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Tuesday, 29 April 2014

Attention: Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)

NOTIFICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) FOR THE PROPOSED EXXARO BELFAST PROJECT SITUATED ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS ZOEKOP 426JS, LEEUWBANK 427 JS AND BLYVOORUITZICHT 383 JT IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF BELFAST IN MPUMALANGA

This notification serves to inform all registered stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that the water uses applied for pertaining to the proposed Belfast Project infrastructure in terms Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) have been positively amended as per the advice and recommendations of the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). Refer to Appendix A for the letter received from DWA on 8 November 2013.

On Friday, 10 May 2013 a meeting and site visit was held at Belfast (Exxaro NBC offices) with the Inkomati Catchment Management Agency (ICMA) and DWA whereby Dr. P. Meulenbeld raised concerns and gave guidance as to the manner in which the DWA viewed the proposed activities and related impacts on the wetlands. The meeting concluded that Exxaro ought to review the proposed plan and re-submit a proposal taking into consideration the re-positioning and re-alignment of the beneficiation plant and coal discard dump and in particular the impacts of these activities on the wetlands as well as the quantification and final commitment to “On-Site-Set-Asides” and “Off-Site-Off-Sets”.

Following the approval of additional funds, Exxaro undertook to revise the Belfast project block plan as per DWA’s recommendations. Please refer to Appendix B and Figure 1 (after scenario) for the updated site locality plan compared to the original locality plan (Appendix C and Figure 2) (before scenario). As indicated in Appendix B/Figure 1 the plant area and associated infrastructure has now been designed outside of the wetland areas. Some minor parts of the proposed infrastructure still remains within 500m of the wetland which will still be applicable as a Section 21 c & i water use. Refer to Appendix D for the updated water use table, water balance diagram and water use map.

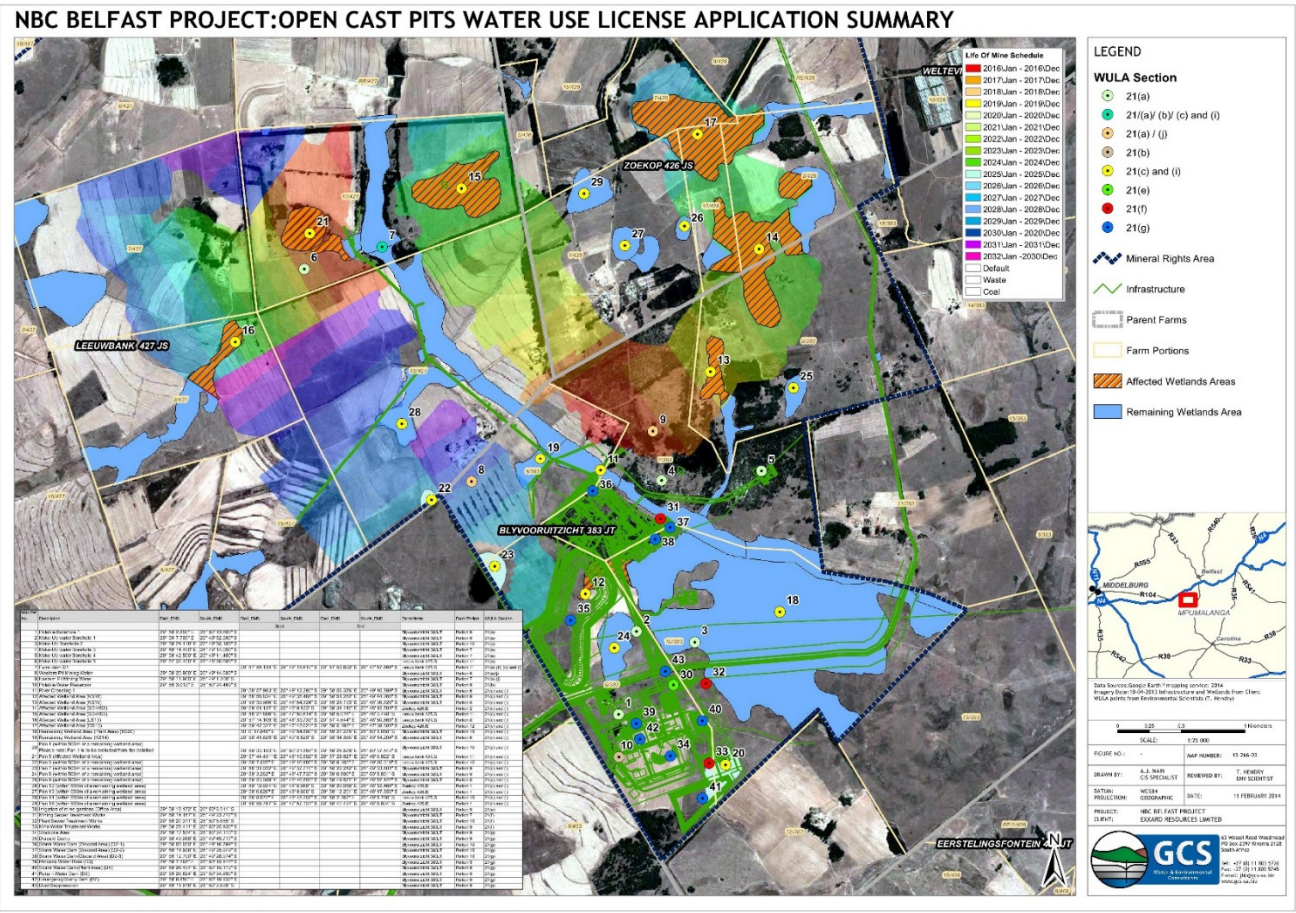
Impacts within 500m of the associated wetlands have been carefully considered and will be mitigated by means of an updated Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) that will detail construction measures to prevent pollution of the environment. Refer to Appendix E for the updated SWMP dated January 2014 and the Discard Dump Design Report dated February 2014.

Golder Associates and Wetland Consulting Services have since updated the Wetland Mitigation Strategy (Appendix F), the Hydrological Assessment Report (Appendix G) and the Aquatic Assessment Report (Appendix H).

I&APs are invited to review the proposed changes made in terms of the infrastructural re-alignment and associated water uses. All comments must be submitted in writing and forwarded to the details below. All comments, concerns and issues raised will be documented and forwarded onto the relevant competent authorities.

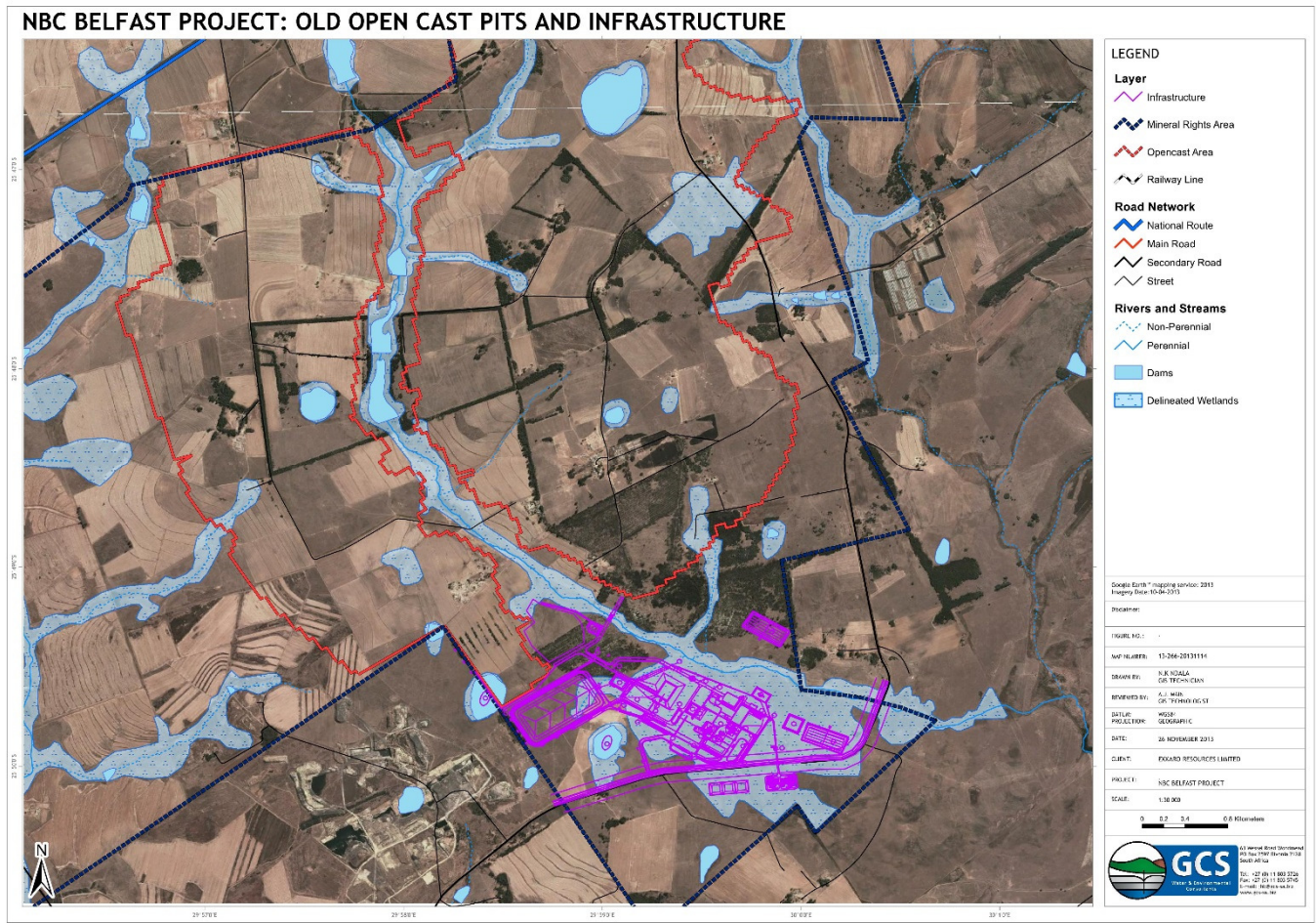
The Appendices referred to in the notification will be made available for public review for a 21 day commenting period from **Wednesday, 30 April 2014 to Thursday, 22 May 2014** at the Belfast Municipal Library (25 Scheepers Street, Belfast) as well as on the GCS website (<http://www.gcs-sa.biz/Documents>). An electronic copy (CD) of the Appendices will also be made available on request.

Should you wish to comment please forward all comments directly to Tarryn Dale via Fax: +27 11 803 5745, E-mail: tarryn@gcs-sa.biz or Post: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, 2128 by **16h00, Thursday, 22 May 2014.**



(Figure not to scale. Please refer to Appendix B for the A3 figure.)

Figure 1: Updated site locality plan



(Figure not to scale. Please refer to Appendix C for the A3 figure.)

Figure 2: Original site locality plan