

Environmental Authorisation and Integrated Water Use Licence Application for the reclamation of the Soweto Cluster Dumps, City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality - Gauteng Province

Background Information Document

June 2019

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document aims to provide you with important information regarding:

- ❖ The reclamation of the existing Soweto Cluster dumps;
- ❖ The Environmental Impact Assessment and the Public Participation Process to be undertaken in support of the reclamation process;
- ❖ An Integrated Water Use Licence Application process;
- ❖ How you can register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and be kept informed about the project developments;
- ❖ The Public review and comment period for the Draft Scoping Report; and
- ❖ An invitation to attend a public meeting.

APPLICANT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

DRDGold Limited, the largest gold tailings retreatment company in South Africa, is divided into two operating subsidiary companies: Crown Gold Recoveries (Pty) Limited (Crown Gold) and Ergo Mining (Pty) Limited (Ergo).

The Applicant for the reclamation of the Soweto Cluster dumps will be Crown Gold. Crown Gold intends to reprocess and reclaim gold from six historic Slimes dams: 2L24; 2L20; 2L21; 2L16; 2L17 and 2L18 as well as two historic Sand dumps 2A6 and 2A8. These dams and dumps are referred to collectively as “the Soweto Cluster” and were all created prior to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) which came into force in 2002.

Ultimately, by reclaiming the Soweto Cluster Dumps, Crown Gold will displace environmentally problematic dams and dumps to controlled tailings disposal facilities such as Brakpan/Withok Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), Cooke TSF and Regional TSF (not yet constructed, but planned).

LOCALITY

The Soweto Cluster dumps include:

- ❖ **Site 1:** The large 2L24 dump (Vlakfontein Dump) which covers an area of approximately 273.64 hectares (Ha).

- ❖ **Site 2:** Three northern dumps (2L20; 2L21 and 2A8), which cover an approximate area of 59.58 Ha, and;
- ❖ **Site 3:** Four north easterly dumps:(2L16; 2L17; 2L18 and 2A6), which cover an approximate area of 97.14 Ha.

These three project sites are located in ward 49 and ward 127 of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. The dumps are situated adjacent to the suburb of Bramfischerville and fall within both the greater Soweto and Roodepoort areas.

Table 1: Soweto Cluster Property details

Farm Name	Farm ID	Farm Portion	Infrastructure
Vlakfontein	238 IQ	1 (RE)	2L24 and 28A
Roodepoort	237 IQ	14 (RE)	2L21
Roodepoort	237 IQ	1	2L20, 2L16 and 2L17
Roodepoort	237 IQ	5 (RE)	2L16 and 2A6
Roodepoort	237 IQ	5 (RE)	Pipeline
Roodepoort	237 IQ	1 (RE)	Pipeline
Roodepoort	237 IQ	495	Pipeline
Roodepoort	237 IQ	495/237	Pipeline
Roodepoort	237 IQ	401 (RE)	Pipeline
Vlakfontein	238 IQ	94 (RE)	Pipeline
Vlakfontein	238 IQ	92	Pipeline
Vlakfontein	238 IQ	1 (RE)	Pipeline
Vlakfontein	238 IQ	4	Pipeline
Doornkop	239 IQ	130 (RE)	Pipeline
Doornkop	239 IQ	131 (RE)	Pipeline
Doornkop	239 IQ	39	Pipeline
Doornkop	239 IQ	38	Pipeline
Zuurbult	240 IQ	240	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	141	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	14 (RE)	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	13	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	96 (RE)	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	7 (RE)	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	10	Pipeline

Farm Name	Farm ID	Farm Portion	Infrastructure
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	88	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	134 (RE)	Pipeline
Luipaardsvlei	243 IQ	43	Pipeline
Braamfischerville	649 IQ	2	Pipeline
Braamfischerville	649 IQ	3	Pipeline
Braamfischerville	649 IQ	1	Pipeline
Durban Roodepoort Deep	641 IQ	2	Pipeline
Durban Roodepoort Deep	641 IQ	0 (RE)	Pipeline
Vogelstruisfontein	233 IQ	46	Pipeline
Vogelstruisfontein	233 IQ	38	Pipeline
Vogelstruisfontein	231 IQ	161	Pipeline
Vogelstruisfontein	231 IQ	227	Pipeline
Vogelstruisfontein	231 IQ	17 (RE)	Pipeline
Paardekraal	226 IQ	215	Pipeline
Paardekraal	226 IQ	245	Pipeline
Paardekraal	226 IQ	2 (RE)	Pipeline
Paardekraal	226 IQ	5 (RE)	Pipeline
Paardekraal	226 IQ	26	Pipeline
Paardekraal	226 IQ	212 (RE)	Pipeline

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Crown Gold intends to make use of its current infrastructure as well as other assets of subsidiaries held by DRDGold Ltd for the reclamation of the Soweto Cluster.

Surface gold retreatment is a largely mechanised process with a risk profile that is significantly lower from that of conventional mining. It is envisioned that the tailings material of the Soweto Cluster will be reclaimed by using high-pressure water jets (slimes dams) or front-end loaders (sand dumps) and is fed as slurry to a metallurgical processing plant for gold recovery.

Three existing authorised processing plants, each with a capacity to process 500 000 tons to 1.2 million tons of slurry per month, will be investigated as alternatives for this project. The plants include Ergo Plant, Cooke Plant and the yet to be constructed Central Processing Plant (CPP). Final deposition of the processed slurry from the plants will be at the associated authorised deposition site, namely the Brakpan/Withok TSF, the Cooke TSF or Pits, and/or the Regional TSF (which is still to be constructed).

Three 500 mm slurry pipelines and three 500 mm return water pipelines will be investigated as alternatives for the project. These pipelines are linked to the plant alternatives considered above. The pipelines will require authorisation in terms of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) for Section 21 water uses. An Integrated Water Use Licence Application (IWULA) will be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Water Use Licence Application and Appeals Regulations 2017, published in GNR 267 on 24 March 2017, and will be supported by a Technical Report and Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP).

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water will be purchased from Rand Water, with a contingency for portable JoJo tanks or connection to existing water pipeline infrastructure. In terms of process water, the water cycle operates as a closed circuit, meaning that limited make-up water will be required for the reclamation of the Soweto Cluster. Water required for the reclamation activities will be recovered from either of the three TSF's mentioned above, or from dirty water contained from existing mine shafts.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Soweto Cluster is well serviced by existing roads and infrastructure; however the following infrastructure is proposed:

- ❖ Overland slurry pipelines of 500 mm in diameter;
- ❖ Overland return water pipelines of 500 mm in diameter;
- ❖ Reclamation pump stations, which include:
 - Slurry storage tank;
 - Linear screen
 - Water tank;
 - Motor control centre; and
- ❖ Water infrastructure, stormwater systems and spillage handling systems;
- ❖ Electricity reticulation;
- ❖ Administration buildings, including change houses and ablution facilities;
- ❖ Access roads, routed from existing entry points; and
- ❖ Construction contractors' yards (temporary facilities).

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Prior to proceeding with the reclamation process, Crown Gold is required to obtain various licences and an Environmental Authorisation from the relevant Competent Authorities. The required licences and the environmental authorisation will be undertaken in accordance with the following legislation:

- ❖ Application for an Environmental Authorisation for listed activities triggered in Listing Notices **GN R983, GN R984 and GN R985** in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations,

2014 (as amended), as promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);

- ❖ Application for listed waste activities in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), as amended (NEM:WA). **The Competent Authority responsible for assessing the abovementioned applications is the Department of Mineral Resource- Gauteng Region (DMR).**
- ❖ An Integrated Water Use Licence Application (IWULA) will be undertaken in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998) (NWA). **The Department of Water and Sanitation will be the Competent Authority to assess the IWULA for the proposed project.**

Please refer to Table 2 below for a list of activities to be authorised under the NEMA, NEM:WA and NWA.

Table 2: List of Activities to be authorised in accordance with NEMA, NEM:WA and NWA

Applicable listing notices in terms of NEMA	Waste management authorisation in terms of NEM:WA	Water Use Licence Authorisation in terms of the NWA
GN R983, Activities: 9; 10; 12, 13, 19 and 24	None	21(b)
GN R984, Activities: 6 and 7	GNR 921 -B(1);	21(c) & (i);
GN R985, Activities: 2, 4, 14 and 18	GNR 921 -B(2)	

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Kongiwe Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct the EIA process for the proposed project. In accordance with the provisions of the EIA 2014 Regulations (as amended), the EIA process for the proposed project will be carried out in the following phases:

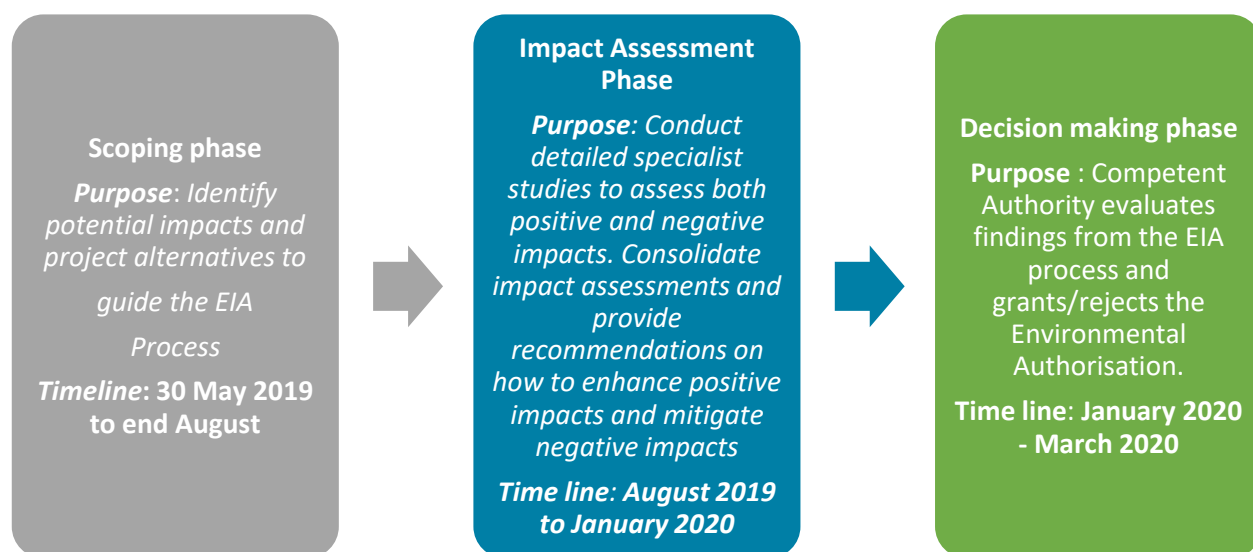


Figure 1: EIA process and the associated timeline

INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENCE

An Integrated Water Use Licence Application will be conducted for water uses associated with Section 21 of the NWA. The IWULA process will be undertaken concurrently with the EIA process for the proposed Soweto Cluster's reclamation project.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

Various specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the EIA/IWULA process to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project. Specialist studies to be undertaken include:

- ❖ Biodiversity;
- ❖ Surface Water;
- ❖ Groundwater;
- ❖ Air quality;
- ❖ Traffic Assessment;
- ❖ Social;
- ❖ Heritage;
- ❖ Visual; and
- ❖ Noise

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process will form part of the Integrated Environmental Authorisation, Waste Management Licence Application and the IWULA process. The public participation process offers stakeholders a fair opportunity to be informed about the proposed project, to raise issues of concern and to make suggestions for enhanced project benefits. The project team will consider relevant issues and suggestions during the EIA/IWULA process.

AVAILABILITY OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Draft Scoping Report for the Reclamation of the Soweto Cluster project will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, from **Tuesday, 4 June 2019 to Monday, 8 July 2019**. The report can be accessed at the following locations:

LOCATION	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	CONTACT PERSON
Hard copies		
Bramfischerville Public Library	Cnr Loerie Blaar & Methlokgo Phase 2, Bramfischerville	Ms Patricia Mathe (Librarian) Tel: (011) 765 4025
Roodepoort Public Library	Cnr Berlandina & Hodgson Streets	Ms Monique Ramabulana Tel: (011 763 1031)
Electronic copies		
Kongiwe Environmental website	www.kongiwe.co.za/ public documents	
For a CD copy please contact the stakeholder engagement team (Sibongile Bambisa/ Vanessa Viljoen), Tel: 012 003 6627, Email: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za		

A technical report in support of the IWULA process will be made available for public review and comment for a **period of 60 days**. It is anticipated that the IWULA report will be made available during the impact assessment phase. Information regarding the availability of the IWULA report and how stakeholders can provide their comments will be communicated to all stakeholders.

INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING

Interested and Affected Parties are invited to attend a public meeting which will be held on **Thursday, 20th June 2019 at the Bramfischerville Multipurpose Centre, Cnr Loerie Blaar & Methlokgo Phase 2, Bramfischerville**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed project, contents of the Scoping Report and also to provide I&APs with an opportunity to raise their concerns/comments

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Any person affected by or who may be interested in the proposed project is asked to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by contacting the stakeholder engagement team. **Contact person: Sibongile Bambisa/Vanessa Viljoen Tel: (012) 003 6627, Email: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za**. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES:

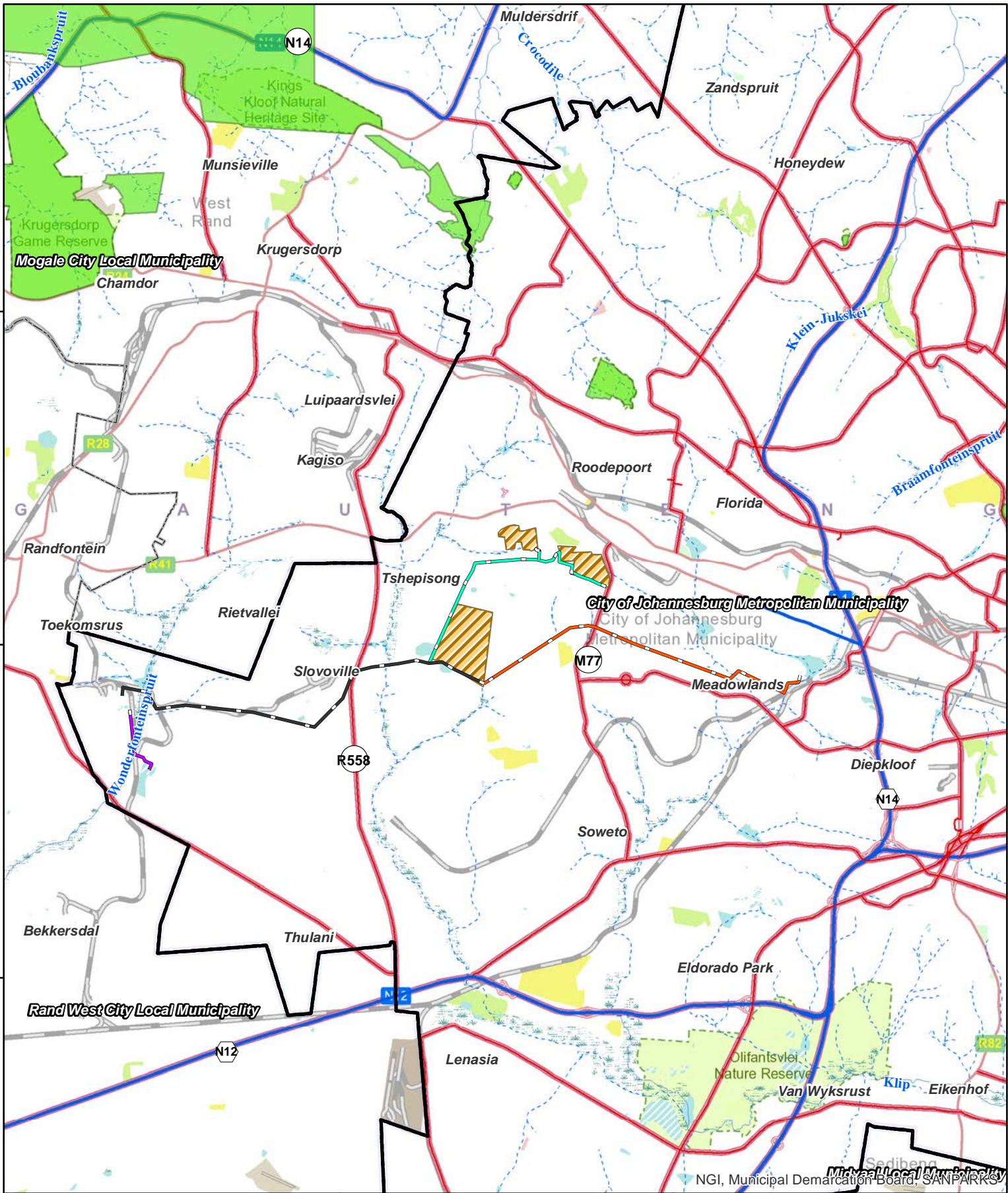
Should you have any comments/queries, please contact the stakeholder engagement team.

Contact persons: Sibongile Bambisa/Vanessa Viljoen

Tel: 012 003 6627

Email: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za

Soweto Cluster Dumps: Locality



-28900000
-29000000
-29100000

-130000 -120000 -110000 -100000

Legend

Proposed Pipelines

- 2L24 - Pipeline Crown
- Northern Dumps Pipeline
- Pipeline to Cooke Plant

Roads

- Main Road
- National Road
- Perennial River
- Non-Perennial River

District Municipality

- District Municipality
- Soweto Cluster Dumps
- Protected Areas

0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

Projection: Transverse Mercator
Central Meridian: 29°E
Datum: WGS 84

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Stakeholder Registration and Reply Form

Please return a completed reply form to the Stakeholder Engagement team:

Sibongile Bambisa / Vanessa Viljoen

Phone: 012 003 6627 or E-mail: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za

Postal Address: PostNet Suite no 163, Private Bag X21, Bryanston, 2021

Please provide your complete contact details:

If you are a landowner or you are occupying land, please indicate farms and who owns the farm.

Landowner	Farm/s									
Land occupier	Farm					Farm owner				
Title		Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other			
First Name										
Surname										
Organisation/Farm/ Business/ Village. Etc.										
Position in organisation										
Contact Numbers	Cell phone				Fax			Tel		
Email address										
Postal address										
Please indicate your preferred method of communication		Email		SMS		Post		Fax		

I intend attending the Public Meeting

Thursday, 20 June 2019, 10:00 at the Bramfischerville Multipurpose Centre, Cnr Loerie Blaar & Methlokgo Phase 2, Bramfischerville	Yes	No
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To assist us with the specialist studies please answer the questions below. Should you require any assistance with filling in the questions please contact the abovementioned persons from the stakeholder engagement team.

1. How do you think the project might affect / impact you?

2. How do you think these effects/impacts can be managed, avoided and / or fixed should they happen?

3. What is the land currently being used for?

4. Where are these land uses taking place?

5. Are there any natural environmental/ ecological aspects which we need to be aware of? (water, heritage sites, grave sites, special plants or animals)

6. Where are these aspects found?

7. Do you think the project could affect / impact any structures you might have? (e.g. houses, buildings, roads, dams)

8. If so how can these effects/ impacts be managed, avoided or fixed should they happen?

Any other comments

Please provide contact details of any other stakeholders we should consult.

Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other	
First name							
Surname							
Organisation/ Farm / Business							
Cell phone							
Email							
Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other	
First name							
Surname							
Organisation/ Farm / Business							
Cell phone							
Email							

Signature:		Date:	
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