

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR A MINING PERMIT ON PORTION 44 OF FARM 807, LOCATED NEAR GONUBIE IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE (DMR Reference Number: EC30/5/1/3/2/10577MP)

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to assist stakeholders participating in the Basic Assessment process for the proposed project. This BID has been developed to:

- Share information about the proposed project;
- Present the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process that will be followed to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) according to the NEMA and MPRDA
- Provide more details about the Public Participation Process (PPP) which will be followed.

Project Description

Geological exploration undertaken by East London Quarry (Pty) Ltd has offered sufficient evidence of a viable sand deposit. The applicant, East London Quarry (Pty) Ltd, is also the landowner of the study area located on Portion 44 of Farm 807. The entire Farm covers an area of some 21 hectares, however, only ± 4.99 hectares is being applied for as per the mining permit.

This potential sand mining operation is situated ± 5 km south west of Gonubie, East London in the Eastern Cape province; with Quenera to the north east and Bonza Bay to the south west (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The mineral **sand** is being applied for under the Mining Permit Application.

The environmental authorisation application was lodged with the Department of Mineral Resources ("DMR") on the 6th December 2019 and a reference number EC30/5/1/3/2/10577MP has been allocated to this application.

Basic Overview of Mining Activities & the Mining Method

The proposed sand quarry will be an opencast mine. Extraction of sand at the quarry will be carried out by "free dig" load and haul methods. In this regard, no drilling and blasting shall be conducted. Desktop and field studies

carried out have identified the 'ideal' extraction area and thus mining will commence at the identified area, as per the mining plan.

The typical primary mining fleet for this mining method consists of excavators, back actors, front-end loaders and articulated dump trucks. The typical ancillary fleet assisting the mining fleet for this mining method include: graders, water trucks and diesel bowsers.

By means of an excavator or front-end loader, the sand is barred down. The derived sand is then loaded, by either an excavator or front-end loader, to the sorting screen where roots and other unwanted debris is removed while the sand is also "sieved" mechanically to the desired dimensions.

Infrastructure Requirements

Power (Electricity) Requirements

East London Quarry will apply to Eskom for a connection to the grid for power to run the plant and all associated processes at the operation. However, contingency plans are in place to operate the plant utilising diesel-powered generators should the Eskom connection not be in place at the time of project commencement.

Water Requirements

Water supply requirements are estimated to be $\pm 135\ 000$ litres per annual quarter. The prime water source shall be municipal.

Surface Infrastructure

The surface infrastructure of the mine includes the following:

- » Haul roads, mine and access road to the main road;
- » Stockpiles
- » Screening plant
- » Administration offices and stores
- » Ablutions
- » Trackless mobile machinery and light delivery vehicle parking bays

Needs and Desirability for the Proposed Mining Permit

South Africa is a country with a high unemployment rate, in excess of 29% (STATS SA, 2019). This mining venture will result in the creation of much-needed employment opportunities. The Buffalo City Municipality's 2017/2018 IDP outlines the municipality's 5 long term strategies. The first strategic objective relates to rapid and inclusive economic growth, and reducing unemployment (Buffalo City Municipality, 2017).

There is a budding natural sand market in south Africa. Demand for aggregate and sand in South Africa is driven by the construction industry, which is comprised of residential building, non residential building and civil construction (DMR, 2012). Natural sand is usually mined with conventional earth-moving equipment. The quality and final use of the sand usually determine the amount of processing necessary. Washing and screening are used in some instances to produce better quality sand. Sand is utilised as an integral material in ready-mix concrete, precast products and block-making. There is the upcoming N2 expansion project which is earmarked to boost the construction market in the Eastern Cape province. Residential and other infrastructural requirements significantly boost the sand mining sector.

Potential Environmental Impacts associated with the Proposed Project

Potential impacts relate to:

- » **Air quality** - fugitive dust may occur due to excavation, screening, movement of vehicles and trackless mobile machinery within the site. Limited gaseous or particulate emissions are also anticipated from exhaust emissions from the operation's vehicles and equipment.
- » **Traffic** - movement of haulage trucks transporting the sand from site to the market.
- » **Noise** – Screening and trackless mobile machinery are expected to be the main sources of noise. Noise associated with the movement of light delivery vehicles and/or hauling trucks within the mining area is also anticipated.
- » **Soil and groundwater pollution** - soil and groundwater pollution may occur due to oil leaks from site operation equipment (e.g. crushers and trackless mobile machinery) that will be within the site. Potential for the exposed soil to be susceptible to erosion. Increase use of water could potentially impact on the available groundwater resources and water levels in the area, even during drought conditions.
- » **Socio-economic impacts** - mining may result in positive socio-economic opportunities in terms of local employment opportunities as well sourcing supplies required from local/ surrounding suppliers/ contractors (where possible). This would result in investment and growth in local economy.

Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The mining permit application, itself, triggers listed activities within the ambit of GNR. 327 Listing Notice 1 and as such requires that a Basic Assessment ("BA") process to be undertaken in terms of GNR. 326 - the EIA Regulations, 2014 (amended 2017) (see Figure 3 for the basic assessment process diagram).

ZN Geo Services (Pty) Ltd, an independent environmental consultant, has been appointed to undertake the above authorisation process on behalf of East London Quarry (Pty) Ltd. For this proposed project, the competent authority is the Department of Mineral Resources ("DMR"). East London Quarry (Pty) Ltd can only commence with mining activities once an EA and Mining Permit has been granted by the DMR.

Public Participation Process

The aim of the Public Participation Process ("PPP") is to allow interested and affected parties ("I&APs") the opportunity to gain an understanding of the project and consider all facets of the proposed mining activities. The PPP will:

- » Provide I&APs with information about the proposed mining activities and associated potential impacts;
- » Allow I&APs the opportunity to provide input, such as concerns or queries, on the proposed project; and
- » Incorporate the input raised by I&APs in the study and ultimate decision-making process.

The following activities will take place during the public participation process:

- » Advertising the EIA Process (in local press): (i) Advertisements will be placed in a local newspaper and (ii) site notices have been placed at the project site and surrounds;
- » Registering I&APs and key stakeholders on the database. A call for stakeholders to register on the project database will be made through the advertisement and site notices, as well as through letters of notification.
- » This Background Information Document ("BID") will be distributed to I&APs (by-hand and/or via e-mail, or post/fax where necessary) informing stakeholders of the EA and Mining Permit Application being applied for by East London Quarry (Pty) Ltd and other pertinent information as detailed herewith.

- » The Draft Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), Environmental Management Programme ("EMPR") and specialist study reports will be made available for a 30-day public and authority review period. Stakeholders will be informed of the availability of the draft BAR, EMPR and specialist studies through the advertisements, site notices and letters of notification. The draft BAR, EMPR and specialist studies will be made available at a public venue in close proximity to the site and online (via a Dropbox link).
- » Recording all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs and preparation of a PPP report and Comments & Responses Report ("CRR").
- » Updating of the BAR, EMPR and specialist studies into consideration all comments received; and
- » Submission of the Final BAR, EMPR and specialist studies to the DMR so the competent authority can make a decision on whether or not to grant the mining permit and EA.

Getting Involved

Surrounding communities, government and other stakeholders such as traditional authorities, community leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and others are invited to register as I&APs.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comment on the draft reports as it is made available, and these comments will be incorporated into the final reports submitted to the DMR. Attached herewith is a Comments and Registration form, and you as a stakeholder is welcome to complete the form and return it to ZN Geo Services. Registration on the project database also means that your details may be shared in the public domain as our reports will contain a project I&AP database and the CRR which records written comments received from stakeholders.

As a registered stakeholder, you will also be notified as the project progress; up to and including when a decision has been made by the DMR on the EA and Mining permit applications.

How to get involved?

All persons who wish to take part in the Public Participation Process by commenting on or raising any concerns regarding the development are invited to do so through the following means:

1. Registering as an Interested and Affected Party (in writing at the details provided below);
2. Submit any comments in writing on the response sheet attached to this document if you have any (and return to us within timeframes provided; and
3. Review the Draft Basic Assessment Report, when it becomes available, and raise any concerns or comments in writing within the timeframes provided.

Contact Details for Registering as an I&AP and commenting on the proposed project

Contact: Zama Sithole (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)
E-mail: zama@zngco.co.za
Cell/ Mobile: +27 83 467 3532
Fax: +2786 620 3833



Figure 1: Locality Map

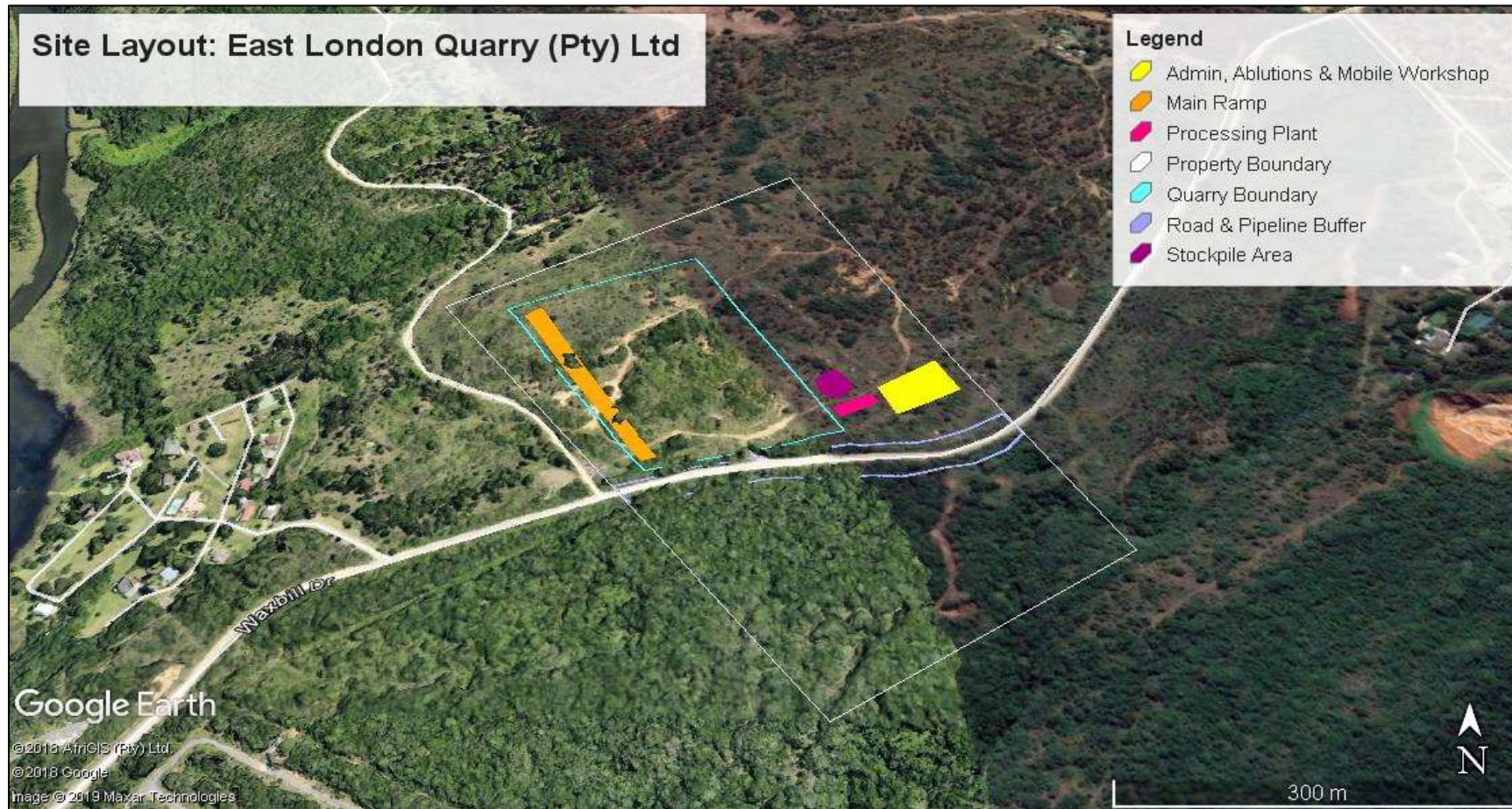


Figure 2: Site Layout Plan

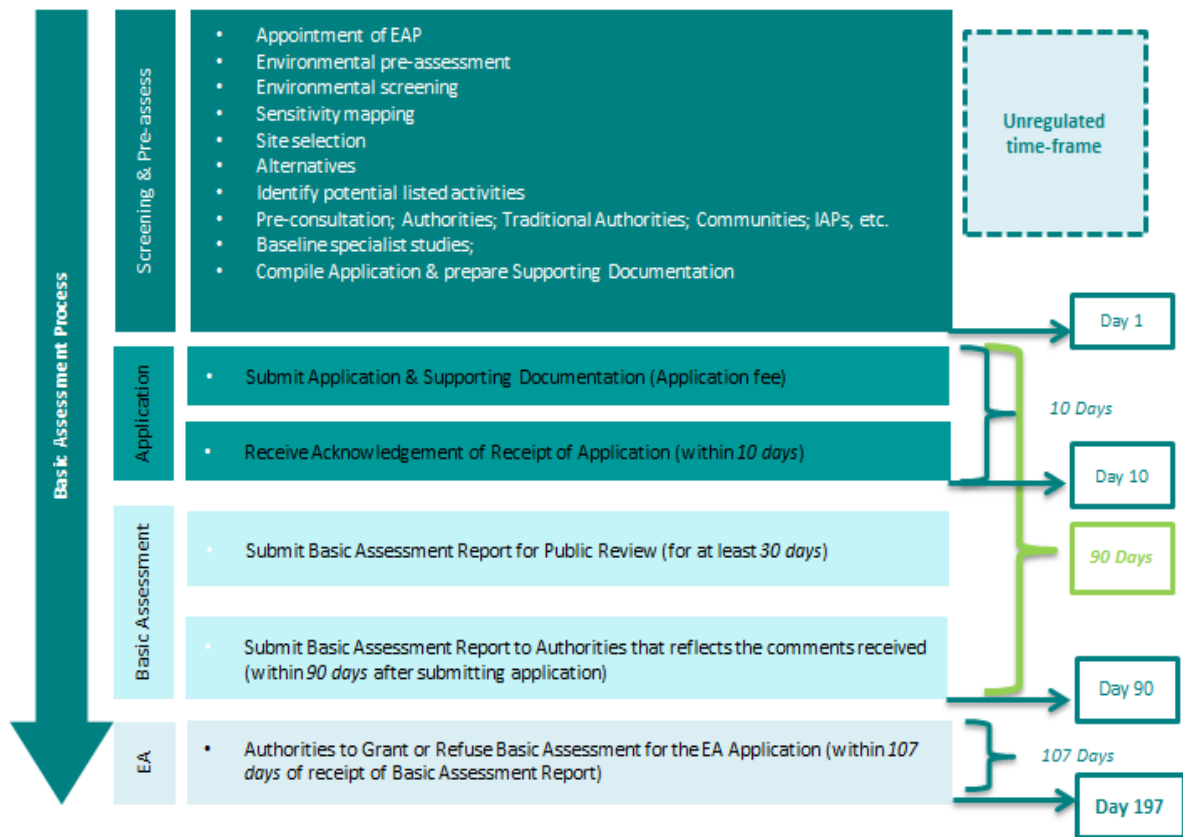


Figure 3: Basic Assessment Process

**COMMENTS AND REGISTRATION FORM
 (DMR REFERENCE NUMBER: EC 30/5/1/3/2/10577MP)**

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name and Surname:	
Organisation and Designation:	
Physical Address:	
Postal Address (if different to the Physical Address):	
Contact Number (Landline and/or Mobile/Cell):	
E-mail Address:	

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)?

YES

NO

Please Note: Once registered on the project database, your details may be included in public documentation.

Please state your interest in the Proposed Project (insert additional pages if necessary):

Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the Proposed Project (insert additional pages if necessary):

Please provide contact details of other persons who you may regard as a potential I&AP:

(Include Name & surname, contact number, email, etc.)

Contact Details for Registering as an I&AP and commenting on the proposed project

Zama Sithole (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)

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