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Environmental Regulatory Process Required for the Proposed Mining Right Extension Project near Vereeniging, Free State Province, FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR

Public Participation Report

Prepared for:

Copper Sunset Sands (Pty) Ltd

Project Number:





COP6679

July 2021



This document has been prepared by Digby Wells Environmental.

Report Type:	Public Participation Report
Project Name:	Environmental Regulatory Process Required for the Proposed Mining Right Extension Project near Vereeniging, Free State Province, FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR
Project Code:	COP6679

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	2
1.1	Public Participation Process Objectives.....	3
1.2	Legal Framework.....	3
2	Methodology.....	4
2.1	Scoping Phase	4
2.2	EIA Phase	8
3	Decision-making Process.....	9

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Public Participation Scoping Phase Activities	6
Table 2-2: EIA Phase consultations	8

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: SEP

Appendix B: Site Notice and Site Notice Report

Appendix C: Newspaper Advertisement

Appendix D: Information Material: BID & Registration and Comment Form and Proof of Submission

Appendix E: Meeting Minutes

Appendix F: Notification Letters.

Appendix G: CRR

Appendix H: Consent Form

1 Introduction

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) has an approved Mining Right (MR) (DMRE Ref. No. FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) as amended, for the mining of sand on the Farm Bankfontein No. 1849. The MR was approved in 2009 and amended in 2011, 2016 and 2017 to incorporate additional areas into the Mining Right Area (MRA).

Copper Sunset aims to further extend their MR to include additional areas adjacent to the approved MRA which will include the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259. The proposed extension of the MRA amounts to approximately 1,642 hectares (ha) (Bankfontein) and 1,179 ha (Zandfontein) for the mining of sand. The proposed extension area will extend Copper Sunset's Life of Mine (LoM) by approximately 20 years.

The Proposed Project is located within Viljoensdrif, near the Vaal River and Lethabo Power Station. The area falls under the jurisdiction of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, which is located in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province.

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) has been appointed by Copper Sunset as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the required environmental authorisation process to expand their existing and approved MRA for the mining of sand over the proposed areas. Therefore, the following processes have been undertaken:

- A Section 102 amendment application process as per the MPRDA to amend the MR boundary;
- A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process to authorise the new Listed Activities as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended) (EIA Regulations, 2014), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- An IWULA process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA); and
- Regulation 31 amendment process to consolidate the Environmental Authorisations (EAs) and EMPrs into one consolidated report as per the NEMA.

To this effect, the Final Scoping Report was submitted to the DMRE on 18 February 2021 for adjudication. The DMRE acknowledged and accepted the Scoping Report on 17 May 2021, allowing Copper Sunset to proceed to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase.

As part of the environmental legal processes, an integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) was undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended) which includes consultations of stakeholders who might be affected by the Proposed Project. This report presents the PPP activities to be undertaken for the EIA phase.

1.1 Public Participation Process Objectives

The PPP objectives for the EIA phase include the following:

- To comply with the legal requirements set out under NEMA;
- To provide I&APs with further opportunity to provide comment on the Draft EIR; and
- To provide I&APs with opportunities to verify that comments have been accurately recorded.

1.2 Legal Framework

PPP is a legislative requirement in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended) in accordance with Section 24(5) and 44 of the NEMA.

During the PPP, the following core activities were undertaken:

- Identification of relevant stakeholders who represent different sectors of the public who may be affected or interested in the Proposed Project;
- Dissemination of information regarding the Proposed Project through various media which included Background Information Document (BID), announcement letter, advertisement, and site notices; and
- Public consultation during the S&EIR Process to allow for the review and public commenting on the project proposal, potential impacts as well as the recommended mitigation and management measures.

The timeframes for the S&EIR process are shown in Figure 1-1 below.

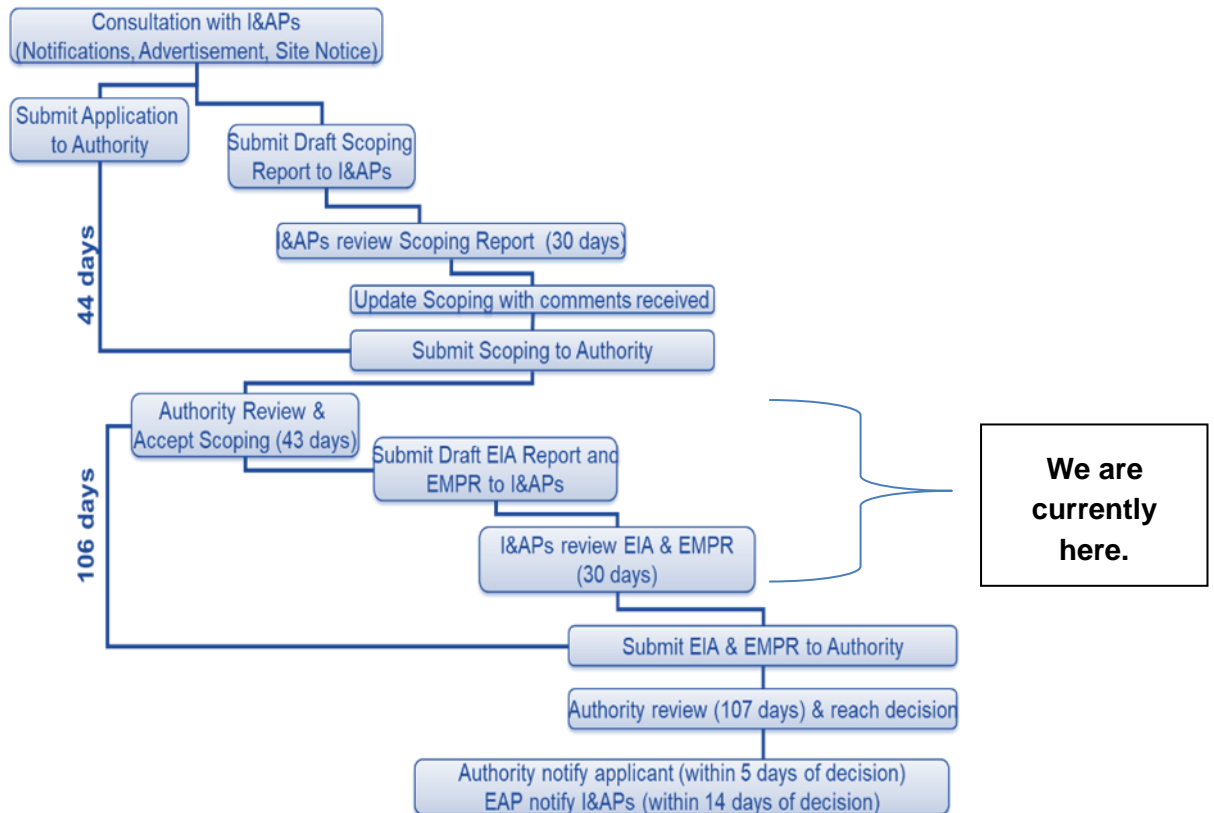


Figure 1-1 The Full Scoping and EIA process flowchart

2 Methodology

The following methodology has been implemented in accordance with Section 21 of the Disaster Management Act 2002 (Act No. 27 of 2002), as amended.

2.1 Scoping Phase

It should be noted that the following activities were completed for the Scoping Phase:

2.1.1 Identification of Stakeholders

To ensure adequate representation of stakeholders interested in or affected by the proposed project, the following steps were undertaken:

- A land tenure map was also developed showing the different land parcels found within the area in order to identify landowners. The information gathered was complemented by Windeed and internet searches to identify and verify land ownership and obtain contact details;
- A review of existing stakeholder databases as provided by Copper Sunset;
- Additional stakeholders were identified when the site notices were displayed in the surrounding areas and distribution of the BID was undertaken via email; and

- Internet searches to identify government officials and for the confirmation of their contact details.

Subsequently, additional stakeholders were identified after the public release of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) through:

- Request to be registered as I&APs; and
- Telephonic and one-on-one Focus Group Meetings (FGMs) with landowners and land occupiers.

Stakeholders for the proposed project have been grouped into the following categories:

- **Government:** National, Provincial, District and Local authorities;
- **Landowners:** Directly affected and surrounding landowners;
- **Land occupiers:** Directly affected and surrounding land occupiers;
- **Communities:** Surrounding communities;
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):** Environmental and social organisations;
- **Agriculture:** Associations or organisations focused on agricultural activities; and
- **Business:** Small and medium enterprises and formal organisations.

2.1.2 Compilation of Stakeholder Database

A stakeholder database which represents government authorities, directly affected and adjacent landowners, as well as communities in and around the proposed project area was compiled and will continue to be updated until final submission of the EIA to the DMRE .

2.1.3 Public Participation Communication Channels

The legislative requirements indicate that specific materials and communication tools be utilised as part of the PPP. The following materials and communication methods were used to inform stakeholders of the project during the Scoping phase:

- **Site Notices:** English site notices were put up at various places as indicated in Table 2-1. These site notices contained a brief project description, information about the required legislation, details of the appointed EAP, details on how to register as an I&APs and the Local Setting Map.
- **Background Information Document: A BID with Registration and Comment Form (RCF)** were emailed to stakeholders and entailed a project description, geographic location of the project, legislative processes and requirements, triggered listed activities in terms of NEMA and NWA, the stakeholder engagement and registration processes as well as contact details of the Digby Wells Stakeholder Engagement Office. A CRF was attached to the BID and provided for stakeholders to use for formal registration as I&APs or to submit comments. The BID was available in English only.

- **Announcement Letter:** A letter was sent via email in English which contained information about the proposed project, applicable legislation, details of the environmental process, information about availability of the DSR for public comment.

The various Public Participation materials and communication tools used during the Scoping phase have been included as Appendix A to Appendix G.

2.1.4 Stakeholder Consultation during the Scoping Phase.

As part of planning for face-to-face stakeholder consultations, Digby Wells submitted a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) as per the Covid-19 Regulations (GN R 650 of 5 June 2020) of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries which was submitted to the DMRE prior to the commencement of the PPP. The SEP was submitted on 30 December 2020.

One-on-one FGMs were held with directly affected farm owners, adjacent landowners, and the local municipality's ward counsellor. A total of seven FGMs were held with the project stakeholders as indicated in Table 2-1. Digby Wells submitted seven BIDs and RCF to the Ward Councillor for distribution to Ward Committee members who were absent from the meeting. Landowners were also provided with BIDs and RCFs.

2.1.4.1 Summary of Public Participation Activities.

Table 2-1 details the activities undertaken during the Scoping Phase, together with referencing materials appended.

Table 2-1: Public Participation Scoping Phase Activities

Activity	Details	Reference in Report
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	A SEP was submitted to the DMRE prior to the commencement of the Scoping Phase on 30 December 2020.	Appendix A SEP
Placement of site notices	English site notices were put up at the proposed project site, a community centre, municipal offices and frequently visited shops on Friday, 8 January 2021 . <i>A site notice placement map and report were also developed to indicate the various site notice locations.</i>	Appendix B: Site Notice
Publication of newspaper advertisement	A Newspaper advertisement was published in English in The Star on 8 January 2020 , which is a national newspaper. The aim of the newspaper advertisement during the Scoping Phase was to notify I&APs of the availability of the DSR for public review and commenting. In addition, the public was	Appendix C: Advertisement.

Activity	Details	Reference in Report
	encouraged to register as I&APs for the project.	
Distribution of BID and RCF.	English BIDs and RCFs were emailed and handed out to stakeholders on Monday 11 January 2021 .	Appendix D: Information Material: BID, RCF. and sent Email & SMS Proof
Stakeholder Consultation	One-on-one FGMs were held with stakeholder between 20 January 2021 and 02 February 2021.	Appendix E: Meeting Minutes.
Announcement of Draft Scoping Report	Announcement of the availability of the DSR was made via email and SMS notifications to stakeholders together with the formal project announcement letter on Monday 11 January 2021. The DSR was made available on http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/ (under Public Documents). <i>Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and associated regulations, the Draft Scoping Report was released electronically via a data free resource.</i> <i>(30-day comment period for draft scoping report was from 11 January 2021 until 10 February 2021)</i>	Appendix F: Notification Letters.
Announcement of the Final Scoping Report	The Final Scoping Report was submitted to DMRE on 18 February 2021. A notification letter for availability of the Final Scoping Report was emailed to all stakeholders on the database. The Final Scoping Report was also be made available on http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/ under Public Documents.	
Obtaining comments from stakeholders	Comments, issues of concern and suggestions received from stakeholders have been captured in the Comment and Response Report (CRR).	Appendix G: Comments and Response Report

2.2 EIA Phase

During the EIA phase, involvement and participation of stakeholders on the Proposed Project will be undertaken in order to comply with the legislation.

2.2.1 Update of Stakeholder Database

A stakeholder database which represents government authorities, directly affected and adjacent landowners, as well as communities in and around the Proposed Project area was compiled during the Scoping phase and will continuously be updated until the final EIA report to DMRE.

To Note: The Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPI Act), took effect on **01 July 2021**. The POPI Act regulates how personal information of individuals in South Africa is collected, stored, processed, and shared.

Digby Wells is required to comply with the POPI Act and hereby request all I&APs who were previously registered for this Proposed Project to provide consent to be included for the EIA phase. Please see Appendix H for the consent form.

2.2.2 Summary of Planned Public Participation Activities during Draft EIA Phase

Table 2-2 details the activities planned for the EIA phase.

Table 2-2: EIA Phase consultations

Activity	Details
Announcement of Draft EIA Report.	Notification on the availability of the Draft EIA Report were emailed and SMS' were sent to stakeholders together with the formal project EIA Phase notification letter and RCF on Friday 09 July 2021 . The Draft EIA Report will be made available on Digby Wells' website via a data free link on http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/ (Under Public Documents). <i>(A 30-day legislated public review and commenting period for the draft EIA report will commence on 09 July 2021 until 10 August 2021)</i>
FGM	In compliance with Alert Level 4 of Disaster Management Act, Regulations which took effect on 28 June 2021 to prevent the spread of Coronavirus [COVID-19], only virtual meetings will be held with identified and registered I&APs. Should the Regulations be amended, this will be reconsidered and arranged accordingly. The

Activity	Details
	objective of the FGMs is to discuss the Proposed Project, obtain comments on the Draft EIA Report and capture all stakeholders' inputs. FGMs will be held between 19 July 2021 to 23 July 2021. Please note that invitations will be made telephonically, via emails and SMSs. I&APs will be notified two weeks prior to the actual meetings. A presentation will be prepared and discussed during these meetings.
Obtaining comments from stakeholders	Comments, issues of concern and suggestions received from stakeholders will be captured in the CRR.
Announcement of the Final EIA Report	The Final EIA Report will be submitted to DMRE on 02 September 2021 . A notification letter on the submission of the Final EIA Report will be emailed to all stakeholders on the database. The Final EIA Report will also be made available on Digby Wells' website via a data free link on http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/ under Public Documents.

3 Decision-making Process

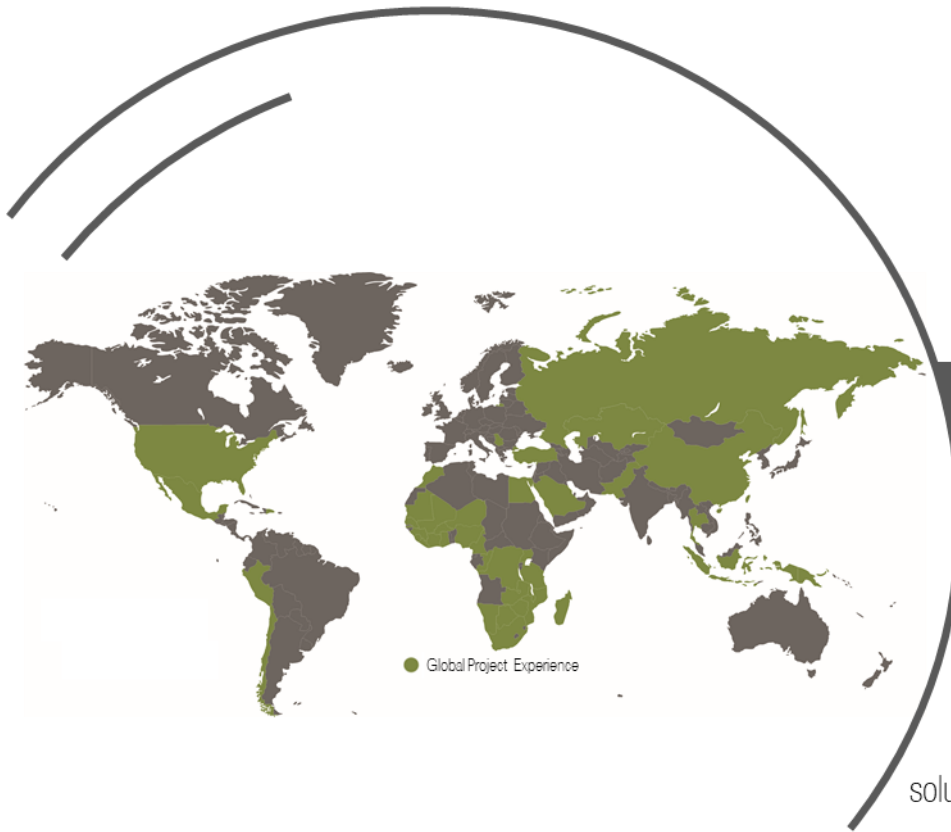
The documentation appended to this report provide all stakeholder material generated and distributed as part of the PPP for the Proposed Project.

Subsequent to the public comment period on the Draft EIA Report, this Report will be updated and appended to the Final EIA Report to be submitted to the DMRE for adjudication. All registered I&APs will be informed of the decision issued by the DMRE on the EA Application. The appeals procedure will be outlined accordingly.

Documentation related to the acceptance or rejection of the Draft EIA, an updated CRR (including stakeholder and I&APs' comments raised during the Draft EIA phase), and PPP chapter will be publicly available during the submission of the Final EIA Report.



Appendix A: SEP



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Proposed Copper Sunset Mining Right Extension Project, situated in Vereeniging, Free State Province

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Prepared for:

Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd

Project Number:


COP6679

December 2020



This document has been prepared by Digby Wells Environmental.

Report Type:	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Project Name:	Proposed Copper Sunset Mining Right Extension Project, situated in Vereeniging, Free State Province
Project Code:	COP6679

Name	Responsibility	Signature	Date
Lerato Ratsoenyane	Report Compiler: Senior: Stakeholder Engagement and Social Specialist		29 December 2020

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	7
1.1.	Project Context.....	7
1.2.	Project Applicant	7
1.3.	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	7
1.4.	Project Locality and Brief Description	8
1.5.	Impacted and Surrounding Host Communities	8
1.6.	Purpose and Objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.....	9
2.	Relevant Legislation, Standards and Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement.....	9
2.1.	Key Principles for Successful Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan	10
2.2.	Approach to be adopted	10
2.3.	Copper Sunset Corporate Policies and Procedures.....	11
3.	Stakeholder Engagement Plan Approach	11
3.1.	Stakeholder Mapping: Identification and Analysis.....	11
3.1.1.	Stakeholder Identification Matrix	11
3.2.	Stakeholder Engagement: Preparation and Engagement	12
3.3.	Grievance Mechanism.....	12
3.4.	Generating Feedback.....	12
3.5.	Responses Generation.....	13
3.6.	Monitoring and Reporting	13
4.	Project Specific COVID-19 Considerations.....	13
4.1.	COVID-19 SEP Risks	13

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1: Details of Project Applicant	7
Table 1-2: Details of EAP	8
Table 1-3: Impacted and Surrounding Host Communities	8

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement Plan – Implementation Strategy

Appendix B: COVID-19 Protocol for Focus Group Meetings

ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITION

ACRONYM	MEANING
COVID-19	SARS-Cov-2 / Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRR	Comments and Response Report
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
DIGBY WELLS	Digby Wells and Associates (Pty) Ltd
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
IFC	International Finance Corporation
MPRDA	Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No.28 of 2002) as amended
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
ToR	Terms of Reference

TERM	DEFINITION
HOST COMMUNITY	Refers to a community within a local or metropolitan municipality adjacent to the mining area, as defined in Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No.28 of 2002) (MPRDA). The Community surrounding the Copper Sunset Mining Right:- Veer
LABOUR SENDING AREAS	Areas of which a majority of mineworkers, both historical and current are or have been sourced.
GRIEVANCE MECHANISM PROCEDURE	It is a structured process to raise and address disputes or grievances that arise between two or more parties engaged.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN	A plan to guide a process of interaction between the company and those stakeholders potentially impacted, that encompasses a range of activities and approaches.
STAKEHOLDER / I&AP	Persons, groups or communities external to the core operations of a project who may have other vested interest in the project.

TERM	DEFINITION
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS	<p>Stakeholder Engagement is used interchangeably with Public Participation Process (PPP). For purposes of this document, PPP will be applicable.</p> <p>Refers to a broad and inclusive interaction that encompasses consultation, disclosure and communication, negotiation, the formation of partnerships, resolution of grievances, and participatory monitoring and reporting that spans throughout the entire life of a project.</p>
REGULATORY AUTHORITIES	<p>A public agency or corporation with administrative powers in a specified field.</p>

1. Introduction

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared as requested by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Free State Province in support of Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd's (Copper Sunset) intension to amend their Mining Right (MR) for the existing sand mining operations. Furthermore, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 1 (PS1), requires that a SEP and Grievance Mechanism be compiled for a project. The SEP has been developed to plan engagement activities which will form part of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) processes. This SEP thus requires approval by the DMRE prior to undertaking the regulatory EA public participation process (PPP).

1.1. Project Context

Copper Sunset, as the applicant has an approved MR (DMRE Ref. No. FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the mining of sand on the Farm Bankfontein No. 1849. The MR was approved in 2009 and amended in 2011, 2016 and 2017 to incorporate additional areas into the Mining Right Area (MRA). he Applicant now wishes to extend the MRA to incorporate adjacent properties to extend the Life of Mine (LoM) by approximately 20 years. The intent is to expand the current mining operations to include additional portions of the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259. The proposed extension of the MRA amounts to approximately 1642 ha (Bankfontein) and 1179 ha (Zandfontein), for the mining of sand.

1.2. Project Applicant

The details of the Project Applicant are included in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1: Details of Project Applicant

Company name:	Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd
Contact person:	Trudie Vosloo
Physical address:	67 Van Buuren Road, Bedfordview, Germiston, 2008
Telephone:	011 622 1785
Email:	trudie@tvosloo.com

1.3. Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Copper Sunset has appointed Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells), as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to the EA process, and conduct various specialist studies including PPP in support of the MR extension project.

The details of the EAP are contained in Table 1-2 below.

Table 1-2: Details of EAP

Company name:	Digby Wells and Associates (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd
Contact person:	Claire Wannenburg
Physical address:	Digby Wells House, 48 Grosvenor Road, Bryanston, Johannesburg, 2191
Telephone:	011 789 9495
Email:	claire.wannenburg@digbywells.com

1.4. Project Locality and Brief Description

The proposed Mining Right Extension Area (MREA) is located within Viljoensdrif, near the Vaal River and Lethabo Power Station. The proposed Project is situated approximately 8 km south of the town of Vereeniging, 10 km south-east of Vanderbijlpark, and 13 km north-east of Sasolburg in the Free State Province of South Africa.

1.5. Impacted and Surrounding Host Communities

The summary of impacted properties and those surrounding the proposed MREA are summarised in Table 1-3 below. Copper Sunset MRA as well as the properties which have already been approved as part of the Copper Sunset MR.

The proposed MREA falls within an existing MRA of the New Vaal Colliery. Seriti Resources (Seriti) is the holder of the MR. The MR permits the mining and extraction of coal. Copper Sunset entered into an agreement with Seriti to mine sand within the MRA. No permanent infrastructure will be constructed on the proposed expansion areas for the sand mining operation. All machinery will be mobile and brought in by Copper Sunset.

Table 1-3: Impacted and Surrounding Host Communities

Affected Farm Name and Portions:	
New Proposed Expansion Areas	
Bankfontein No. 9	RE
Zandfontein No. 259	A portion of the RE
Approved Copper Sunset MR Properties	
Rietfontein No. 152	A portion of the RE
Zandfontein No. 259	A portion of the RE
Bankfontein No. 9	A portion of the RE
Bankfontein No. 1849	Entire Property
Impacted and Surrounding Host Communities	
Viljoensdrif, Vereeniging and Sasolburg	

1.6. Purpose and Objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

This document presents the SEP to be followed during the EA process lifecycle and includes details of the proposed interactions to take place at various stages of the Project¹. The SEP includes the objectives and focus areas of the stakeholder engagement process, a preliminary list of the primary stakeholders to be engaged with and a schedule of the engagement. This document additionally includes a description of the Project-specific considerations with reference to the SARS-Cov-2 (COVID-19) global pandemic.

2. Relevant Legislation, Standards and Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement or PPP (as commonly terms in South African legal context) aims to foster responsible and sustainable business practices within any organisation. The concept Stakeholder Engagement is a process and method for understanding and addressing a broader set of social and environmental risks, as well as economic interests when planning and implementing corporate activities.

In accordance with the South African and other international regulatory best practice guidelines such as those of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), no development which has a potential to impact on communities and environment can be carried out without public consultation. As such, this SEP is critical and of priority for Copper Sunset. The SEP will assist the company to establish mutual relations with the affected communities and ensure that engagements are conducted in an ethical, professional and practical manner.

To give effect and satisfy the statutory requirements of the MPRDA and other applicable mining and mineral Acts, regulations and guidelines, it is necessary to interact with the Affected Communities surrounding the sand mine area as well as engage with a variety of other Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), or using a broader term, stakeholders. This Plan will be the guiding tool for the engagement processes to be implemented during and beyond the proposed project.

The extension of the existing MRA triggers activities incorporated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 04 December 2014 as amended), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The Listed Activities requires a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process to be carried out as part of the authorisation process.

¹ This document does not include details about the S/EIR process – these processes will be included in the Draft Scoping Report to be submitted to the DMRE in January 2021.

The following applications will be made to the DMRE as competent authority for the proposed sand mining right extension project:

- A Section 102 amendment application process as per the MPRDA to amend the MR boundary;
- A S&EIR process to authorise the new Listed Activities as per the NEMA;
- An IWULA process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) to mine the wetland areas found within the expansion area; and
- A Regulation 31 amendment process to consolidate the EAs and EMPs into one consolidated report as per the NEMA.

2.1. Key Principles for Successful Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The following principles are critical for the implementation of the SEP, namely:

- A supportive management team;
- An aligned and optimised communication network;
- Optimised and integrated communication platforms and structures;
- Consistent, targeted and timely messages and feedback to identified I&APs;
- Regular measurement and monitoring of engagements; and
- Continuous professional conduct of all HR Division's team to all stakeholders (internal and external).

2.2. Approach to be adopted

Copper Sunset's approach to stakeholder engagement for the proposed project will include the following elements:

- Planning PPP proactively - taking into consideration the complexity of the socio-economic environment including the existing well established urban areas, and private farm landowners;
- Communicating schedule and ensure sufficient team members with appropriate capabilities;
- Focusing efforts on those stakeholders most affected by the Mine, whether because of proximity or vulnerability to change; and
- Demonstrating that people's opinions and ideas on social issues that impact on the environment are taken into consideration through their Grievance Mechanism Procedure.

Note: *This SEP document is a living document, an initial guide to the stakeholder engagement process for implementation during the construction phase and will have various iterations as it is refined and modified throughout the life of the mine, and as the Mine unfolds within a changing environment. Consequently, whilst this SEP adopts the inclusive life-of-mine perspective, the focus and scope of the SEP may shift in response to the changing dynamics of needs and priorities and the Mine's external environment (political instability in the mining sector due to industrial relations, potential change in administration within the National 2021 Elections and International Arena including COVID-19 restrictions). The reason for the update of the SEP will be to align with foreseen engagements required throughout the project stages.*

2.3. Copper Sunset Corporate Policies and Procedures

The Copper Sunset Human Resources Corporate Policies and Procedures will be read and will align the SEP to these policies and procedures. This will ensure that compliance is done at corporate level and throughout the operations.

3. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Approach

3.1. Stakeholder Mapping: Identification and Analysis

Stakeholder profiling is the process used to determine the level of effort required for each stakeholder group. In general, those stakeholders requiring the greatest engagement effort are those who are most affected and/or have the highest level of influence over a project.

3.1.1. Stakeholder Identification Matrix

Stakeholder profiling for this SEP builds on stakeholder identification process undertaken as part of the EA notification phase.

Stakeholders can broadly be divided into two categories:

- *Affected Stakeholders:* those who will be affected by the Copper Sunset operations. These stakeholders will be identified during PPP activities; and
- *Influential Stakeholders:* those with some level of authority within the community. This can include traditional and political leaders, district government, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and similar institutions. The stakeholders identified to date are Influential Stakeholders and include the following:
 - National Governmental Departments and Ministries;
 - District Administrators, Departments, Councils and media; and
 - Community councils, the business community, transport operators and Civil Society organisations.

It must be noted that the identification and analysis of stakeholders is a continuous process and new stakeholders will be identified during the course of the EA process. Current

stakeholders may change their expectations or perceptions of the impacts, priorities and concerns.

3.2. Stakeholder Engagement: Preparation and Engagement

Stakeholder engagement activities will be structured as follows:

- Public notification – which will involve distribution of BID, publication of newspaper advertisements and distribution of Site Notices;
- Scheduling and holding of meetings with local authorities (district and community ward councillors); and
- Scheduling and holding of meetings with project-affected communities using Focus Group Meeting (FGM) approach.

All stakeholder engagement activities (including the development of engagement materials) will be undertaken in collaboration between Digby Wells and Copper Sunset. Prior to the distribution of all public documents, all documents will be submitted to Copper Sunset in English for review and will subsequently be made available in preferred local languages (where applicable). Refer to **Annexure A** for the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy to be adopted for disseminating information and engaging with stakeholders.

3.3. Grievance Mechanism

This section identifies the feedback opportunities available to stakeholders through the EA process. The focus of the grievance mechanism will be on comments related to the regulated processes, in particular with a focus on concerns or comments about the SLP and other socio-economic and environmental/cultural aspects of significance that must be taken into consideration.

Stakeholder engagement is a two-way process. It is therefore important to ensure that there is a feedback mechanism to guarantee stakeholders affected by or interested in the Copper Sunset operation can present their input (e.g., comments, concerns, requests, and suggestions) for consideration and, if required, seek redress. The feedback mechanism relates specifically to the regulated processes and is intended to identify and collect stakeholder opinions and concerns regarding the processes, and the way that it is being conducted.

Each round of engagement undertaken will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the EA process.

3.4. Generating Feedback

A feedback mechanism has been put in place to ensure that potential comments and concerns raised by stakeholders are acknowledged and addressed in a timely, structured and culturally appropriate manner. Stakeholders will be able to provide feedback to the Team through various forums including:

- A Comment Sheet which will be distributed to stakeholders throughout and made available on the Digby Wells website;
- Electronic and telephonic contact details of the Digby Wells stakeholder engagement team will be widely distributed to stakeholders to allow them to provide feedback, and Digby Wells will be available to record and capture comments as well as concerns in the CRR; and
- During FGM, stakeholders will be afforded an opportunity to raise comments and concerns regarding the project. These will also be captured into the CRR which will be made publicly available through the Digby Wells and Copper Sunset websites.

3.5. Responses Generation

In collaboration with Copper Sunset, Digby Wells will regularly review comments received and generate responses to these comments. This will be undertaken according to the stakeholder engagement phase and level of stakeholder feedback received.

Any comments and concerns noted during engagement will be fed into CRR. Digby Wells will update the CRR regularly and will include this in the final EIR for DMRE consideration.

3.6. Monitoring and Reporting

It is important to monitor and report on the on-going stakeholder engagement efforts to ensure that the desired outcomes are being achieved, and to maintain a comprehensive record of engagement activities and comments and concerns raised. This will be achieved through:

- On-going updates to the stakeholder database;
- The compilation of stakeholder engagement report;
- The retainment of all engagement records; and
- On-going recording of stakeholder comments and concerns.

These records and outputs will be regularly updated during the EA process.

4. Project Specific COVID-19 Considerations

This section presents the COVID-19 health and safety risk planning associated with the proposed engagements and includes a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan, not repeated here for the sake of brevity (attached as **Annexure B** of this document).

4.1. COVID-19 SEP Risks

COVID-19 presents multiple health and safety risks, most prevalent during the stakeholder engagement activities. These risks are primarily associated with the Focus Group Discussions component of the SEP. The following procedure will be adhered:

- Meetings with I&APs will be limited to 20 persons at a time;

- Meeting venue to be sanitised prior to commencement of the FGM;
- All participants will be subject to temperature screening;
- All participants are required to wear a face mask, no exceptions will be tolerated.
- Copper Sunset to provide hand sanitiser to be used by delegates in attendance;
- Physical distancing will be set to a minimum of 1.5 meters apart; and
- Where feasible, the meetings will be held outside and physical distancing will be observed.

Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement Plan – Implementation Strategy

Project Phases	Stakeholders groups	Communication Methods	Purpose of Engagement / Outputs	Timeframe	
				Legal Process	How Often
Application Phase	DMRE Regional Office, Free State Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation and submission of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval by DMRE. 	December/January 2021	Once.
Draft Scoping Phase	General public and all interested groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit to host community areas as part of the Stakeholder Mapping exercise; • A newspaper advertisement will be placed in English in the Vaalweekblad. • Site Notices to be distributed and placed at strategic public places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information-sharing and Consultation. • Register Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). • Capture comments/ issues and recommendations onto Comment and Response Report (CRR); where applicable, distribute specific comments to the relevant Specialists. 	January 2021	Throughout the EA process.



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Project Phases	Stakeholders groups	Communication Methods	Purpose of Engagement / Outputs	Timeframe	
				Legal Process	How Often
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload Draft report on to Digby Wells website and Data Free website for download (Only electronic copies of the report will be made available). • Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. • Distribution of Background Information Document (BID) and Registration Comment Sheet. 			
	National government	Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. Distribution of BID and Registration Sheet.	Information sharing; Capture comments/ issues and recommendations onto CRR; where applicable, distribute	January 2021	Throughout the EA process.



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Project Phases	Stakeholders groups	Communication Methods	Purpose of Engagement / Outputs	Timeframe	
				Legal Process	How Often
			specific comments to the relevant Specialists.		
	Provincial and District and Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. • Distribution of BID and Registration Sheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality's Approval of Mine Community Development projects aligned with the IDP; and • Comments received will be captured into the CRR. 	January 2021	Throughout the EA process.
	Private Farm Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. • Distribution of BID and Registration Sheet. • Virtual or Face-to-face: Focus Group Meetings*. 	Information-sharing and collaboration; Meeting Minute; and Capture comments/ issues and recommendations onto CRR; where applicable, distribute specific comments to the relevant Specialists.	January 2021	Throughout the EA process.



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Project Phases	Stakeholders groups	Communication Methods	Purpose of Engagement / Outputs	Timeframe	
				Legal Process	How Often
		*These will be conducted in local preferred language			
	Closest Community: Ward Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. • Distribution of BID and Registration Sheet via e-mail/ and WhatsApp. • Face-to-face: • Focus Group Meetings. *These will be conducted in local preferred language.	Information-sharing and collaboration; Meeting Minutes; and Capture comments/issues and recommendations onto CRR; where applicable, distribute specific comments to the relevant Specialists.	January 2021	Throughout the EA process.
	Existing Community Based Organisations/ Local Farmers Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. 	Information-sharing and collaboration; and Comments received will be captured into the CRR.	January 2021	Throughout the EA process.



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Project Phases	Stakeholders groups	Communication Methods	Purpose of Engagement / Outputs	Timeframe	
				Legal Process	How Often
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of BID and Registration Sheet. • Face-to-face: • Focus Group Meetings. <p>*These will be conducted in local preferred language.</p>			
Final Scoping Phase	All stakeholders in our database	Compilation of PPP Chapter on findings of the consultation process. Update CRR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to DMRE with Final Scoping Report. 	Submit any comments received from I&APs to the DMRE for consideration on the Final Scoping Report.	February 2021	Once.
EIA Phase	All stakeholders in our database	Distribution of e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp notifications. Upload Draft Report and CRR onto Digby Wells	Submit any comments received from I&APs to the DMRE for consideration on the Final EIR.	March 2021	Throughout the EA process.



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Project Phases	Stakeholders groups	Communication Methods	Purpose of Engagement / Outputs	Timeframe	
				Legal Process	How Often
		website and Data Free website. Ongoing stakeholder engagements. Compilation of PPP Chapter on findings of the consultation process. Update CRR. Submission to DMRE with Final EIR	Information-sharing.	March/April 2021 May/June 2021	
Decision-Making Phase	All stakeholders in our database	Notification Letter regarding the acceptance or rejection of the application. If approved, Appeal process to be followed.	DMRE decision.	October 2021	Appeal process timeline will be applicable.



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Appendix B: COVID-19 Protocol for Focus Group Meetings



Avoid large gatherings:

- No gatherings of 50+ people will be held. All Focus Group Meetings will comprise of 15 people or less.
- Participants will be confirmed by invitation only.



Wearing of cloth face-masks:

- Mandatory wearing of face masks by all participants incl. Consultants.
- Universal Coal will provide face masks for participants.
- Both Consultants and Community members have right to refuse to participate if someone is refusing to wear a mask.



Maintenance of Social distancing:

- Consultants and community members will be seated 2m apart in all Focus Group Meetings.
- Meetings will mostly be held outside; when possible; if inside, DWE will ensure that there is adequate ventilation.



Hand washing and sanitising:

- Hand sanitisers will be provided in all meetings.
- DWE and Universal Coal will provide hand sanitisers at the entrance of the venue.



Regular cleaning of shared surfaces and equipment:

- Consultants will sanitise and clean chairs and tables in the venue regularly.
- There will be a designated rubbish bin in the meeting venue to collect all waste generated. All waste will be handled and treated as hazardous waste.



Appendix B: Site Notice and Site Notice Report



COPPER SUNSET SAND (PTY) LTD

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY PROCESS REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED MINING RIGHT EXTENSION PROJECT NEAR VEREENING, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Introduction

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) has an approved Mining Right (MR) (DMRE Ref. No. FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the mining of sand on the Farm Bankfontein No. 1849. The MR was approved in 2009 and amended in 2011, 2016 and 2017 to incorporate additional areas into the Mining Right Area (MRA).

The applicant intends to expand its MRA to incorporate adjacent properties to extend the Life of Mine (LoM). The intent is to expand the current mining operations to include additional portions of the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259. The proposed extension of the MRA amounts to approximately 1642 ha (Bankfontein) and 1179 ha (Zandfontein), for the mining of sand. The proposed Mining Right Extension Area (MREA) is located within Viljoensdrif under the jurisdiction of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, which is located in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province near the Vaal River and Lethabo Power Station.

Environmental Application Process

Copper Sunset appointed Digby Wells Environmental (hereinafter Digby Wells) to independently facilitate the required Environmental Authorisation (EA) Process to expand their existing and approved MR for the mining of sand over the proposed areas. To incorporate these areas into the approved MR and EMPr the following processes will be undertaken:

- A Section 102 amendment application process as per the MPRDA to amend the MR boundary;
- A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process to authorise the new Listed Activities as per the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- An IWULA process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA); and
- Regulation 31 amendment process to consolidate the EAs and EMPrs into one consolidated report as per the NEMA.

Public Participation Process

Digby Wells hereby informs Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) of the commencement of the proposed project and that the Draft Scoping Report will be available for public comment for a 30-day legislated period on the Digby Wells website from 11 January 2021 to 10 February 2021. Stakeholders affected by or interested in the EA Process are invited to register as I&APs to ensure continuous involvement in the consultation process. Comments and or questions can be addressed to the Digby Wells Stakeholder Engagement Office (contact details below).

Due to the COVID-19 national lock down, the Draft Scoping Report will be released electronically. To access the report (free of charge/ data-free); please click on the following link <http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/> or copy the link onto your URL to download the Report for your review and comment or visit our website www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents).

Digby Wells Stakeholder Engagement Office:

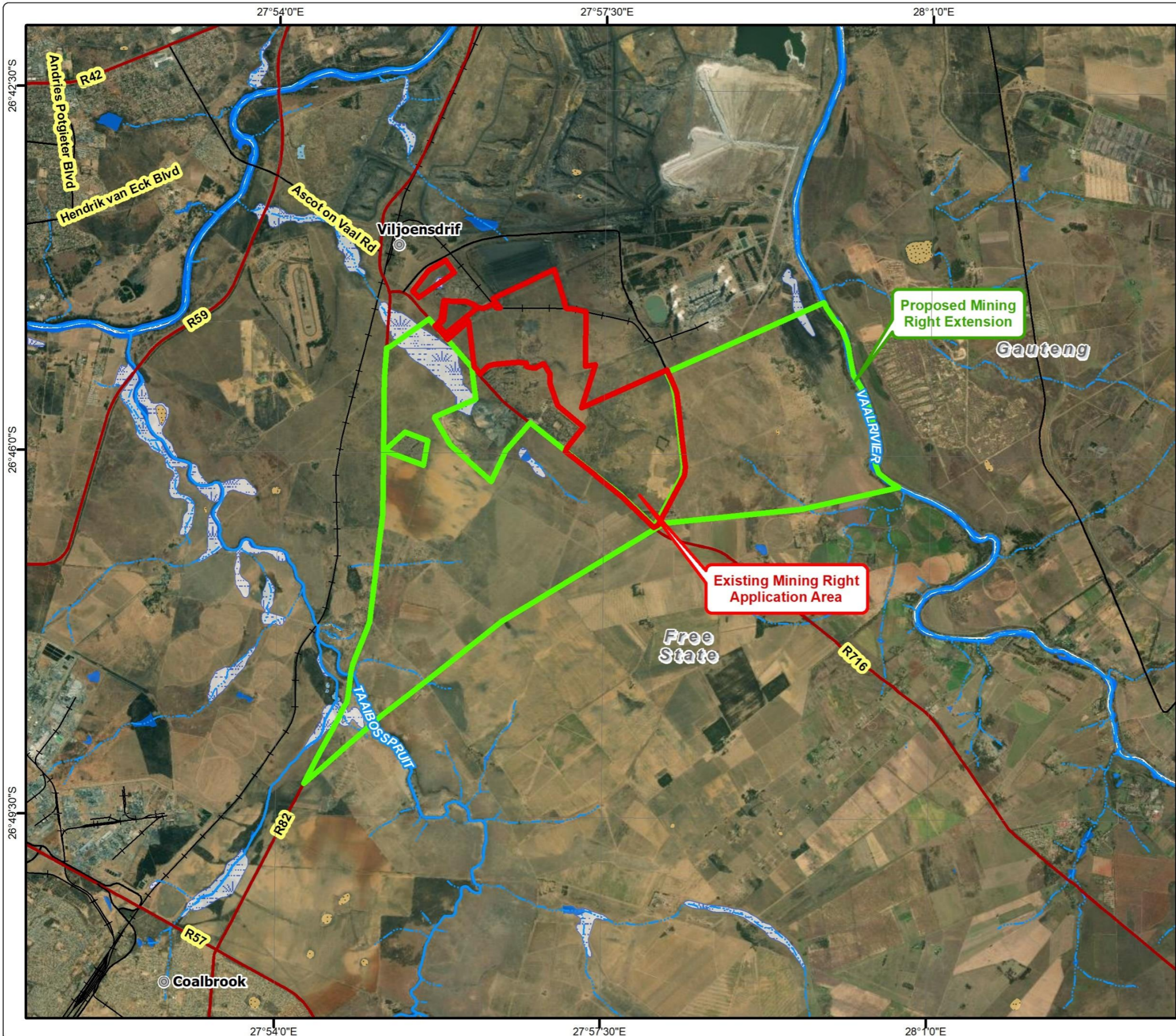
Thembi Zulu/Janet Mkhabela **Tel:** (011) 789 9495 **WhatsApp:** 068 297 8335 **Fax:** (011) 789 9498 **Postal address:** Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125 **Email:** sh@digbywells.com
www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents) **Project No.** COP6679


Copper Sunset Sand Mining Right Extension Application

Local Setting

Legend


- Existing Mining Right Application Area
- Proposed Mining Right Extension Area
- Other Town
- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Railway Line
- Non-Perennial River / Stream
- Perennial River / Stream
- Dam / Lake
- Marsh / Swamp
- Non-Perennial Pan
- Perennial Pan
- Provincial Boundary (2016)






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Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Central Meridian: 27°E
 Date: 10/12/2020
 Ref #: COP6679_02_KR





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Kilometres

www.digbywells.com © Digby Wells Environmental




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**PROPOSED COPPER SUNSET MINING RIGHT EXTENSION PROJECT,
SITUATED NEAR VEREENIGING, FREE STATE PROVINCE
SITE NOTICE REPORT**

**SITE NOTICES PLACED AT COPPER SUNSET MAIN OFFICES, SURROUNDING
AREAS AND DISTRICT AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ON 08 JANUARY 2021**

Public Place	Coordinates	Photo
Location 1: Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd Main Entrance Gate	26°41'37.36"S 27°56'21.24"E	
Location 2: Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd Main Office: Reception	26°45'10.19"S 27°56'31.74"E	



<p>Location 3: Lethabo Vaal Housing</p>	<p>26°45'43.49"S 27°56'48.20"E</p>	
<p>Location 4: Country Butcher</p>	<p>26°44'2.69"S 27°55'6.96"E</p>	
<p>Location 5: Country Kitchen Restaurant and Take Away</p>	<p>26°44'2.69"S 27°55'6.96"E</p>	



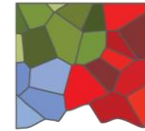
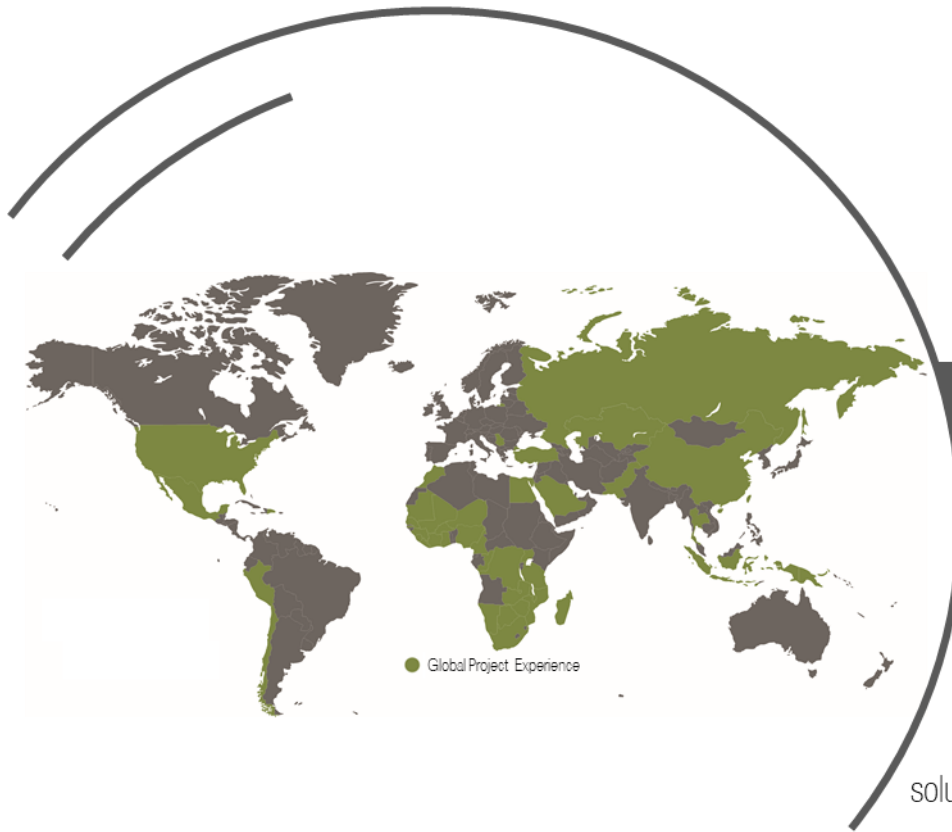
<p>Location Metsimaholo Municipality</p>	<p>6: Local</p> <p>26°49'4.29"S 27°49'40.02"E</p>	
<p>Location 7: Dabi Municipality</p>	<p>7: District</p> <p>26°49'5.42"S 27°49'33.73"E</p>	



Appendix C: Newspaper Advertisement



Appendix D: Information Material: BID & Registration and
Comment Form and Proof of Submission



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Your Preferred Environmental
and Social Solutions Partner

Providing innovative and sustainable
solutions throughout the resources sector

Environmental Regulatory Process Required for the Proposed Mining Right Extension Project near Vereeniging, Free State Province, FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR

Background Information Document

Prepared for:

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd

Project Number:

COP6679

January 2021

**TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Ms. Janet Mkhabela/ or Ms. Thembinkosi Zulu

Digby Wells Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

PO Box 10046, Randburg, 2125

Tel: (011) 789 9495

Fax: (011) 789 9498 / (011) 069 6801

Email: sh@digbywells.com

Website: www.digbywells.com /OR data-free link: <http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/>

1. Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information relevant to the proposed Copper Sunset Sands (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) Mining Right Expansion Project, as well as the required Environmental Authorisation application process. This document aims to:

- Provide a description of the proposed Project;
- Provide an overview of the required regulatory processes;
- Provide details in terms of the regulated Public Participation Process; and
- Invite all I&APs to register as stakeholders, provide comment, raise issues or concerns, and provide suggestions for the enhanced benefit of the Project.

2. Introduction to the Project

Copper Sunset has an approved Mining Right (MR) (DMRE Ref. No. FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the mining of sand on the Farm Bankfontein No. 1849. The MR was approved in 2009 and amended in 2011, 2016 and 2017 to incorporate additional areas into the Mining Right Area (MRA).

The applicant intends to expand its MRA to incorporate adjacent properties to extend the Life of Mine (LoM). To amend the Copper Sunset MR and EMPr the following processes is proposed to be undertaken:

- A Section 102 amendment application process as per the MPRDA to amend the MR boundary;
- A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process to authorise the new Listed Activities as per the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- An IWULA process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA); and
- Regulation 31 amendment process to consolidate the Environmental Authorisations (EAs) and EMPrs into one consolidated report as per the NEMA.

3. Project Location.

The Copper Sunset Project Area is located within Viljoensdrif under the jurisdiction of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, which is located in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province near the Vaal River and Lethabo Power Station. Figure 3-1 provides the local setting. Figure 3-2 below presents the land tenure of the Project affected properties.

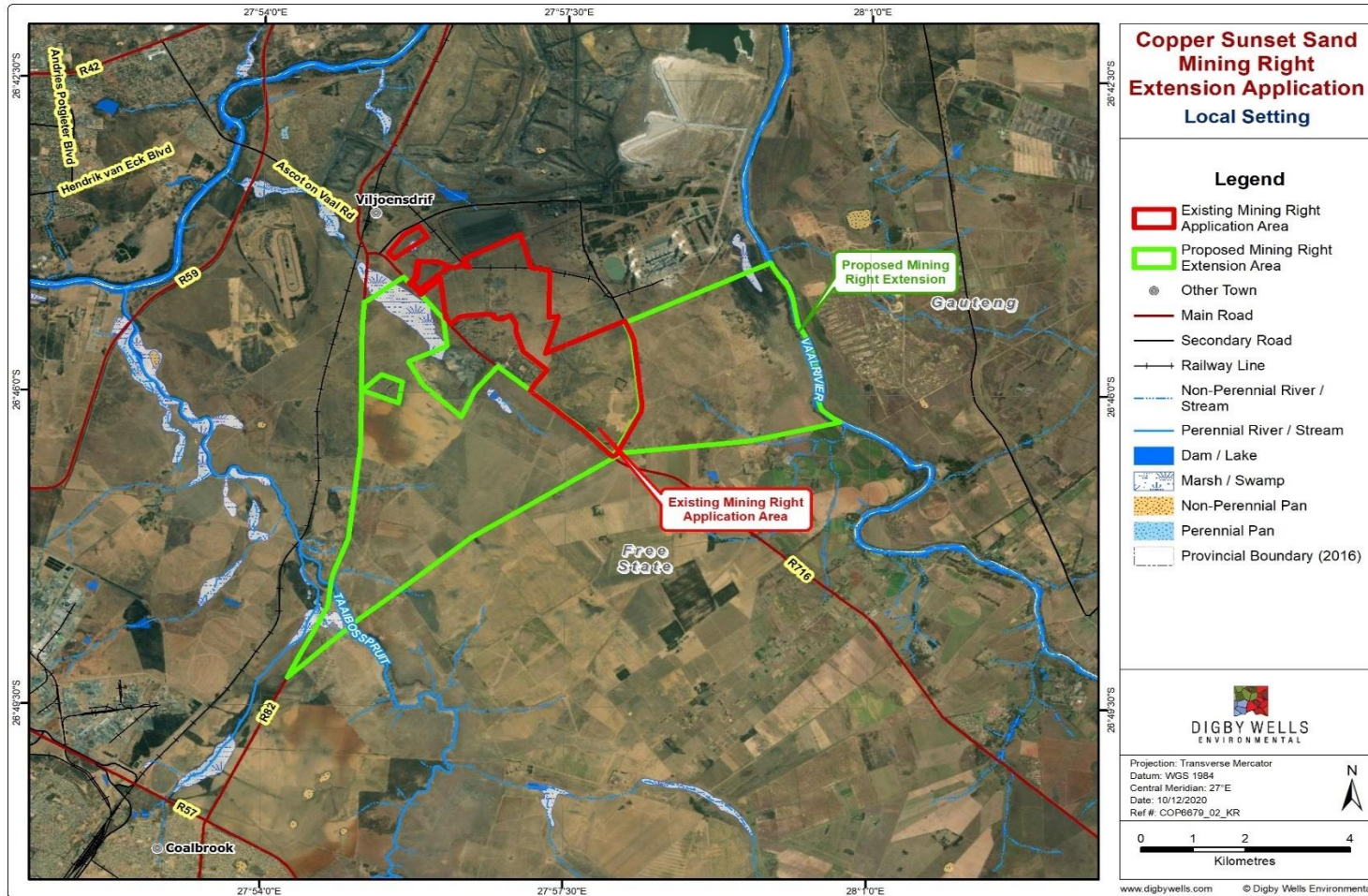


Figure 3-1: Project Locality Map

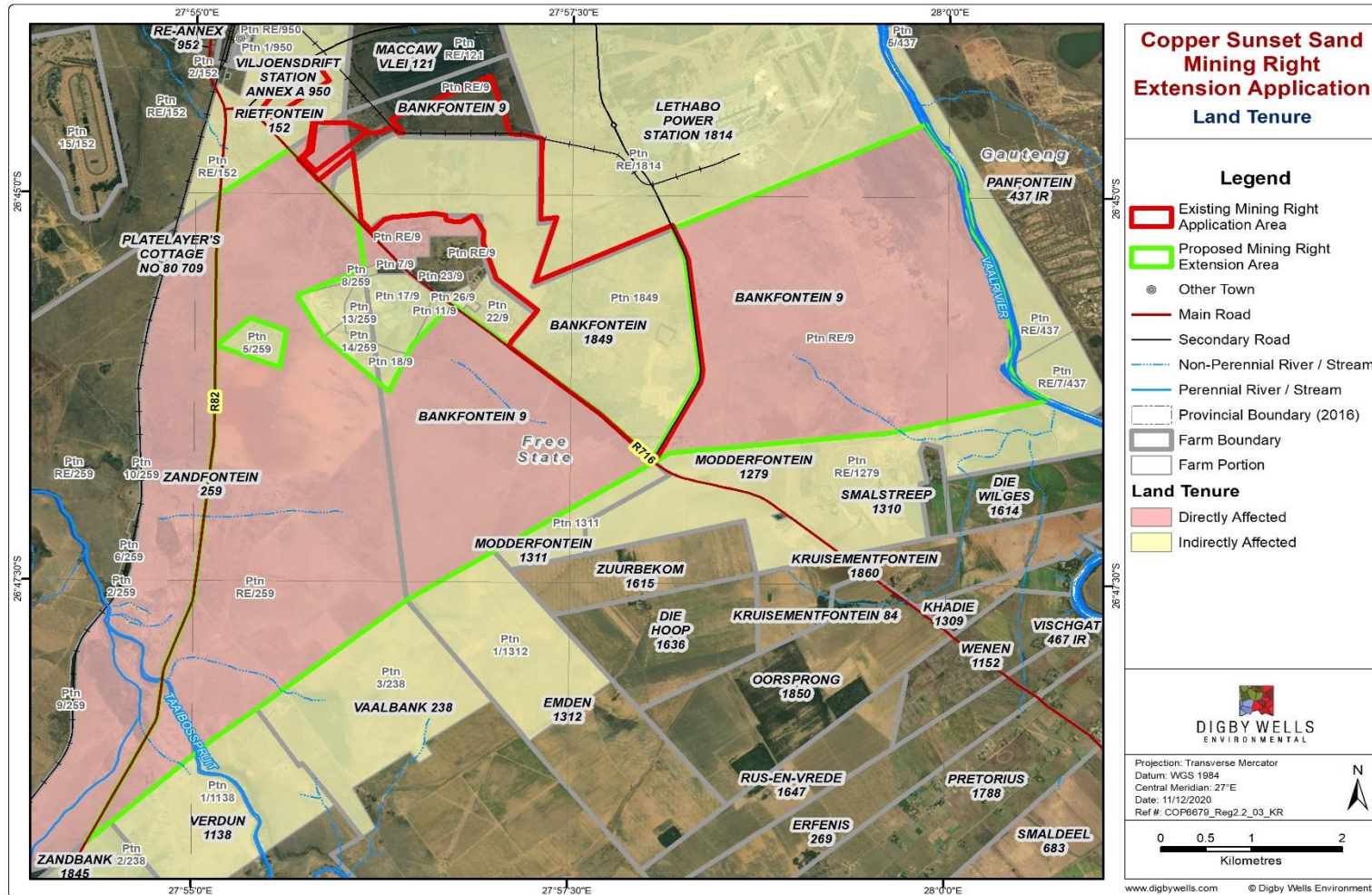


Figure 3-2: Land Tenure map

4. Project Description

Copper Sunset began sand mining in 2009. There is currently about nine months left of the Life of Mine. To maximise the current sand resources on site, Copper Sunset aims to further extend their Mining Right to include additional areas adjacent to the approved MRA which will include the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259. The proposed extension of the MRA amounts to approximately 1,642 ha (Bankfontein) and 1,179 ha (Zandfontein) for the mining of sand.

No permanent infrastructure will be constructed on site for the sand mining operation. The mining infrastructure already established at the existing Copper Sunset operation will be used for the expanded areas, however; mobile offices will be established at the entrance to the new mining areas. A total of two new mobile offices each approximately 1 ha will be established at each mining area which will be erected when mining commences in these areas (Figure 4-1).

The mobile office areas will include the following:

- Mobile offices;
- Hydrocarbon storage tank (14,000 L) with associated bund. Machinery will be refuelled in the area;
- Waste storage area;
- Parking area for the storage of mobile infrastructure; and
- A generator and solar panels to provide electricity to the offices.

The mining method to be applied includes:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil;
- Construction of a temporary haul road ;
- Mining of the sand resource (including screening of the sand);
- Backfilling of the mined excavations with stockpiled topsoil; and
- Concurrent rehabilitation.

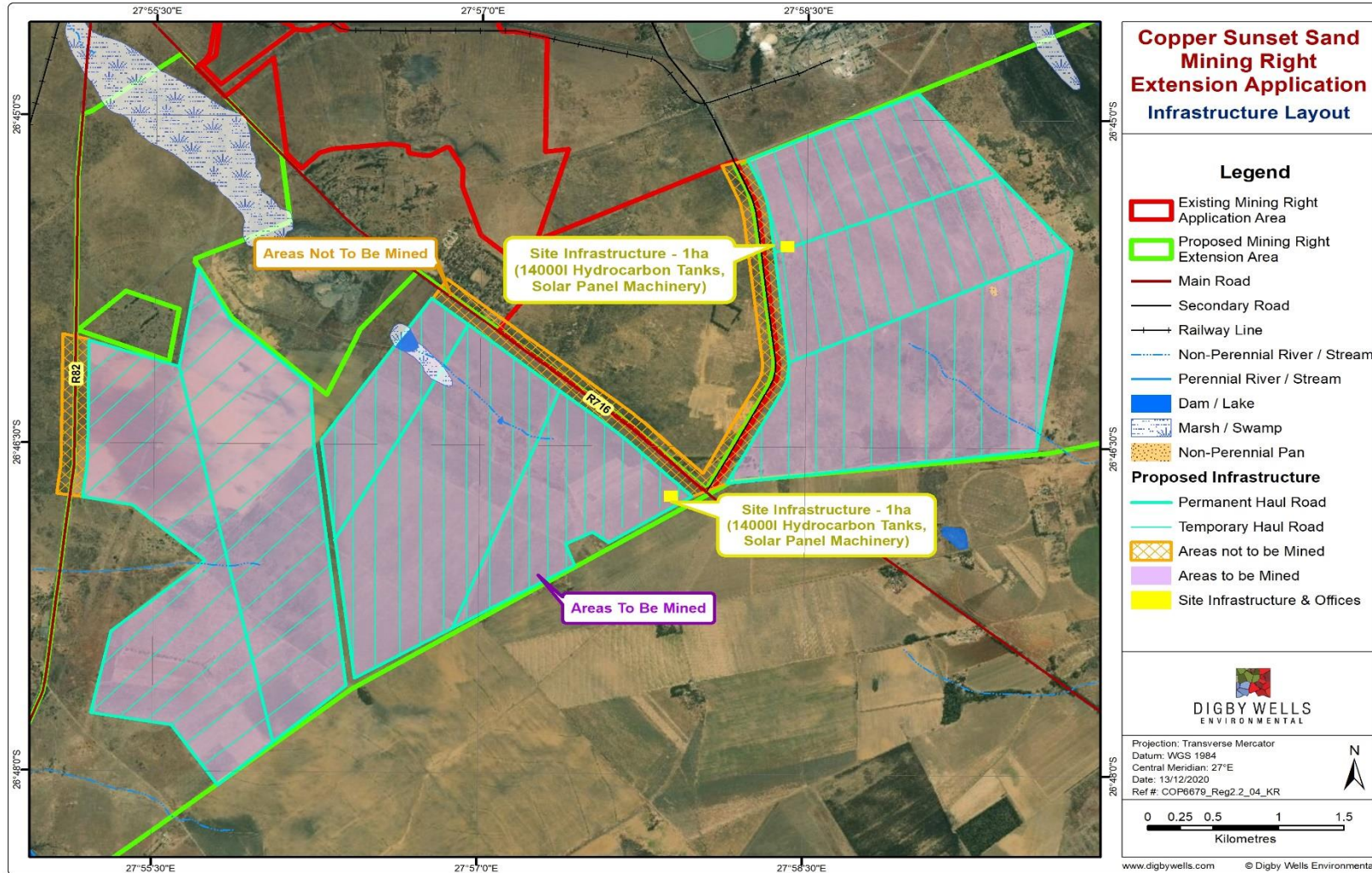


Figure 4-1: Proposed Mine Layout

5. Environmental Authorisation Process

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) was appointed by Copper Sunset to independently facilitate the Environmental Authorisation Process and submit the required documentation in support of the relevant applications. The extension of the existing MRA triggers activities incorporated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 04 December 2014 as amended), promulgated under the NEMA. The Listed Activities require a S&EIR process to be undertaken as part of the authorisation process. This process requires a comprehensive public consultation process and is dictated by a 300-day timeframe, from the date of submission until the application is either approved or rejected by the competent authority. The timeframes and S&EIR process are shown in Figure 5-1 below.

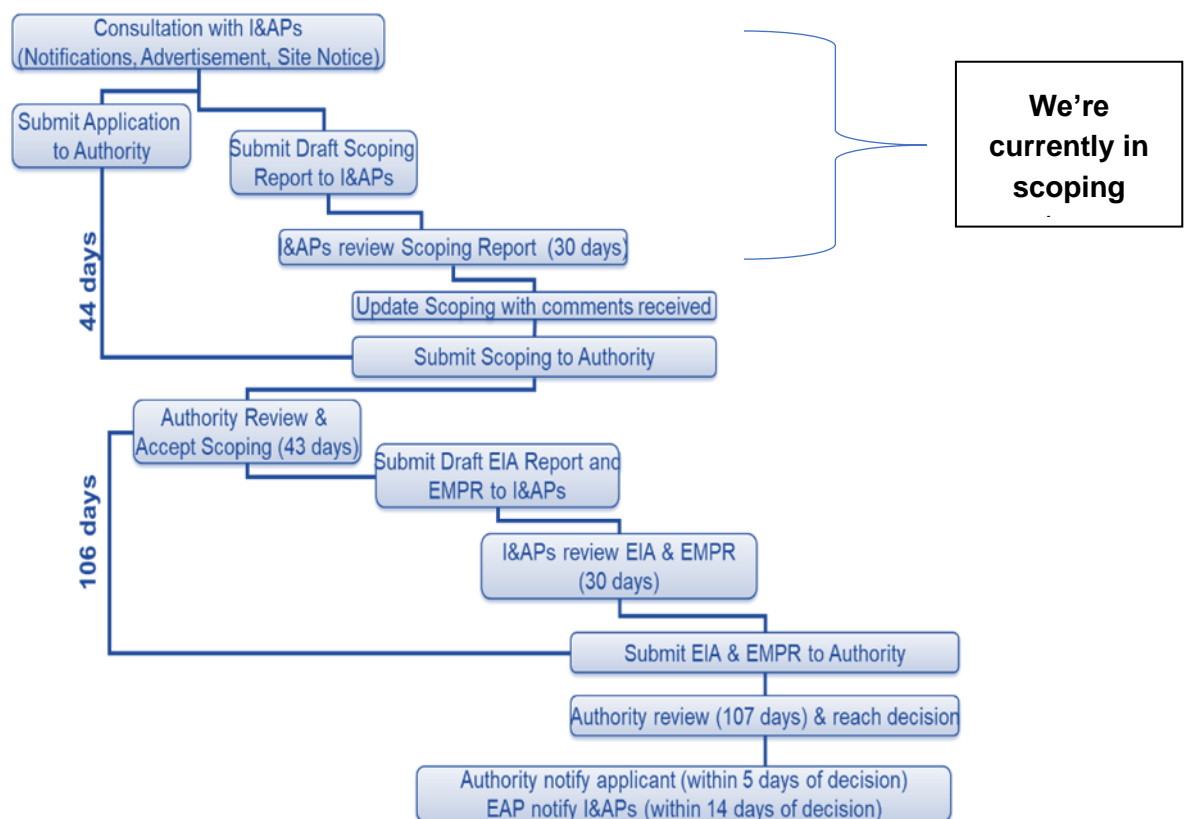


Figure 5-1 : The Full Scoping and EIA process flowchart

6. Public Participation Process

The national South African Regulatory Framework requires a PPP to be undertaken as part of an Environmental Authorisation Application Process. A PPP involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed Project and providing I&APs with sufficient information to enable effective engagement.

To satisfy the requirements of Regulations 40 through 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), this BID serves to inform you as a potential I&AP of the proposed Project, the

associated Environmental Authorisation Process and the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for public review.

All I&APS are invited to register as stakeholders to participate in the PPP. Registered stakeholders will receive notifications regarding the availability of public reports via their preferred means of communication, limited to Short Message System (SMS), email, post or fax. Contributions from stakeholders will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provide information to be considered by the Project team and specialists conducting the required studies. All comments can be submitted to the contact details provided or as part of the Comment and Registration Sheet.

Method of Communication	Contact Information
Completing Registration and Comment Form	See Attached Document
Write to Digby Wells	Private Bag X10046, Randburg, Johannesburg, 2125 sh@digbywells.com . Telephone: 011 789 9495

The DSR will be available for public comment for a 30-day legislated comment period from 11 January 2021 to 10 February 2021. Additionally, focus group meetings, in line with COVID-19 regulations, will be held to present the project to I&APs. These meetings will be undertaken between the 18 January 2021 and 22 January 2021.

Due to COVID-19 national lock down, the DSR has only been released electronically. To access the report electronically, please refer below:

Electronic Copies
Visit our website: www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents). Alternatively, You can access the report via our data-free service: http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/



Environmental Regulatory Process Required for the Proposed Mining Right Extension Project near Vereeniging, Free State Province

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

January 2021

Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be informed of ongoing developments via their preferred means of communication (SMS, email, post or fax).

Due to the COVID-19 national lock down, the Reports will be released electronically. To access the report (free of charge/ data-free); please click on the following link <http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/> or copy the link onto your URL to download the Report for your review and comment or visit our website www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents).

Comments raised by stakeholders will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provides information to be considered by the project team and specialists conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Please register as an I&AP and provide comments by sending this form, or other written correspondence, to the contact details provided below:

Ms. Janet Mkhabela/ or Ms. Thembinkosi Zulu of Digby Wells Environmental Stakeholder Engagement Office:

Fax: (011) 789 9498, **Telephone:** (011) 789 9495, **Postal Address:** Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125; **Email:** sh@digbywells.com

Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)	Yes	No		
Do you wish to attend the focus group meetings	Yes	No		
I would like to receive my notifications by	Email	SMS	Post	Fax

Please indicate which sector you represent and also provide a name

Government Department	
Municipality	
Community	
Non-Government Organisation	
Business	



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If you are a *landowner* or *land occupier*, please indicate which farm(s) and portion(s) you reside on

Landowner	
Land occupier	

Please fill in your contact details below for the project database

Title, Full Name					
Designation					
Cellphone		Fax		Tel	
Email					
Postal Address					

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, as amended, Section 44 (1) requires that we gather comments from I&APs. Please complete the questions below. Should you require assistance in completing these questions please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Office at contact information provided above.

How do you think the project might impact (affect) you?
How do you think the project might impact (affect) your socio-economic conditions? (e.g. livelihoods, farm, business, household)
How can these impacts be managed, avoided and / or fixed?
If you are a landowner or occupier, what is your land currently being used for?



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Are there any environmental, social or heritage features on the proposed project area we need to be aware of?
Where are these found?
Do you think the project could impact (affect) infrastructure you might have? (e.g. houses, buildings, roads)
If so how can these impacts (affects) be managed, avoided or fixed?
General Comments

If there are any other stakeholders, we should include onto the stakeholder database for the proposed project, please provide their contact details.



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Title, Full Name		Title, Full Name	
Organisation		Organisation	
Cellphone		Cellphone	
Email		Email	

Signature

Date



Appendix E: Meeting Minutes



Project Name: Proposed Expansion of the Sand Mining Project in the Free State Province Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd.
Project No: COP6679
Date: 20 January 2021

Minutes of the meeting held between the Directly Affected farmers, Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) and Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) at one of the farmers premises in Free State.

1 Present

The following attendees were present at the meeting regarding the Environmental Authorisation Application in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

2 Project Background

Digby Wells presented the proposed project to the Committee members, which provided an understanding of what the project would entail. It was highlighted that the project was an expansion project.. After the presentation Digby Wells opened an opportunity for questions and concerns. Refer to the table below:

3 Questions / Concerns and Answers

Question/ Concern	Response
How many hectares of area will be mined? And will it be mined all at once?	Simon Mbem: A strap mining method will be implemented. After mining a certain portion, a rehabilitation will be implemented immediately.
Will the mine be fenced off, that our livestock may not pass over the mining operations?	Trudie Volsoo: Yes

4 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled once the DMRE has issued a decision on the Scoping Phase.



Project Name: Proposed Expansion of the Sand Mining Project in the Free State Province Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd.

Project No: COP6679

Date: 20 January 2021

Minutes of the meeting held between the Ward Councillor and the Ward Committee Member, Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) and Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) at the Copper Sunset Sand Offices in Free State.

1 Project Background

Digby Wells presented the proposed project to the Committee members, which provided an understanding of what the project would entail. It was highlighted that the project was an expansion project. After the presentation Digby Wells opened an opportunity for questions and concerns. Refer to the table below:

2 Questions / Concerns and Answers

Question/ Concern	Response
Where exactly is the proposed extension project?	Lerato Ratsoenyane: Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259
How many people who are staying around the area who are currently employed by Copper Sunset?	Simon Mbem: About 11 people.
Ensure employment for poor people living around the area. Involve the ward councilor in all your employment recruitments, otherwise there will be problems if the municipality is not involved.	Noted

3 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled once the DMRE has issued a decision on the Scoping Phase.



Project Name: Proposed Expansion of the Sand Mining Project in the Free State Province Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd.

Project No: COP6679

Date: 20 January 2021

Minutes of the meeting held between Seriti (Pty) Ltd (Seriti), Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) and Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) at the Seriti New Vaal Colliery Main Office, Address: 1955 Problem Rd, Richmond, 1939.

1 Present

The following attendees were present at the meeting regarding the Environmental Authorisation Application in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

2 Project Background

Digby Wells presented the proposed project to Seriti, which provided an understanding of what the project would entail. It was highlighted that the project was an expansion project.. After the presentation Digby Wells opened an opportunity for questions and concerns. Refer to the table below:

3 Questions / Concerns and Answers

Question/ Concern	Response
What is the projected date to start mining after receiving an approval from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)?	Trudie Vosloo: As soon as the Mining approval is received from DMRE
When is the Mining approval expected?	Lerato Ratsoenyane: That will be determined by the response from DMRE when they issue the acceptance the approval of the Scoping report, DMRE has 43 days to review the report and comment and that will be around February 2021 which takes us to April 2021. After that, the process will proceed to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase, 30 days of public comment. Barbara Wessels: Hopefully by the end of 2021, DMRE will have issued the decision on the application
What is the Life of Mine (LoM) be?	Trudie Volsoo: 30 + years
When doing the lease agreement, we must make sure that we have taken note of the servitude for the conveyor belt that will be running through this area. We have an underground operation for mining purposes that will have a conveyor belt that will be running to the current plant. An EIA and Integrated Water Use License Application that is currently with DMRE for approval.	Noted
There are other sand mines operations around the area, one of them being Jongilizwe sand mine located in Zandfontein farm. They have a mining permit	Trudie Volsoo: We are aware of that and have excluded that area for our Mining Right application.

I assume if COVID 19 lockdown continues we will continue with the focus group one-on-one meetings for Public Participation Process.	Lerato Ratsoenyane: True
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4 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled once the DMRE has issued a decision on the Scoping Phase.



Appendix F: Notification Letters.



8 January 2021

Project Reference No: COP6679

**ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY PROCESS REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED
MINING RIGHT EXTENSION PROJECT NEAR VEREENIGING , FREE STATE PROVINCE
COPPER SUNSET (PTY)**

Dear Stakeholder,

1 Introduction

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) has an approved Mining Right (MR) (DMRE Ref. No. FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the mining of sand on the Farm Bankfontein No. 1849. The MR was approved in 2009 and amended in 2011, 2016 and 2017 to incorporate additional areas into the Mining Right Area (MRA).

The applicant intends to expand its MRA to incorporate adjacent properties to extend the Life of Mine (LoM). The intent is to expand the current mining operations to include additional portions of the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259. The proposed extension of the MRA amounts to approximately 1642 ha (Bankfontein) and 1179 ha (Zandfontein), for the mining of sand. The proposed Mining Right Extension Area is located within Viljoensdrif under the jurisdiction of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, which is located in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province near the Vaal River and Lethabo Power Station.

2 Environmental Authorisation Process

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) was appointed by Copper Sunset to independently facilitate the Environmental Authorisation Process and submit the required documentation in support of the relevant applications. The extension of the existing MRA triggers activities incorporated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 04 December 2014 as amended), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The Listed Activities require a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process to be carried out as part of the authorisation process. This process requires a comprehensive public consultation process to be undertaken. To incorporate these areas into the approved MR and EMPr the following processes will be undertaken:

- A Section 102 amendment application process as per the MPRDA to amend the MR boundary;

- A S&EIR Process to authorise the new Listed Activities as per the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- An IWULA process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA); and
- Regulation 31 amendment process to consolidate the EAs and EMPs into one consolidated report as per the NEMA..

3 Public Participation Process

The National South African Regulatory Framework requires a Public Participation Process to be undertaken as part of an Environmental Authorisation application process. A Public Participation Process (PPP) involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed Project and providing Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with sufficient information to enable effective engagement.

The PPP must satisfy the requirements of Regulations 40 through 44 of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated under the NEMA.

This letter serves to inform you as a potential I&AP of the proposed Project, the associated Environmental Authorisation process and the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for public review. All I&APs are invited to register as stakeholders.

The DSR will be available for public comments from 11 January 2021 to 10 February 2021 for a 30-day legislated commenting period

Due to the COVID-19 national lockdown, the DSR will be released electronically only.

Electronic Copies	
www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents) Alternatively, You can access the report via our data-free service: http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/	Contact persons: Thembi Zulu/Janet Mkhabela Telephone: 011 789 9495

4 Public Meeting Notification

Digby Wells and Copper Sunset will host Focus Group meetings to be held between 18 January 2021 to 22 January 2021 with I&APs to discuss the contents of the DSR and obtain I&APs comments. The meetings will be in line with the COVID-19 Regulations requirements. Meetings will be divided into several sessions if the number of attendees is expected to exceed the venue limit. The details pertaining to the meeting will be provided in due course to all I&APs.

Please complete and return the attached registration and comment form to Digby Wells if you wish to register as a stakeholder, as well as indicate your interest in receiving further information regarding the Environmental Authorisation process. Your comments and feedback are highly valued.

You may direct any queries please via the following contact details:

Telephone: 011 789 9495
Fax: (011) 789 9498 / (011) 069 6801
Postal Address: Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125
Email Address: sh@digbywells.com.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Mkhabela', with a stylized, cursive script.

Janet Mkhabela
Stakeholder Engagement Consultant
Digby Wells Environmental



Project Reference No: COP6679

09 July 2021

**ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY PROCESS REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED
MINING RIGHT EXTENSION PROJECT NEAR VEREENIGING, FREE STATE
PROVINCE**

DMRE Ref No.: FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR

Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Public Comment

Dear Stakeholder,

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd (Copper Sunset) has an approved Mining Right (MR) (DMRE Ref. No. FS30/5/1/1/2/164 MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) as amended, for the mining of sand on the Farm Bankfontein No. 1849. The MR was approved in 2009 and amended in 2011, 2016 and 2017 to incorporate additional areas into the Mining Right Area (MRA).

Copper Sunset aims to further extend their MR to include additional areas adjacent to the approved MRA, which will include the Remaining Extent (RE) of the Farm Bankfontein No. 9 and a portion of the RE of the Farm Zandfontein No. 259. The proposed extension of the MRA amounts to approximately 1,642 hectares (ha) (Bankfontein) and 1,179 ha (Zandfontein), for the mining of sand. The proposed extension area will extend Copper Sunset's Life of Mine (LoM) by approximately 20 years.

The Proposed Project is located within Viljoensdrif, near the Vaal River and Lethabo Power Station. The area falls within the jurisdiction of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, which is located in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province.

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) has been appointed by Copper Sunset as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct the required environmental authorisation process to expand their existing and approved MRA for the mining of sand over the proposed areas. Therefore, the following processes have been undertaken:

- A Section 102 amendment application process as per the MPRDA to amend the MR boundary;
- A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Process to authorise the new Listed Activities as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended) (EIA Regulations, 2014), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- An IWULA process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA); and
- Regulation 31 amendment process to consolidate the Environmental Authorisations (EAs) and EMPs into one consolidated report as per the NEMA.

Public Participation Process

This letter serves to inform you, as a potential Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) that the DMRE accepted the Final Scoping Report on 17 May 2021, thereby allowing Copper Sunset to proceed into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase. As part of the process, a Public Participation Process (PPP) must be undertaken in terms of Regulation 40 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated under the NEMA.

The PPP involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed Project and providing stakeholders with sufficient information about the proposed Project to enable effective stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders affected by, or who are interested in the proposed Project, are invited to register as an I&AP.

The Draft EIA Report will be available for public comment from **09 July 2021 to 10 August 2021** for a 30-day legislated commenting period.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and associated regulations, the Draft EIA Report has been released electronically and can be downloaded free of charge. I&APs who require the Report in hard copy may contact Digby Wells directly with their request.

The Report is available on the Digby Wells website as indicated below:

Please use the Project reference number when providing your comment: **COP6679**

Contact Person	Public Place /Location	Contact
Electronic Copies		
Thembi Zulu / Lerato Ratsoenyane.	http://www.digbywellsdocs.com/PublicDocuments/ (under Public Documents) Alternatively You can access the report via our data-free service: http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/ (data free link)	sh@digbywells.com

Notification of Public Consultation

In compliance with Alert Level 4 of Disaster Management Act, Regulations which took effect on 28 June 2021 to prevent the spread of Coronavirus [COVID-19], only virtual meetings will be held with identified and registered I&APs. Should the Regulations be amended, this will be reconsidered and arranged accordingly. The objective of the Focus Group Meetings (FGMs) is to discuss the Proposed Project, obtain comments on the Draft EIA Report and capture all stakeholders' inputs. FGMs will be held between 16 July 2021 to 22 July 2021. Please note that invitations will be made telephonically, via emails and SMSs. I&APs will be notified two weeks prior to the actual meetings. A presentation will be prepared and discussed during these meetings.

Regards,



Assistant Stakeholder Engagement Consultant
Digby Wells Environmental



DIGBY WELLS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Appendix G: CRR

Comments and Response Report

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
I am currently leasing a portion of the farm Zandfontein 259 from Seriti for grazing livestock including cattle, sheep and goats as well as maize harvesting.	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you for sharing the information and the information has been noted.
I am currently leasing a portion of the farm Bankfontein 9 from Seriti for grazing livestock including cattle, sheep and goats as well as maize harvesting.	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you for sharing the information and the information has been noted.
Eskom Lethabo Power Station is located on the north-eastern boundary of the proposed project area.	26 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you for sharing the information and the information has been noted.
I am the owner of the Farm Emden 1312 which is registered under the Cairo Trust. I am leasing approximately 280 hectares of land from Seriti on the farm Zandfontein 259 for maize and wheat harvesting. I appreciated the presentation and information shared about the project. I will engage with Seriti to discuss compensation and other issues within the duration of my lease agreement.	02 February 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you for the comment. Seriti will remain the surface right owners should the mining right be granted. A contract will be in place between Seriti and Copper Sunset which will permit Copper Sunset to mine the sand from the properties. The company intends to have a collaborative working relationship with all landowners and will ensure open and transparent communication is maintained.
Our family has a portion of the Farm Bankfontein 9 leased from Seriti for grazing of livestock. Furthermore, We also have property alongside the R82 adjacent to the existing railwaylink. We have no specific comments on the project and are willing to have a working relationship and open communication with Copper Sunset should they commence mining activities.	02 February 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you for sharing the information and noted. The company intends to have a collaborative working relationship with all landowners and will ensure open and transparent communication is maintained.
Confirmation is required to understand what other applications have been submitted for sand mining as there may be some sand	19 January 2021	Comment and Response Form	Thank you for the comment. Digby Wells has been made aware of an environmental authorisation application by Jongilizwe Sand Mining company and Afrimat who are currently operating in the

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
mining rights already authorised for land portions which are located within the area Copper Sunset is currently applying for.			area. Additionally, we are aware of the sand mining application which has been made by Mabefu Engagement Minerals. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) will be the lead-authority and will be the decision-maker for approving or declining any proposed applications.
What are the timelines on the project should the authorisation be granted by the DMRE	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Digby Wells submitted the Final Scoping Report on 18 February 2021 and the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) is planned for submission on 02 September 2021. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) will have 107 days to approve or decline the Report.
When is the Mining approval expected?	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Should the Environmental Authorisation (EA) be approved, and the Mining be granted; Copper Sunset will commence with Mining activities.
What is the expected Life of Mine (LoM)?	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	The Life of Mine (LoM) is expected to be approximately 30 years.
When updating the lease agreement that Copper Sunset has with Seriti, the servitudes for the conveyor belt that will be running through the project area must be taken into consideration. Seriti has a mining right for their underground operations that comprises of a conveyor belt that will be running to the current plant at New Vaal Colliery. The EIA and Integrated Water Use License Application (IWUL) is currently with DMRE for approval.	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you for the information and noted. This will be taken into consideration in the mine plans and lease agreements.
There are other sand mining operations around the area, one of them being Jongilizwe Sand Mine located on the farm Zandfontein. They have a mining permit for sand mining.	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Copper Sunset is aware of the current sand mining activities by Jongilizwe. This area has been excluded from the proposed Mining Right Extension Project footprint.
Where exactly is the proposed extension project?	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	The Locality Plan was presented depicting the proposed project area. It should be noted that the proposed project falls within the Metsimaholo Local Municipality under Ward 19.
There is an existing servitude line that is currently supplying water to New Vaal Lethabo Properties. This must be considered as well.	26 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Thank you and noted. This information will be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
<p>What is the depth level of sand mining proposed within the proposed project area? And will it be mined all at once?</p>	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Copper Sunset will be mining the sand using the “strip mining method” with concurrent rehabilitation. The mine will mine one area first then rehabilitate it and move to the next area. The entire mining area will not be mined at once. The plan is to firstly mine on the Farm Bankfontein 9 as outlined in the infrastructure plan. Topsoil will firstly be removed at a depth of approximately 1.5 metres and stockpiled. Thereafter, the sand resource will be extracted from a depth of 2-3 metres. Rehabilitation will be done immediately after each section of mining has taken place to ensure that the area is rehabilitated to an environment as close as possible to the pre-mining activity.</p>
	02 February 2021	Focus Group Meeting	
<p>Will the area be mined all at once or phased out?</p>	02 February 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Mining activities will be phased and will first mine on Farm Bankfontein and thereafter move to Farm Zandfontein. Refer to Error! Reference source not found. for the Life of Mine (LoM) plan.</p>
<p>Surface and shallow aquifer water flow will be impacted due to mining and rehabilitation. This could reduce the water flow into an already impacted wetland.</p>	19 January 2021	Comment & Registration Form	<p>Noted. Digby Wells undertook various specialist studies including hydrogeological studies (Error! Reference source not found.), surface water studies (Error! Reference source not found.), and wetland assessments (Error! Reference source not found.) in order to assess the current status quo of the environment and to develop mitigation and management measures to reduce negative impacts on already impacted areas. These will need to be implemented prior to commencement of the project.</p>
<p>Afrimat is currently using underground mine water as a source of water supply for their sand operations.</p>	26 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Thank you for the comment. Copper Sunset will consider this water source as an option for their water supply should sand mining be commenced with. This option will only be considered depending on the water qualities of the underground workings.</p>
<p>There are existing wetlands in the area, will these be mined as well? Where will the Company source their water?</p>	02 February 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Thank you for the comment. Digby Wells undertook a wetland assessment study (Error! Reference source not found.) as part of the Mining Right Extension Application. Various specialists undertook their investigations and detailed findings are presented in this Environmental Impact Assessment/ Environmental Management Programme</p>

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
			<p>(EIA/EMPr), including mitigation and management measures to limit or avoid negative impacts on sensitive areas including existing wetlands. An Integrated Water Use License (IWUL) will be applied for to mine severely disturbed wetlands.</p> <p>At present, water will be sourced from a borehole located at the approved Copper Sunset Mining Right Area which has an approved IWUL. A total amount of water permitted to be abstracted in accordance with the IWUL is 140 650 m³ per annum. Water will only be used for dust suppression.</p>
<p>Copper Sunset must take into consideration specifically the portions of the Farm Bankfontein (outside the proposing Expansion Area) where a protected species namely <i>Boophone Disticha</i> was identified. The plant is known to be highly toxic and used for hunting historically. An EIA application for the power plant was applied for in this area which was submitted by Eskom in 2018. The project was rejected due to the discovery of these protected species. The area was deemed as a “no-go” area and thus the project was not commenced with.</p>	26 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Thank you for sharing the information. A Fauna and Flora Study (Error! Reference source not found.) was undertaken and includes all species identified within the MREA. The results of the fauna and flora species have also been included in this report. Digby Wells will contact Eskom should additional information be required.</p>
<p>How many people who are staying around the area are currently employed by Copper Sunset?</p>	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Copper Sunset have 11 permanent mine employees who are currently residing at New Vaal Eskom Housing. The proposed project is anticipated to increase the employment opportunities to 31 positions.</p>
<p>Employment for poor people living around the area must be prioritised. The Ward Councillor must be kept informed of employment opportunities, otherwise there will be problems if the Municipality is not involved.</p>	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Your comment is noted. Copper Sunset will ensure that all recruitment processes are communicated with the Municipality and ensure continuous involvement of the Ward Councillor.</p>
<p>Will the mine be fenced off, that the livestock may not pass over the mining operation areas?</p>	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Your comment has been considered. Copper Sunset will fence-off all mine operational areas and will ensure that there is security around the area to prevent any illegal activities.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the safety and security in the area. Theft of livestock is on the rise. In addition, there is an annual dog racing event</p>	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	<p>Noted. Copper Sunset's Mine Manager has approached these people in the past and when asked they just ignore the mine. They indicate that it's a government property. This is a big concern for the mine</p>

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
<p>hosted by local people who hunt wildlife in the area. They make fires and on certain occasions leave the area exposed. This has the potential to cause wild fires. The issue was reported to the local police at Viljoensdrift however nothing was done.</p>			<p>and aims to work with all surrounding landowners to prohibit such activities from taking place. The issue has also been raised with Eskom as it is their land which is being utilised for the illegal activity.</p>
<p>It should be noted that the Lethabo Power Station is built between two existing earth-faults. This will affect the sand mining activities as the earth fault is running along the current mining operations and extending to the proposed extension area. There is currently a sink-hole within the wetland area on Eskom land.</p> <p>The wetland poses a safety risk as it is prone to veld fires. In 2020, there was a massive veld fire in the area that occurred and the case was taken to court and both Eskom and the landowner were found to be at fault as the fire-breaks were not properly implemented. The veld fires burnt the entire wetland area and resulted in an impact on the biodiversity. As such, Eskom has implemented a Disaster Management Plan and Emergency Response Plan as per the Western Cape guidelines which must include all landowners in order to respond promptly to veld fires should they occur.</p>	<p>26 January 2021</p>	<p>Focus Group Meeting</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment which has been noted. Copper Sunset will implement all required health and safety measures to manage veld fires in their mining area by ensure fire breaks are correctly implemented and maintained. Collaboration with all landowners to mitigate such issues from occurring in the area will be undertaken.</p>
<p>Hunting of animals is an issued for the Eskom Lethabo Power Station. People are putting snare-traps in the wetland area and around the dumps. The Free State Conservation Agency has been contacted regarding the hunting issue. Security needs to be improved and Eskom will take this issue</p>	<p>26 January 2021</p>	<p>Focus Group Meeting</p>	<p>Copper Sunset appreciates the effort to engage with the Free State Conservation Agency and will be available to participate in Future Forums to be established by Eskom to prevent hunting in the mining areas.</p>

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
further with the Free State Conservation Agency.			
I assume if COVID-19 lockdown national regulations continue, FGMs [Focus Group Meetings] will be conducted as part of the Public Participation Process?	20 January 2021	Focus Group Meeting	Agreed. Focus Group Meetings (FGMs) will be held in compliance to all COVID-19 national regulations and associated restrictions as part of the Health and Safety Measures to mitigate risks associated with public meetings.
The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) Unit notes that the HIA [Heritage Impact Assessment] will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA with all associated appendices and the HIA inclusive of a Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA).	16 March 2021	Email	Thank you for your email. The HIA and PIA has been appended to this report as Error! Reference source not found. and will be submitted to the South African Heritage Resource Authorities (SAHRA).
Availing of the draft report, as well as all specialist studies in electronic format as well as any GIS related data (shapefiles) based on modelled predictions and layout plans.	26 March 2021	Email	The draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated appendices will be made available for public comment for a period of 30 days (08 July to 10 August 2021).
It must also be considered that the restrictive layers, which prevented the water from leeching out of the profile does not exist anymore. No sub-surface layers that prevent the water from leeching out of the profile. The water is now outside the reach of the plant and the possibility of the profile obtaining field capacity regarding water availability is very limited. On the other hand, the water will leech through the profile reaching the overburden and decanting upwards to the plant with unwanted toxic chemicals.	26 March 2021	Email	The proposed project is for a sand mine and therefore the depth of mining will not exceed 5 m. The proposed project activities will not have an impact on groundwater.
Containment of grey surface water and sub-surface water.			All water that will be discharged from the mine will be contained via stormwater management structures and then allowed to discharge to the stream. Silt traps will be installed to prevent siltation of the nearby streams.

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
Impact on water sources in view of possible spillage.			Mitigation measures have been included for the containment of any hydrocarbon spillage that may occur as a result of the operation of the mine. Spillages will be cleaned up as soon as possible and spill kits will be placed around the areas where machines are working, or hydrocarbons are being stored.
Cut-off drains, which prohibits surface water as well as sub-surface water from flowing outside the relevant site. Each site / company must cater for his or her own grey water. If a cut-off drain is not installed the surface water and especially the sub surface water can move laterally underground to other waterways, streams, wetlands and settlements			<p>A surface water specialist study was undertaken to assess the impacts the sand mine will have on the environment. All potential impacts to the surface water resources have been assessed and mitigation measures proposed to reduce these impacts. The following mitigation measures have been proposed for the management of surface water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Runoff from dirty areas should not be allowed to flow into the stream, unless the Department of Water and Sanitation discharge authorisation and compliance with relevant discharge standards as stipulated in the National Water Act (NWA) is obtained; ● The water quality monitoring program provided in this report should be adhered to for monitoring water resources within and in close proximity to the study area to allow detection of any contamination arising from operational activities; ● The management of general and other forms of waste must ensure collection and disposal into clearly marked skip bins that can be collected by approved contractors for disposal to appropriate disposal sites; ● The overall housekeeping and storm water system management (including the maintenance of berms, conveyance channels and clean-up of leaks) must be maintained throughout the life of mine; ● The hydrocarbon and chemical storage areas and facilities must be located on hard-standing area (paved or concrete surface that is impermeable), roofed and bunded in accordance with SANS1200 specifications. This will prevent mobilisation of leaked hazardous substances; ● Training of mine personnel and contractors in proper hydrocarbon and chemical waste handling procedures is recommended; and ● Vehicles must only be serviced within designated service bays.

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE						
Possible impact on agriculture activities or nearby agricultural livelihoods.	26 March 2021	Email	<p>The land capability is dominated by Class III and Class IV. Where Class III has a potential for intensive cultivation and Class IV is generally not suitable for agriculture but has a high use potential for pastures, rangeland, forest land or wildlife for food, and cover. The current dominant land use is intensive cultivation and cattle grazing.</p> <p>The effect of mining in the region will result in a loss of cultivated farmland as well as cattle farming land which will result in economical agricultural income losses. The potential impact due to the sand mining activities on the soil, land use, and land capability is major to moderate if mismanaged. It should, however, be noted that the area proposed for sand mining is located within the Seriti's Mining Right Area and therefore this area may potentially be mined by Seriti for coal in the future.</p>						
Impact on existing or future agriculture projects, source information from relevant Government Sector Departments.			26 March 2021	Email	Thank you for the comment it is noted.				
The primary and secondary impact in our natural resources especially soils.	26 March 2021	Email			<p>During the operational phase, various activities may impact the soil, land use and land capability other than removing the sub-soil (sandmining). The soil depth will decrease, therefore soil water holding capacity, fertility, vegetation, crop potential and land capability will also reduce. This includes changes to the natural soil physical, chemical and biological activities which therefore changes the land use and capability. When the areas are not well maintained, erosion may occur and result in sedimentation and changes to the land uses, such as wetlands. The impacts are anticipated to be major, however; with the implementation of recommended mitigation measures, the impact will be reduced to moderate.</p> <p>To reduce the impact, it is proposed that topsoil will be stripped and stockpiled prior to the sand being abstracted. Concurrent rehabilitation will also be undertaken to minimise the impact on the soil environment.</p>				
From an agriculture point of view our interest is in the topsoil's ranging from the surface up to 1.2 meters deep or up to the restrictive layer, for example at least horizons A, B and C (subsoils). This is where all the interaction microorganisms, chemical interaction and water movement takes place ensuring that the plant receive the nutrients and available water through chemical interaction. If there is water in the soil profile, not all the water is available to the plant. The profile must at least reach field capacity before water becomes available.					Various homogeneous soil type must preferably be stockpile together.		All topsoil will be stockpiled prior to the mine abstracting the soil.		
The method of stripping the soils is very important, less rehabilitation cost when reseeded thus reaching the necessary vegetation cover that is required, it is also									Sand mining will cease once the resource has been extracted. Concurrent rehabilitation will be implemented during the sand mining process. The areas which have been mined of sand will be backfilled with the waste material (pebbles and stones) from the screening plant which

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
<p>important to rehabilitate the stockpiles as soon as possible therefore preventing unnecessary erosion on the stockpiles.</p>			<p>will be covered with topsoil stockpiled during the operational phase. The stockpiles will not be vegetated due to the short turnaround of sand mining. The area will be levelled and then contoured to avoid ponding of water. The topography is anticipated to be slightly lower as a result of the removal of sand. The area will then be allowed to naturally re-vegetate. Where vegetation is not being well established, an indigenous seed mix will be utilised to improve vegetation establishment where required.</p>
<p>Current land use zonings and alignment thereof with regards to the relevant legislations such ACT 70-1970, CARA Act 43 of 1983, Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013, historical land uses are not always up to date or compliant with current land uses.</p>	<p>26 March 2021</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>The current land use of the proposed Copper Sunset Mining Right Extension Area (MREA) was identified by aerial imagery during the desktop assessment and verified during the field assessment. The land uses were described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultivated land; and ○ Grassland. • Minor Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forested land; ○ Waterbodies; ○ Wetlands; ○ Mines and quarries; ○ Built-up area; and ○ Shrubland. <p>A site visit was conducted to verify the land use of the area proposed to be mined.</p> <p>The Free State Biodiversity Plan (Collins, 2016) is a spatial tool that forms part of the national biodiversity planning tools and initiatives that are provided for in national legislation and policy. The Free State Biodiversity Plan was published in 2016, and like those of the other provinces, identifies and maps terrestrial categories with associated land-use and management guidelines. The categories are divided into Protected Areas (PACBA, Ecological Support Areas, Other Area and Degraded Area).</p> <p>The western section of the proposed Copper Sunset MREA is predominantly classified as Degraded Land, with the remaining area classified as ESA1 (sites with minimal degradation) and ESA2 (sites with degradation, i.e., they can be totally degraded, but not totally</p>

ISSUE OR CONCERN	DATE OF CONTRIBUTION	MEANS OF CONTRIBUTION	RESPONSE
			transformed). The eastern section of the MREA is predominantly classified as ESA2, with smaller areas classified as ESA1.
The geo-tech studies focus only on the geological aspects etc.	26 March 2021	Email	No impact to the groundwater or geotechnical environment is anticipated to occur as a result of the sand mine.
Chemical fallout with regards to surrounding areas.	26 March 2021	Email	No chemical fall out is anticipated to occur as a result of the sand mine.



DIGBY WELLS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Appendix H: Consent Form



Consent Form

Dear Stakeholder,

The Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPI Act) aims to protect an individual's right to privacy regarding their personal information which may have been collected by a third party during a normal commercial transaction. It also seeks to bring South African law regarding ensuring and managing personal data in line with international data protection laws.

The purpose of POPI Act is to regulate and formalize how South African companies collect, store, protect, access, and distribute consumer information and to protect the ongoing integrity and sensitivity of that private information. POPI Act took effect on **01 July 2021**, as such Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) is required to comply with the POPI Act and hereby request all Interested & Affected Persons (I&APs) who were previously registered for the Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd proposed Project to provide consent to Digby Wells Environmental to continue using their contact information for the proposed Project purposes.

I&APs who do not wish Digby Wells to continue using their contact information may write to us on the contact details provided below:

Please use the Project reference number when providing your comment: **COP6679**

Contact Person:	Thembi Zulu/ Lerato Ratsoenyane
Email:	sh@digbywells.com
Tel:	(011) 789 9495
Fax:	(011) 789 9498
Post:	Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125

Regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team.

Digby Wells Environmental (Pty) Ltd