

## Your role in the Environmental Impact Assessment

### Process

Your involvement will enhance the applicability and completeness of the EIA process.

Your involvement in the EIA process is fourfold:

1. To ensure that your interests/concerns in the proposed activity are recorded and/addressed, you need to register with Nsovo as an Interested & Affected Party.
2. To raise public awareness of activities taking place within your surroundings and to ensure inclusion of any issues, suggestions or comments you may be aware of regarding proposed activities.
3. To provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
4. To utilise opportunities provided to raise issues and provide comments throughout the process.

### How to become Involved and Register as an I&AP?

Your participation in this process is valuable and is encouraged, therefore you are invited to register as an I&AP and contribute by written submissions by post, email or telephone through any one of the details overleaf.

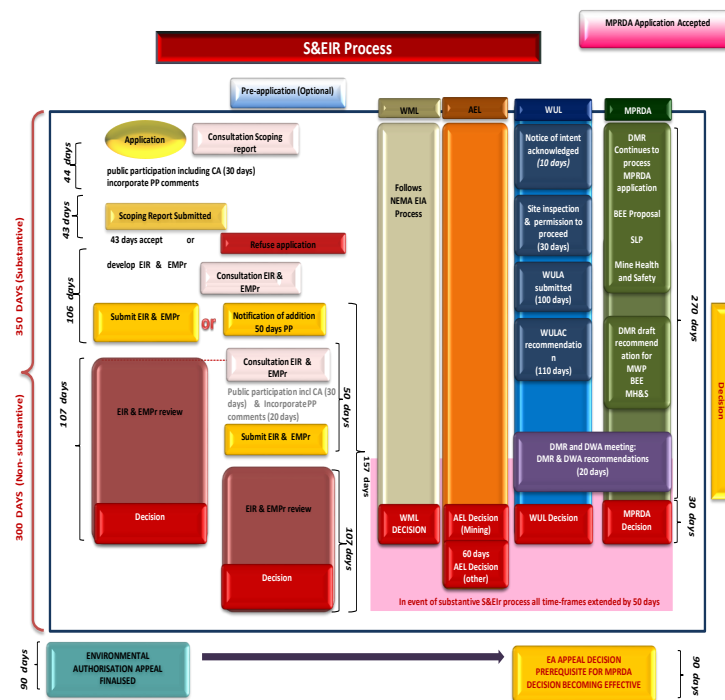


Figure 2: EIA Process (EIA Regulations, December, 2014) as amended

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**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE  
LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESSES FOR  
THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
DISCARD DUMP FACILITY, PILLAR  
EXTRACTION MINING OF THE 4 SEAM  
AND CONSTRUCTION OF CONVEYOR  
BELT FROM DCM WEST TO DCM EAST AT  
EXXARO DORSTFONTEIN WEST WITHIN  
THE JURISDICTION OF EMALAHLENI  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**MAY 2019**



*From the world we live to the world we seek*

**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document provides an overview of the proposed project, the study area as well as details of the Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use Licence Application processes to be followed and how Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) can become involved in the process. The proposed development triggers listed activities under National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998); National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEMWA); and National Water Act (36 of 1998) therefore the relevant licences and authorisation are a pre-requisite.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)**

Public Participation Process (PPP) is any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision-making and forms an integral part of the EIA processes. The PPP provides I&APs with an opportunity to comment and/or make suggestions on the proposed project. The PPP is in terms of Chapter 6, Regulation 39 through 44 of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of December 2014 as amended and Section 4(2) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

**NEED AND DESIRABILITY**

Dorstfontein West mine is an underground mine with both 2 and 4-seam operated by Exxaro Coal Central (Pty) Ltd. Exxaro Dorstfontein West proposes to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred as the project):

- Pillar extraction mining at 4-seam to extend the operational life of the mine and create an opportunity to derive value from resources that would have been sterilised;
- The development of the discard dump facility which has become necessary due to the life of the current discard dump coming to an end in 2022. The discard dump extension will accommodate both slurry and discard coal and is expected to cater for the life of mine; and

- The construction of a conveyor belt from DCM West which will be linked to the conveyor systems at DCM East to ensure coal is transported from DCM West to DCM East where it will be loaded into trains and transported to Richards Bay Coal Terminal.

**LOCALITY**

The proposed activities are within the approved mining right area located within the jurisdiction of Emalahleni Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province, as depicted in Figure 1.

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The proposed project triggers listed activities under NEMA and NEMWA. In accordance with the requirements of the NEMA, Exxaro requires an approval from the Competent Authority i.e. the Department of Mineral Resource in order to undertake the proposed development.

Further the project triggers listed activities under Section 21 of the NWA; therefore a Water Use Licence will be lodged with the Department of Water Affairs.

**CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES**

One of the key drivers towards a successful EIA process is the identification and investigation of feasible alternatives. Input received from the I&APs will inform the selection of potential alternatives, authorities as well as the EAP. Consideration of alternatives will be in terms of their practicality and feasibility; therefore it must be noted that the definition of alternatives includes all aspects of the proposed activity including, activity alternatives, process alternatives, scheduling alternatives, demand alternatives; design alternatives and the no-go alternative.

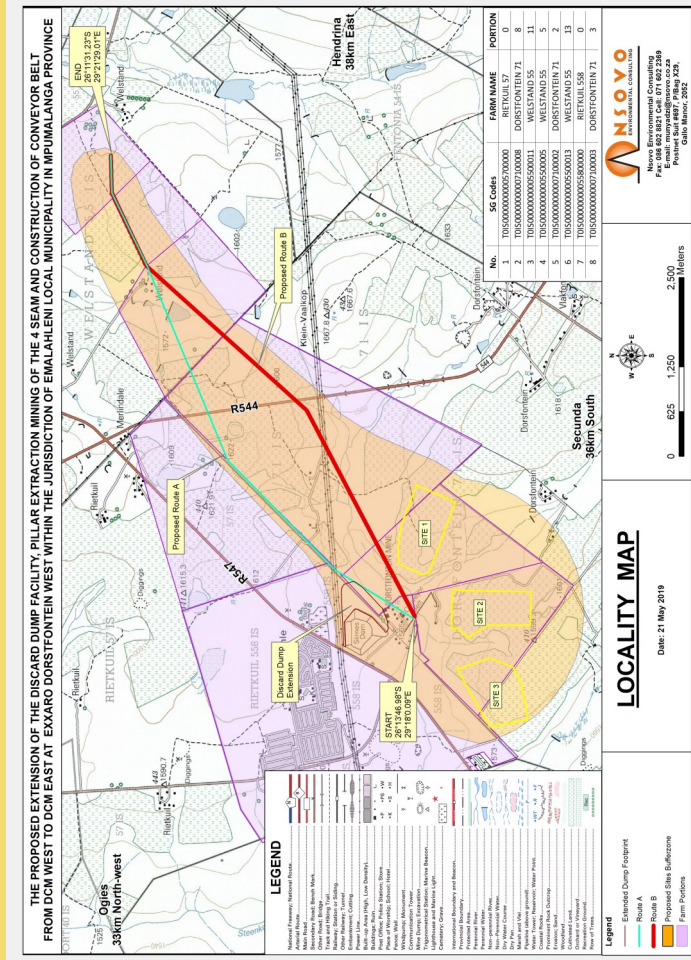


Figure 1: Locality map of the study area