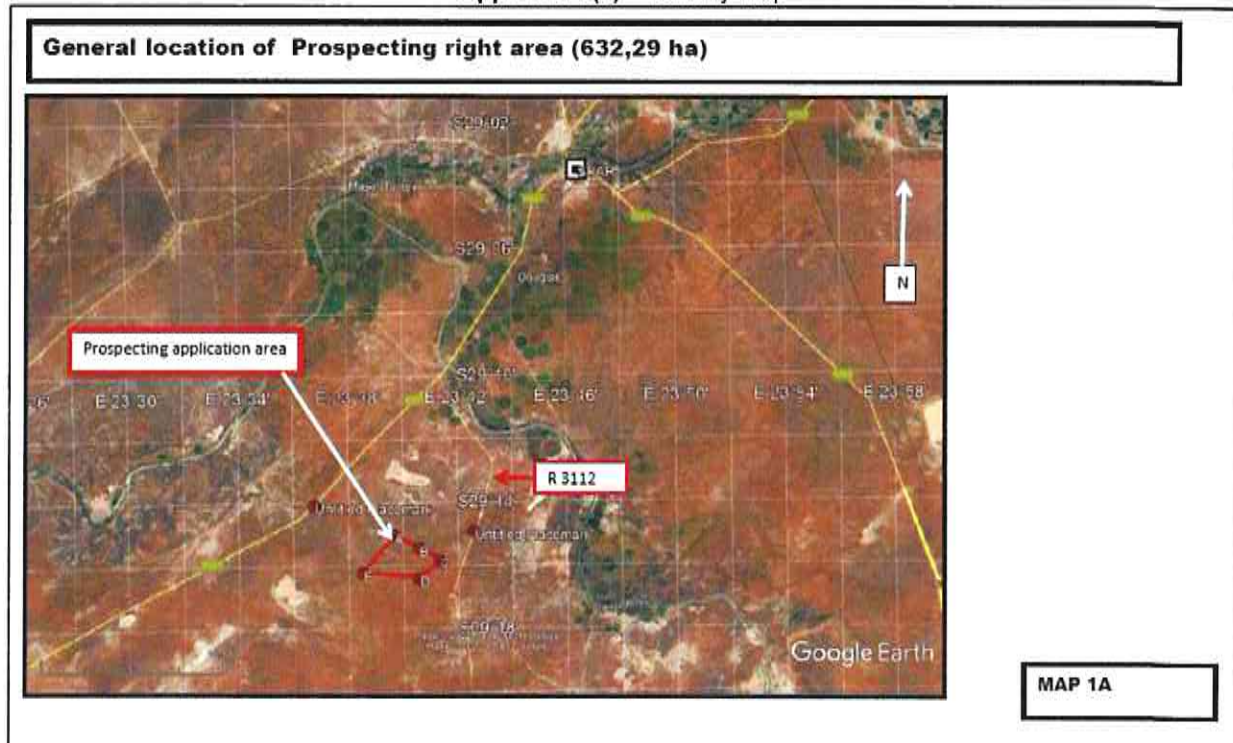
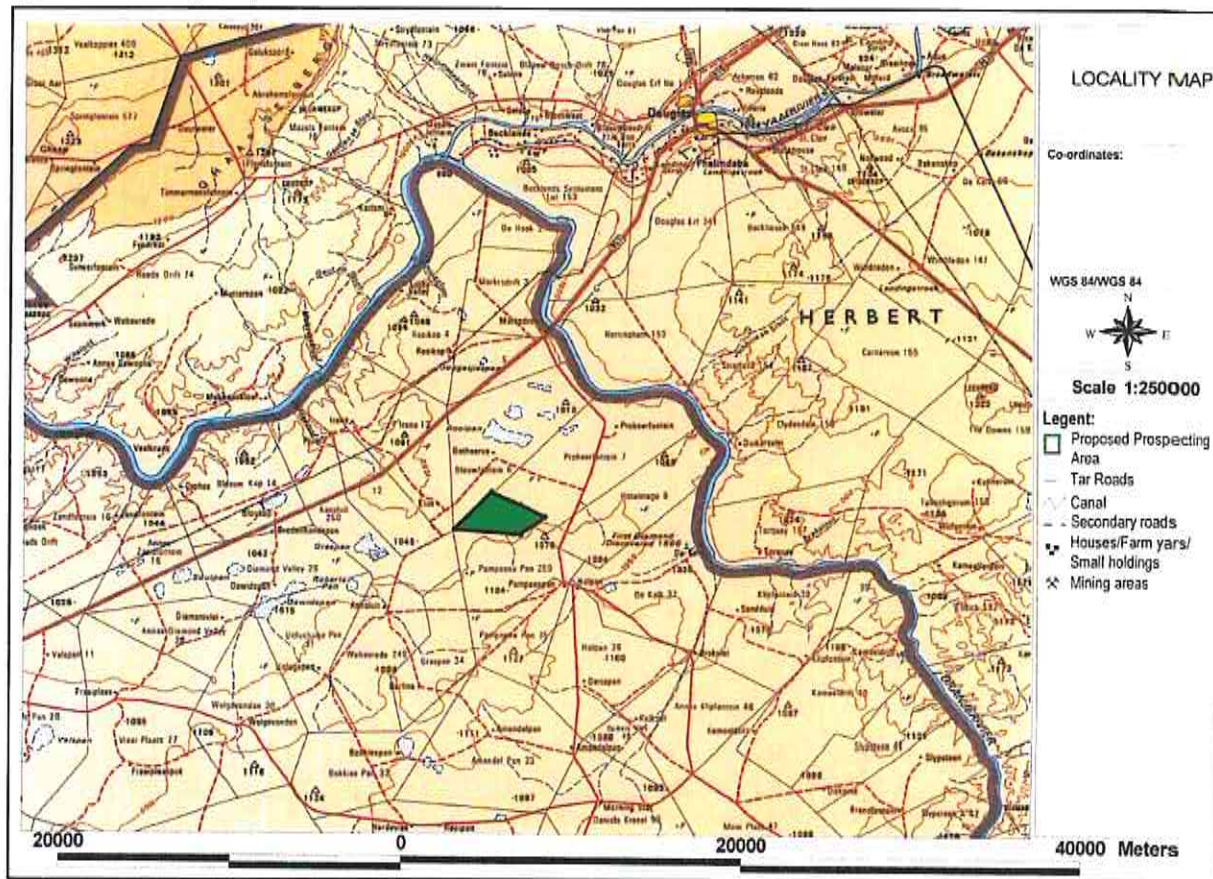


Figure 5: Locality Map



d) **Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity**

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(d)(i)(ii)

The applicant applied for a Prospecting Right over: certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the farm Probeerfontein 292. The application area is situated over a rural area of the Northern Cape Province. The area is characterized as being rural area under natural vegetation and used for grazing (for cattle (Drakensbergers) and Rooibokke (Impala's)). There is not a lot of infrastructure over the application area, only fence lines, farm roads, borehole with cement dam/reservoir. There are further no structures of infrastructure over this property.

The scope of the prospecting activities will entail the prospecting for Stone Aggregate; Gravel. The prospecting area will be identified through geological surveys and mapping. **The extent of the prospecting area is 632.29 hectares.** Information from Geological surveys will be used in order to determine where the test pits will be made. This will in turn help to determine the boundaries of the proposed prospecting area for more detailed surveying. **The prospecting phase will only be: Phase 1 – Geological desktop studies and surveys, Phase 2 – Test pits and Phase 3 – Bulk Sampling.** See Appendix 1(b) for an indication of the proposed main listed activities and existing/proposed infrastructure and Figure 5 – Google Earth Images for more detail of what the site looks like pre-prospecting. Access to the application area is gained via existing roads 68 km north, north-west of Hopetown and 26 km south-east from Douglas.

All of the area is under natural veld. Only a small portion of the land will be impacted upon at any given time and land use on the rest of the area can proceed normally. **The prospecting focus area will be clearly demarcated after Phase 1 is completed. The area applied for is over the entire portion.** It is envisaged that all impacts on the environment can be properly managed and mitigated and no high negative long-term

impacts will take place.

i) Listed and specified activities

All of the area is under natural veld. Only a small portion of the land will be impacted upon at any given time and land use on the rest of the area can proceed normally. The prospecting focus area will be clearly demarcated after Phase 1 is completed. The area applied for is over the entire portion. It is envisaged that all impacts on the environment can be properly managed and mitigated and no high negative long-term impacts will take place.

The area is characterized as being in a rural area under natural vegetation and used for grazing (Cattle, Impala). There is not a lot of infrastructure over the application area, only fence lines, farm access roads, borehole with cement dam/reservoir. There are further no structures of infrastructure over this property, see **Appendix 1(b)** – Infrastructure and Activity Map for an indication of the proposed main listed activities and existing/proposed infrastructure and **Figure 6** – Google Earth Images for more detail of what the site looks like pre-prospecting. Access to the application area is gained via existing roads 68 km north, north-west of Hopetown and 26 km south-east from Douglas. Only a small portion of the land will be impacted upon at any given time and land use on the rest of the area can proceed normally. The prospecting focus area will be clearly demarcated after Phase 2 is completed. The area applied for is over the entire portion. See **Table 1** below as submitted as part of the prospecting works program (PWP) indicating what the main listed prospecting activities will be. Also see **Table 2** below for NEMA Listed Activities as applied for in the Environmental Authorization which form part of the application.

Figure 6: Infrastructure and Activity Map

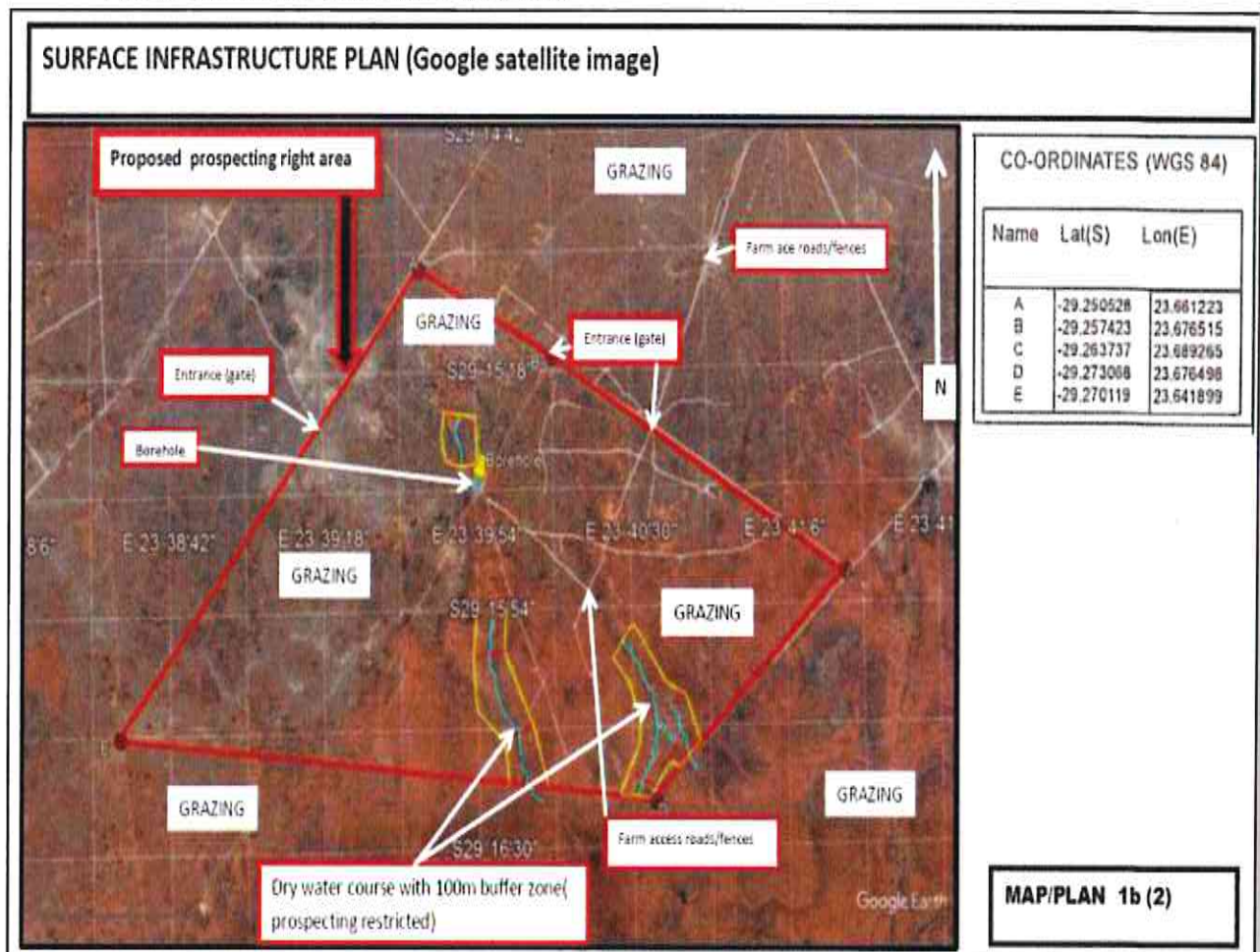


Table 1: Main listed prospecting activities

Phase	Activity	Skill(s) required	Timeframe	Outcome	Timeframe for outcome	What technical expert will sign off on the outcome?
1.	Geological surveys	Geologist	6 Months	Mapping	1 - 6 months	Geologist to visit the site and do reconnaissance of the area. Take samples (picking) where needed. Compilation of report for air-photo use by Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd
2.	Test pits	Excavator operator & Manager (applicant)	12 Months	Areas where diluted diamond gravel is found will be identified through the excavation of 150 test pits	7-18 months	Experienced mine manager (Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd) will be responsible for all physical excavations
3.	Bulk Sampling	Excavator operator Front end loader operator Washing pan operators & manager	12 Months	Diamonds found from bulk sample will be evaluated in terms of carat weight and value in \$/carat. Gravel is expected to be 3 metres thick, which need to be tested and evaluated	18-60 months	Experienced mine manager (Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd) will be responsible for all physical excavations

Table 2: Listed Activities

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(d)(i)

NAME OF ACTIVITY	Aerial extent of the Activity (Ha or m ²)	LISTED ACTIVITY	APPLICABLE LISTING
<p>Listing 1 – Activity 20: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including—</p> <p>(a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to prospecting of a mineral resource; or the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing; but excluding the secondary processing of a mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in Listing Notice 2 applies.</p>	632.29 ha	X	327
<p>Listing 1 – Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	0.3 ha	X	327
<p>Listing 2 – Activity 19: The removal and disposal of minerals contemplated in terms of section 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including—</p> <p>(a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to prospecting of a mineral resource; or</p> <p>(b) the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing;</p> <p>but excluding the secondary processing of a mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in this Notice applies.</p>	0.3 ha	X	325

ii) Description of the activities to be undertaken

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(d)(ii)

Table 3: Description of Activities to be followed

Activities	Description of phases	Associated structures and infrastructures
Phase 1	Geological desktop studies and surveys in order to try and identify the gravel run. Various geological maps and instruments will be used to identify if alluvial gravel deposits and or kimberlite pipes might be present on the application area. 6 Months needed for phase 1.	No infrastructure.
Phase 2	In Phase 2 test pits will concentrate on the areas where the outcrops anticipated gravel potential. The pits will be made (1 m x 2 m x ± 6m deep), on a grid of 100 x 100 meters and where necessary on a 50 x 50 meters grid where the gravel outcrops. These test pits are made with a 30 ton excavator. These boundaries will be surveyed and mapped in order to determine where bulk samples will be taken. It is envisaged that 150 test pits will be excavated. Each pit will be examined and closed up immediately before the excavator move on to the next one. 12 Months are needed for Phase 2.	<p>The topsoil and grass will be cleaned on the small area of 1 m x 2 m x (6 m depth) where the test pits will be excavated. After evaluation of the gravel the test pit will be closed. Rehabilitation of the test pits back to original land capability/use with topsoil and proper leveling.</p> <p>Associated structures & infrastructure:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Stockpiles of topsoil next to the open excavation Roads within the prospecting area Ablution facilities, chemical toilets Test pits been excavated Temporary office buildings</p> </div>
Phase 3	<p>In order to determine if the gravel does have viable resources the gravel needs to be taken out and tested. Trenching will be used to open the gravel in order to get a representative sample for testing. The trenches will be 20 x 60 x ± 6 m (deep). In one trench ± 7'200m³ (8'158 ton) gravel will be exposed and tested with a 16 feet washing pan at a rate of 10m³ (16 ton) an hour.</p> <p>The total prospecting area is 632.29 hectares, thus it is anticipated that a total of 57'600m³ will be tested by making 16 trenches on different locations over the whole prospecting area, where the possibility of diamond bearing gravel were identified with the test pits. <u>Only (2) two of these will be open at any given time.</u> Taken at an 8 hour working day, 5 days a week and 20 days a month, the applicant will be able to process 8'000m³ a month. The processing of 57'600 m³ will take about 42 months for Phase 3 including the rehabilitation.</p>	<p>The washing pan will be on the plant area with stockpiles.</p> <p>Associated structures & infrastructure:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Stockpiles of topsoil next to the open excavation Roads within the prospecting area 16 feet washing pan Ablution facilities, chemical and flush toilets Trenches excavated for the bulk sampling Temporary office buildings</p> </div>

[Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.- certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Probeerfontein 292] -
NC 30/5/1/1/2/13309 PR

e) Policy and Legislative Context

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(e)

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES USED TO COMPILER THE REPORT	REFERENCE WHERE APPLIED	HOW DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT COMPLY WITH AND RESPOND TO THE POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) Submitted for Environmental Authorizations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 in respect of Listed Activities that has been triggered by applications in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (As mentioned).	Activity 20, listing 1, Activity 27, Listing 1, Activity 19, Listing 2.	Prospecting Right application submitted and EA application with DMR
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998); Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (G38282 – R982-985) EA Authorization and EIA/EMP. Submit documents that will describe the impacts and sustainable mitigation thereof.	Regulation 21 Section 23	Scoping Report in process following by EIA/EMP
Compliance to Act and Regulations during course of activities. Show impacts and mitigation thereof. National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) Application for Water abstraction for mining use	Section 21 (a)	Application for water use license with DWS, will follow.
South African National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (SAHRA) Compliance to Act and Regulations during course of activities. Ensure that no graves or heritage site will be disturbed.	Section 38	SAHRA was notified process will be followed Compilation of HIA over the application area in order to identify possible archaeological and paleontological sites or occurrences.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act No 43 of 1983 (CARA) Compliance to Act and Regulations during course of activities. Stabilization of soil after rehab to be sustainable with no erosion. Eradication of declared weeds	Section 29	Regulation will be applicable during construction and operational phases of mining.
National Forest Act, Act No. 84 of 1998 (NFA) & GN 1935 in Government Gazette No. 46094 of 25 March 2022. Application of Permit or License if protected species may be affected.	Section 15 (1)	No person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree; or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree, or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a licence granted by the Minister; or in terms of an exemption published by the Minister.
National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA)	Section 12	Duty on owners to prepare and maintain firebreaks as it may be required in consultation with adjoining owners and fire protection association.
Provincial Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, Act 9 of 2009 (NCNCA) Application of Permit or License if protected species may be affected.	Section 3	Restricted activities involving specially protected animals. No person may, without a permit - hunt; import; export; transport; keep; possess; breed; or trade in, a specimen of a specially protected animal.
National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act (Act 2 of 2022)	Section 49	Restricted activities involving specially protected plants: (1) No person may, without a permit - pick; import; export; transport; possess; cultivate; or trade in, a specimen of a specially protected plant.

[Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.- certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Probeerfontein 292] -
 NC 30/5/1/12/13309 PR

<p>NEMA Financial Provision Regulation</p>	<p>The purpose of GNR 1147 is to regulate the determination of financial provision as contemplated in NEMA for the specific costs related to undertaking the management, rehabilitation and remediation of environmental impacts. This is applicable from the commencement of exploration activities, through the lifespan of prospecting and mining operations.</p>	
<p>National Environmental Management -Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004)</p>		
<p>National Dust Control Regulations (GN. 827 of 1 November 2013)</p>		
<p>National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004): Threatened or Protected Species Regulations</p>		

f) **Need and desirability of the proposed activities**

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(f)

The applicant believes that the applied area has prospects for: Stone Aggregate & Gravel as applied for. According to **NEMA's Screening Tool/Report (Appendix 3)** there are sensitive landscape features that need to be taken into consideration when prospecting over this area, the first being the **Terrestrial biodiversity**. There are further **smaller dry (intermittent) stream courses within the 632.29 ha** application area. All of the above features need to be taken cognisance off and management measures must be put in place to manage of prevent any impact on it. There are other alluvial diamonds mining operations around Douglas and Hopetown. The possible employee positions that could emerge could also be a great opportunity for revenue generation in this rural area. The locality of the activities is over the entire farm portions. The specific activities as listed will be over the whole areas of the application area. Where the potential of a gravel run is found with the geological surveys of phase 1, test pits will be make during phase 2, and followed by bulk sampling of phase 3 and washing/sampling will take place. The duration of the activities will be 5 years.

g) **Period for which the environmental authorization is required**

Four (5) years

h) **Description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred site**

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(h)

The prospecting area was identified through aerial photographs. The extent of the prospecting area will be **632.29 hectares**. Information from geological surveys will be used in order to determine where the test pits will take place. This will in turn help to determine the boundaries of the proposed prospecting area for more detailed surveying.

PHASE 1:

Geological desktop studies and surveys in order to try and identify the gravel run. Various geological maps and instruments will used to identify if gravel deposits might be present on the application area. **6 Months needed for phase 1.**

PHASE 2:

In Phase 2 test pits will be made (**1 m x 2 m x ± 6m deep**), on a grid of 100 x 100meters and where necessary on a 50 x 50 meters grid where the gravel outcrops. These test pits are made with a 30 ton excavator, to determine if any diamond bearing gravel does occur. This test pits will be closed up immediately before the excavator move on to the next one. **12 Months are needed for Phase 2.**

PHASE 3:

In order to determine the quality the gravel needs to be taken out and tested, by putting it through the washing process. Trenching will be used to open the gravel in order to get a representative sample for testing. The trenches will be **20 x 60 x ± 6 m (deep)**. In one trench ± 7'200m³ (8'185 ton) gravel will be exposed and tested with a **16 feet washing pan** at a rate of 10m³ (16 ton) an hour. The **total prospecting area is 632.29 hectares**, thus it is anticipated that a total of 57'600m³ (bulk sample) will be tested by making **16 trenches** on different locations over the whole prospecting area (over 42 months), where the possibility of gravel were identified with the test pits. Only (2) two of these will be open at any given time. Taken at an 8 hour working day, 5 days a week and 20 days a month, the applicant will be able to process 8'000m³ a month. **The processing of 57'600m³ will take about 42 months for Phase 3 including the rehabilitation.**

i) Details of all alternatives considered

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(h) (g)(l)

Alternative is not applicable. The specific land applied for is the area to believe that minerals can be explored. **The current land is used is grazing for cattle and Impala's.** The option to explore the possibility for prospecting is already in itself an alternative land use. The applicant is not interested in any other alternative land use over this land aside of exploration of the said minerals, or any other activity, or method use other than prospecting for it in the conventional way, which is the most cost effective.

Since it is a rural area and the local grow and development in this area is very slowly. Prospecting operation like this contributes to local economic growth and work opportunities in such a rural area. As can be seen on **Figure 6**, the current land use is grazing. The specific land applied for is the area to believe that minerals can be explored. The option to explore the possibility for prospecting is already in itself an alternative land use. The applicant, **Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.**, is not interested in any other alternative land use over this land aside of exploration of the said minerals Stone Aggregate, Gravel, or any other activity, or method use other than prospecting for it in the conventional way, which is the most cost effective.

(a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity

There are no alternative for the property as the application is for this area only. The prospecting focus area will only be determined after Phase 2 (Test Pits) is completed. And the whole of the application area will systematically be prospected eventually. There are no alternative sites as the whole of the application area was identified as being favourable to bear Stone Aggregate, Gravel.

(b) the type of activity to be undertaken

The type of activity is in line with the submitted Prospecting Work Programme (PWP). Stone Aggregate, Gravel prospecting normally uses the opencast prospecting method in order to access the mineral where after it is tested. Testing will be done on site by use of washing plant. There are no alternatives to the testing of the mineral as this is the conventional manner in which it is done. Better technology requires bigger volumes to be processed and this will not be possible under a prospecting right. As this is only prospecting operation it will be the basic opencast method with associated machinery.

(c) the design or layout of the activity

The layout of the activity will and can only be on the application area as per sketch plan, see **Figure 4** as submitted with the application. And the whole of the application area will systematically be prospected eventually. There are no preferred sites as the whole of the application area was identified as being favourable to be tested through test pits. Once phase 2 – test pits was completed, will there be determined where the trenched will be made. This prospecting operation will also not be a static operations as the whole of the application area will be tested via test pits on a grid basis in order to determine where the possible Stone Aggregate, Gravel occurs. They will have a temporary container that will serve as site office and the gravel to be tested will be done next to the open excavations. There will also be temporary chemical toilets on the site for ablution facilities. There will not be services to machinery done on site and in case of emergency it will be done over a PVC lining. This operation will be a basic small scale prospecting layout, with minimal temporary infrastructure and just the necessary equipment.

(d) the technology to be used in the activity

The technology used in the activity will be as described in the PWP and the best options will be determined by the applicant, which will be test pits and bulk sampling through trenching. The technology used with regards to the testing of the Stone Aggregate, Gravel is putting it through a scrubber and washing plant. The washing plant will be set up next to the open excavation and will only be moved once the excavation is closed up. Phase 2 will be test pits and this will use an excavator to open pits which will only be visually inspected by the geologist, there are not much alternatives for this activity, Phase 3 will be excavation of a representative bulk sample and this will be done by conventional opencast excavations. The technology

used in the activity will as described in the Prospecting Programme and the best options will be determined by the applicant. They will basically be using excavators to open the test pits and take out bulk samplings, as well as a front-end loader to move the material to be tested to the washing plant.

(e) the operational aspects of the activity, and

The technology used in the activity will be as described in the PWP and the best options will be determined by the applicant, which will be test pits and bulk sampling through trenching. The technology used with regards to the testing of the Stone Aggregate, Gravel is putting it through a washing plant. The washing plant will be set up next to the open excavation and will only be moved once the excavation is closed up. Phase 2 will be test pits and this will use an excavator to open pits which will only be visually inspected by the geologist, there are not much alternatives for this activity, Phase 3 will be excavation of a representative bulk sample and this will be done by conventional opencast excavations. The technology used in the activity will as described in the Prospecting Programme and the best options will be determined by the applicant. They will basically be using excavators to open the test pits and take out bulk samplings, as well as a front-end loader to move the material to be tested to the washing pan.

(f) the option of not implementing the activity

This option might only be possible if the applicant decide to abandon the project. If this application is not implemented the current landowners will just continue with existing agricultural activities which is grazing. Thus not exploiting the mineral reserve and somebody else can apply.

ii) Details of the Public Participation Process Followed

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(h) (g)(ii)

The process as described by NEMA for Environmental Authorization was followed. See **Table 4** below for the identification of Interested and Affected Parties to be consulted with. The **landowner (Mr L.J. du Raan)**, neighbours and land users will be consulted personally and through written letter that are given to them by hand. A site notice was placed at the entrance to the application area. With this site notice all passers-by are requested to submit any written comments to be forwarded to the consultant (still awaiting response). A **notice** was also published in the DFA Newspaper of 14th October 2022, response is awaited. **See proof of consultation already done under Appendix 2.** The Public Participation process is still on going and the documents will be updated as more feedback is received back. The Scoping Report was send to all relevant State Departments for evaluation.

Appendix 2 – Proof of consultation

[Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.- certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Probeerfontein 292] -
NC 30/5/11/2/13309 PR

iii) **Summary of issues raised by I&AP's**

In terms of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(h)(i) (g)(iii)

Table 4: Interested and Affected Party Register

Interested and Affected Parties	Date sent and/or Comments Received	Issues raised	EAP's response to the applicant
AFFECTED PARTIES			
Landowner/s	X		
L.J. du Raan (Landowner) P.O. Box 145, Douglas, 8730 Cell: 082 373 2394; E-mail: leonardn@vodamail.co.za	14 Oct 2022 28 Nov 2022	Consultation letter send No objection, see signed consultation letter attached.	
Landowners or Lawful occupier/s of the adjacent properties	X		
G. Du Raan (Neighbour) P.O. Box 83, Douglas, 8730 Cell: 082 786 2419; E-mail: ingwasafaris@vodamail.co.za	14 Oct 2022 28 Nov 2022	Consultation letter send No objection, see signed consultation letter attached.	
D.J. Snyders (Neighbour) P.O. Box 683, Douglas, 8730 Cell: 082 821 5801	14 Oct 2022 28 Nov 2022	Consultation letter send No objection, see signed consultation letter attached.	
Municipal councilor			
Municipality	X		
Thembelinthe Local Municipality Municipal Manager: Mr. Michael Jack Church Street, Hopetown, 8750 Fax: 053 203 0490; Tel: 053 203 0005 E-mail: mrjack@thembelihthemunicipality.gov.za	12 Oct 2022 17 Nov 2022	Consultation letter send	
Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected Roads Department, Eskom, Telkom, DWA.			
Eskom			
Communities			
Dept. Land Affairs	X		
Ms. Ruwayda Baulackey Tel: 053 807 5700; E-mail: baulackey@drdir.gov.za	12 Oct 2022 17 Nov 2022	E-mail sent to verify any land claims	

**[Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.- certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Probeerfontein 292] -
NC 30/5/1/12/13309 PR**

Traditional Leaders				
N/A				
Dept. Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	X			
Thembiwele Mabuza 02 Harrison Street, De Beers, Kimberley, 8301 Cell: 064 869 0976 162 George Street, Private Bag X 5018, Kimberlie Building, Kimberley, 8300		8 Nov 2022	Scoping Report send with Courier Guy for comments	
Dept. Water and Sanitation	X			
Chief Director: Northern Cape Lerato Mokhoanile 28 Central Road, Beaconsfield, Kimberley, 8300 Tel: 083 655 8312; E-mail: Mokhoanile.L@dws.gov.za		8 Nov 2022	Scoping Report with Courier Guy for comments	
Dept. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	X			
DALRAEA has indicated that they will forward the document to DAFF		8 Nov 2022		
Other Competent Authorities				
OTHER AFFECTED PARTIES				
INTERESTED PARTIES	X			
SAHRA P.O. Box 4637, Cape Town, 8000 Tel: 021 462 4502, E-mail: info@sahra.org.za				

Notice published in the DFA Newspaper of 14th October 2022

[Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.- certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Probeerfontein 292] -
 NC 30/5/1/1/2/13309 PR

PLACEMENT OF ADVERT AT GATE:

		<p>Photo 1</p>	
	<p>GPS Location: S -29.266200° E 23.702405°</p>		<p>Photo 2</p>

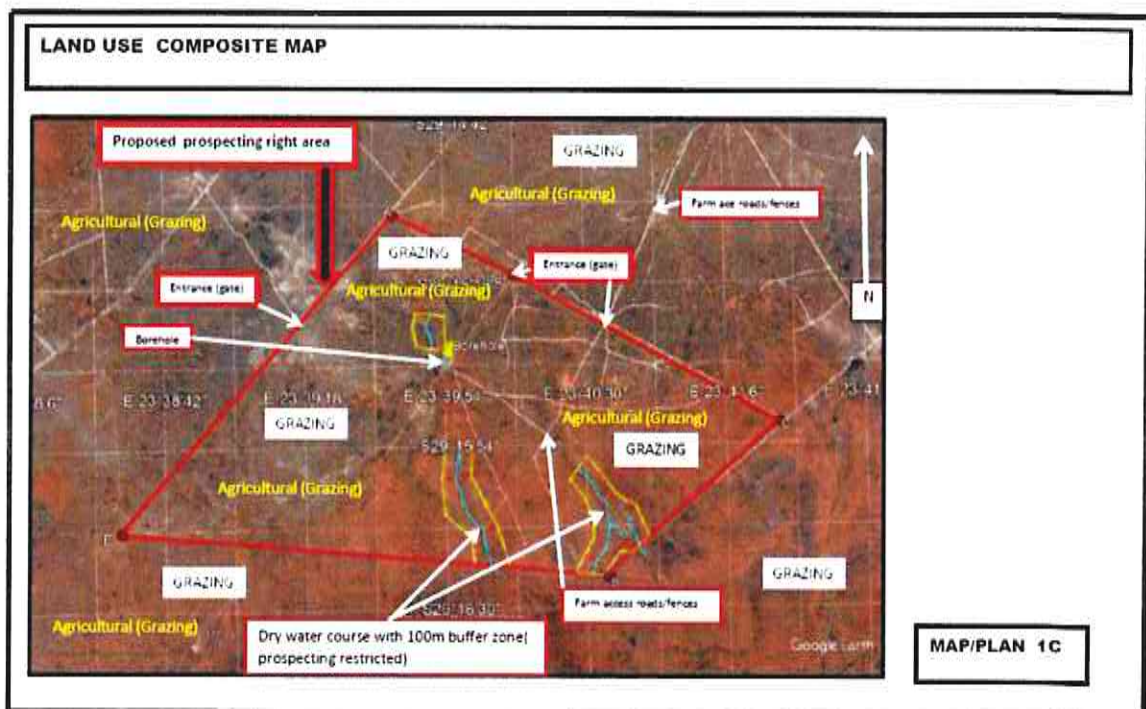
iv) The Environmental attributes associated with the sites

(1) Baseline Environment

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)[(h)] (g)(iv)

Introduction:

The purpose of this section is to provide information on the environment in which the proposed prospecting activities will take place, with a view to identify sensitive issues/areas, which need to be considered when conducting the impact assessment. The application is over: **a certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the farm Probeerfontein 292** the area is characterized as natural veld used as grazing land (for cattle, Impala (Rooibokke)). **The small focus area of prospecting activities will be on the 0.3 ha of the application area, as only two trenches will be open at any given time:**



Magisterial District: The area is situated in the **Hopetown District of the Northern Cape**. Douglas is the nearest town to the application area. The town is in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, 90 kilometres by R357 road west from the city of Kimberley.

Direction from neighbouring town: The proposed prospecting area is approximately 68 km north, north-west from **Hopetown** and 26 km south-east of **Douglas**.

Longitude (approximate centre of prospecting site): 23°39' 46.86"E

Latitude (approximate centre of prospecting site): 29°16' 6.01"S

Existing Surface Infrastructure: The structures found over this area are only boundary fence lines and a farm road on the application area, 2 boreholes with cement dams/reservoirs. There are further no structures of infrastructure over this property. See **Appendix 1(b)** for an indication of the proposed main listed activities and existing/proposed infrastructure and **Figure 6** – Google Earth Images for more detail of what the site looks like pre-prospecting. Access to the application area is gained via existing R357 and R 3112 tar roads south of Douglas.

(a) Type of environment affected by the proposed activity.

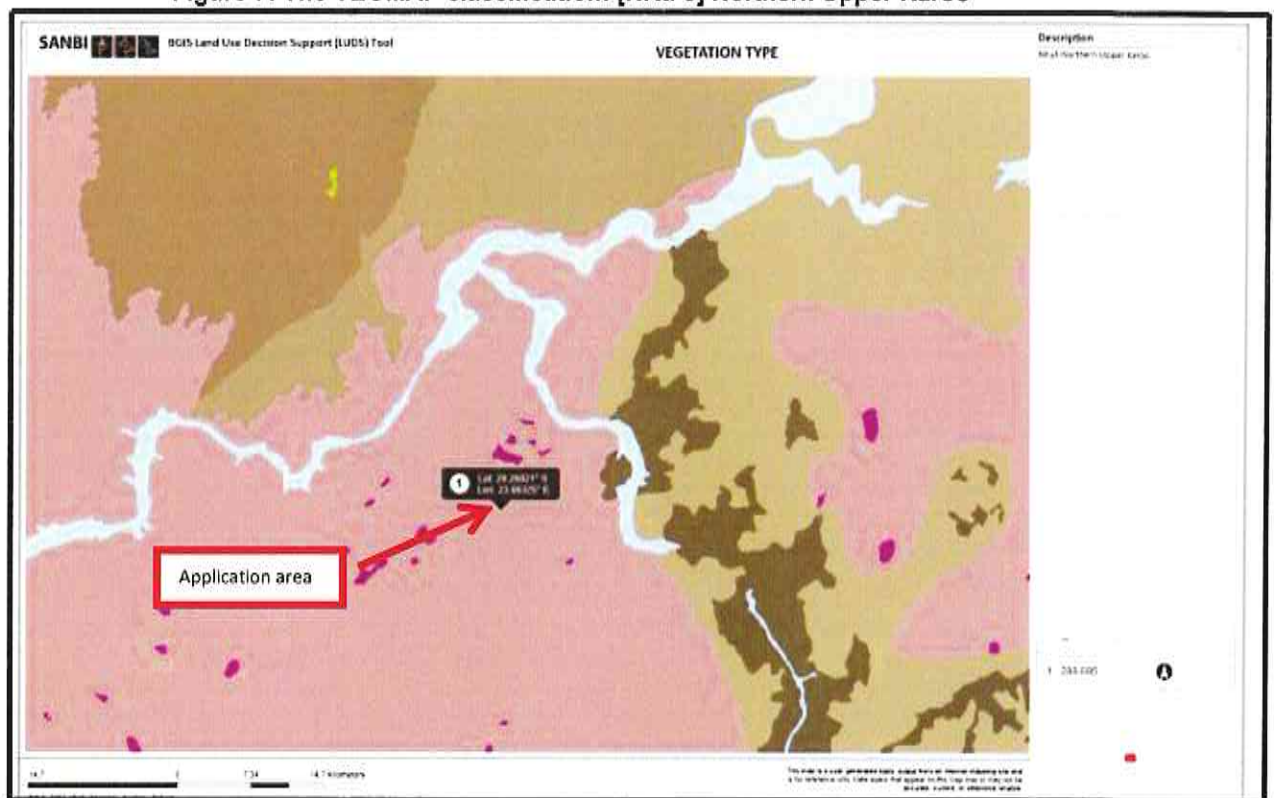
Vegetation [Flora] and Landscape Features:

According to VEGMAP (2006) the Prospecting application area falls within the [NKu 3] Northern Upper Karoo. VT 35 False Arid Karoo (35%), VT 36 False Upper Karoo (27%) (Acocks 1953). LR 50 Upper Nama Karoo (44%), LR 52 Eastern Mixed Nama Karoo (24%) (Low & Rebelo 1996).

Distribution: Northern Cape and Free State Provinces: Northern regions of the Upper Karoo plateau from Prieska, Vosburg and Carnarvon in the west to Philipstown, Petrusville and Petrusburg in the east. Bordered in the north by Niekerkshoop, Douglas and Petrusburg and in the south by Carnarvon, Pampoenpoort and De Aar. A few patches occur in Griqualand West. Altitude varies mostly from 1 000-1 500 m.

Shrubland dominated by dwarf karoo shrubs, grasses and *Acacia mellifera subsp. detinens* and some other low trees (especially on sandy soils in the northern parts and vicinity of the Orange River).

Figure 7: The VEGMAP classification: [NKu 3] Northern Upper Karoo



Important Taxa - Small Trees: *Acacia mellifera* subsp. *detinens*, *Boscia albitrunca*. **Tall Shrubs:** *Lycium cinereum* (d), *L. horridum*, *L. oxycarpum*, *L. schizocalyx*, *Rhigozum trichotomum*. **Low Shrubs:** *Chrysocoma ciliata* (d), *Gnidia polycephala* (d), *Pentzia calcarea* (d), *P. globosa* (d), *P. incana* (d), *P. spinescens* (d), *Rosenia humilis* (d), *Amphiglossa triflora*, *Aptosimum marlothii*, *A. spinescens*, *Asparagus glaucus*, *Barleria rigida*, *Berkheya annectens*, *Eriocephalus ericoides* subsp. *ericoides*, *E. glandulosus*, *E. spinescens*, *Euryops asparagoides*. *Felicia muricata*, *Helichrysum lucilioides*, *Hermannia spinosa*, *Leucas capensis*, *Limeum aethiopicum*, *Melolobium candicans*, *Microlooma amatum*, *Osteospermum leptolobum*, *O. spinescens*, *Pegolettia retrofracta*, *Pentzia lanata*, *Phyllanthus maderaspatensis*, *Plinthus karoocicus*, *Pteronia glauca*, *P. sordida*, *Sebago geniculata*, *S. saxatilis*, *Tetragonia arbuscula*, *Zygophyllum lichtensteinianum*. **Succulent Shrubs:** *Hertia pallens*, *Salsola calluna*, *S. glabrescens*, *S. rabieana*, *S. tuberculata*, *Zygophyllum flexuosum*. **Semi parasitic Shrub:** *Thesium hystrix* (d), **Herbs:** *Chamaesyce inaequilatera*, *Convolvulus sagittatus*, *Dicoma capensis*, *Gazania krebsiana*, *Hermannia comosa*, *Indigofera alternans*, *Lessertia pauciflora*, *Radyera urens*, *Sesamum capense*, *Sutera pinnatifida*, *Tribulus terrestris*, *Dahlia capensis*. **Succulent Herb:** *Psilocaulon coriarium*. **Geophytic Herb:** *Moraea pallida*. **Graminoids:** *Aristida adscensionis* (d), *A. congesta* (d), *A. diffuse* (d), *Enneapogon desvauxii* (d), *Eragrostis lehmanniana* (d), *E. obtuse* (d), *E. truncata* (d), *Sporobolus fimbriatus* (d), *Stipagrostis obtusa* (d), *Eragrostis bicolor*, *E. porosa*, *Fingerhuthia africana*, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Stipagrostis ciliata*, *Themeda triandra*, *Tragus berteronianus*, *T. koelerioides*, *T. racemosus*. **Biogeographically Important Taxa Herb** (western distribution limit): *Convolvulus boedeckerianus*. **Tall Shrub** (southern limit of distribution): *Gymnosporia szyszyłowiczii* subsp. *namibiensis*. **Endemic Taxa Succulent Shrubs:** *Lithops hookeri*, *Stomatium pluridens*. **Low Shrubs:** *Atriplex spongiosa*, *Galenia exigua*. **Herb:** *Manulea deserticola*. **References** Acocks (1953, 1988), Werger (1980), Palmer (1990).

Some indication of the original vegetation type could be found on the 632.29 ha. Through the years the site has been disturbed by agricultural activities.

See photo table (next few pages)

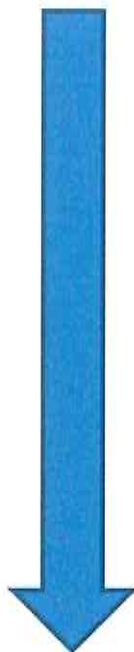
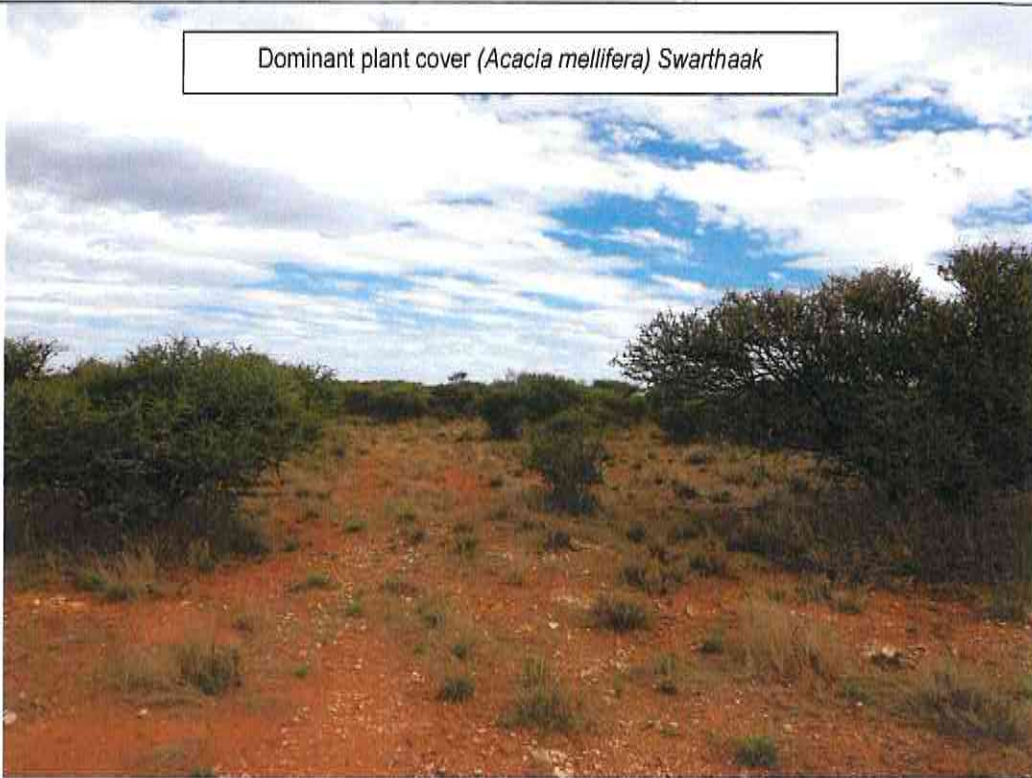
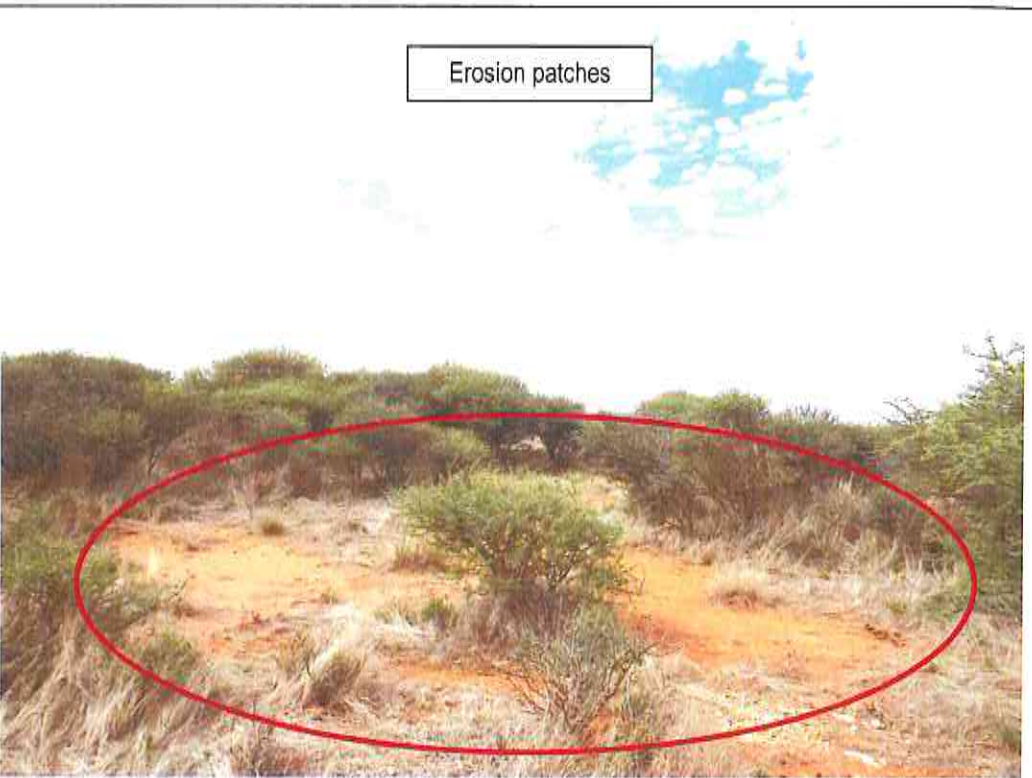
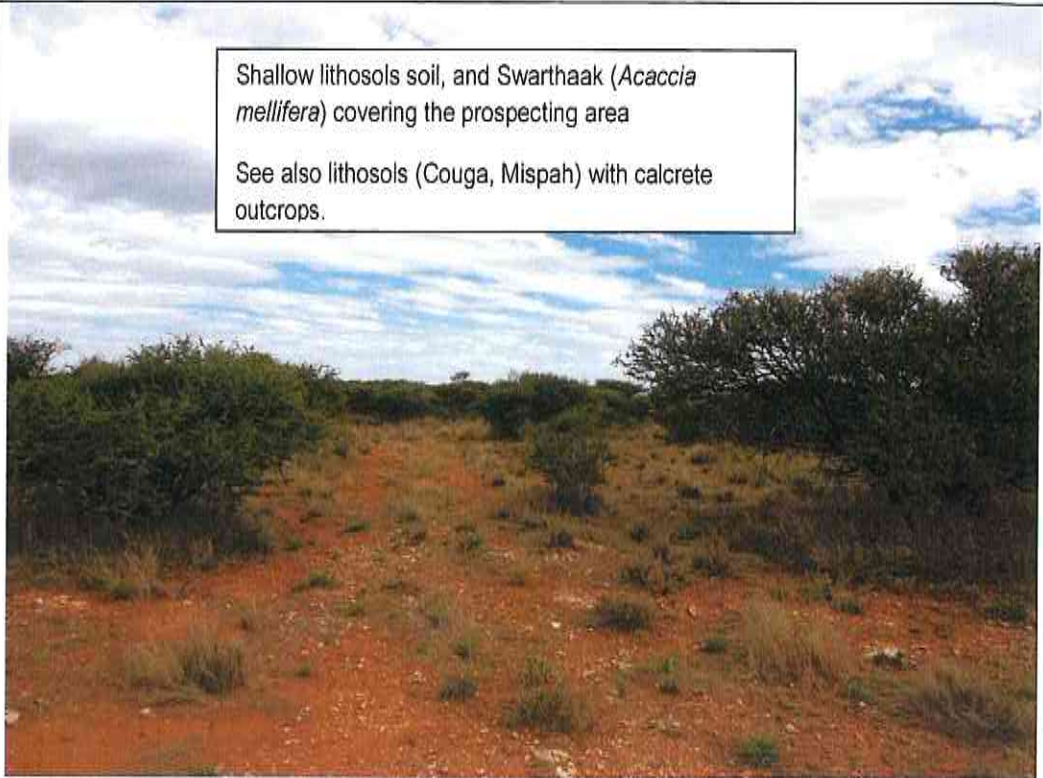


	Photo
1	<p data-bbox="507 309 1163 371">Dominant plant cover (<i>Acacia mellifera</i>) Swarthaak</p> 
2	<p data-bbox="732 1126 978 1180">Erosion patches</p> 

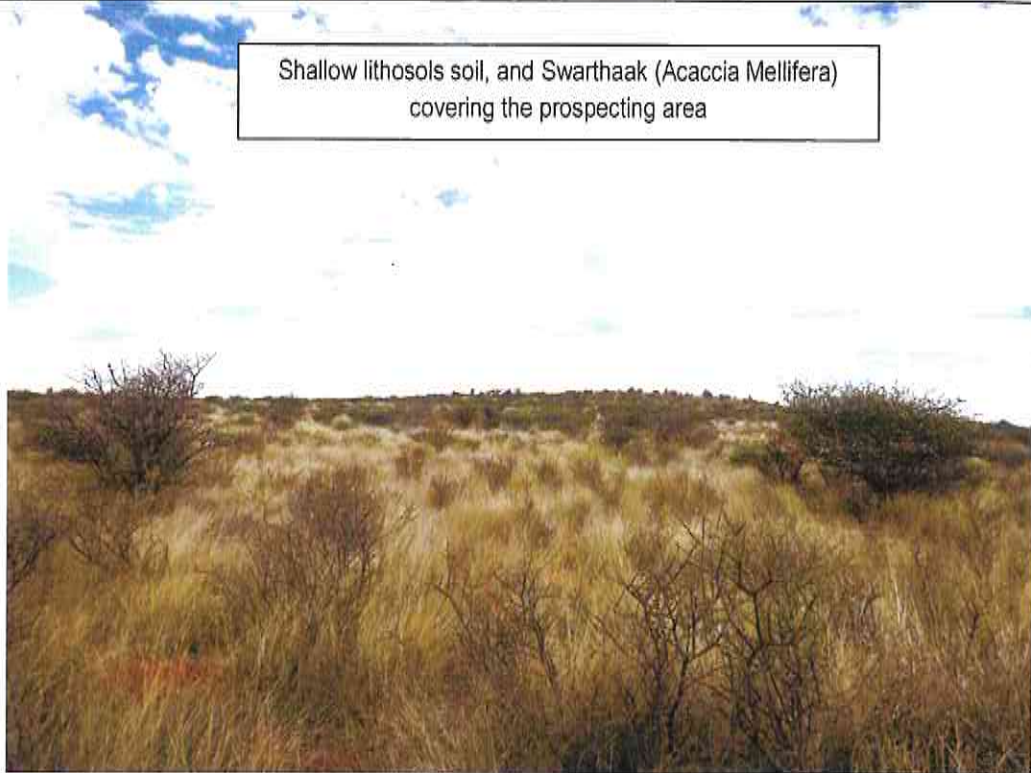
3

Shallow lithosols soil, and Swarthaak (*Acaccia mellifera*) covering the prospecting area
See also lithosols (Couga, Mispah) with calcrete outcrops.



4

Shallow lithosols soil, and Swarthaak (*Acaccia Mellifera*) covering the prospecting area



5



6



7



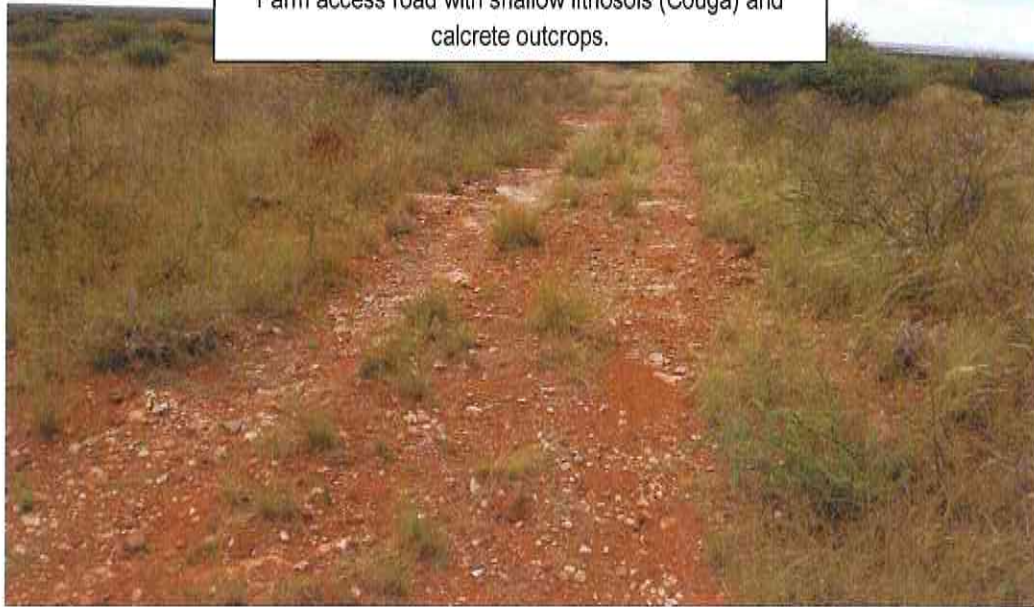
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9

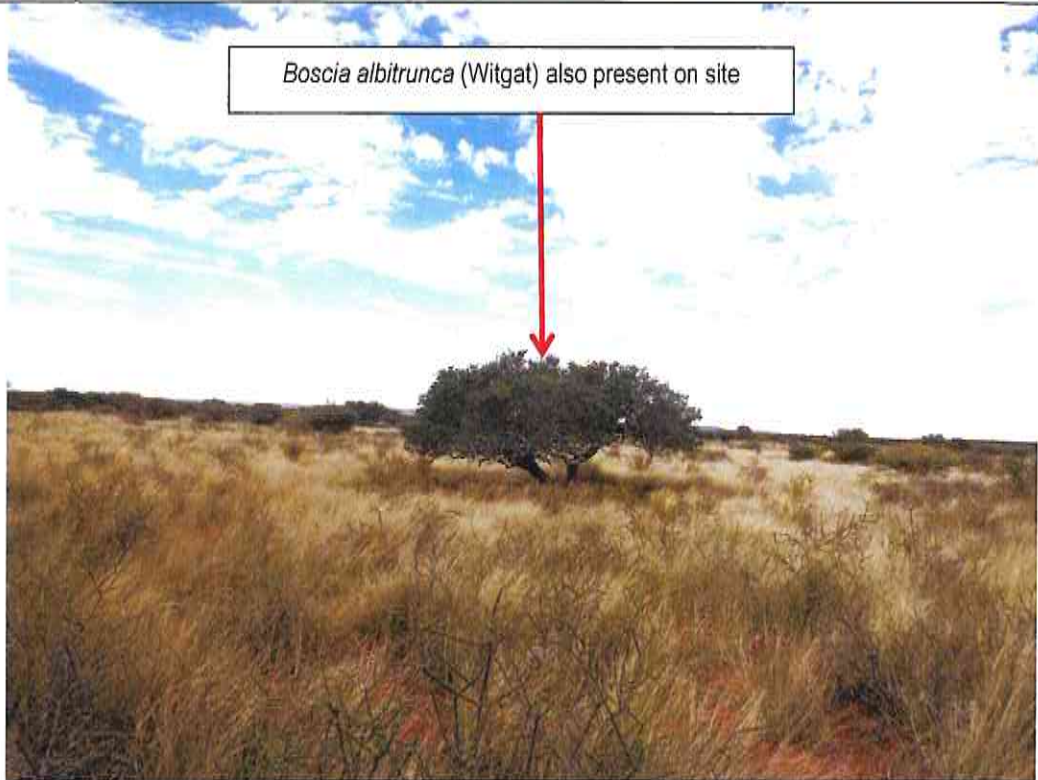
Dominant plant cover (*Acacia mellifera*) Swarthaak

Farm access road with shallow lithosols (Couga) and
calcrete outcrops.



10

Boscia albitrunca (Witgat) also present on site



11



12

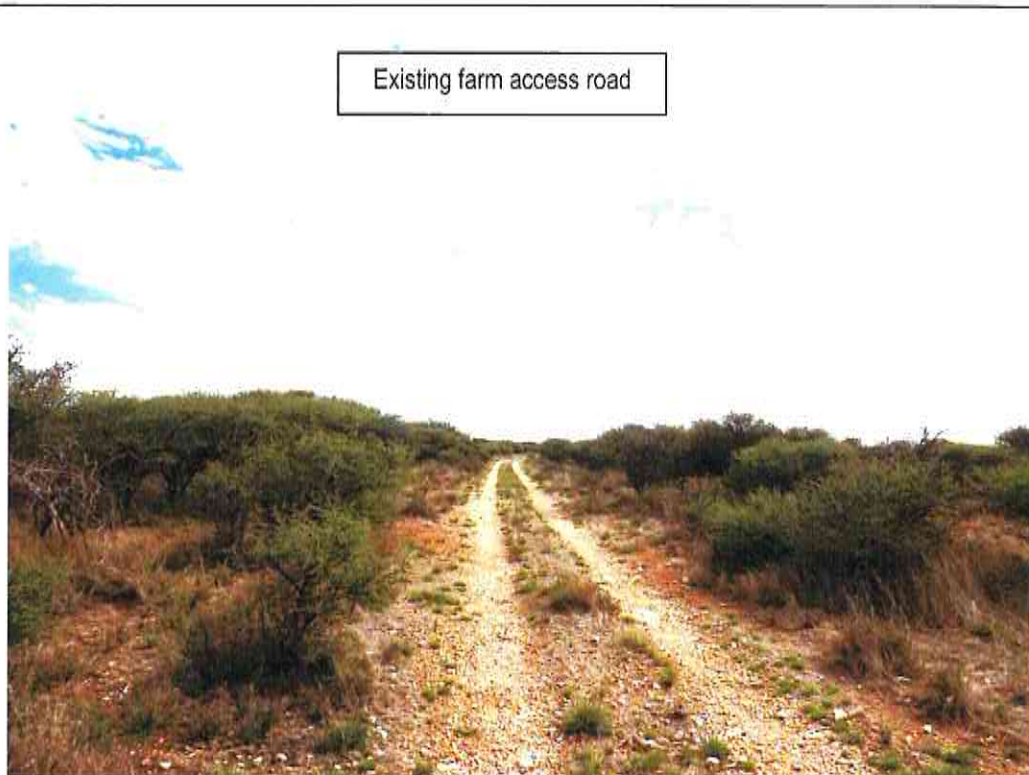


13



14

Existing farm access road



Conservation: Least threatened. Target 21%. None conserved in statutory conservation areas. About 4% has been cleared for cultivation (the highest proportion of any type in the Nama-Karoo) or irreversibly transformed by building of dams (Houwater, Kalkfontein and Smart Syndicate Dams). Areas of human settlements are increasing in the northeastern part of this vegetation type (Hoffman et al. 1999). Erosion is moderate (46.2%), very low (32%) and low (20%). ***Prosopis glandulosa*, regarded as one of the 12 agriculturally most important invasive alien plants in South Africa**, is widely distributed in this vegetation type (Hoffman et al. 1999). *Prosopis* occurs in generally isolated patches, with densities ranging from very scattered to medium (associated with the lower Vaal River drainage system and the confluence with the Orange River) to localised closed woodland on the western border of the unit with Bushmanland Basin Shrubland. **Remark** This Karoo unit is found on floristic and ecological gradients between the Nama-Karoo, arid Kalahari savanna and arid highveld grasslands. **References:** Acocks (1953, 1988), Werger (1980), Palmer (1990).

Screening of environmental sensitivity of the proposed site (See Appendix 3) for full report):

Furthermore according to the DEDACT's (Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism's) screening tool the footprint of this application area, although only **small scale prospecting (0.3 ha disturbance (0.04%) by pits and trenches in total out of an application area of 632.29 ha)**, are classified (by background reference to the whole farm) as per Table 5 below.

According to the **screening of environmental sensitivity of the proposed mine site (632.29 ha)** it is indicated that **Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme** was classified as being VERY HIGH sensitive. This prospecting site is only 632.29 ha (**0.3 ha disturbance by pits and trenches (0.04 %) out of a total of an application area of 632.29 ha** and should be regarded on basis of disturbance caused by the the prospecting activity to have a LOW impact. During the site investigation only wild animals (like Impala's) (introduced by the landowner) and cattle (Drakensberger's) were found on site.

Less than 1% of the biome is conserved in formal areas (Source: <http://pza.sanbi.org/vegetation/nama-karoo-biome>). The Prickly Pear *Opuntia aurantiaca* and Mesquite *Prosopis glandulosa* are the major **alien invader species**. Urbanization and agriculture are minimal, and irrigation is confined to the Orange River valley and some pans. **Most of the land is used for grazing, for commercial cattle and impala**, which can be commensurate with conservation. **However, under conditions of overgrazing, many indigenous species may proliferate**, including Threethorn: *Rhigozum trichotomum*, Bitterbos: *Chrysocoma ciliata* and Sweet Thorn: *Acacia karroo*, and many grasses and other palatable species may be lost. **There are very few rare or Red Data Book plant species in the Nama Karoo Biome**. Source: <http://pza.sanbi.org/vegetation/nama-karoo-biome>.

Palaeontology Theme was further classified as being HIGH sensitive. It is however not foreseen that there will be any such sites of the application area that the landowner may not be aware of that he would have come across item if there were any. **The prospecting project only focuses on (0.3 ha disturbance by pits and trenches (0.04%) in total out of an application area of 632.29 ha) should be of no real significance**. The prospecting manager will have to keep a look out for possible

sightings and report it as soon as possible.

According to the screening of *environmental sensitivity* of the proposed site it is indicated that ***Agricultural Theme*** was classified as being MEDIUM sensitivity. The prospecting site is only (0.3 ha disturbance by pits and trenches (0.04%) in total out of an application area of 632.29 ha. Rehabilitation of the site will return the site to some grazing capability for cattle. **The majority of the farm still continues with agricultural activity (grazing for cattle and Rooibokke) and is in no way hindered by the proposed activity and the environmental sensitivity for the (0.3 ha disturbance by pits and trenches (0.04%) in total out of an application area of 632.29 ha) should be low to be of no real significance.** According to the Comprehensive Atlas Ver. 2.1 of the NDA the grazing capacity for the area is 31-40ha/LSU. **Land capability is described as Non- Arable.** According to the Comprehensive Atlas Ver 2.1 of the NDA the entire application area should be regarded as degraded land.

According to the screening of environmental sensitivity of the proposed site it is indicated that **Civil Aviation Theme** was classified as being MEDIUM sensitivity. **Giving the distance from the activities in relation to the application area and that the fact that no blasting will be done the impact will be zero and the environmental sensitivity should actually be described as low**

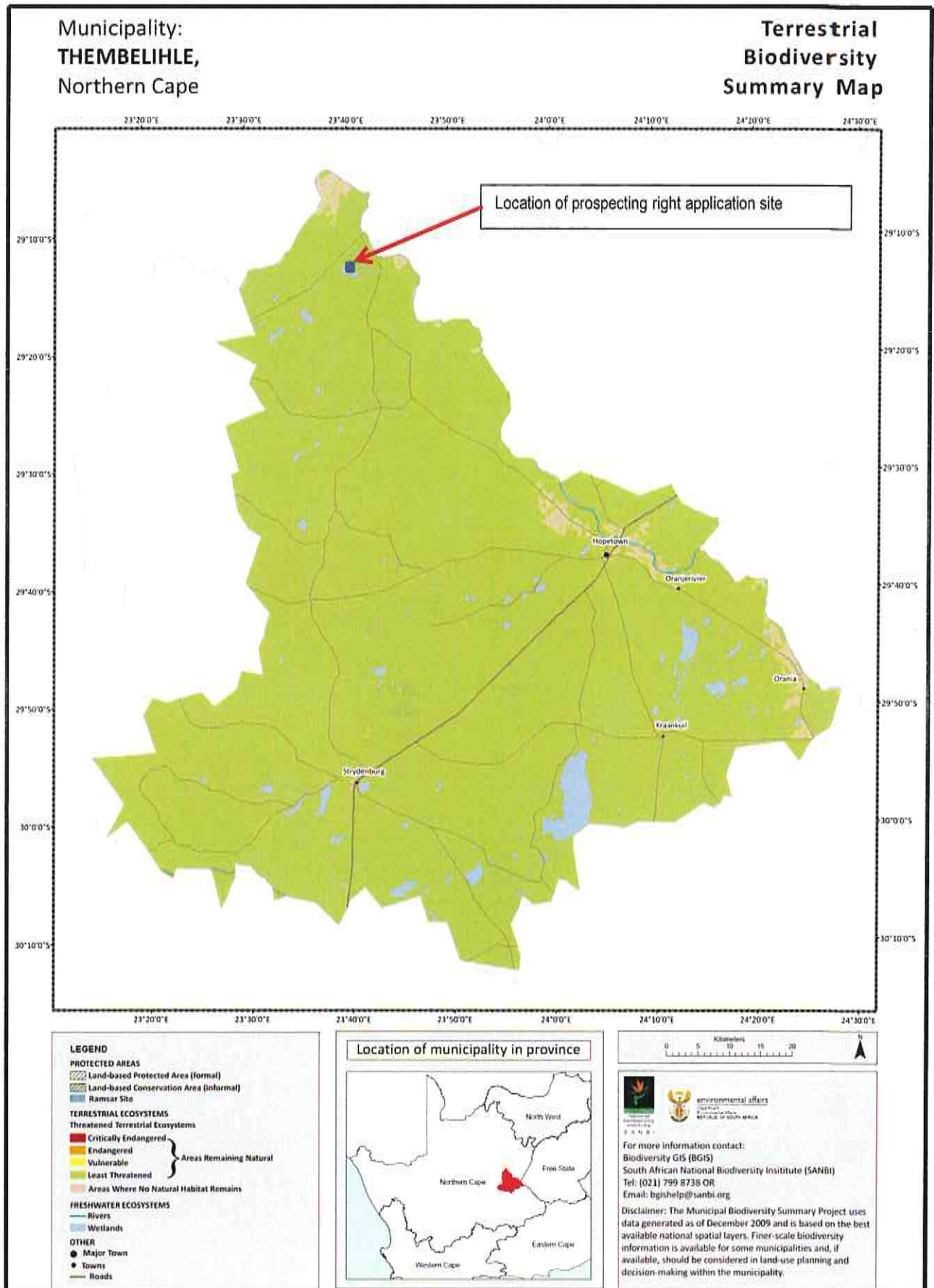
Table 5: DEDACT - Screening Report

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			X	
Animal Species Theme			X	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme				X
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme			X	
Palaeontology Theme		X		
Plant Species Theme				X
Defence Theme				X
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

According to the Biodiversity Summary - Thembelihle Municipality (Source: <https://bgis.sanbi.org/LUDS/Home/Municipality/211>) :

There are no Critically Endangered Threatened EcoSystems in the municipality.
There are no Endangered Threatened EcoSystems in the municipality.
There are no Vulnerable Threatened EcoSystems in the municipality.

See map below:



Climate:

Rainfall peaks in autumn (March). MAP ranges from about 190 mm in the west to 400 mm in the northeast. Mean maximum and minimum monthly temperatures for Britstown are 37.9°C and —3.6°C for January and July, respectively. Corresponding values are 37.1°C and —4.8°C for De Aar and 39.0°C and —2.3°C for Kareekloof (northwest of Strydenburg).

Geology: *Regional geology:* **Shales** of the Volksrust Formation and to a lesser extent the Prince Albert Formation (both of the Ecca Group) as well as Dwyka Group **diamictites** form the underlying geology. Jurassic Karoo Dolerite sills and sheets support this vegetation complex in places. Wide stretches of land are covered by superficial deposits including **calcretes** of the Kalahari Group.

The alluvial deposits of the Vaal River basin are almost exclusively preserved overlying lavas of the Ventersdorp Supergroup, where the Vaal, Orange, and Riet Rivers flow off the younger Karoo cover onto the basement. The deposits extend intermittently along the Vaal River from Windsorton in the north to Schmidtsdrift in the south. On the Orange River, they occur between Hopetown in the south and Douglas in the north, and continue intermittently for several tens of kilometres downstream of the Vaal-Orange confluence. A classic deposit is also developed on the Riet River on the farms Schutsekama 103 and Koppies Kraal 140. It is interesting to note that there is a downstream decrease in value per carat for each individual deposit. This reflects the decrease in average stone size, corresponding to the change from a proximal to distal facies in a braided river system. An example is the gravels at Waldeck's Plant (Pniel 281) that are the proximal equivalent to those on Longlands 350, Delpport's Hope 355 and Then 280 in a mid-river alluvial fan. Reliable production figures have never been compiled as these deposits were worked by thousands of individuals, over a very large area for over a century. **Source: Published on www.debeersgroup.com.**

This type of geology in the Hopetown district normally has good prospects for alluvial diamond bearing gravel. The geology over which the application area falls is made up of predominantly **T-Qc**: calcrete, which outcrops over most of the application area, with a small occurrence's of **Ra**: Basaltic lava, amygdaloidal in places; pyroclastic rocks over the far south-eastern part and the sporadic occurrence of **Cu**: Copper. The Ra outcrops fall under the **Allanridge Formatio** of the **Platberg Group** of the Ventersdorp Supergroup. The T-Qc fall under the **Kalahari Group**.

ANNEXURE 4 – EXTRACTION OF GEOLOGICAL MAP

Soil: Soils are variable from shallow to deep, red-yellow, apedal, freely drained soils to very shallow Couga and Mispah forms. Mainly Ae, Ag and Fc land types.



Animal Life [Fauna]: Not many species were directly observed but the presence of nesting sites in the area is an indication that this area is an acceptable habitat for shelter and food for avian species. The natural animal life occurring over the application area includes (according to Virtual Museum for African Mammals), but is not restricted to and as confirmed by the land owner, big animals like Impala's (introduced by landowner), small animals common in this area include: Steenbok, Bat-eared Fox, Scrub Hare.

MammalMAP – Virtual Museum of African Mammals

9 species found for locus = 2923BC
Date filter: none

#	Species code	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Red list category	Number of QDSs	Number of records	Last recorded
1	213320	Bovidae	Raphicerus campestris	Steenbok	Least Concern (2016)	1	1	2013-07-07
2	198600	Canidae	Canis mesomelas	Black-backed Jackal	Least Concern (2016)	1	33	1957-03-29
3	199080	Canidae	Otocyon megalotis	Bat-eared Fox	Least Concern (2016)	1	18	2014-05-27
4	114040	Cercopithecidae	Papio ursinus	Chacma Baboon	Least Concern (2016)	1	19	1955-03-18
5	191660	Felidae	Caracal caracal	Caracal	Least Concern (2016)	1	16	1957-03-29
6	192070	Felidae	Felis silvestris	Wildcat	Least Concern (2016)	1	22	1957-03-29
7	158240	Leporidae	Lepus saxatilis	Scrub Hare	Least Concern	1	3	2014-05-27
8	107300	Procaviidae	Procavia capensis	Cape Rock Hyrax	Least Concern (2016)	1	8	1957-03-29
9	195300	Viverridae	Genetta tigrina	Cape Genet (Cape Large-spotted Genet)	Least Concern (2016)	1	3	

Total

BirdPix — Bird Pictures Archive

1 species found for locus = 2923BC
Date filter: none

#	Species code	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Red list category	Number of QDSs	Number of records	Last recorded
1	460	Alaudidae	Calendulauda sabota	Sabota Lark		1	1	2021-10-19
Total						1	1	2021-10-19* 2021-10-19**

Citation: FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (2022). BirdPix Virtual Museum. Accessed at <https://vmus.adu.org.za/?vm=BirdPix> on 2022-12-07

Farming focuses on cattle production that feeds on the leaves of *Acacia mellifera* (Swarthaak) and grasses.



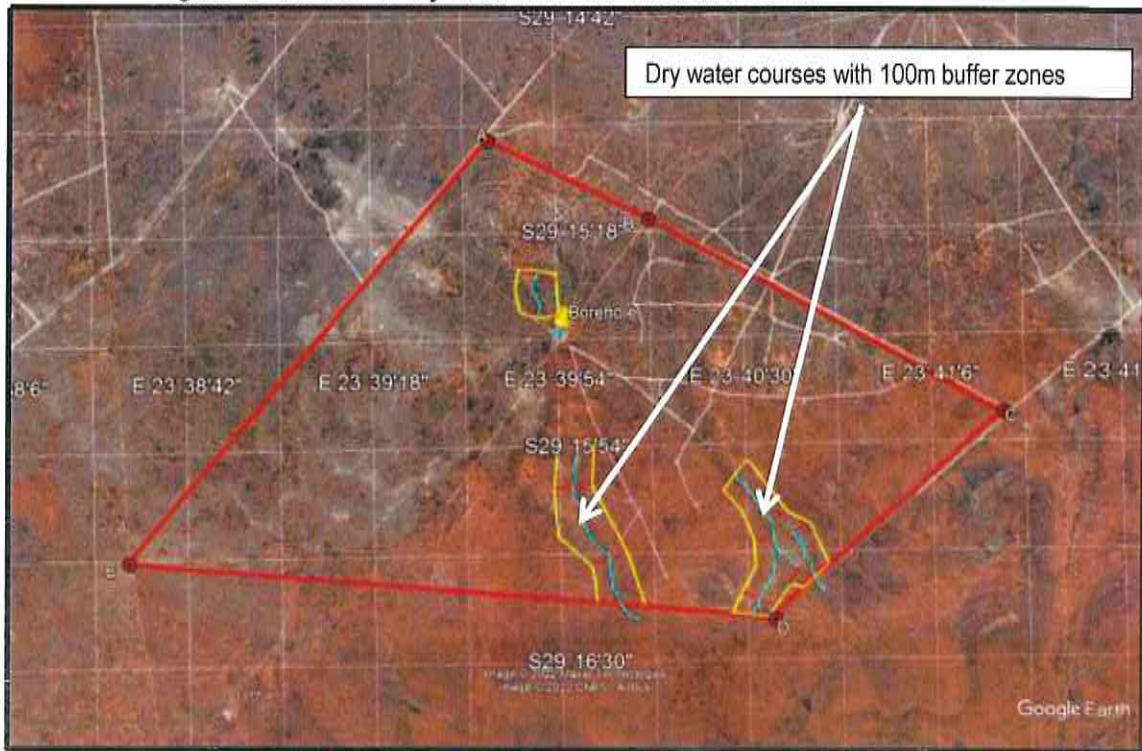
Topography: The site has one terrain type, which is characterized as **slightly irregular undulating lowland** (Topographical Map of S.A. 1983), covered with mainly *Acacia mellifera* (Swarthaak) and grasses. The slope varies around 0.4 (mainly average) to 4.9 % (low hill) that can be described gentle inclined. **The average elevation is between 1030- 1048 m meters above sea level (masl)** over most of the prospecting area. The area is characterized by predominantly one-terrain unit that form part of the natural topography of the area. Most of the application area is partially under natural vegetation, with evidence of disturbance and eroded natural areas with little grass coverage.



Surface Water: This application area fall within the water management area of the Lower Orange (14) and secondary catchment area D33 and tertiary drainage region D33K (45 km²). There are intermittent dry water courses located on the application area (See figure below with 100m buffer zones (restriction of prospecting activities). Drainage density can be described as low to medium of 0-2 km/km². It however seems that these water bodies only seem to carry water during peak rainfall seasons. Only 0.3 ha is going to be influence by prospecting activities which is 0.04 % of the total of 632.29 ha application area. This is very low impact compare to the 45 km² drainage catchment in total.

See Figure 8 below for location of dry water courses and buffer zones

Figure 8: Location of dry water courses and buffer zones



Ground Water: There is a borehole on the application area used for stock watering by the landowner. The applicant indicated that he is going to a **dry prospecting method**, therefore only **potable water** is required intends to use water from the current borehole.

There is also boreholes (1) with associated a cement dam/reservoirs used for cattle and Impala's (Rooibokke) watering. River diversion is not applicable as all mining activities will be kept 100 meter horizontally away from any water body (dry water courses).



S 29° 15' 35, 04"

E 23° 39' 54, 08"

Air Quality: The impact on air quality will only start with the prospecting where dust from excavating and from the roads will occur. This impact will be low and will be monitored and mitigated through wetting of the roads.

Noise: The impact of noise will only start with phase 2 test pits but these will be isolated and very far apart. During phase 3 when bulk sample commences the noise from the mining equipment will be generated more continuously. This operation will only be in day time working hours and will have a low impact on current surroundings.

Sites of Archaeological and Cultural Interest: No graveyard where observed, but this needs to be confirmed with the landowner.

According to NEMA's Screening Tool/Report the Environmental Sensitivity is low. There is no need for a further study to be done by an archaeologist.

According to Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority—

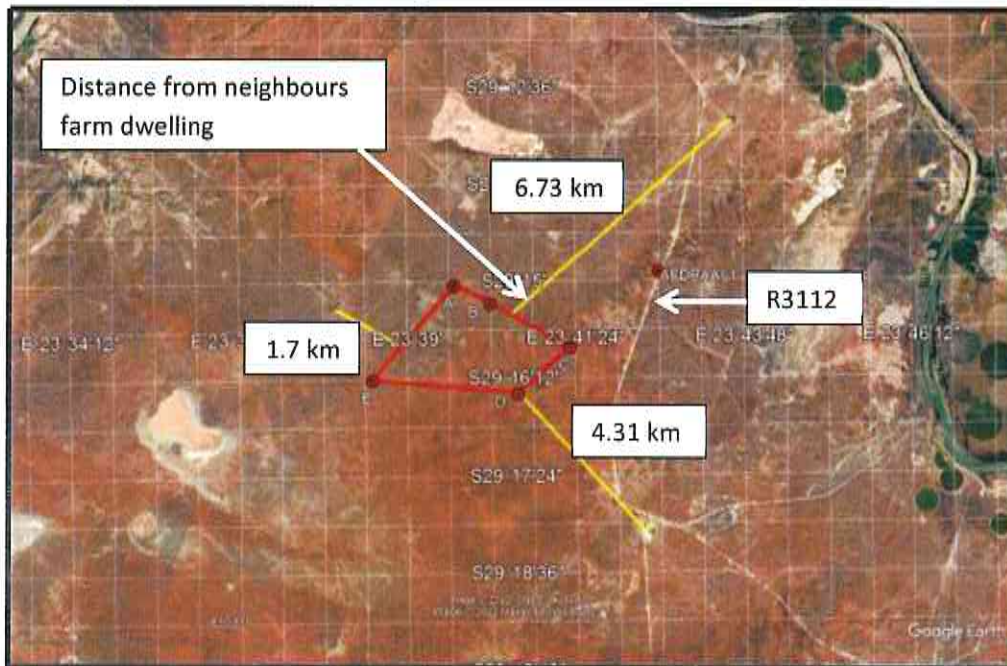
- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

It is recommended that any graveyard (if found during the operations) is included in the overall management plan of the mine development. Preservation of the site will require that the area is properly demarcated with at least a 20m buffer zone placed around the graveyard in order to avoid potential damage during prospecting activities. It will be necessary to ensure that the graveyard is accessible to the relatives of the deceased. There are no major archaeological grounds to halt the proposed development. However, the potential occurrence of unmarked graves or subsurface finds not recorded during this survey can never be excluded, so it is advised that SAHRA and a qualified archaeologist are informed immediately if archaeological objects are uncovered.

Sensitive Landscapes: The potential sensitive landscapes are a smaller intermittent dry stream courses on the application area. These look to be dry runs, which probably only carry water during peak rainfall seasons. Drainage density can be described as low to medium of 0-2 km/km². Only 0.3 ha is going to be influenced by prospecting activities which is 0.04 % of the total of 632.29 ha application area. This is very low impact compared to the 45 km² drainage catchment in total. It is however recommended that all prospecting activities be kept 100 meters horizontally away from this course. Because if disturbed and the area does get a heavy rainfall event it can cause erosion and if the water is not contained in the natural watercourse it may cause damages to other landscape features.

Visual Aspects: These prospecting activities will only be visible to the landowner and neighbours and probable the people travelling the R3112 (tar road). See Figure 9 below.

Figure 9: Distance from neighbours



Social: The proposed activity will employ 8 people (prospecting project manager included). Various social amenities are available close to the operation. These include schools, hospitals churches, recreation facilities as well as a Police Station at Douglas, which is located approximate 26 km north of the operation.

(b) Description of the current land uses.
The current land use is grazing over natural vegetation.

(c) Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site.
There is not a lot of infrastructure over the application area, only fence lines, farm roads, 1 boreholes with cement dam (reservoir).

There are further no structures of infrastructure over this property. See Appendix 1(b) for an indication of the proposed main listed activities and existing/proposed infrastructure and Figure 6 – Google Earth Images for more detail of what the site looks like pre-prospecting. Access to the application area is gained via existing R357 and R 3112 tar roads south of Douglas.

(d) Environmental and current land use map.

Current land use on the application area is grazing by cattle and Impala's (Rooibokke) over natural veld. This is privately owned land (Mr. L.J. du Raan). See **Appendix 1(C)** for more detail.

v) Impacts and risks identified

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)[(h)] (g)(v)

The proposed project is anticipated to impact on a range of biophysical and socio-economic aspects of the environment. The main purpose of the Scoping Report is to identify and evaluate the significance of these potential impacts and determine how they can be minimized or mitigated.

It should be noted that a comprehensive Environmental Management Program (EMPr) will be developed and implemented to regulate and minimize the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts during the construction and operational phases. The potential environmental impacts identified during the Scoping Phase, which will be investigated further in the Impact Assessment Phase of the project are summarized in **Table 6** on the next page.

Table 6: Impact significance identification matrix for – Probeerfontein 292

PHASE	Activity, Product or Service	Impact significance identification matrix																
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N			
	Components	ABIOTIC						BIOTIC			VISUA		SOCIO-ECONOMIC					
		Geology	Topography	Soil	Land capability	Land use potential	Surface water	Ground water	Air quality	Noise	Vegetation	Wildlife	Sensitive landscapes	Visual impact	Archaeological & cultural sites	Socio-economic impacts	Affected parties	
1	Demarcation of mine focus area			L	M	L												
2	Establishment (site preparation, vegetation clearance, topsoil removal and stockpiling) of proper access roads (upgrade existing road), site workshop & storage area (temporary containers), mineral processing plant conveyor, mobile screen and 1 x 15 feet washing pans, generator, etc.) initial vegetation clearance, topsoil removal & stockpiling next to first open cast (within the mine focus area).		M	H	H					H	H	L	L		L		M	
3	Establishment of bundled coal and chemical storage facilities, chemical soles.		M	M	H										L			
4	Provision of storage tanks for potable (drinking water) and process water (dust suppression)		H	H	H										L			
5	Provision of waste handling facilities (domestic & industrial waste bins)			L														
6	Fencing-off active prospecting site as required in terms of the MHSA. Ensure access control (gate), etc.				M										L		H+	
7	Vegetation clearance, layout removal & stockpiling next to open cast (within the mine focus area (0.2 ha of surface area disturbed at any given time).		M	H	H	M									L		M	H

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PHASE	A	B	C	D	E	ABIOTIC					BIOTIC			K	L	M	N
						Geology	Topography	Soil	Land capability	Land use potential	Surface water	Ground water	Air quality				
8	H	H+	H	H	H	L	M	L	L	L	H	L			M		H
9			H	H		L	H	L	L	H					M		H
10	M	H	H	H	H	H	M	L	L						M		H
11	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	L	L	L				L	H+		H±
12		H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	L	L						H+		H+
13			H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	L	H+			H+	H+	H+	H+
14			H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+			H+	H+	H+	H+
15			H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	L	H+			H+	H+	H+	H+

Decommissioning and closure

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PHASE	A	B	C	D	E	F	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Components	Geology	Topography	Soil	Land capability	Land use potential	Surface water	Ground water	Air quality	Noise	Vegetation	Wildlife	Sensitive landscapes	Visual impact	Archaeological & cultural sites	Socio-economic impacts	Affected parties
Activity, Product or Service																
16	Rehabilitation of all access roads, compacted areas, etc.			H+	H+	H+	H+	H+	L	H+	H+		H+		H+	H+

vi) **Methodology used in determining the significance of environmental impacts**

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(h)] (g)(vi)

I. **Introduction:**

Table 7 describes and evaluates the effects of the different prospecting projects and the associated activities on the natural and social environments. The different environmental components, on which the project (can/may) have an impact, are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Geology | |
| 2. Topography | |
| 3. Soil | |
| 4. Land Capability | |
| 5. Land Use | |
| 6. Vegetation | |
| 7. Wildlife | |
| 8. Surface Water | |
| 9. Ground Water | |
| | 10. Air Quality |
| | 11. Noise |
| | 12. Archaeological and Cultural sites |
| | 13. Sensitive Landscapes |
| | 14. Visual Aspects |
| | 15. Socio-economic Structure |
| | 16. Interested and Affected Parties |

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Before the impact assessment could be done the different project activities were identified:

ACTIVITIES:

3. Access Roads (Existing farm roads to be upgraded)
4. Temporary office, workshops, ablution facility, water tanks, diesel tanks and other temporary buildings
5. Prospecting equipment (conveyor, drum screen, washing pans, generator)
6. Stockpiles
7. Overburden dumps
8. Opencast pits & trenches (as part of bulk sampling)
9. Tailings dam (porrel dam)

II. **Environmental Impact Assessment Summary:**

- **Environment likely to be affected by the prospecting operation. (See Appendix 1(b) for location)**

Environmental aspect	Affected		Not affected
	Negligible	Substantial	
1. GEOLOGY		X	
2. TOPOGRAPHY	X		
3. SOIL		X	
4. LAND CAPABILITY		X	
5. LAND USE	X		
6. VEGETATION		X	
7. WILDLIFE	X		
8. SURFACE WATER			X
9. GROUND WATER	X		
10. AIR QUALITY	X		
11. NOISE	X		
12. SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES			X
13. VISUAL ASPECTS	X		
14. SOCIO ECONOMICS	X		
15. INTERESTED & AFFECTED	X		
16. ARCHAEOLOGICAL			X

- **Environment likely to be affected by the alternative land use**
Prospecting will be a new land use over this area. The site that is earmarked for prospecting represents \pm 0.3 % of the total area applied for. And it is further not foreseen that prospecting activities would disturbed an area of not more than 0.3 ha (total for 150 pits & 2 trenches) at any given time. The rest of the terrain would continue to be used for agriculture purposes by the landowner.
- **Assessment of the impacts created by the prospecting activity**
Before any assessment can be made the following evaluation criteria need to be described:

Explanation of probability of impact occurrence

Probability of	Explanation of probability
Very low	<20% sure of particular fact or likelihood of impact occurring.
Low	20 to 39% sure of particular fact or likelihood of impact occurring.
Moderate	40 to 59% sure of particular fact or likelihood of impact occurring.
High	60 to 79% sure of particular fact or likelihood of impact occurring.
Very high	80 to 99% sure of particular fact or likelihood of impact occurring.
Definite	100% sure of particular fact or likelihood of impact occurring.

Explanation of extent of impact

Extend of	Explanation of extend
Site specific	Direct and indirect impacts limited to site of impact only.
Local	Direct and indirect impacts affecting environmental elements within the Hopetown area.
Regional	Direct and indirect impacts affecting environmental elements within Northern Cape Province.
National	Direct and indirect impacts affecting environmental elements on a national level.
Global	Direct and indirect impacts affecting environmental elements on a global level.

Explanation of duration of impact

Duration of	Explanation of duration
Very short	Less than 1 year
Short	1 to 5 years
Medium	6 to 12 years
Long	13 to 50 years
Very long	Longer than 50 years
Permanent	Permanent

Explanation of impact significance

Impact significance	Explanation of significance
No impact	There would be no impact at all - not even a very low impact on the system or any of its parts.
Very low	Impact would be negligible. In the case of negative impacts, almost no mitigation and/or remedial activity would be needed, and any minor steps, which might be needed, would be easy, cheap and simple. In the case of positive impacts, alternative means would almost all likely to be better, in one or a number of ways, than this means of achieving the benefit.
Low	Impact would be of a low order and with little real effect. In the case of negative impacts, mitigation and/or remedial activity would be either easily achieved or little would be required, or both. In case of positive impacts, alternative means for achieving this benefit would likely be easier, cheaper, more effective, less time-consuming, or some combination of these.
Moderate significance	Impact would be real but not substantial within the bounds of those which could occur. In the case of negative impacts, mitigation and/or remedial activity would be both feasible and fairly easily possible. In the case of positive impacts, other means of achieving these benefits would be about equal in time, cost and effort.
High significance	Impacts of a substantial order. In the case of negative impacts, mitigation and/or remedial activity would be feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these. In the case of positive impacts, other means of achieving this benefit would be feasible, but these would be more difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.

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Very high significance	Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of negative impacts, there would be no possible mitigation and/or remedial activity to offset the impact at the spatial or time scale for which it was predicted. In the case of positive impacts, there is no real alternative to achieving the benefit.
------------------------	---

III. Assessment of the nature, extent, duration, probability and significance of the potential environmental, social and cultural impacts of the proposed prospecting operation, including the cumulative environmental impacts

Table 7: Description and evaluation the effects of the different prospecting projects and the associated activities on the natural and social environments

ASPECT	IMPACTS	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS			
1. GEOLOGY					
Nature of the impact	The geology will be destroyed during the opencast prospecting operation. During operation which will be for the next 5 years, the mineral resource (Stone Aggregate; Gravel) will be extracted. Waste rock material/overburden material is disposed off/backfilled in existing excavations as part of the prospecting process.				
Extent	Site	Activity causing the impact			
Duration	Permanent	An opencast prospecting method will be used to extract bulk samples. Therefore the original geology will be totally destroyed.			
Probability	Definite				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1		Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure
			X		X

ASPECT	IMPACTS	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS			
2. TOPOGRAPHY					
Nature of the impact	* Change in landform : * The prospecting site is situated on: level plains with some relief. * Disturbance of the surface drainage: The prospecting of the (Stone Aggregate; Gravel) deposits will result in the creation of trenches (20 m x 60 m x ±6 m or less), that act as depressions in the environment that captures run-off. Prospecting activities will be concentrated on the application area mostly over already disturbed areas (approximately 6 m depth). The surface drainage is already disturbed. Normal surface drainage will be disturbed at a given point. Run-off if any will be diverted away from the specific site.				
Extent	Site	Activity causing the impact			
Duration	Very long to Permanent	Bulk sampling trough trenches, etc.			
Probability	Definite				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1		Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure
			X		X

ASPECT	IMPACTS	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS			
3. SOIL					
Nature of the impact	The surface area is characterized by various soil depths. Any construction of infrastructure should be preceded by the removal of all available topsoil.				
Extent	Site	Activity causing the impact			
Duration	Long	in the process of removing topsoil the soil layers are mixed and the structure may be disturbed.			
Probability	High				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1		Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure
			X		X

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3. SOIL		IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
Nature of the impact	The establishment, construction, operation and eventually rehabilitation (demolition) of listed structures such as the access roads, stockpiles /tailings dumps, cause compaction of soil. Some areas already disturbed thus no topsoil. All prospecting activities will be concentrated on the identified prospecting focus area where (Stone Aggregate; Gravel) deposits could be found. In the same time a certain surface area is therefore alienated. The active prospecting surface area (alienated) would be restricted within the (± 0.03 ha for pits & 0.3 ha for trenches) at any given time (in relation to area of application of the prospecting right of 632.29 hectares) for the next 5 years.					
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact	
Duration	Long				Site preparation for additional prospecting sites and the construction, operation of listed infrastructure.	
Probability	High					
Significance	Moderate					
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure		
		X	X	X		

ASPECT		IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
3. SOIL						
Nature of the impact	Soil erosion: Due to the fact that certain surface areas would become compacted and this would lead to lesser infiltration of rainwater and more run-off that could cause erosion on bare disturbed surfaces. Erosion would always be possible until such time a vegetation cover is provided during rehabilitation phase.					
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact	
Duration	Very short				When removing topsoil during site preparation, little storm water control structures are in place. If a severe storm hits the area, it may lead to erosion on site. Topsoil stockpiles may be prone to erosion due to lack of vegetation cover. Water control structures may fail or severe rainstorms may cause excessive run-off. Surface compaction due to activities taking place.	
Probability	Very low					
Significance	Low					
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure		
		X	X	X		

ASPECT		IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
3. SOIL						
Nature of the impact	Potential of soil contamination.				None.	
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact	
Duration	Long				Vehicle/equipment breakages and oil/lubricant /diesel spills may contaminate soil.	
Probability	Moderate					
Significance	Moderate					
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure		
		X	X	X		

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ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
3. SOIL					
Nature of the impact	Loss of soil structure				None
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				In the process of removing topsoil the soil layers are mixed and the structure may be disturbed.
Probability	High				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
3.SOIL					
Nature of the impact	Loss of soil fertility				None
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Short				The mixing of soil during site preparation, compaction and potential pollution (spillages form oil etc.) all may cause this situation.
Probability	Definite				
Significance	Low				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
4.LAND					
Nature of the impact	<p>Temporary loss of land capability to support grazing. The small area (\pm 0.03 ha for pits & 0.3 ha for trenches) where the active prospecting activities occur (pits, trenches, tailings dumps, stock piles, prospecting equipment) etc. will thus be temporary alienated, until the area is rehabilitated.</p> <p>All trenches would be rehabilitated as part of the prospecting process during which trenches are back-filled.</p> <p>If the old areas be re-worked this will make more land available for grazing. The rest of the application area will still be used by the landowner as agricultural land.</p>				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Site preparation for additional prospecting sites and the construction, operation of listed infrastructure, the land capability of the active prospecting area will be totally destroyed.
Probability	Definite				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
5. LAND USE					
Nature of the impact	<p>This is a new prospecting operation and therefore will lose its land use to support grazing on a certain portion of the 632.29 hectares during the next 5 years. If the old areas be re-worked this will make more land available for grazing. Only a small portions of land (0.33 ha at a time) would be affected by the prospecting operation relation to the total prospecting right application area of 632.29 hectares. All trenches would be rehabilitated as part of the prospecting process during which excavations are back-filled.</p>				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long to permanent				Site preparation for prospecting and the construction, operation of listed infrastructure
Probability	Definite				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

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ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
6.VEGETATION					
Nature of the impact	Vegetation clearance, disturbance and trampling. Destruction of habitats for vegetation. Due to a disturbed ecosystem, bare ground and spreading of exotics can follow.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				The site preparation for new sites, construction of listed infrastructure will cause destruction of habitats for vegetation. Due to a disturbed ecosystem, bare ground and invasion of exotics could further spread.
Probability	Definite				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
6.VEGETATION					
Nature of the impact	Habitat change, loss of species, spread of alien and invasive species.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Permanent				The change in the current habitat will be mitigated during final rehabilitation.
Probability	High				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
6.VEGETATION					
Nature of the impact	Dust coverage of plants.				None
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Heavy trucks and other vehicles on dirt roads, stockpiling, dumping of tailings are mainly responsible for this impact.
Probability	High				
Significance	Low				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
7. WILDLIFE					
Nature of the impact	Wildlife or wildlife habitat destruction /change / disturbance.				None
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Permanent				The flora which normally serves as habitat for animals would be destroyed during site preparation. The increase in activity will temporarily scare other animals. The area will serve as a new habitat after rehabilitation.
Probability	Very High				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
7. WILDLIFE					
Nature of the impact	Injury and death to wildlife.				None
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Short				The movement of vehicles may kill certain insects, rodents and possible birds. Most of the remaining animal life will however move away due to noise.
Probability	Very low				
Significance	Low				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

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ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
7. WILDLIFE					
Nature of the impact	Restoration of habitat.				None
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Short				As rehabilitation progresses the habitat of certain species will be restored/created (Closure objective) Animals will probably only move back when human movement is limited.
Probability	Low				
Significance	Low				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
8. SURFACE WATER					
Nature of the impact	Increased silt load. Clearing topsoil for footprint areas can increase infiltration rates of water to the groundwater system and decrease buffering capacity of soils to absorb contaminants from spills on surface. This can increase the risk of contamination of the groundwater system (increases aquifer vulnerability.				
Extent	Local				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Short				The clearance of vegetation and the traffic on access roads will all contribute to an increase in the silt load on the prospecting area.
Probability	Moderate				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
8. SURFACE WATER					
Nature of the impact	Change in surface water quality. Spillages from vehicles and also surface water run-off that is not adequately diverted away from the active prospecting excavations could end-up in the excavations creating problems regarding water quality and hindering the prospecting process. Surface run-off from active prospecting sites (overburden dumps & tailings dam/dump) if not adequately contained on site could end-up in the adjacent undisturbed natural veld. If the natural surface run-off is not adequately diverted in the case of the dry-water course area, prospecting sections it could become silted-up.				
Extent	Local				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Short				"Dirty / Clean" water systems at facilities like the overburden dumps, roads, trenches, etc. may impact on the quality of the surface water. The water should be contained in the surface runoff control measures provided therefore.
Probability	Moderate				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

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ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
8. SURFACE WATER					
Nature of the impact	Change in surface water quantity: Water management area (14) : Lower Orange The mine falls under the primary drainage region D33 and in quaternary sub-catchment D33K. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned facts, it is not expected that prospecting operations will have any effect on the boundaries or the general water flow of the catchment. There are non-perennial streams (dry water courses) running through the application area. Standing water in trenches could as the result of rain/ surface run-off ending up in shallow depressions. See Appendix 1C - Map 1C which give the location of the dry water courses with 100m buffer zones that acts as restricted zones for any prospecting activity.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				It is an operational objective to contain or divert all surface run-offs from the active prospecting trenches area mainly due to pollution (sediment) potential. This will reduce the run-off quantity, although small in comparison with the drainage area in total.
Probability	High				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X		

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
9. GROUND WATER					
Nature of the impact	Reduction of groundwater quality Prospecting activities are not likely to impact on local ground-water quality. No chemicals are used during the prospecting process. Handling of waste and transport of building material can cause various types of spills (domestic waste, pit latrines, hydrocarbons) which can infiltrate and contaminate of the groundwater system.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				
Probability	Definite				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

9. GROUND WATER					
Nature of the impact	Even though abstraction is likely to have a minimal effect on the surrounding groundwater users, this is a new use, and groundwater levels are expected to continue current trends. Groundwater will be abstracted for processing and potable water only. The volume of water needed (10000 l/day) is small in comparison to other water use and will have a small impact on the surrounding aquifer.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Opencast prospecting operation.
Probability	Low				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

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ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
10. AIR QUALITY					
Nature of the impact	Dust will be generated during the prospecting operation (loading with an excavator on to a dump truck) and transportation to the plant (conveyor, drum screen & washing pans) and on gravel/dirt/farm roads. The processing of the gravel is a dry process and therefore minimum dust is generated.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Initial construction work with regard to infrastructure (roads) that involves earth moving equipment. During the phase 2 & 3, dust could be generated as indicated during prospecting.
Probability	Moderate				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
11. NOISE					
Nature of the impact	Noise will be generated during the prospecting operation (loading with an excavator on to a dump truck) and transportation to the plant (conveyor, drum screen & washing pans). The mine itself is located in rural landscape. The impact would be of more importance regarding the direct worker environment that should adhere to the requirements in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act.				
Extent	Local				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Earth moving equipment and vehicles (trucks).
Probability	Definite				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
12. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SITES					
Nature of the impact	The terrain is not archaeologically vulnerable. It is unlikely that the proposed development will result in any significant archaeological impact at the site. No graves were identified on site.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Permanent				
Probability	Definite				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X			

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
13. SENSITIVE					
Nature of the impact	No sensitive landscapes identified.				
Extent	Not applicable				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Not applicable				
Probability	Not applicable				
Significance	Not applicable				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	

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ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
14. VISUAL ASPECTS					
Nature of the impact	Prospecting will be visible to the neighbours living there. And probable the people traveling on the R 3112 (tarr road). The natural vegetation cover will also help to act as a visual screen.				
Extent	Site				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Diamond prospecting operation.
Probability	Definite				
Significance	Low				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
15. SOCIO					
Nature of the impact	Increase in Socio – economic activity at local level. The project in itself would ensure that approximately 8 workers would be assured of a job for some time. Job creation plays a major role in increasing the economic wellbeing of employees and their dependants in the Hopetown district. Once all prospecting operations have ceased it would definitely have a negative impact.				The increase in socio-economic activity will add to the current growth and development in Hay already created by industry and prospecting.
Extent	Local				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				Additional employment opportunities created.
Probability	Definite				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
15. SOCIO					
Nature of the impact	The main impact on the landowners is visual impact and the small area of 0.33 ha that will not be available for agricultural activities (grazing by cattle or Impala's) at any given time for 5 years.				The economic benefits in terms of investment and the delivery of services in the Northern Cape province will get an additional benefit from the project.
Extent	Regional				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Very Long				
Probability	High				
Significance	Moderate				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

ASPECT	IMPACTS				CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
16. INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES					
Nature of the impact	Impact of activities on I&AP's Temporary loss of utilization of the prospecting focus areas for agricultural purposes (grazing for Cattle and Impala's (Rooibokke)) The long-term benefits far out-weight the current benefits from the current use. No negative impact is expected that could be appropriately mitigated, such as the eventual rehabilitation of the excavations.				
Extent	Local				Activity causing the impact
Duration	Long				
Probability	High				
Significance	High				
Phase responsible for the impact	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Closure	
		X	X	X	

vii) The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity (in terms of the initial site layout) and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected.

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(h) (g)(vii)

In terms of the EIA regulations, consideration must be given to alternatives. Alternatives are different approaches and ways of meeting the need, purpose and objectives of a proposed activity. Alternatives may include a location site alternative, activity alternatives, processes or technology alternatives, temporal alternatives etc. the no-go alternative or option is also considered, as it provides the baseline against which the impacts or other alternatives may be compared.

However, for this specific project, no alternatives have been investigated, with the exception of the no-go alternative. The reason for this being that the prospecting right is being applied for the sole purpose of prospecting (Stone Aggregate; Gravel). The no-go option entails the continuation of the current land use (grazing) on the study site. The project will contribute towards providing continued jobs for current staff. Should the proposed project therefore not be authorized to proceed, it is anticipated that current employment opportunities will be terminated once the mineral reserves have been depleted.

The no-go option is therefore not a feasible option in this case, as it suggests that the mineral reserves should not be exploited and current employment opportunities should not materialize or be prolonged.

viii) The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)[(h)] (g)(viii)

There were no issues raised by any interested or affected parties or any one that was consulted. Up till now no comments were received from the State Departments, if comments still be received it will be addressed in the EIA.

The mitigation measures and technical management action plans which address potential impacts are discussed below.

Environmental Component	Geology
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mitigation exists except to backfill the excavations with the rock waste material and fine tailings. • As prospecting progressed and the excavation has been back-filled, a certain amount of overburden material and topsoil would be placed on these areas. This will not restore the geology, but will mitigate the impact. • Planned, systematic and thorough prospecting of the mineral resource (Stone Aggregate; Gravel) should take place. • Optimal utilization of the mineral resource should take place within the boundaries of the prospecting terrain. • Strip, remove and store soil and overburden as far as practical in an orderly fashion and replace as far as possible on back-filled areas, in the reverse order once decision have been taken that no further prospecting would take place in a particular section or which might still be traversed by vehicles and disturbed in the process. Cognisance should be taken of the fact that bulk sampling would take place by means of an opencast prospecting method until such level is reach / cut-off point is reach where rehabilitation could begin. • Care must be taken that the removal of (Stone Aggregate; Gravel) deposits by means of earthmoving equipment is restricted to what is really necessary to achieve the objective. 	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Optimal exploration of the mineral resource in order to ensure to facilitate better rehabilitation planning. The overburden and topsoil (where available) must be replaced in a responsible and planned manner in order to achieve some conformity with the surrounding undisturbed area.	

Environmental Component	Topography
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All trenches should be back-filled with waste tailings material and eventually overburden material, covered with a shallow layer of topsoil (if available). • Access to all active bulk sampling excavation areas should be controlled. The active bulk sampling area should be fenced off. The necessary warning signs should be put in place. All prospecting activities should be restricted to the fenced-off area. • Surface run-off control should be put in place at active trenches (preventing water from entering) and also rehabilitated tailings dumps and overburden dumps in order to prevent the loss of growth medium on top of the dumps. <p>Prospecting would be done according to a definite PWP (only disturbing an area that is really necessary). As part of the PWP the handling of tailings material, overburden material, construction of dumps and back-filling of trenches should also form part of it.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of the new topographical landscape in such a way that it would blend in with the surrounding landscape and allow normal surface drainage to continue. As soon as a section of the prospecting site would not be explored anymore it should be rehabilitated (planned and phased manner).</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Rehabilitation of the new and old disturbances topographical landscape in such a way that it would blend in with the surrounding landscape and allow normal surface drainage to continue. Rehabilitation in such a way that the new landscape features would be stable and would not pose any safety hazard to human and animal anymore.	

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Environmental Component	Soil (topsoil & access roads)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Handling of topsoil as a natural resource: Any future expansion of the trenches or construction of infrastructure should be preceded by the removal of <u>all available topsoil</u>. The surface of any new areas to be disturbed must be kept to a minimum. <u>All available topsoil/overburden material should be removed and stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes.</u></p> <p>Access roads, etc.: The clearing of soil surface areas would be restricted to what is really necessary for the construction of infrastructure. Wherever possible all topsoil should be removed and stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes. Overburden material should also be stockpiled separately if practically possible. Topsoil and overburden material should be transported to an area earmarked for rehabilitation.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The topsoil removed in the site preparation process should be replaced during the rehabilitation exercise.	

Environmental Component	Soil (soil compaction)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Soil compaction: The prospecting operation should only be restricted to what is really required (demarcated area of exploitation) within the fenced-off area. Access roads towards the sites would be restricted only to the roads (existing farm roads & roads established in consultation with the surface owner). No land would be disturbed unnecessarily. Prospecting & rehabilitation should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required. Compaction of soil surface areas would be alleviated once rehabilitation of certain area starts. Certain roads would probably remain for access (in consultation with the surface owner). Those that would not be required would be ripped and rehabilitated.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Alleviation of compaction of soils would be done during rehabilitation of the prospecting terrain, including roads.	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil erosion)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Soil Erosion: To take preventive steps against land disturbance like erosion. Implement and maintain cut-off trenches/berms to prevent erosion.</p> <p>Re-vegetation of exposed soil surfaces (man-made surfaces on tailings dumps , overburden dumps, disturb surfaces in excavated sites, roads, etc.) should happen as soon as a particular activity has ceased in order to act as a sufficient erosion prevention measure.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No soil erosion must be visible and no potential for soil erosion must be present at closure.	

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Environmental Component	Soil (Soil contamination)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Potential for soil contamination: Vehicles to be inspected to ensure no oil and hydraulic fluid leaks occur. All oil spills on soil to be removed and bio-remediate immediately (certain commercial products are available such as Terrasorb or it could be rehabilitated by means of the application of fertilizer and turn with a spade from time to time in order to enhance the natural occurring soil microbial activity). No servicing of vehicles must occur except on a concrete floor or over PVC lined area in an area allocated for that. Training w.r.t pollution hazards and their impact on the environment must be given as part of induction training. An incidence register for this purpose must be kept. Drip trays must be available and used where emergency repairs is done.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No soil contamination must be visible or known before closure can be given.	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil structure)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Change in Soil structure: Ensure that all available (if any) topsoil is carefully removed in different areas. The soil must also be compacted as backfilling is done. No unnecessary driving outside the active prospecting area is allowed due to soil compaction that may occur. Use organic material e.g. manure to restore the soil structure during rehabilitation. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan makes provision for ripping of roads and spreading of organic material and that this is used during rehabilitation.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No compaction of any roads or any other area must be present during closure. If the soil structure is disturbed mitigation measures e.g. the use of organic material, lime and fertilizers must be implemented to restore the soil structure.	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil fertility)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Soil fertility: Little can be done to preserve the moisture status of the soil once it is exposed. The soil must be used for rehabilitation as quickly as possible. The soil on the rehabilitated area must be analysed to determine the deficiencies and fertilizer and lime must be ploughed into the soil to restore its fertility, if necessary. Ensure that stockpiled soil is kept clean and where possible ensure that the topsoil is treated with organic material and fertilized. Do not use stockpiled soil for any other purpose but for rehabilitation. Do not use topsoil to construct roads. Ensure the rehabilitation plan makes provision for fertiliser. Make sure rehabilitated topsoil is analyzed in a laboratory. The type of fertilizer would depend on a soil analyses and fertilizer recommendation.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The soil must be fertile enough to sustain vegetation.	

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Environmental Component	Land Capability
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>The disturbance of land must be restricted (kept to a minimum) to the planned fenced-off, active prospecting site only. Remove topsoil where it is available. Take care that roads needed are restricted to one entry to the area for prospecting purposes. If new land is used for roads to enter the area it must be done in consultation with the surface owner.</p> <p>All rehabilitation will be done according to the final rehabilitation plans after approval by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). Topsoil will be placed in areas where it was removed and the areas will be re-vegetated accordingly. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan is implemented.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Rehabilitated to the state that it is suitable for the predetermined and agreed land capability.	

Environmental Component	Land Use
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>The disturbance of land must be restricted (kept to a minimum) to the planned active, fenced-off prospecting site only. Remove topsoil where it is available (shallow lithosols, like Couga and Mispah Forms).</p> <p>Take care that roads are the only areas used to enter the area for prospecting purposes. If new land is used for roads to enter the area it must be done in consultation with surface owner.</p> <p>All rehabilitation will be done according to the final rehabilitation plans after approval by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). Topsoil will be placed in areas where it was removed and the areas will be re-vegetated accordingly. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan is implemented.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The opencast section requires the land to be totally disturbed. The replacement of tailings material, overburden and topsoil would ensure that the land is able to support some grazing.	

Environmental Component	Vegetation
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>No mitigation exists except to replace the vegetation by reseedling of grasses and natural growth.</p> <p>Prospecting should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
During rehabilitation indigenous vegetation cover comprising of local plant species should be established in order to ensure a well-adapted sustainable plant cover that would be able to prevent erosion of the replaced topsoil on the disturbed prospecting site exposed surfaces, tailings dumps, etc.).	

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Environmental Component	Vegetation
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Habitat change, loss of species, spread of alien and invasive species: No mitigation exists except to replace the vegetation by reseeded of grasses. Prospecting should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required. Develop and implement an invasive and alien control programme to control the spread of weeds and other invasive species. Eradicate exotic weeds and invader species (<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> = <i>Heuning prosopus</i>) if it invades the terrain. All illegal invader plants and weeds shall be eradicated as required in terms of Regulation 15 & 16 of the Act on Conservation of Agricultural Resources, 1983 (Act no. 43 of 1983) which list the plants. An invasive and alien control programme must be implemented by the mine.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No invasive and alien species must be present after closure. A post-closure control program must also be implemented.	

Environmental Component	Vegetation
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Ensure that all roads on the prospecting site (utilized by prospecting vehicles) are daily sprayed with water to control dust. Site inspections to ensure the spraying are done.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No excessive dust must be present during the normal growth season after closure.	

Environmental Component	Wildlife (habitat)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Wildlife or wildlife habitat destruction /change / disturbance : To take care that no new or unnecessary destruction of habitats, other than the demarcated prospecting site should take place. Restoration of habitat: Ensure the rehabilitation plan is implemented.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The animal life habitat must be restored after decommissioning. Success will be measured against the extent to which the animals return to the area.	

Environmental Component	Wildlife (injury and death)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Injury and death to wildlife: Re-establish trees and grass cover as soon as possible during and after prospecting. Fence area off to ensure that no person can enter without permission. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan is compiled and executed. Keep incidence register on killings and disturbances.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	

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The animal life habitat must be restored after decommissioning. Success will be measured against the extent to which the animals return to the area.

Environmental Component	Wildlife
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Make game catching, traps, snares, poaching and any other unnecessary disturbance of animals a disciplinary offence. All staff must undergo basic environmental awareness lecture during induction training.</p> <p>Machine operators and drivers to undergo appropriate level of environmental impact training to ensure they understand their impact on the environment. Ensure all staff working on the opencast section undergo basic lecture during induction phase.</p> <p>Introduce the actions as listed above into disciplinary code as offence.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The post-closure phase must be suitable for further restoration of the newly man-made animal habitat. The area must be stable and acceptable for the return of animal- and plant life.	

Environmental Component	Surface Water (quality)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Change in surface water quality: <u>Storm water control measures must be implemented to divert clean water away from the active prospecting site and keep contaminated water contained.</u> Water control structures must be well designed and constructed to ensure a minimum down wash of topsoil. Vegetation disturbance must be as little as possible. The PWP must be strictly adhered to. Re-vegetation to be done as quickly as possible. Final re-vegetation to be done as per rehabilitation plan. <u>All prospecting activities must be kept 100 meters horizontally away from any surface water body (dry water courses).</u></p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The post closure water run-off may in no circumstance impact negatively on the water quality.	

Environmental Component	Surface Water (quantity)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Change in surface water quantity: Once the area is rehabilitated the surface run-off will be restored and normal clean water run-off will end-up in the drainage system. Once the area is rehabilitated the normal surface run-off drainage will be restored according to rehabilitation plan. The disturbed surface area must be rehabilitated to ensure some normal drainage. Minimal run-off should end-up in trenches. Final rehabilitation will be done according to the final rehabilitation plans after approval by the Department of Mineral Resources.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Ultimately rehabilitation of the disturbed prospecting site and the construction of run-off control structures in a planned and phased manner would ensure normal drainage and stability of rehabilitated site.	

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Environmental Component	Ground Water (quality)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Reduction of groundwater quality: Storm water control measures must be implemented to divert clean water away from the site and keep (silt) contaminated water contained.</p> <p>Vehicles to be inspected to ensure no oil and hydraulic fluid leaks occur. All oil spills on soil to be removed and bio-remediate immediately. No servicing of vehicles must occur except at the workshops. Training w.r.t pollution hazards and their impact on the environment must be given as part of induction training.</p> <p>Storage of fuel and oil should be done according to best practices, within a bunded area and in containers of which the integrity is sound.</p> <p>The prospecting processes will not introduce any harmful or toxic substances and the most likely sources of pollution to the groundwater system would be associated with the infrastructure and / or workshop area. The most likely contaminants is therefore nitrate and bacteria (from sewage / pit latrines), as well as hydrocarbons (from vehicle accidents, diesel storage and the workshop area).</p> <p>An incidence register for this purpose must be kept.</p> <p>Drip trays must be available and used where emergency repairs is done.</p> <p>All waste must be stored according to best practices and disposed at an authorized waste disposal facility.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Post water quality need to indicate a positive trend/improvement.	

Environmental Component	Ground Water (quantity)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Reduction of groundwater quantity, lowering of groundwater level: Water levels in the borehole that are used for prospecting activities should be recorded monthly.</p> <p>Water volumes should be recorded continuously to ensure compliance with the water use authorization for abstraction.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Post water quality need to indicate a positive trend/improvement.	

Environmental Component	Air Quality
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Dust: The prospecting method will serve as mitigation measure because prospecting will limit dust to the active prospecting area (area where the excavator and the trucks are operating).</p> <p>Daily spraying of roads with water. Inspection should be done on a daily basis.</p> <p>If new roads are constructed, in coordination with surface owner, dust pollution must be mitigated by means of spraying the roads with water.</p>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Dust count must be the same as before prospecting. Rehabilitation of the bulk sampling site would ensure that no dust is generated from exposed surfaces.	

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Environmental Component	Noise
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Ensure the required silencers are placed on all engines and compressors. No mitigation to reverse hooters is allowed due to safety standards. Inspection of vehicles and machinery to ensure silencers are fitted. Ensure that a complaints register is created, managed and maintained. Vehicles and earthmoving equipment should be equipped with the necessary silencers and regularly maintained in a good working condition.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No noise attributed to prospecting will be generated from the site after closure anymore. During decommissioning and closure phase some earth moving equipment and trucks would be utilized for rehabilitation.	

Environmental Component	Archaeological and Cultural Sites
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
No graves on site. The area are however identify as being high sensitive. However, the potential occurrence of unmarked graves or subsurface finds not recorded during this survey can never be excluded, so it is advised that SAHRA and a qualified archaeologist are informed immediately if archaeological objects are uncovered. All excavator operators must be sensitized as to identify and report any occurrence of such sites of artefacts.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No site of archaeological importance should be disturbed or damaged until the necessary permit from SAHRA has been issued.	

Environmental Component	Sensitive Landscapes
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<i>The dry water course: All prospecting activities must be kept 100 meters horizontally away from it.</i>	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	

Environmental Component	Visual Aspects
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Visual impact would be addressed by means of: * re-vegetation of disturbed areas with grasses; * removal of any temporary building, scrap, domestic waste, etc. that would otherwise contribute to a negative visual impact. Concurrent rehabilitation should be done simultaneously as prospecting activities progress.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
No residual visual impacts will remain after closure. The terrain should blend in with the surrounding landscape.	

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Environmental Component	Socio-Economics
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
There will be a very small increase in Socio – economic activity at local level, because of the size of this prospecting activity.	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
The economic development must deliver a multiplier effect that will contribute to the local economy long after closure.	

Environmental Component	Interested and Affected Parties
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Access control should always be a priority. Active prospecting site should be fenced off and also any deep water holes. if any problem should arise, meetings will be held with the landowners and affected parties to consult them on certain matters like permission to prospect and pollution. No prospecting should be conducted under or near Eskom power line (10 m distance should be kept) (<i>Permission of Inspector of Mines should be obtained.</i>)	
EMP Performance Assessment & Monitoring Reporting	
To be included in EMP/EIA.	
Closure Objective	
Not to be an economic, social or environmental liability to the local community or the state now or in the future. The company will ensure that the interest of all interested and affected parties will be considered.	

ix) The outcome of the site selection Matrix. Final Site Layout Plan

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(h) (g)(ix)

As this is a prospecting application there will never be a final site layout as this will not be a static operation. The excavator will be moving over the application area on a grid basis in order to survey the entire prospecting area. Once phase 2 is completed and more in-depth investigation is necessary the trenches will be made, samples tested, backfilled and washing plant will be moved to the next position. Please see **Appendix 1(c)** for more detail. Please see **Appendix 1(b1) & 1(b2)** for more detail.

x) Motivation where no alternative sites were considered

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(h) (g)(x)

Alternative is not applicable. The current land use is AGRICULTURE (grazing for Cattle and Impala's) that will continue on the farm , except in areas where active prospecting (fenced-off) is taking place . The option to explore the possibility for prospecting is already in itself an alternative land use. The applicant, **Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.** is not interested in any other alternative land use over this land aside for exploration of the said minerals, or any other activity, or method use other than prospecting in the conversional way, which is the most cost effective.

Please note that no additional infrastructure will be established, and therefore no alternatives for the location of infrastructure were identified.

Alternative is not applicable. There is not an alternative for the location as this is the specific area where the applicant believes minerals can be found.

The site selection for test pits and bulk sampling will have to be carefully though out and planned as this need to be done either with the necessary permit applications and in order to stay well clear for buffer zones around dry surface water courses.

The other alternative will be whether what method of processing to be used, puddle into the pans (wet method) or puddle dam (dry tailings method). The footprint of the actual disturbance on site does have the alternative where the puddle can be deposited onto a puddle dam or back into the excavations whereby the latter will have a smaller footprint. The puddle dam method however can lead to quicker rehabilitation and re-use of the land for grazing as the excavations are backfilled with dry material and immediately rehabilitated.

The applied area is the specific area need for prospecting thus no alternative. The whole of the application will be prospected, but on a grid basis, thus it will only be a small area that will be affected ant any given time. The current land use can thus continue on the rest of the unaffected areas. The current land use is natural grazing. The option to explore the possibility for prospecting is already in itself an alternative land use. The applicant, **Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd** is not interested in any other alternative land use over this land aside for the exploration of the said minerals, or any other activity, or method use other than prospecting for the said minerals in the conversional way, which is the most cost effective.

xi) Statement motivating the preferred site.

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(h) (g)(xi)

The prospecting operation will not be a static operation, the mobile plant will move as prospecting progress, thus the whole application is to determine a potential site for when the mining phase is reached. The feasibility of prospecting the diamond material from an environmental, social and economic perspective also plays a role.

(i) Plan of study for the Environmental Impact Assessment process

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)

i. Description of alternatives to be considered including the option of not going ahead with the activity

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(i)

Alternative is not applicable. For this specific project, no alternatives have been investigated. The activities included in this application are determined by the location of the mineral reserves in the study area, and the proposed prospecting method to be employed as was assessed. The current land use is agricultural and is being utilized as grazing at present by the landowner (Mr. L.J. du Raan).

The option to explore the possibility for prospecting is already in itself an alternative land use. The applicant, **Basson Rost Mining (Pty) Ltd.** is not interested in any other alternative land use over this land aside of diamonds exploration, or any other activity, or method use other than prospecting for diamonds in the conversional way, which is the most cost effective.

The No-Go option entails the continuation the current land use (grazing) on the application area without exploiting the mineral reserves. The prospecting activities will contribute towards the achievement of providing employment opportunities for members of the surrounding communities, thus aiding socio-economic development. Should the project therefore not be authorized to proceed, the current employment opportunities will be terminated. Therefore, the No-Go alternative is not a feasible option in this case, as it suggests that the mineral reserves should not be exploited and current employment opportunities should not be prolonged. Alternative is not applicable for the application area. The current land use is agricultural and is being utilized as mainly natural grazing by the landowner (Mr. L.J. Du Raan).

ii. Description of the aspects to be assessed as part of the environmental impact assessment process

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(ii)

The aspects that will be assessed as part of the proposed project and its area include:

- Geology
- Soil Erosion
- Rehabilitation of previously disturbed areas
- Fauna [Wildlife/Wildlife habitat destruction]
- Changes is surface water quality
- Dust
- Noise
- Archaeological/Cultural Sites

Geology:

Stone Aggregate; Gravel deposits will be destroyed during the opencast prospecting operation. During operation which will be for the next 5 years, the mineral resource will be extracted from deposits. Waste rock material/overburden material is disposed off/backfilled in excavations as part of the backfilling process.

Soil erosion:

Due to the fact that certain surface areas would become compacted and this would lead to lesser infiltration of rainwater and more run-off that could cause erosion on bare disturbed surfaces. Erosion would always be possible until such time a vegetation cover is provided during rehabilitation phase.

Temporary loss of land capability to support grazing. The small area (0.33 ha) where the active prospecting activities occur (trenches, tailings dumps, stock piles, prospecting equipment) etc. will thus be temporary alienated, until the area is rehabilitated.

All trenches would be rehabilitated as part of the prospecting process during which trenches are back-filled. **The rest of the application area will still be used by the landowner (Mr. L.J. Du Raan) as agricultural land.**

Rehabilitation:

This is a new prospecting operation and therefore will lose its land use to support grazing on a certain small portion of the **632.29 hectares** during the next 5 years. Only a small portions of land (0.33 ha at a time) would be affected by the prospecting operation relation to the total prospecting right application area of 632.29 hectares. All trenches would be rehabilitated as part of the prospecting process during which excavations are back-filled.

Wildlife or wildlife habitat destruction/change / disturbance:

Increase silt load. Clearing topsoil for footprint areas can increase infiltration rates of water to the groundwater system and decrease buffering capacity of soils to absorb contaminants from spills on surface. This can increase the risk of contamination of the groundwater system (increases aquifer vulnerability).

Change in surface water quality:

Spillages from vehicles and also surface water run-off that is not adequately diverted away from the active prospecting excavations could end-up in the excavations creating problems regarding water quality and hindering the prospecting process.

Surface run-off from active prospecting sites (overburden dumps & tailings dam/dump) if not adequately contained on site could end-up in the adjacent undisturbed natural veld.

If the natural surface run-off is not adequately diverted in the case of the dry-water course area, prospecting sections it could become silted-up.

Dust:

Dust will be generated during the prospecting operation (loading with an excavator on to a dump truck) and transportation to the plant (conveyor, drum screen & washing pans) and on gravel/dirt/farm roads. The processing of the gravel is a wet process and therefore minimum dust is generated.

Noise:

Dust will be generated during the prospecting operation (loading with an excavator on to a dump truck) and transportation to the plant (conveyor, drum screen & washing pans). The mine itself is located in rural landscape. The impact would be of more importance regarding the direct worker environment that should adhere to the requirements in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act.

Archaeological/Cultural Sites:

The terrain is not archaeologically vulnerable. It is unlikely that the proposed development will result in any significant archaeological impact at the site. No graves were identified on site.

iii. Description of aspects to be assessed by specialists

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(iii)

As this is only a prospecting application and no sensitive areas or heritage areas of significance were noted on the application area there will be **no specialist studies**. All impacts noted will be mitigated.

iv. Proposed method of assessing the environmental aspects including the proposed method of assessing alternatives

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(iv)

A thorough foot survey and site inspection was done by the EAP and further visit will be done before compiling the EIA. Each aspect was then assessed individually with the 24 year experience of the EAP.

v. The proposed method of assessing duration significance

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(v)

The assessing of the duration is done on hand of the different phases as described in the Prospecting Works Program (PWP) which is also described under **Point ii) h)**. The significance is assessed from experience and from the actual situation on the specific site. Please see **Point vi)** for detail.

vi. The stages at which the competent authority will be consulted

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(vi)

Consultation with all competent authorities will be done. The Scoping Report was send to them from the office of the EAP. This will also be done for the EIAR/EMP, whereby a copy of the document will be circulated to all competent authorities and their comment or concerns will be forwarded to DMRE for further attention.

vii. Particulars of the public participation process with regard to the Impact Assessment process that will be conducted

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(vii)

1. Steps to be taken to notify interested and affected parties.
 - ✓ The landowner and neighbours was consulted personally and through a letter that was given to them by hand.
 - ✓ A site notice was put up at the entrance to the application area.
 - ✓ A notice for the both the Scoping and EMP report was published in the local DFA newspaper to inform the general public.
 - ✓ Copies of the Scoping Report (was) and the EMPr/EIA will be circulated to all the competent authorities for comments.

Please see **Table 4** for more detail on public participation process.

2. Details of the engagement process to be followed.

The process as described by NEMA for Environmental Authorization was followed. See **Table 4** for the Interested and Affected Party register, to be consulted with. **The landowners (Mr L du Raan) and the direct neighbours** was consulted personally and through written letters that will be given to them. A **site notice** was placed at the entrance to the application area. With this site notice all passers-by are requested to submit any written comments to be

forwarded to the consultant (still awaiting response). A notice was published in the DFA Newspaper of 14th October 2022, response is also awaited. See proof of consultation under Appendix 2. The Public Participation process is still on going and the documents will be updated as more feedback is received back. The Scoping Report was sent to all relevant State Departments for evaluation. No comments were received.

3. Description of the information to be provided to Interested and Affected Parties.

A copy of the map, and Prospecting Works Programme and draft Scoping Report was handed to the neighbours and landowners. A copy of the Scoping Report was sent to the State Departments.

viii. Description of the tasks that will be undertaken during the environmental impact assessment process

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(viii)

Site inspection by foot survey, discussions with applicant and landowner as well as discussions with competent authorities where necessary. Completion of the EIA template.

ix. Measures to avoid, reverse, mitigate, or manage identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix2 – 2. (1)(i)(h)(a)(ix)

This will be kept in mind with the site inspection where each impact will again be evaluated and the mitigation and management thereof will be confirmed on site. The risk of each impact will be evaluated and if any residual risks the management thereof.

The mitigation measures and technical management action plans which address potential impacts are discussed below:

Environmental Component	Geology
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation exists except to backfill the excavations with the rock waste material and fine tailings (puddle). As prospecting progressed and the excavation has been back-filled, a certain amount of overburden material and topsoil would be placed on these areas. This will not restore the geology, but will mitigate the impact. Planned, systematic and thorough prospecting of the mineral resource (Diamonds, Alluvial Diamonds, Diamonds in Kimberlite, Stone Aggregate, Gravel) should take place. Optimal utilization of the mineral resource should take place within the boundaries of the prospecting terrain. Strip, remove and store soil and overburden as far as practical in an orderly fashion and replace as far as possible on back-filled areas, in the reverse order once decision have been taken that no further prospecting would take place in a particular section or which might still be traversed by vehicles and disturbed in the process. Cognisance should be taken of the fact that bulk sampling would take place by means of an opencast prospecting method until such level is reach / cut-off point is reach where rehabilitation could begin. Care must be taken that the removal of (Diamonds, Alluvial Diamonds, Diamonds in Kimberlite, Stone Aggregate, Gravel) deposits by means of earthmoving equipment is restricted to what is really necessary to achieve the objective. 	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Concurrent backfilling of the excavations (pits and trenches) with the rock waste material (overburden) and fine tailings (puddle). * The impact will be mitigated by backfilling and sloping the sides of the excavation and stabilizing the soil to prevent soil erosion. * The side of pit will be sloped and the soil stabilized to prevent erosion. * Rehabilitation of the new sloped landscape in such a way that it would blend in with the surrounding landscape. 	

Closure Objective
Optimal exploration of the mineral resource in order to ensure to facilitate better rehabilitation planning. The overburden and topsoil (where available) must be replaced in a responsible and planned manner in order to achieve some conformity with the surrounding undisturbed area.

Environmental Component	Topography
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All trenches should be back-filled with waste tailings (puddle) material and eventually overburden material, covered with a shallow layer of topsoil (if available). Access to all active bulk sampling excavation areas should be controlled. The active bulk sampling area should be fenced off. The necessary warning signs should be put in place. All prospecting activities should be restricted to the fenced-off area. Surface run-off control should be put in place at active trenches (preventing water from entering) and also overburden dumps in order to prevent the loss of growth medium on top of the dumps. <p>Prospecting would be done according to a definite PWP (only disturbing an area that is really necessary). As part of the PWP the handling of tailings material (puddle), overburden material, construction of dumps and back-filling of trenches should also form part of it.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All trenches should be back-filled with waste tailings (puddle) material and eventually overburden material, covered with a shallow layer of topsoil (if available). Rehabilitation of the new topographical landscape in such a way that it would blend in with the surrounding landscape and allow normal surface drainage to continue. As soon as a section of the prospecting site would not be explored anymore it should be rehabilitated (planned and phased manner). 	
Closure Objective	
Rehabilitation of the new disturbances topographical landscape in such a way that it would blend in with the surrounding landscape and allow normal surface drainage to continue. Rehabilitation in such a way that the new landscape features would be stable and would not pose any safety hazard to human and animal anymore.	

Environmental Component	Soil (topsoil & access roads)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Handling of topsoil as a natural resource: Any future expansion of the trenches or construction of infrastructure should be preceded by the removal of <u>all available topsoil (shallow Lithosols)</u>. The surface of any new areas to be disturbed must be kept to a minimum. <u>All available topsoil/overburden material should be removed and stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes.</u></p> <p>Access roads, etc: The clearing of soil surface areas would be restricted to what is really necessary for the construction of infrastructure. Wherever possible all topsoil should be removed and stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes. Overburden material should also be stockpiled separately if practically possible. Topsoil and overburden material should be kept next to open excavations for easy backfilling and rehabilitation.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Closure Objective	
The topsoil removed in the site preparation process should be replaced during the rehabilitation exercise.	

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Environmental Component	Soil (soil compaction)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Soil compaction: The prospecting operation should only be restricted to what is really required (demarcated area of exploitation) within the fenced-off area. Access roads towards the sites would be restricted only to the roads (existing farm roads & roads established in consultation with the surface owner). No land would be disturbed unnecessarily. Prospecting & rehabilitation should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Compaction of soil surface areas would be alleviated once rehabilitation of certain area starts. Certain roads would probably remain for access (in consultation with the surface owner). Those that would not be required would be ripped and rehabilitated.	
Closure Objective	
Alleviation of compaction of soils would be done during rehabilitation of the prospecting terrain, including roads.	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil erosion)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Soil Erosion: To take preventive steps against land disturbance like erosion. Implement and maintain cut-off trenches/berms to prevent erosion.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Re-vegetation of exposed soil surfaces (man-made surfaces such as tamps overburden dumps, disturb surfaces in excavated sites, roads, etc.) should happen as soon as a particular activity has ceased in order to act as a sufficient erosion prevention measure.	
Closure Objective	
No soil erosion must be visible and no potential for soil erosion must be present at closure.	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil contamination)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Potential for soil contamination: Vehicles to be inspected to ensure no oil and hydraulic fluid leaks occur. No servicing of vehicles must occur except on a concrete floor or over PVC lined area in an area allocated for that. Training w.r.t pollution hazards and their impact on the environment must be given as part of induction training. An incidence register for this purpose must be kept. Drip trays must be available and used where emergency repairs is done.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
All oil spills on soil to be removed and bio-remediate immediately (certain commercial products are available such as Terrasorb or it could be rehabilitated by means of the application of fertilizer and turn with a spade from time to time in order to enhance the natural occurring soil microbial activity).	
Closure Objective	
No soil contamination must be visible or known before closure can be given.	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil structure)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Change in Soil structure: Ensure that all available (if any) topsoil is carefully removed in different areas. The soil must also be compacted as backfilling is done. No unnecessary driving outside the active prospecting area is allowed due to soil compaction that may occur.</p>	
<p>Rehabilitation/ Closure: The soil must also be compacted as backfilling is done. Use organic material e.g. manure to restore the soil structure during rehabilitation (if available). Ensure that the rehabilitation plan makes provision for ripping of roads and spreading of organic material and that this is used during rehabilitation.</p>	
<p>Closure Objective No compaction of any roads or any other area must be present during closure. If the soil structure is disturbed mitigation measures e.g. the use of organic material, lime and fertilizers must be implemented to restore the soil structure.</p>	

Environmental Component	Soil (Soil fertility)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Soil fertility: Little can be done to preserve the moisture status of the soil once it is exposed. The soil must be used for rehabilitation as quickly as possible. The soil on the rehabilitated area must be analysed to determine the deficiencies and fertilizer and lime must be ploughed into the soil to restore its fertility, if necessary. Ensure that stockpiled soil is kept clean and where possible ensure that the topsoil is treated with organic material and fertilized. Do not use stockpiled soil for any other purpose but for rehabilitation. Do not use topsoil to construct roads. Ensure the rehabilitation plan makes provision for fertiliser. Make sure rehabilitated topsoil is analyzed in a laboratory. The type of fertilizer would depend on a soil analyses and fertilizer recommendation.</p>	
<p>Rehabilitation/ Closure:</p>	
<p>See above section: Soil fertility : Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments</p>	
<p>Closure Objective The soil must be fertile enough to sustain vegetation.</p>	

Environmental Component	Land Capability
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>The disturbance of land must be restricted (kept to a minimum) to the planned fenced-off, active prospecting site only. Remove topsoil where it is available. Take care that roads needed are restricted to one entry to the area for prospecting purposes. If new land is used for roads to enter the area it must be done in consultation with the surface owner.</p>	
<p>Rehabilitation/ Closure: All rehabilitation will be done according to the final rehabilitation plans after approval by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). Topsoil will be placed in areas where it was removed and the areas will be re-vegetated accordingly. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan is implemented.</p>	
<p>Closure Objective Rehabilitated to the state that it is suitable for the predetermined and agreed land capability.</p>	

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Environmental Component	Land Use
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>The disturbance of land must be restricted (kept to a minimum) to the planned active, fenced-off prospecting site only. Remove topsoil where it is available. Take care that roads are the only areas used to enter the area for prospecting purposes. If new land is used for roads to enter the area it must be done in consultation with surface owner.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<p>All rehabilitation will be done according to the final rehabilitation plans after approval by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). Topsoil will be placed in areas where it was removed and the areas will be re-vegetated accordingly. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan is implemented.</p>	
Closure Objective	
<p>The opencast mining requires the land to be totally disturbed. The replacement of tailings material, overburden and topsoil would ensure that the land is able to support some grazing.</p>	

Environmental Component	Vegetation
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>No mitigation exists except to replace the vegetation by reseeding of grasses and natural growth. Prospecting should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<p>Replace the vegetation by reseeding of grasses and natural growth.</p>	
Closure Objective	
<p>During rehabilitation indigenous vegetation cover comprising of local plant species should be established in order to ensure a well-adapted sustainable plant cover that would be able to prevent erosion of the replaced topsoil on the disturbed prospecting site exposed surfaces, tailings dumps, etc.).</p>	

Environmental Component	Vegetation
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Habitat change, loss of species, spread of alien and invasive species: No mitigation exists except to replace the vegetation by reseeding of grasses. Prospecting should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required. An invasive and alien control programme must be implemented by the mine.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<p>Replace the vegetation by reseeding of grasses and natural growth. Habitat change, loss of species, spread of alien and invasive species: No mitigation exists except to replace the vegetation by reseeding of grasses. Prospecting should be done in a well-planned manner (according to a PWP) and in the process ensuring that activities are only restricted to surface areas really required. Develop and implement an invasive and alien control programme to control the spread of weeds and other invasive species. Eradicate exotic weeds and invader species if it (like <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> (heuningprosopis) invades the terrain. All illegal invader plants and weeds shall be eradicated as required in terms of Regulation 15 & 16 of the Act on Conservation of Agricultural Resources, 1983 (Act no. 43 of 1983) which list the plants.</p>	
Closure Objective	
<p>No invasive and alien species must be present after closure. A post-closure control program must also be implemented.</p>	

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Environmental Component	Vegetation
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Ensure that all roads on the prospecting site (utilized by prospecting vehicles) are daily sprayed with water to control dust. Site inspections to ensure the spraying are done.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
No excessive dust must be present during the normal growth season after closure.	
Closure Objective	
No excessive dust must be present during the normal growth season after closure.	

Environmental Component	Wildlife (habitat)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Wildlife or wildlife habitat destruction /change / disturbance : To take care that no new or unnecessary destruction of habitats, other than the demarcated prospecting site should take place.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Restoration of habitat: Ensure the rehabilitation plan is implemented	
Closure Objective	
The animal life habitat must be restored after decommissioning. Success will be measured against the extent to which the animals return to the area.	

Environmental Component	Wildlife (Injury and death)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Injury and death to wildlife: Keep incidence register on killings and disturbances.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Re-establish trees and grass cover as soon as possible during and after prospecting. Fence area off to ensure that no person can enter without permission. Ensure that the rehabilitation plan is compiled and executed	
Closure Objective	
The animal life habitat must be restored after decommissioning. Success will be measured against the extent to which the animals return to the area.	

Environmental Component	Wildlife
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Make game catching, traps, snares, poaching and any other unnecessary disturbance of animals a disciplinary offence. All staff must undergo basic environmental awareness lecture during induction training. Machine operators and drivers to undergo appropriate level of environmental impact training to ensure they understand their impact on the environment. Ensure all staff working on the opencast section undergo basic lecture during induction phase. Introduce the actions as listed above into disciplinary code as offence.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
All staff must undergo basic environmental awareness lecture (rehabilitation) during induction training.	
Closure Objective	
The post-closure phase must be suitable for further restoration of the newly man-made animal habitat. The area must be stable and acceptable for the return of animal- and plant life.	

Environmental Component	Surface Water (quality)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Change in surface water quality: Storm water control measures must be implemented to divert clean water away from the active prospecting site and keep contaminated water contained. Water control structures must be well designed and constructed to ensure a minimum down wash of topsoil. Vegetation disturbance must be as little as possible. All domestic waste must be collected in bins and taken off site to Wolmaransstad licensed waste disposal site. All used oils and filters must be collected and responsibly recycled. The PWP must be strictly adhered to. Re-vegetation to be done as quickly as possible. Final re-vegetation to be done as per rehabilitation plan.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<p>Water control structures must be well designed and constructed to ensure a minimum down wash of topsoil. Once the area is rehabilitated the surface run-off will be restored and normal clean water run-off will end-up in the drainage system. Re-vegetation to be done as quickly as possible. Final re-vegetation to be done as per rehabilitation plan.</p>	
Closure Objective	
<p>The post closure water run-off may in no circumstance impact negatively on the water quality.</p>	

Environmental Component	Surface Water (quantity)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Change in surface water quantity: Once the area is rehabilitated the surface run-off will be restored and normal clean water run-off will end-up in the drainage system. Once the area is rehabilitated the normal surface run-off drainage will be restored according to rehabilitation plan. The disturbed surface area must be rehabilitated to ensure some normal drainage. Minimal run-off should end-up in trenches. All prospecting activities must be kept 100 meters horizontally away from any surface water body (dry water courses).</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
<p>Water control structures must be well designed and constructed to ensure a minimum down wash of topsoil. Once the area is rehabilitated the surface run-off will be restored and normal clean water run-off will end-up in the drainage system. Re-vegetation to be done as quickly as possible. Final re-vegetation to be done as per rehabilitation plan. Final rehabilitation will be done according to the final rehabilitation plans after approval by the Department of Mineral Resources.</p>	
Closure Objective	
<p>Ultimately rehabilitation of the disturbed prospecting site and the construction of run-off control structures in a planned and phased manner would ensure normal drainage and stability of rehabilitated site.</p>	

Environmental Component	Ground Water (quality)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>Reduction of groundwater quality: Storm water control measures must be implemented to divert clean water away from the site and keep (silt) contaminated water contained. Vehicles to be inspected to ensure no oil and hydraulic fluid leaks occur. All oil spills on soil to be removed and bio-remediate immediately. No servicing of vehicles must occur except at the workshops. Training w.r.t pollution hazards and their impact on the environment must be given as part of induction training. Storage of fuel and oil should be done according to best practices, within a bunded area and in containers of which the integrity is sound. The prospecting processes will not introduce any harmful or toxic substances and the most likely sources of pollution to the groundwater system would be associated with the infrastructure and / or workshop area. The most likely contaminants is therefore nitrate and bacteria (from sewage / pit latrines), as well as hydrocarbons (from vehicle accidents, diesel car and the workshop area). An incidence register for this purpose must be kept. Drip trays must be available and used where emergency repairs is done. All waste must be stored according to best practices and disposed at an authorized waste disposal facility.</p>	

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Rehabilitation/ Closure:
All oil spills on soil to be removed and bio-remediate immediately. All waste must be stored according to best practices and disposed at an authorized waste disposal facility.
Closure Objective
Post water quality need to indicate a positive trend/improvement.

Environmental Component	Ground Water (quantity)
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Reduction of groundwater quantity, lowering of groundwater level: Water levels in the borehole that are used for prospecting activities should be recorded monthly. Water volumes should be recorded continuously to ensure compliance with the water use authorization for abstraction. Water will be supplied via a tanker.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Post water quality need to indicate a positive trend/improvement	
Closure Objective	
Post water quality need to indicate a positive trend/improvement.	

Environmental Component	Air Quality
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Dust: The prospecting method will serve as mitigation measure because prospecting will limit dust to the active prospecting area (area where the excavator and the trucks are operating). Daily spraying of roads with water. Inspection should be done on a daily basis. If new roads are constructed, in coordination with surface owner, dust pollution must be mitigated by means of spraying the roads with water.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Rehabilitation of the bulk sampling site would ensure that no dust is generated from exposed surfaces.	
Closure Objective	
Dust count must be the same as before prospecting. Rehabilitation of the bulk sampling site would ensure that no dust is generated from exposed surfaces.	

Environmental Component	Noise
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Ensure the required silencers are placed on all engines and compressors. No mitigation to reverse hooters is allowed due to safety standards. Inspection of vehicles and machinery to ensure silencers are fitted. Ensure that a complaints register is created, managed and maintained. Vehicles and earthmoving equipment should be equipped with the necessary silencers and regularly maintained in a good working condition.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
During decommissioning and closure phase some earth moving equipment and trucks would be utilized for rehabilitation.	
Closure Objective	
No noise attributed to prospecting will be generated from the site after closure anymore. During decommissioning and closure phase some earth moving equipment and trucks would be utilized for rehabilitation.	

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Environmental Component	Archaeological and Cultural Sites
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
<p>No graveyard found on site. However, the potential occurrence of OTHER unmarked graves or subsurface finds not recorded during this survey can never be excluded, so it is advised that SAHRA and a qualified archaeologist are informed immediately if archaeological objects are uncovered. All excavator operators must be sensitized as to identify and report any occurrence of such sites of artefacts. No activities should take place 20 m from the site. The area are however identify as being high sensitive. However, the potential occurrence of unmarked graves or subsurface finds not recorded during this survey can never be excluded, so it is advised that SAHRA and a qualified archaeologist are informed immediately if archaeological objects are uncovered. All excavator operators must be sensitized as to identify and report any occurrence of such sites of artefacts.</p>	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
A 20m buffer zone must be marked around any graveyard in order to avoid potential damage during prospecting activities	
Closure Objective	
No site of archaeological importance should be disturbed or damaged until the necessary permit from SAHRA has been issued.	

Environmental Component	Sensitive Landscapes
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Dry water courses t: - All prospecting activities must be kept 100 meters horizontally away from it.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
No impact = no rehabilitation necessary	
Closure Objective	
No surface water bodies, its flow or stream areas must be disturbed during the prospecting activities.	

Environmental Component	Visual Aspects
Environmental Management/Mitigation Measures/Action Plans/Commitments	
Visual impact would be addressed by means of; * re-vegetation of disturbed areas with grasses; re-establish vegetation cover as soon as possible after closure of excavations * removal of any temporary building, scrap, domestic waste, etc. that would otherwise contribute to a negative visual impact. Concurrent rehabilitation should be done simultaneously as prospecting activities progress.	
Rehabilitation/ Closure:	
Visual impact would be addressed by means of; * re-vegetation of disturbed areas with grasses; re-establish vegetation cover as soon as possible after closure of excavations. * removal of any temporary building, scrap, domestic waste, etc. that would otherwise contribute to a negative visual impact. Concurrent rehabilitation should be done simultaneously as prospecting activities progress.	
Closure Objective	
No residual visual impacts will remain after closure. The terrain should blend in with the surrounding landscape.	

i) **UNDERTAKING REGARDING CORRECTNESS OF INFORMATION**

In term of NEMA – EIA Regulations No. 326 of 7 April 2017 – Reg. 21, Appendix 2 – 2. (1)(j)(i), [(k)](i), [(l)](k), [(m)](l)

UNDERTAKING

I, H.M. Erasmus, the undersigned and duly authorised thereto by DERA Omgewingskonsultante (Pty) Ltd. hereby confirm:

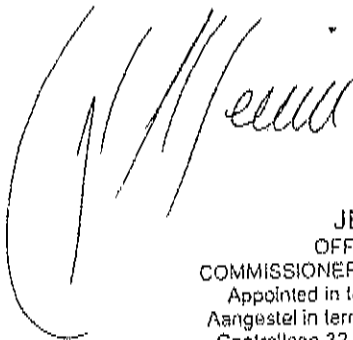
- ✓ the correctness of the information provided in this report;
- ✓ the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&AP's;
- ✓ the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant and where applicable and;
- ✓ all information provided to the interested and affected parties a true reflection of this document.

Signed at Klerksdorp on this day 11th of November 2022.



Signature of EAP

-END-



JERRY DEAN MENIN
OFFICE MANAGER / AUDITOR
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS / KOMMISSARIS VAN EDE
Appointed in terms of Section 5(1) of Act 16 of 1963
Aangestel in terme van Artikel 5(1) van Wet 16 van 1963
Centrallaan 32 Central Avenue, Flamwood, Klerksdorp
Appointed/Aangestel: 23 Oktober 2012
Reference/Verwysing: 9/1/8/2 Klerksdorp