

Proposed Application for a New Mining Permit, and Closure of an Expired Mining Permit, located on Portion 26 of Langeopdravende No. 1111, Eston, KwaZulu-Natal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

August 2022



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Mining Permit Application, Closure Certificate Application and Basic Assessment Process.



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The Applicant, the Beaumont Eston Farmers Association is in the process of applying for a Mining Permit for the mining of Bulli soil located on Portion 26 of Langeopdravende No. 1111, Eston, KwaZulu-Natal. The Beaumont Eston Farmers Association also has an existing Mining Permit that has expired and wishes to apply for a closure certificate for this permit. The site has been appropriately rehabilitated.

As such, an application for a Mining Permit in terms of Section 27, and an application for a Closure Certificate in terms of Section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002), as amended by Section 23 and 34 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Act (Act 49 of 2008), is being submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) for the Beaumont Eston Farmers Association. An application for a Mining Permit is a Listed Activity in terms of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (amended 2017) under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998), and as such, a Basic Assessment Process is required to be undertaken as part of the Mining Permit Application.

GNR 327	Details of Activity(ies)
<p>Part 21: Any activity, including the operation of that activity, which requires a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been</p>	<p>The proposed application of the Beaumont Eston Farmers Association requires a Mining Permit in terms of Section 27 of the MPRDA (Act 28 of 2002).</p>

<p>issued in terms of section 106 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, (Act No. 28 of 2002).</p>	
<p>Part 22. The decommissioning of any activity requiring – (i) A closure certificate in terms of Section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); or (ii) A prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure...</p>	<p>The Beaumont Eston Farmers Association requires a closure certificate of a mining permit in terms of Section 43 of the MPRDA (Act 28 of 2002).</p>

The triggers above will be further confirmed during the assessment process, as detailed layouts and specifications become available. However, as the proposed development requires Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) under NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) and the MPRDA (Act 28 of 2002) (amended 2008) the Applicant must appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the process. Accordingly, the Applicant has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Mining Permit Application, Closure Certificate Application and associated Basic Assessment Process.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Beaumont Eston Farmers Association site is located on Portion 26 of Langeopdravende No. 1111, Eston, KwaZulu-Natal. The total property extent is 60,3ha, and the existing mining operation requiring a closure certificate covers an area of 4,89ha. This permit has expired and the site has been rehabilitated. The proposed mining area is approximately 4,1ha in extent. The property falls within the Mkhambathini Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality. Refer to Figure 1 below for a locality map. The Applicant currently holds an existing Mining Permit issued by the DMRE for the 4,89ha mining operation of Bulli Soil.

The Applicant has now proposed to expand the existing Bulli Soil mining operation by mining a 4,1ha site to be located adjacent to the existing closed and rehabilitated 4,89ha mining operation, as shown in Figures 2 and 3 below. Bulli soil will be mined by Galtrey Plant Hire. The vegetation and topsoil are first removed and then the approximate depth of 30cm of subsoil which is Bulli is mined and the topsoil and vegetation are then replaced. Approximately 10 to 30 m³ of Bulli is mined at a time. It takes approximately two to three days to mine this volume and may occur once every two months.



WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?

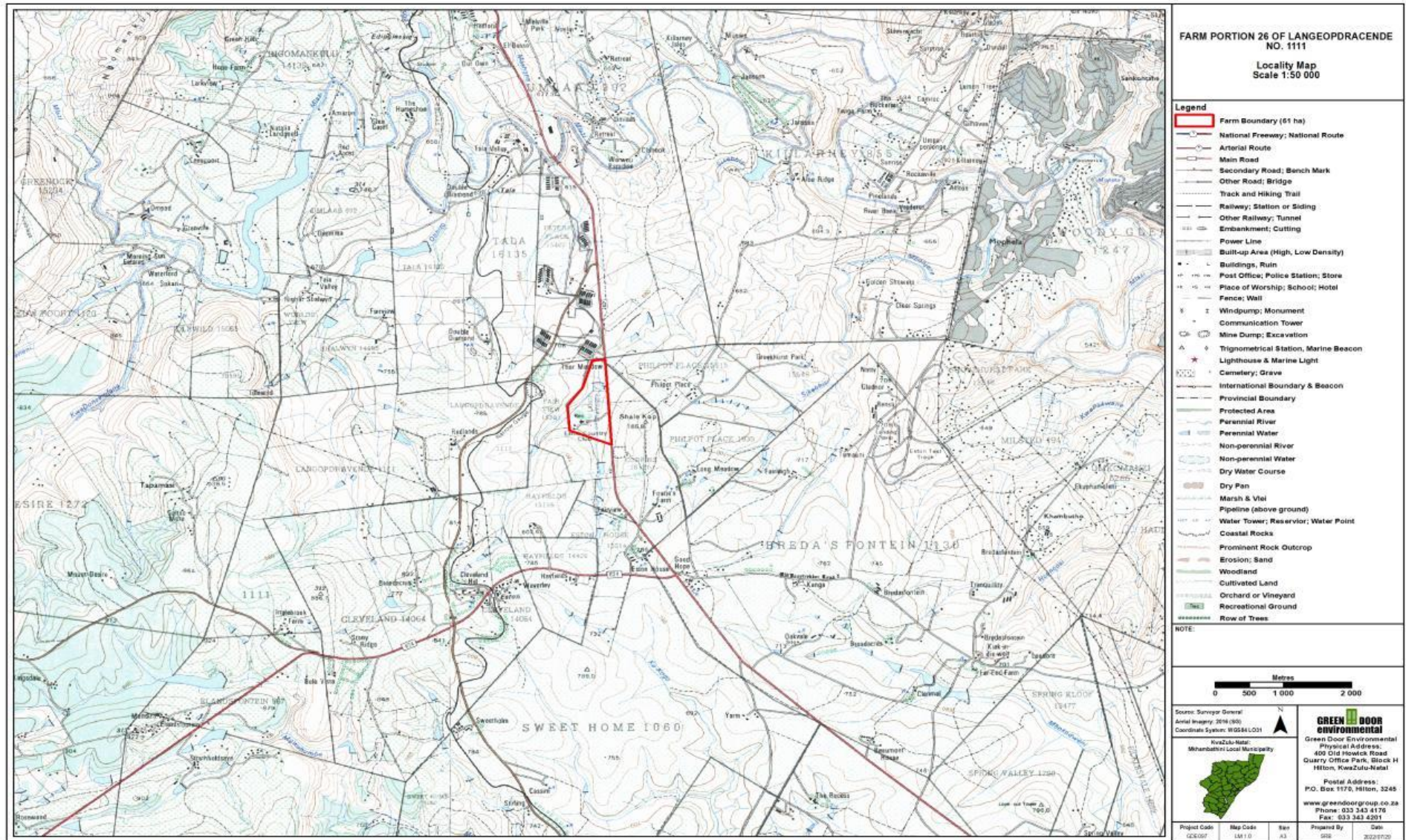


Figure 1: Locality Map of the Beaumont Eston Farmers Association site.



Figure 2: Overview Map of the site.



Figure 3: Overview Map showing the mining areas.



WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)?

The Basic Assessment (BA) process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Competent Authority with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

The Basic Assessment process can be described as follows:

1. Application Form:

An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority, The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). This Form provides information on the property, a description of the proposed development and lists the relevant listed activities which are triggered by this proposed development.

2. Public Participation:

The general public and relevant Authorities are being notified of the proposed development through newspaper adverts, site notices and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but has not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background Information Document is being circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the adverts and site notices.

3. Identification of Impacts and Alternatives

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.

4. Impact Evaluation

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

5. Mitigation and Management Measures

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the development, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures.

6. Reporting

The Basic Assessment Report and Draft EMPr will be made available for 30 days for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated Basic Assessment Report.

7. Authority Decision

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used as the basis for the decision, by the Competent Authority, on whether the project should be approved or not. The Competent Authority can refuse permission or grant permission for the proposed project to proceed by issuing Environmental Authorisation (EA).



WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ Impacts to nearby drainage lines, streams / rivers and wetland systems;
- ◆ Soil erosion associated with mining activities; and
- ◆ Impacts to local floral and faunal biodiversity.



HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, authorities, organisations etc.) are invited to comment on the proposed project. Comments can be communicated to us by post, telephone or email (contact details are provided below).

In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated, please ensure that we have received all comments by **12 September 2022**.



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Physical: Block H, Quarry Office Park,
 400 Old Howick Road, Hilton, 3245
Phone: 033 343 4176 **Fax:** 033 343 4201
Email: hannah@greendoorgroup.co.za
Website: www.greendoorgroup.co.za

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organisation / Property Name:			
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier):			
Postal Address:			
		Post Code:	
Tel Number:		Cell Number:	
Fax Number:		Email:	

1. The following issues must be noted regarding the proposed Application for a new Mining Permit, and Closure of an Expired Mining Permit, located on Portion 26 of Langeopdravende No. 1111, Eston, KwaZulu-Natal:

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2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted:

Name:	
Organisation:	
Tel Number:	
Email:	
Address:	
Name:	
Organisation:	
Tel Number:	
Email:	
Address:	

3. Additional contacts or comments?

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Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental.

Thank you for your participation!