

**MINING RIGHT APPLICATION ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM
GLOUCESTER 674 (GLOSAM)
POSTMASBURG AREA, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: FINAL REPORT

Submitted to:

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABET:	Adult Basic Education and Training
CV's:	Curriculum Vitae
DEA:	Department of Environmental Affairs
DMRE:	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr:	Environmental Management Programme
EMPR:	Environmental Management Programme Report
Ha:	Hectares
IDP:	Integrated Development Plan
LED:	Local Economic Development
LOM:	Life of Mine
MPRDA:	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002)
MWP:	Mining Works Programme
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998)
NWA:	National Water Act, 1998 (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998).
RoM:	Run of Mine
SDF:	Strategic Development Framework
SIA:	Social Impact Assessment
SLP:	Social and Labour Plan
SMMEs:	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
StatsSA:	Statistics South Africa
TLM:	Tsantsabane Local Municipality

DOCUMENT STATUS

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Final SIA Report	
Date:	July 2021
Author:	Ms. Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth
Signature:	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Since 2017 Wepex Trading Pty (Ltd) (herein referred to as Wepex Trading) has a Prospecting Right (NC 11815 PR) for the prospection of Iron and Manganese Ore on the Remaining extent of the Farm Gloucester 674 (Glosam) near Postmasburg in the Northern Cape Province. Wepex Trading has been issued with an authorisation for bulk sampling on the property. Screening and crushing operations are therefore already taking place.

The said Prospecting Right is valid for five years and will be expiring in 2022. Wepex Trading has now submitted a Mining Right application for mining of manganese and iron ore on the same property (Remaining extent of the Farm Gloucester 674), which triggers the need for an Environmental Authorisation.

Wadala Mining and Consulting (Pty) Ltd. was appointed by Wepex Trading as Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the necessary Environmental Authorisations for the proposed Mining Right Application. A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will be conducted as part of the Environmental Authorisation Process.

1.2 Definition of a Social Impact Assessment

Burdge (1995) describes a Social Impact Assessment as the "...systematic analysis in advance of the likely impacts a development event (or project) will have on the day-to-day life (environmental) of persons and communities." A SIA therefore attempts to predict the probable impact of a development (before the development actually takes place) on people's way of life (how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a daily basis), their culture (their shared beliefs, customs and values) and their community (its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities), by:

- Appraising the social impacts resulting from the proposed project;
- Relating the assessed social impacts of the project to future changes in the socio-economic environments that are not associated with it. This would serve to place the impacts of the project into context;
- Using the measurements (rating) to determine whether the impacts would be negative, neutral or positive;
- Determining the significance of the impacts; and
- Proposing mitigation measurements.

An SIA is thus concerned with the human dimensions of the environment, as it aims to balance social, economic and environmental objectives and seeks to predict, anticipate and understand the potential impacts of development.

The SIA can assist the project proponent to conceptualise and implement a project in a manner which would see the identified negative social impacts addressed through avoidance or mitigation and the positive impacts realised and optimised. It would also allow the community to anticipate, plan for and deal with the social changes once they come into effect. In this sense then, the SIA is an indispensable part of the EIA, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and any participative activity (e.g. community involvement in mitigation and monitoring during planning and implementation).

1.3 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the SIA report is therefore to provide the findings of the SIA undertaken during the EIA Phase through the following.

- Determining the current socio-economic status of the area and the social characteristics of the receiving environment;
- Indicating the anticipated core impact categories and impact areas (possible hot spots);
- Identifying anticipated positive socio-economic impacts of the proposed project and provide management measures for these impacts;
- Identifying and highlighting negative social impacts (social hot spots) of the proposed project and indicate mitigation measures to deal with these impacts; and
- Presenting the findings, recommendations and conclusions of the social study.

1.4 The Proposed Project¹

The proposed mining activity is planned to be implemented on the Farm Gloucester 674 along the R325 provincial road, approximately 28 km north of Postmasburg, Boichoko and Newtown and approximately 55 km south of Kathu. The study area falls within the boundaries of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality and under the jurisdiction of the Tsantsabane Local Municipality (TLM).

The overall area is characterised by intensive mining development and associated infrastructure. Various servitudes are present e.g. internal roads and the R325 to the east of the farm Gloucester. A powerline also traverses the site, with the Transnet Rail Freight railway line running along the eastern border of the site.

Wepex Trading submitted a Mining Right application for mining of manganese ore on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Gloucester 674. The Mining Right applied for includes 12 years of mining and is calculated at 11 years including the 6-8 months for the production build-up period.

The plant will operate for 264 days per year for approximately 9 hours per day (Sundays, public holidays and days when rain prevent production have been taken into consideration). The average plant production per day will thus be approximately 2,638 tonnes/day at an average of 293 tonnes/hour.

The mining method will be conventional opencast mining whereby the ore will be excavated with excavators, sand removed, the ore loaded onto articulated dump trucks from the open pit and hauled to the crushing and screening plant. Where required, vegetated soil overlying the planned mining area will be stripped prior to mining and stockpiled on a dedicated dump to allow for use during the rehabilitation process.

Provision is made for a maximum footprint (at full production) of 350 hectares (ha) of open excavations at any one time.

¹ Wepex Trading (Pty) Ltd. (2021) Scoping Report for the Mining Rights Application of the farm Gloucester 674 (RE)

The processing of ore will be a dry process, with the option to convert to a 'wet' process after full production has been reached. Crushing and screening will be done by mobile plants without the construction of any permanent buildings. After full production has been reached, a semi-permanent separation plant and semi-permanent crushing plant will be constructed.

Overburden (waste material) will be removed from the manganese ore. Only on-grade material (manganese ore) will be transported to the Run of Mine (ROM) stockpile at the plant.

Typical equipment that will be utilised in and at the processing plant include crushers, a generator set, various conveyors, excavators, front end loaders, and water trucks for dust suppression.

The mining operation will create an additional 7-8 km of roads, with a width of 20 meters to allow sufficient space for the movement of haul trucks.

It is anticipated that the operation will establish a dedicated, fenced waste disposal site with a concrete floor and bund wall. The following types of waste will be disposed of in this area: small amounts of low-level hazardous waste in suitable receptacles, domestic waste and industrial waste.

The rock dump will be rehabilitated by sloping it to an angle of 18 degrees and revegetate it by the end of life of mine. The mine will include the concurrent rehabilitation in future mine planning. Waste will be backfilled into historically excavated areas.

Infrastructure as listed below will be developed for the proposed project:

- Office complex (brick or prefabricated) consisting of one Diesel bay Office and one Lab Building. The offices will have the necessary sewage and ablution facilities;
- Parking area;
- Access road;
- Generators (8X 30-100 KW) housed in a brick building;
- Security fence, security gate and guard house at access control point;
- Access control;
- Haul roads;
- Stormwater dam (0.1ha), berms and trenches to separate clean and dirty water;
- Fuel storage facilities, namely 4 x 17 000 litre diesel tanks;
- A Re-fuel and lube station;
- Processing Plant;
- Salvage yard (storage and laydown area);
- Product Stockpile area (Provision is made for a maximum footprint (at full production) of 5 ha for the stockpile area at any one time);
- Ore Stockpile dumps (79 000m² Run of Mine dumps);
- Subgrade stockpile area (5 x 1.5ha each) (Provision is made for a maximum footprint (at full production) of 7.5 hectare for this stockpile area at any one time);

- Topsoil storage area (temporary) which would include three topsoil dumps of 0.5 ha each;
- Waste disposal site (domestic and industrial waste) (140m²);
- Rock dump;
- Workshop and Wash bay;
- Water distribution Pipeline;
- Water tanks (a minimum of 8 x 10 000 litre water tanks with purifiers for potable water is planned to be established);
- Weighbridge and weighbridge control room with two offices.

Wepex Trading is on site and therefore production will continue with the current plant and equipment. It is anticipated that the proposed mining, together with the expansions on the current infrastructure and plant, will be undertaken in 2022, in order to ramp up production to produce approximately 500 000 tonnes per annum of marketable manganese.

Water for use on the mine will be received from Sedibeng Water. A pipeline route will be designed based on the principle of minimum impacts to the environment.

Electricity will be sourced from Eskom, but diesel generators would be available as back-up during power failures.

1.5 Location

The following maps provide an outline of the locality of the farm Gloucester 674, the proposed layout and infrastructure.

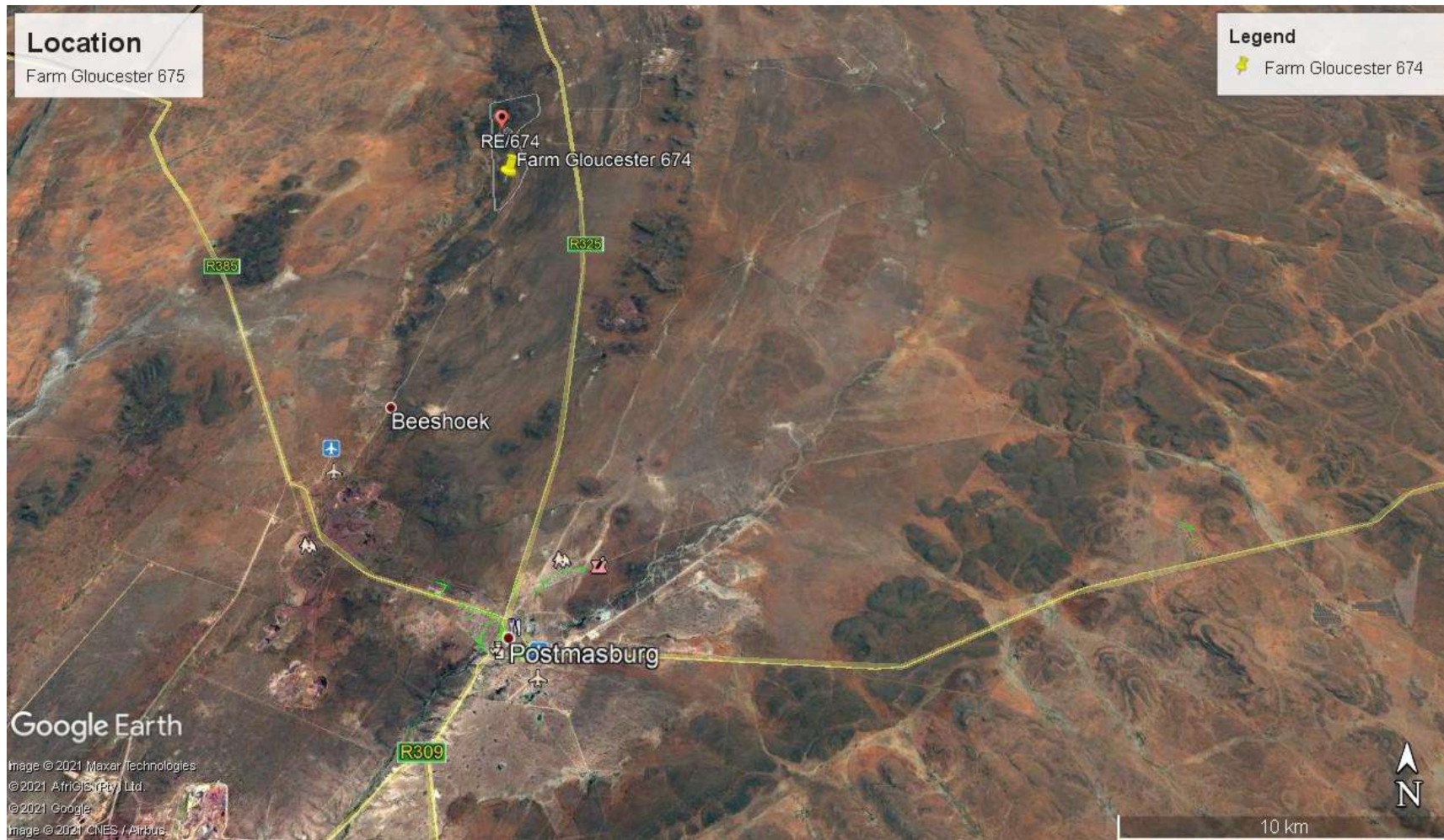


Figure 1: Location of Farm Gloucester 674

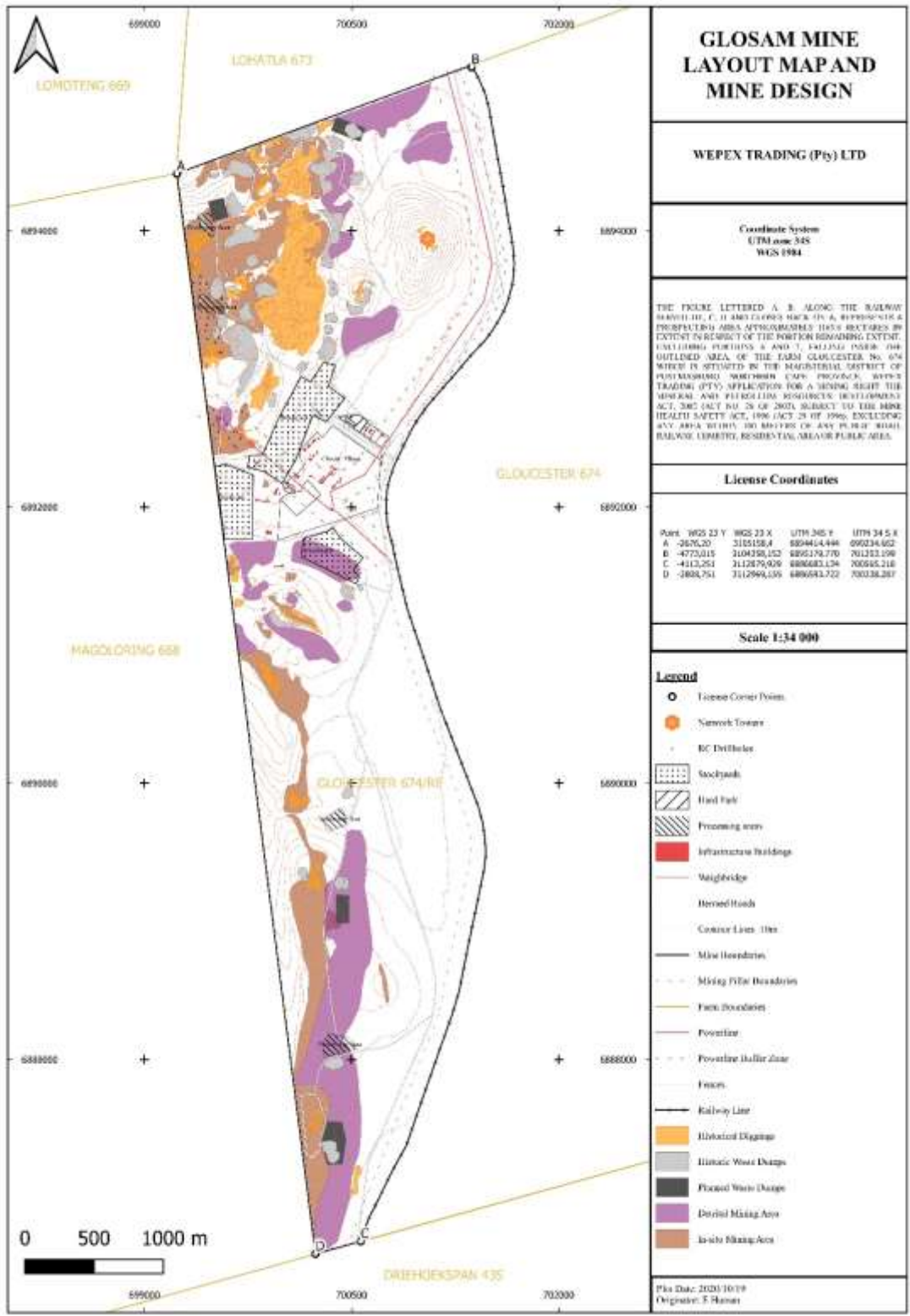


Figure 2: Proposed Mine Layout

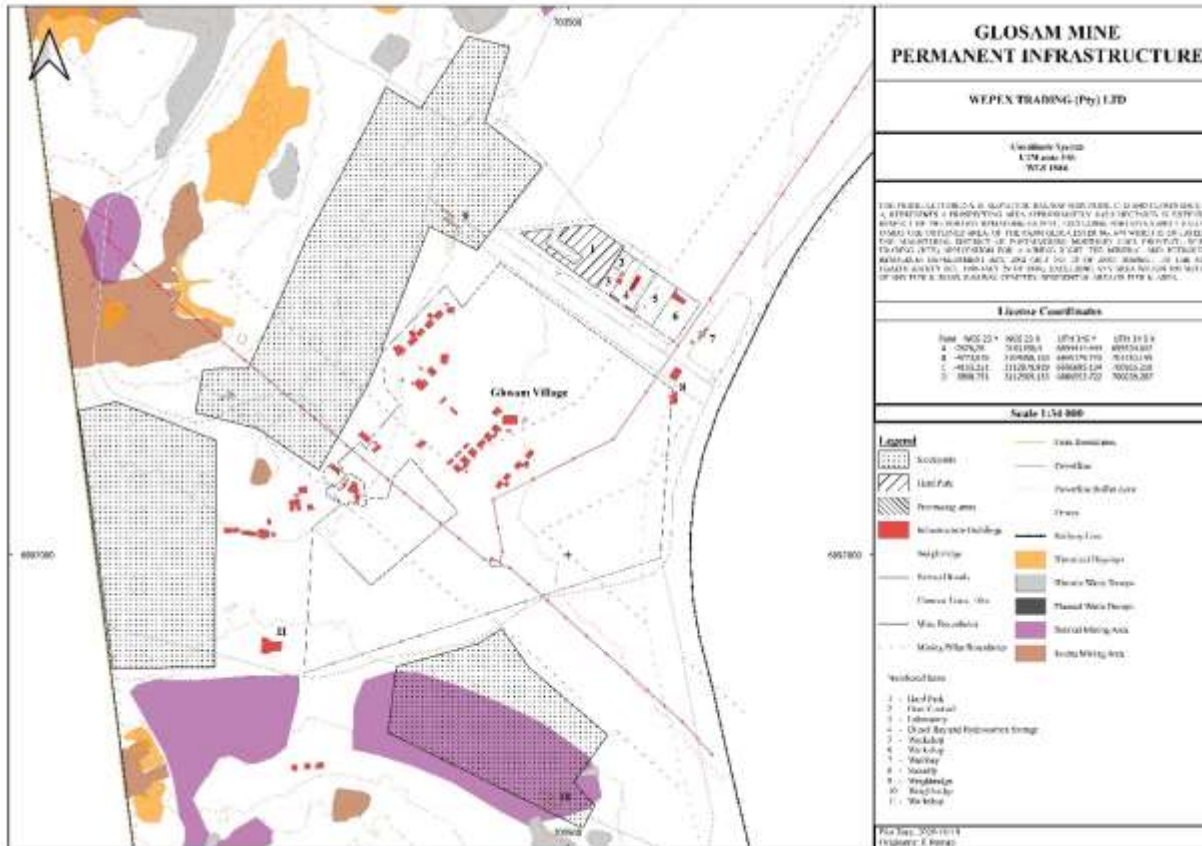


Figure 3: Proposed Infrastructure

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

2.1 General

In South Africa, the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), provides the legal framework for the correct use and management of the environment. Many developments undertaken by both public and private sector organisations require, by legislation, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In specific, Section 24 of NEMA provides for both the Minister and MEC to identify activities or areas in which certain activities may not be undertaken in absence of an environmental authorization.

An EIA is depended on the type, scale and size of the specific development. The National Environmental Management Act, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, GN R543 (“NEMA EIA Regulations”) were published on 18 June 2010 and came into operation on 2 August 2010. These Regulations has been superseded with the 2014 EIA Regulations, GNR 982 published on 4 December 2014 and came into operation on 8 December 2014.

Together with the NEMA EIA Regulations, the assessment of the social environment came into place and thus the origin for undertaking a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The guidelines from NEMA thus also apply to an SIA.

Other applicable legislation (Acts and Guidelines) include, but are not limited to:

- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA);
- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended in 2017 (EIA Regulations);
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008 / Regulation 921 of 2013 (as amended) (NEM:WA);
- National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA);
- Mine, Health and Safety Act (Act 29 of 1996) and Regulations;
- The Social and Labour Plan required by MPRDA and MPRDA Regulations GN R527 (Part II Regulations 40 to 46); and
- Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment published by the International Association of Impact Assessment (2003).

2.2 Checklist: Requirements for Specialist Reports, as Contained in the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended

Table 1: Requirements for specialist reports, as contained in the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended

EIA REGULATIONS 2014 GNR 982 Appendix 6 CONTENT OF THE SPECIALIST REPORTS	Status / Cross-reference in this Report
a) details of the specialist who prepared the report; and the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae;	Sections 15.1
b) a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;	Section 15.2
c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1.3
cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Statistics from Census 2011 were used. Where available statistics from Household Survey of 2016 (StatsSA) were used.
cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change	Section Error! Reference source not found.
d) the duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;	Section 4
e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used;	Section 4
f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Sections 6,7 and 0 Error! Reference source not found.
g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Sections 7,8 and 11
h) a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section Error! Reference source not found.
i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 3
j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity or activities;	Sections 7 and 0 Error! Reference source not found.
k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 11
l) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation;	Sections 11 and 13

EIA REGULATIONS 2014 GNR 982 Appendix 6 CONTENT OF THE SPECIALIST REPORTS	Status / Cross-reference in this Report
m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation;	Section 11
n) a reasoned opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; • regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and • if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan; 	Sections 12 and 13
o) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report;	Refer to the public participation Process
p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Refer to the public participation Process
q) any other information requested by the competent authority	N/A
2) Where a government notice gazetted by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	N/A

3. GAPS, LIMITATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

With regards to the SIA undertaken, the following should be noted:

- A SIA aims to identify possible socio-economic impacts that could occur in future. These impacts are based on existing baseline information. There is thus always an uncertainty with regards to the anticipated impact actually occurring, as well as the intensity thereof. Impact predictions have been made as accurately as possible based on the information available at the time of the study.
- Sources consulted are not exhaustive and additional information can still come to the fore to influence the contents, findings, ratings and conclusions made.
- Socio-economic baseline information was mainly based on official statistics from StatsSA (2011 and 2016), as well as municipal documentation. Sub-municipal data was only available for 2011. The lack of more recent official socio-economic data is therefore seen as a limiting factor, although it is not anticipated to influence the outcome of the report.
- Technical and other information provided by the EAP is assumed to be correct.
- An overall rating for the possible decommissioning and closure phase impacts was included although it is recommended that the socio-economic impacts be re-assessed at the time of decommissioning as the local dynamics would have changed.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Scope of the Assessment

This involves an investigation to identify the framework of the project through the identification and demarcation of the study area. Once the study area has been determined, an evaluation framework was developed which assisted in identifying the main anticipated social impacts. Scoping further involves an outline of the social characteristics of the area which included the following:

- Background of the study area;
- Existing social characteristics of the affected communities;
- Culture, attitudes and socio-psychological conditions;
- Population characteristics and demographics;
- Community and institutional structures;
- Community resources; and
- A broad economic profile of the area.

4.2 Literature Review, Analysis and Desktop Studies

The literature review assisted the consultants to establish the social setting and characteristics of the study area, as well as the key economic activities. Secondary data, which was not originally generated for the specific purpose of the study, were gathered and analysed for the purposes of the study. Such data included maps, census data, internet searches, and the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the Tsantsabane Local Municipality.

4.3 Profiling

Profiling serves to build on information generated during the scoping process. It involves a description of the social characteristics and history of the area being assessed, an analysis of demographic data, changes in the local population, and the land-use pattern in the study area, as well as any other significant developments in the area and thus social character over time. The profiling process is a combination of secondary and primary research, site visit and consultation. This could include information on:

- Historical background;
- Social characteristics;
- Culture, attitudes and socio-psychological conditions;
- Population characteristics;
- Community and institutional structures;
- Community resources; and
- Broad economic impacts.

The broad profiling will typically include descriptions regarding the following:

- The social trends and current conditions;
- The land-use in the area;
- The demographical profile and social characteristics of the host community;
- Other potential developments in the area;

- The local and regional economy; and
- Potential economic links between the proposed project and its environs.

4.4 Projecting Anticipated Impacts

A baseline assessment indicates the current reality in the social and related aspects of the affected environment. A baseline assessment is necessary to enable a logical and theoretically sound analysis of social impacts. It forms part of the process of identifying important cause-and-effect relationships and a comparative framework for anticipated changes and impacts.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation of impacts is conducted in terms of the criteria detailed in Table 2 to Table 7. The various environmental impacts and benefits of this project are discussed in terms of impact status, extent, duration, probability, and intensity. Impact significance is regarded as the sum of the impact extent, duration, probability and intensity. A numerical rating system has been applied to evaluate the significance of the impacts. Therefore, an impact magnitude and significance rating is applied to rate each identified impact in terms of its overall magnitude and significance (Table 7).

In order to adequately assess and evaluate the impacts and benefits associated with the project, it was necessary to develop a methodology that would scientifically achieve this and to reduce the subjectivity involved in making such evaluations. To enable informed decision-making, it is necessary to assess all legal requirements and clearly defined criteria in order to accurately determine the significance of the predicted impact or benefit on the surrounding natural and social environment.

5.1 Status

The nature or status of the impact is determined by the conditions of the environment prior to construction and operation. A discussion on the nature of the impact will include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected. The nature of the impact can be described as negative, positive or neutral.

Table 2: Status of Impact

Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
Positive	A benefit to the receiving environment	P
Neutral	No cost or benefit to the receiving environment	-
Negative	A cost to the receiving environment	N

5.2 Extent

The extent of an impact is considered as to whether impacts are either limited in extent or if it affects a wide area or group of people. Impact extent can be site specific (within the boundaries of the development area), local, regional or national and/or international.

Table 3: Extent of Impact

Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
Low	Site Specific; Occurs within the site boundary	1
Medium	Local; Extends beyond the site boundary; Affects the immediate surrounding environment (i.e. up to 5 km from the Project Site boundary).	2
High	Regional; Extends far beyond the site boundary; Widespread effect (i.e. 5 km and more from the Project Site boundary).	3
Very High	National and/or international; Extends far beyond the site boundary; Widespread effect	4

5.3 Duration

The duration of the impact refers to the time scale of the impact or benefit.

Table 4: Duration of Impact

Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
Low	Short term; Quickly reversible; Less than the project lifespan; 0 – 5 years.	1
Medium	Medium term; Reversible over time; Approximate lifespan of the project; 5 – 17 years.	2
High	Long term; Permanent; Extends beyond the decommissioning phase; >17 years	3

5.4 Probability

The probability of the impact describes the likelihood of the impact actually occurring.

Table 5: Probability of Impact

Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
Improbable	Possibility of the impact materialising is negligible; Chance of occurrence <10%.	1
Probable	Possibility that the impact will materialise is likely; Chance of occurrence 10 – 49.9%	2
Highly Probable	It is expected that the impact will occur; Chance of occurrence 50 – 90%.	3
Definite	Impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures; Chance of occurrence >90%.	4
Definite and Cumulative	Impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures; Chance of occurrence >90% and is likely to result in in cumulative impacts	5

5.5 Intensity

The intensity of the impact is determined to quantify the magnitude of the impacts and benefits associated with the proposed project.

Table 6: Intensity of Impact

Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
Maximum Benefit	Where natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are positively affected resulting in the maximum possible and permanent benefit.	+5
Significant Benefit	Where natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are altered to the extent that it will result in temporary but significant benefit.	+4
Beneficial	Where the affected environment is altered but natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes continue, albeit in a modified, beneficial way.	+3
Minor Benefit	Where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are only marginally benefited	+2
Negligible Benefit	Where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are negligibly benefited.	+1
Neutral	Where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are not affected.	0
Negligible	Where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are negligibly affected	-1
Minor	Where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are only marginally affected.	-2
Average	Where the affected environment is altered but natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes continue, albeit in a modified way.	-3
Severe	Where natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are altered to the extent that it will temporarily cease.	-4
Very Severe	Where natural, cultural and / or social functions or processes are altered to the extent that it will permanently cease.	-5

5.6 Significance

The impact magnitude and significance rating is utilised to rate each identified impact in terms of its overall magnitude and significance.

Table 7: Impact Magnitude and Significance Rating

Impact	Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
Positive	High	Of the highest positive order possible within the bounds of impacts that could occur.	+12-16
	Medium	Impact is real, but not substantial in relation to other impacts that might take effect within the bounds of those	+6-11

Impact	Rating	Description	Quantitative Rating
		that could occur. Other means of achieving this benefit are approximately equal in time, cost and effort	
	Low	Impacts is of a low order and therefore likely to have a limited effect. Alternative means of achieving this benefit are likely to be easier, cheaper, more effective and less time-consuming	+ 1–5
No Impact	No Impact	Zero Impact	0
Negative	Low	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. In the case of adverse impacts, mitigation is either easily achieved or little will be required, or both. Social, cultural, and economic activities of communities can continue unchanged.	-1-5
	Medium	Impact is real, but not substantial in relation to other impacts that might take effect within the bounds of those that could occur. In the case of adverse impacts, mitigation is both feasible and fairly possible. Social cultural and economic activities of communities are changed but can be continued (albeit in a different form). Modification of the project design or alternative action may be required	-6-11
	High	Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts that could occur. In the case of adverse impacts, there is no possible mitigation that could offset the impact, or mitigation is difficult, expensive, time-consuming or a combination of these. Social, cultural and economic activities of communities are disrupted to such an extent that these come to a halt.	-12-16

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

Each community is unique as it is shaped by its social networks, cultural influences, values and norms, politics and the infrastructure in the area. The report therefore provides an overview of the social characteristics of the area in order to determine its current capacity and its ability to manage change.

6.1 General Description of the Study Area

6.1.1 ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

The ZF Mgcawu District Municipality² was formerly known as the Siyanda District Municipality. It lies within the mid-northern section of the Northern Cape Province, bordering with Botswana in the north and Namibia in the west and covers an area of 102 484 km².

The ZF Mgcawu District comprises five Local Municipalities with the Tsantsabane Local Municipality (TLM) as the relevant municipality for this application. The main towns that are scattered through the area are Brandboom, Danielskuil, Eksteenskuil, Groblershoop, Kakamas, Keimoes, Kenhardt, Lime Acres, Mier, Postmasburg, Rietfontein, and Upington. The latter serves as the district municipal capital.

The ZF Mgcawu District Municipality accounts for approximately 30% of the Northern Cape economy. ZF Mgcawu's economy is largely dominated by mining and agriculture. Mining activity mainly occurs in the local municipalities of Tsantsabane and Kgatelopele, where manganese, diamonds and the raw materials are found. Agricultural enterprises are found along the Orange River with table grape and dried fruit production, processing and packaging. Livestock farming is undertaken throughout the area with varying land unit sizes due to the diverse carrying capacity in the different sections of the district. A large variety of game can also be found on both private and conservation areas in the region³.

Tourism is one of the most important economic sectors in the Northern Cape as well as within the ZF Mgcawu District Municipal boundaries. The industry is noted as the fastest growing component of the economy by the ZFM IDP (2012– 2017). The world famous Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is found in this region⁴.

The spatial vision of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality thus include⁵:

- Tourism: Cultural, wilderness, floristic, river tourism ranging from the Kgalagadi international trans frontier park to the culture of the Riemvasmaak community to river tourism on the Orange River;
- Mining and mining beneficiation;
- Agriculture: Riverbank vineyards and expansive stock and game farming in the Kalahari; and
- Renewable energy technology opportunities.

6.1.2 Tsantsabane Local Municipality

The Tsantsabane LM falls under the jurisdiction of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality formerly known as the Siyanda District Municipality. The extent of the geographical area of the municipality

² www.localgovernment.co.za

³ ZF Mgcawu District Municipality. Draft Integrated Development Plan 2021/2022

⁴ ZF Mgcawu District Municipality. Draft Integrated Development Plan 2021/2022

⁵ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2018) Integrated Development Plan: Revised Draft

is 18 317 km². The TLM falls in the Gamagara Corridor, which the Northern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (NCPSDF) (2012) defines as “comprises the mining belt of the John Taolo Gaetsewe and ZF Mgcawu districts and runs from Lime Acres and Danielskuil to Hotazel in the north. The corridor focuses on the mining of iron and manganese⁶.”

The TLM area consists of various wards as indicated in the table below. The study area falls within Ward 6 that spans a vast area. The ward includes Stasie, White City and areas of Beeshoek near Postmasburg with the Olifantshoek area forming the eastern boundary of the ward, and the western boundary just extending to the east of the R325. Ward 6 further stretches northwards to an area near the Olifantshoek – Upington crossing of the N14 and R325.

Table 8: Wards and settlements in the study area

WARDS	AFFECTED SETTLEMENTS IN WARD
Ward 1	Part of Postdene and Carnation
Ward 2	Newtown
Ward 3	Groenwater, Jenn Haven, part of Postdene and Kolomela houses
Ward 4	Boichoko
Ward 5	Skeifontein, Soetfontein, Strathmore, Part of Boichoko and Postmasburg Town
Ward 6	White City, Glosam, Maremane, Beeshoek, Stasie
Ward 7	Maranteng, Kanonbult

Postmasburg is the main town within the Tsantsabane LM, with various other small rural settlements such as Jenn-Haven, White City, Groenwater and Skeyfontein. New settlements developments include Mountainview, Greenfields, and Postdene Phase 1 & 2⁷.

Postdene is situated to the north of Postmasburg and just east of the R325. Newtown is to the west of Postmasburg and south of the R385 (Main Road) with Boichoko further west of both these settlements. Biochoko and Postdene settlement is spatially separated from Postmasburg town, while residents of Newtown access Postmasburg via R385, Main Road and Boom Street.

The Maremane settlement is situated on the farm Driehoekspan 432 which is situated to the south of the proposed mining activity and to the west of the R325. The Maremane community was removed from the region during the late 1970's, partly to make room for the SA Defence Force (Lohatlha) at the time⁸. The resettlement process of the Maremane community started during 1997.

⁶ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2018) Integrated Development Plan: Revised Draft

⁷ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/21

⁸ www.maremanecpa.co.za

The Maremane area includes a formal village and informal section. The formal settlement housed approximately 400 families and the informal section consisted of approximately 40 families. The Maremane community falls under the jurisdiction of the Maremane Traditional Authority, with the Maremane Communal Property Association (MCPA) managing its affairs. The ZF Mgcawu District Municipality IDP stated that township establishment must still be conducted by the Department of Land Reform and a new CPA must be elected. In the absence of the CPA and township establishment, the TLM must explore alternative service delivery options to assist the Maremane community⁹.

The main route in the area is the R325 to Kathu and is characterised by high levels of movement. This opens up economic opportunities for the TLM along this and other secondary routes.

Economically, Tsantsabane is known for being rich in minerals, and for its mining, agriculture, manufacturing and farming sectors. Tsantsabane has become one of the leading investment areas in the Northern Cape.

The key Municipal priorities as set out in the TLM's IDP include:

- Bulk Infrastructure services;
- Revenue Collection and Enhancement;
- Provision of Sustainable Basic Services (Water, Electricity & Sanitation);
- Local Economic Development and Job Creation;
- Education: access to land for educational purposes;
- Access to land for residential and business erven;
- Library services for rural areas;
- Refurbishment of community halls; and
- Access to health services.

6.1.3 The study area

The farm Gloucester is approximately 28 km north of the town of Postmasburg and falls within the jurisdiction of the Tsantsabane Local Municipality (TLM) and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality.

The land uses in the study and municipal area are mainly focused on mining (manganese and iron ore) and agriculture (grazing), although of a low potential. Various mines exist within the TLM and in close proximity to the farm Gloucester. Local mines include:

- Beeshoek Iron Ore Mine (directly west of Postmasburg) (Assmang);
- Kolomela Iron Ore Mine (southeast of Postmasburg) (Anglo American group company Kumba Iron Ore);
- Manganore Mine (southeast of Lohattha and the farm Gloucester on the farms Klipfontein and Kapstewel) (Assmang);

⁹ ZF Mgcawu District Municipality. Draft Integrated Development Plan 2021/2022

- Sedibeng Iron Ore Mine (20 km north of Postmasburg on the farm Klipfontein);
- Lomoteng Manganese Mine (farm Lomoteng approximately 2km from Sedibeng Mine) (Strata Africa Resources);
- Emang Mmogo Manganese Project (farm Japies Rus, directly to the west of the farm Gloucester) (Segue Resources);
- Paling Manganese Mine (south of the farm Gloucester on the farm Paling) (PMG Mining); and
- Bishop Manganese Mine (north of the farm Gloucester on the farm Bishop) (PMG Mining).

The site area has been extensively mined in the past, and more recently by Assmang (manganese ore). Historical mining and more recent exploration thus disturbed the area significantly. Various mining related infrastructure are found throughout the application area, e.g. open pits, access roads and various buildings and mining related structures. Other infrastructure refers to cellular masts, the Sedibeng Water pipeline and Eskom power lines. The Paling Mine is located to the southeast. The security office of Emang Mmogo Mine is to the west of the farm Gloucester.

The Transnet Rail Freight railway line passes on the eastern border of the mining rights area. The R325 that links Kathu and Postmasburg are further to the east of the proposed site. The Lohattha Military Training Base is located to the east of the R325 and the farm Gloucester.

The larger study area is also used for livestock grazing and wildlife. The Assmang owned game farm is situated southwest of the farm Gloucester.

The Glosam mining village which was developed in the 1950's is still present on the farm Gloucester. It consists of approximately 30 houses, a recreational area (sports field and braai area) as well as other structures including a recreation hall. Remnants of other buildings associated with mining are also present.

6.2 Social Profile

6.2.1 Population Figures

The population profile of the TLM and Ward 6 can be summarised as follows:

Table 9: Population Profile

POPULATION PROFILE				
AREA	Total Population (Community Survey 2016)	Average population density	Number of households	Average household size
TLM	39 344	2.1 persons per km ²	11 820	3.5
Ward 6	5 541	0.4 persons per km ²	1 798	3

The population in Ward 6 comprises 14% of the population in the TLM if compared to the total population as recorded in 2016. Ward 6 is less densely populated than the other wards and the majority of the residents are located within the settlements such as White City and Maremane. There is an average of 3 individuals per households which is similar to that of the TLM.

According to the 2011 statistics¹⁰, Glosam had a total population of 119 residents. This could have changed significantly since then.

The population figures of the TLM and Ward 6 are in line with medium to high growth rate predictions made in 2011 based on the population figures at that stage. The high-growth scenario of Postmasburg took into account the trend breaks which could occur due to the increase in mining activities in the Postmasburg area that is expected to continue until approximately 2035¹¹.

6.2.2 Age Groups and Gender

The age groups and gender of the TLM and Ward 6 in comparison with the district and province can be summarised as follows:

Table 10: Age Groups and Gender

AREA	% Population under 18 years	Median age	% Working Age (18-64)	% Males of total population
Northern Cape Province	36%	25 years	59%	49%
ZF Mgqawu District Municipality	34%	26 years	61%	51%
TLM	34%	26 years	66%	54%
Ward 6	30%	27 years	66%	56%

The TLM’s population indicates a predominantly young age structure with 34% of the population under 18 years and 62% between 18 and 64 years. The median age within Ward 6 and the Northern Cape Province varies between 25 to 27 years. Within the TLM, the highest percentage (23%) of people fall between 20 and 29 years of age. Those within the working age category (18-64 years) are approximately 10% higher than the rate in the Northern Cape and also slightly higher than the district rate¹². At Glosam, 25% of the population was under the age of 14 years in 2011, which would result in some of those residents also now falling within the working age category which made up 75% of the population in 2011¹³. These figures indicate the critical need for employment opportunities within the area.

The male population (21 086 individuals) within the municipality are at 54% and even higher in Ward 6 at 56%. In 2011, the male population within Glosam, also constituted 56.5% of the Glosam residents, with a significantly higher number of males within the 20–40 year age category¹⁴. The number of males within the study area is thus again approximately 8% higher than the rate within the province and slightly higher than the district rate¹⁵. The main reason for this situation in the area is attributed to the influx of various workers from outside the province in search of work at the

¹⁰ www.statssa.gov.za

¹¹ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2014) Spatial Development Framework

¹² StatsSA: Community survey 2016

¹³ www.statssa.gov.za

¹⁴ www.statssa.gov.za

¹⁵ StatsSA: Community survey 2016

different mining and solar developments and mining being a more male dominant employment industry.

6.2.3 Population Stability

The majority of the individuals residing in the TLM are originally from the Northern Cape Province. Approximately 11% of the population within the TLM area are from outside the province¹⁶. The cause for immigration may largely be attributed to the presence of various mining activities and mainly due to the sources of employment within this sector.

The in-migration, and the fact that mining cannot absorb all the job seekers, results in a population instability which in turn creates various challenges in terms of the provision of infrastructure and services.

6.2.4 Education and Skills Levels

The proportion of the adult population within the TLM area with no schooling amounts to 7%, with only 2% having obtained a tertiary level of education. The statistics indicate that although a high number of students enroll for primary school, a very low number of students complete Grade 12. Furthermore, only 5% of those who enrolled for Grade 1 endure it into a tertiary level.

Approximately 36% within the TLM, however has a matric certificate, which is about 20% higher than the rate in the district and 10% higher than the provincial rate. The education profile of Ward 6 shows that only 12% have completed matric (thus much lower than the TLM area), but 3% have some form of higher education.

In 2011, the education levels within Glosam were as follows: 2.4% of the population did not have any schooling, 41% of those above 20 years had completed Grade 12 and 12% had completed some form of higher education. It is thus highly possible, if these residents still stay at Glosam, that that they could still be suitably qualified for employment opportunities at the proposed mining activity.

The ZF Mgcau District Municipality stated in the IDP that within Maremane community there is a need for a mobile library, early childhood development centres, schools and even ABET classes¹⁷.

With the low number of the population within the TLM having a tertiary qualification or having completed Grade 12, it can be assumed that the skills levels are also low. This results in a very low probability for employment. Unemployment and low skills remain a major concern within the TLM area.

Within the TLM and Ward 6, the educational profile of those of 20 years and older is as follows¹⁸:

¹⁶ StatsSA: Community survey 2016

¹⁷ ZF Mgcau District Municipality. Draft Integrated Development Plan 2021/2022

¹⁸ StatsSA: Community survey 2016

Table 11: Educational Profile of Population in TLM

EDUCATIONAL PROFILE						
Area	No Schooling	Some primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Completed secondary	Higher
TLM	7.3%	9.1%	5.9%	36%	36%	2.2%
Ward 6	17%	13%	5%	30%	12%	3%

It must, however, be noted that the education level is further being negatively affected by the urbanisation process, with a lack of sufficient schools for the increase in people coming to Postmasburg and surrounds in search of employment¹⁹. Learners from all over the TLM area are transported to attend school in Postmasburg. Overcrowding in the classrooms is a serious challenge which hampers the learning experience. There is thus an urgent need for additional school facilities, especially primary schools. The challenges in this regard relate to:

- An urgent need for additional school facilities in Newtown (Postmasburg) and Groenwater / Skeyfontein;
- Lack of a Setswana medium school/s;
- Lack of specialised schools focusing on specialised traits i.e. Technical or Agricultural;
- Lack of proper water and sanitation services at schools;
- Not enough classrooms and high learners and teacher ratio; and
- A need for an additional technical high school that will respond/address for the needs of the mining sector.

6.3 Employment and Income

The mining sector, followed by the agricultural sector, is the main employment sectors within the local study area. The mining industry's contribution to the GDP of TLM increased from R1,5bn in 2002 to R3,9bn in 2012. During 2012 the mining industry employed 54.5% (6 648 persons) of the employed population²⁰.

The employment profile of persons 15 years and older is as follows:

Table 12: Employment Profile²¹

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE				
Area	Employed	Unemployed	Discouraged work-seeker	Other non-economically active
Northern Cape Province	38.4%	14.5%	5.4%	41.6%
ZF Mgcawu District	47.3%	11.3%	3.2%	38.3%
TLM	45.3%	16%	1.8%	36.9%
Ward 6	55%	7%	1%	37%

¹⁹ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/21

²⁰ Tsantsabane Local Municipality. (2014) Spatial Development Framework

²¹ StatsSA: Census 2011

Although various mines operate in the TLM area, these mines cannot accommodate all the jobseekers. According to the Census of 2011, the employment rate in the municipality is slightly less compared to the district rate, but significantly higher than the provincial rate. The employment rate in Ward 6, however, is 10% higher than that of the TLM. The non-economically active people are still of concern as they would thus be dependent on the employed.

From the statistics of 2011, and the income profile of the residents in Glosam, there were 12.5% of the households who had no income. One can thus conclude that at that stage, the majority of households had an individual that was employed²². It is unclear what the situation at Glosam is currently.

Due to the existing socio-economic circumstances in South Africa as a result of the negative impact of Covid-19, the unemployment figures can now be even higher. More up to date figures, however, were not available. Job creation in the TLM among the youth will remain a challenge with limited sectors available.

The average annual income in the TLM is calculated at R57 700 per annum²³, approximately 29% of the households within the TLM fall within the lower bound income brackets of below R20 000 per year. The average annual income is almost double that of the Northern Cape Province (R30 000) and the district figures. Employment figures for the TLM, is again slightly lower than that of the District, but higher than the Provincial figures.

Poverty levels in the study area remain high which indicates a higher dependency ratio and it can lead to higher crime rates.

6.4 Community Resources and Infrastructure

6.4.1 Land-Use

The larger study area is characterised by various type of infrastructure such as railway lines, power lines, communication masts, roads and various different type of mining infrastructure, mining developments and agricultural farming practices (commercial livestock and subsistence grazing), with limited game farming.

6.4.2 Natural Resources

The proposed mining project and site is located within an area that is semi-arid with no large dams or rivers. There is a dependency on the existing limited groundwater sources for agricultural activities and provision of water to some settlements.

In Tsantsabane the natural resource base is threatened or under pressure due to the mining developments. Concerns relate to habitat transformation and degradation, the generation and disposal of various types of waste, the invasion of alien species, air quality impacts, impacts on ground and surface water sources, as well as the overall climate change. The management of

²² www.statssa.gov.za

²³ www.wazimap.co.za: Census 2011

these is critical in ensuring effective conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity. Further issues of concern in the TLM area relate to the over-exploitation of natural resources and the pressure on development also places additional strain on water as natural resource.

To ensure sustainable livelihoods, it is important that economic opportunities are expanded in local areas, in a way that takes both people and biodiversity into account. Nature-based tourism should encourage local economic development. There is also a huge need to expand the skills of local communities and encourage entrepreneurs in the tourism industry, the game farming industry and commercialization enterprises, through training and support on access to finances and marketing²⁴.

6.4.3 Safety, Security and Health

Postmasburg has one police station which has to serve the entire municipal area, except for the Maremane area which is attended to by the Dingleton and Kathu Police Stations. Police are understaffed and lack enough vehicles to respond to all the crime related issues. Due to the influx of more individuals to the area, as well as an increase in alcohol and drug abuse, the crime levels in the study area have increased over the past couple of years.

There are no disaster management services as part of the TLM. The communities are dependent on Assmang Mine to provide firefighting services.

Postmasburg has one hospital that is usually functioning at capacity, three Primary Health Care clinics (Postdene, Boichoko and Newtown) and four mobile clinics²⁵. The hospital received some upgrades in 2019 undertaken by Anglo American Group of Companies' Kumba Iron Ore (Kolomela Mine) as part of their community investment programme. These included the construction of an additional primary health care facility next to the hospital and mobile care for rural areas; retention and attraction of key health professionals as well as the construction of doctor's living unit; and a focus on secondary healthcare which included the hospital upgrade²⁶.

However, there remains additional needs for more clinics and even mobile clinics for outlying areas such as Maremane. The TLM should work with provincial departments to ensure the development of community infrastructure such as schools and clinics is properly co-ordinate the development of these with the informal settlements upgrade programme.

Further health challenges that were highlighted are:

- HIV/AIDS increase and Tuberculosis (TB) increase;
- High rate of teenage pregnancies;
- Lack of sufficient and qualified staff with limited skills amongst current nurses and nursing sisters;
- Lack of sufficient facilities to render a proper health service to all communities; and

²⁴ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/21

²⁵ Tsantsabane Local Municipality. (2014) Spatial Development Framework

²⁶ Huisman, B. (November 2019) City Press: Care for communities: Contributing to people's wellbeing

- Lack of necessary health equipment and medication at clinics.

6.4.4 Housing and Related Infrastructure

Human settlements are scattered throughout the municipal area resulting in some areas still lacking services and infrastructure in comparison to other areas in the Municipality. Due to the increase in mining activities, the demand for housing has also increased²⁷

There are 11 820 households in TLM, with an average household size of 3.5 people. 72% of the residents live in formal dwellings. According to the Community Survey of 2016, this figure increased with approximately 80% of the residents living in formal dwellings²⁸.

The TLM is continuously aiming to address the issues of basic service delivery and the provision of housing. The TLM has made some progress with regards to the provision of housing, but due to the influx of outsiders to the area, it seems as if the need remains higher than the actual approved allocations.

Challenges in this regard that still remain include:

- Proper maintenance of existing infrastructure;
- Economic and social development at risk due to infrastructure deterioration,
- Adherence to statutory plans such as the Strategic Development Framework (SDF),
- Verification process as per the Department of Human Settlement's Standards,
- Housing need (demand) that is higher than the actual approved allocation (supply)

However, projects are underway to supply the residents with improved services and infrastructure.

In line with the Mining Charter, Wepex Trading aims to facilitate and assist with the process of homeownership for its employees²⁹.

6.4.5 Basic Service Delivery

Currently the municipality is experiencing high development backlogs as a result of increasing population figures and socio-economic growth underpinned mainly by the solar and mining sector investments. This has resulted in massive pressure on the delivery of basic services within the TLM area³⁰.

There are 11 820 households in the municipality and these households have access to the following basic services³¹:

²⁷ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/21

²⁸ www.wazimap.co.za

²⁹ Wepex Trading (Pty) Ltd. (2021) Draft Social and Labour Plan

³⁰ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2018) Integrated Development Plan: Revised Draft

³¹ StatsSA: Community survey 2016

- 91.2% of the households have access to water from a regional or local service provider;
- 45% have piped water inside their homes;
- 67% of the households have access to flush or chemical toilets;
- 91% have access to electricity which includes in-house pre-paid meters, in-house conventional meters and other sources;
- 67% of households have access to different types of internet facilities, although the majority of these obtain access via their cellular telephones; and
- 57% of households receive weekly refuse removal.

The above figures should take note of the fact that approximately 20% of the households in the TLM live in informal type of dwellings and that these households might not have access to the above services. The rural settlements and the informal settlements of TLM mostly do not have access to solid waste removal systems and services, which results in polluted informal settlements. Internal settlement roads are also in poor conditions. There is furthermore a need to develop and upgrade and register landfill sites in order to prevent environmental degradation and to meet the needs of the communities. Wastewater treatment plants would require upgrading³².

In Maremane the upgrading of roads, the extension of infrastructure for water and prepaid communal taps, sewage infrastructure, electricity and schools are required. The formal establishment of the township also need to be undertaken which could attend to some of these critical needs³³.

6.5 Tourism Industry

The local tourist attractions in the Postmasburg area include accommodation facilities such as hotels, guest houses and caravan parks. Attractions include hiking trails, hunting opportunities, war graves of the Galeshewe War, San rock art, the Howitzer Gun Civic Centre, Blinkklipkop, meaning “Shining Rock Hill” which boasts indications that the Khoisan attempted mining in this area as early as 700 AD, historic buildings, mine tours and the Witsand Nature Reserve, situated 80km south-west of Postmasburg³⁴.

A focused tourism strategy needs to be developed in order to create a tourism package comprising of a number of activities in the areas, rather than the current fragmented approach towards tourism³⁵. The SDF recommended the development of a circular route from Postmasburg to Witsand that could attract general tourists and 4 x 4 enthusiasts.

³² Tsantsabane Local Municipality. 2014. Draft Spatial Development Framework (SDF)

³³ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/21

³⁴ Urban-Econ (2015) Tsantsabane Local Economic Development Strategy Review: Draft Potential Analysis

³⁵ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2018) Integrated Development Plan: Revised Draft

The Northern Cape Province Growth and Development Strategy stated that the tourism potential in the Northern Cape has not been exploited to its full potential. Should the industry be developed it could result in the creation of significant labour intensive employment opportunities.

6.6 Local Economic Profile

As with the province's economy, the economies of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality and the TLM are largely dominated by mining, agriculture and manufacturing. Mining in TLM is the highest contributor to both its economic growth and job creation.

In 2014 it was indicated that the primary sector contributed 74% of all the sectors' contribution to the GDP of TLM. Mining was then still the single biggest contributor of all industries within the district and province. Expansions in the mining sector over the past couple of years led to the growth in the local economy. However, downscaling in this regard, however also had a significant impact on the local economies dependent on mining with long term negative consequences.

According to the TLM IDP, mining accounts for 55% of the GDP within the region³⁶. Postmasburg, and the surrounding area, had positive local business related impacts from mining due to the development of the Kolomela Mine and the constant input from the Assmang Beeshoek Mine. Individual new businesses, include retail and wholesale (53%), personal services (19%), transport (16%), catering and accommodation (6%), as well as financial services (3%).

It should be noted that this situation is a high potential risk for the TLM due to its overdependence on mining. There must be efforts from the TLM to diversify the economy and maybe focus on labour intensive job opportunities through the diversification of the economic base e.g. agriculture, agro-processing and manufacturing.

Furthermore, tourism could be a relatively small but important contributor to the local economy as more tourists are attracted to the distinguishing desert landscape with relative accessibility. This sector, however, was also negatively impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions.

Financial resources of the TLM are further limited due to ongoing poor payment levels by consumers. This has resulted in declining cash inflows for the municipality, which has necessitated restrained expenditure to ensure that cash outflows remain within the affordability parameters of the Municipality's finances³⁷. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic further resulted in inability for them to effectively implement credit control and debt collection measures. In 2020 Eskom identified the TLM as one of the defaulting Northern Cape Municipalities that failed to pay Eskom large amounts for the service delivery. Continued stable electricity provision thus hangs in the balance. Possible future disconnections of electricity supply may cause undue hardship to consumers and members of the community, and may adversely affect the delivery of other services.

³⁶ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/21

³⁷ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2018) Integrated Development Plan: Revised Draft

In order to ensure further economic growth in the region, the TLM's Local Economic Development strategy should ensure the utilisation of the economic potential to the benefit of the broader community. Projects would include supporting the establishment of various industries and businesses and the promotion of tourism through the development of a Tourism Marketing Strategy.

The above could link with the efforts to identify skills to be developed to respond to the economic opportunities in the municipality. In this regard, the municipality, with the assistance of Kumba Resources, established the Tsantsabane Youth Service Centre in 2009. The focus of the Centre is skills development of youth in the area in order to empower them to play a vital role in the economy of the area. Specific programmes include life skills training, leadership training, computer training and so forth.

As part of local growth further key investment opportunities within the TLM relate to:

- public-private partnerships to speed up development in the area;
- developmental assistance to the agricultural sectors with the focus on the emerging farmers;
- the development of a manufacturing strategy including the availability of serviced plots and the development of local skills;
- identification of export opportunities and international markets;
- the establishment of a permanent working group between the mining companies and the municipalities to ensure an effective relationship together with the development of skills training and support programmes;
- investigating and exploiting activities related to road-transport routes or corridors due to the suitable location of the municipality;
- The establishment of a local business support centre for the benefit of local entrepreneurs and informal traders;
- Exploit possible benefits of solar development projects in the area (e.g. Lesedi, Jasper and Red Stone projects) to the benefit of the local communities; and
- The development and implementation of an aggressive tourism marketing strategy.

In this regard it must be noted that the objectives of Wepex Trading are to³⁸:

- build capacity to address sustainable development;
- increase the employee's strength, effectiveness and also having skilled labour would yield to the increase in productivity;
- build expertise, share skills in administration, professional, technical, management, finance and operations; and
- Develop skills that would yield to enabling employees to participate in economic activities in this sector.

³⁸ Wepex Trading (Pty) Ltd. (2021) Draft Social and Labour Plan

7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

The construction phase refers to the production build-up period which is envisaged to be 6 – 8 months to full production.

Mining activities will primarily make use of existing roads created by the previous mining activities, but additional roads will most likely be created. The start-up phase can thus include selective clearing of vegetation in areas designated for surface infrastructure, the establishment of the new access roads, construction of mine and plant infrastructure and the development of the water and power supply infrastructure.

A crushing and screening plant will also be erected on site.

7.1 Employment and income opportunities during construction

The timeframe for the build-up period is of a short duration. As there are already prospecting and bulk sampling activities undertaken on site, it would be difficult to make a specific distinction between the prospecting and build-up phases. Workers employed as part of the prospecting can continue to be employed during the build-up phase. A section of these positions could be filled by unskilled workers (e.g. general workers, gate controller and security guards), as well as semi-skilled site operators and skilled supervisors. As the area is characterised by a wide range of mining activities, it can be assumed that the lower to semi-skilled positions can be filled from the local labour pool. The employment of locals would also lessen possible negative social impacts such as conflict between outsiders, newcomers and the local population.

It is further anticipated that the individuals that would be employed during the build-up period, would roll over to the operational phase of the project and will form part of the permanent employee profile. To enhance the benefit to the local communities, it is recommended that local labour (e.g. individuals from Maremane and the TLM) be procured as far as possible.

The benefit to the local communities in this regard would be similar to what is currently being experienced. Expenditure during this phase will result in business opportunities for the local economy with subsequent indirect spin-offs for local businesses.

Table 13: Employment and Income Opportunities

THEME: EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Positive (+)	Positive (+)
Extent	Local and regional (3)	Local and regional (3)
Duration	Short term: (1)	Short term: (1)
Probability	Probable (2)	Highly probable (3)
Intensity	Beneficial (3)	Beneficial (3)
Significance	Medium (9) +	Medium (10) +
Enhancement:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise any possible new local labour in the recruitment process as part of the company's own recruitment policy or as part of the contractor management plan and stipulate the procurement of new employees, especially in the unskilled category, from the local communities. • Provide up-skilling opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled local workers during the construction phase to allow them to attain the necessary requirements for operational employment opportunities. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possible placement of local construction workers in mining operations.
Expected areas of impact: Postmasburg, Maremane, Boichoko, Newtown, Postdene and possibly areas further from the mining site, but within the larger TLM area
Cumulative impacts: Other mining applications proposed by different applicants within the area, and other companies in the TLM area could have a cumulative impact on skilled labour availability and mining construction supplies if not pro-actively managed.
Residual impacts: None

7.2 Project induced in-migration

Due to the short timeframe and extent of the build-up period, as well as the expected number of workers involved, it is highly unlikely that the project would result in large numbers of in-migration of jobseekers and workers to the TLM area. A population change and a direct inflow of individuals to the area is thus not anticipated as a direct result of the proposed project.

It should, however, be noted that the TLM area already experiences an inflow of outsiders in search of employment. It is thus more likely that some of these jobseekers already in the TLM area can move closer to, or gather at the mining site, should they become aware of new mining activities being undertaken.

Table 14: Project induced in-migration

THEME: PROJECT INDUCED IN-MIGRATION		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local and regional (3)	Local and regional (3)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Minor (-2)	Negligible (-1)
Significance	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (7) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the use of local labour and contractors where possible by developing a strategy to involve local labour in the construction process. The development, publication and widespread dissemination of a recruitment policy could serve to encourage local employment and reduce the potential influx of jobseekers to the area. The communication strategy should ensure that unrealistic employment expectations are not created. A representative of Wepex Trading could liaise with the local leaders and local councillors to either attend key community meetings arranged within the affected wards to discuss the possible employment and recruitment process; or liaise with the local leaders and local councillors to ensure that the correct information regarding this issue is portrayed to the communities. Wepex Trading should, where possible, support efforts by TLM to limit squatting and sub-letting in the area, e.g., no informal settlements should be allowed within the mining rights area. Review and updates of the draft SLP must specify efforts by Wepex Trading to continue to seek sustainable solutions to the issue of housing for employees. 		
Expected areas of impact: Postmasburg, Maremane, Boichoko, Newtown, Postdene and possibly areas further from the mining site, but within the larger TLM area		

Cumulative impacts: Continued inflow of outsiders to the area as a result of various mining activities and expansions of other mines, as well as Solar Photovoltaic Power Projects, but not as a direct result of this project only.

Residual impacts: Continued pressure of the delivery of basic services and housing as a result of the cumulative impacts, although not as a direct result of the proposed project.

7.3 Community Safety and Security Related Impacts

During the construction phase, community safety can be at risk, mainly due the movement of construction vehicles on the R325, possible increase in criminal activities due to the movement of more people in the area, increased fire risks and possible safety hazards.

It should be noted that the number of construction vehicles, driver conduct, location of the worker accommodation facilities, as well as the actual number of outside construction workers would influence the intensity of the impact.

On site, mining activities pose safety risks which must be managed according to the relevant Health and Safety Plans of the mine to ensure the safety of workers and adjacent communities.

Table 15: Community Safety and Security

THEME: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SECURITY		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (7) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the use of local labour and contractors where possible by developing a strategy to involve local labour in the construction process to limit the inflow of outsiders. Construction vehicles must adhere to all mine related safety regulations and drivers must adhere to road regulations. Drivers and operators must have the necessary qualifications to operate the vehicles and equipment they are assigned to. Construction vehicles must be in a good working order. Inspections of vehicles, as well as maintenance must be undertaken on a regular basis. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mining site, residents at Glosam, R325 and area surrounding the mine		
Cumulative impacts: None anticipated.		
Residual impacts: None anticipated.		

7.4 Visual impact and sense of place

Land-uses in the area include mining, natural veld and farming activities which is mainly grazing of livestock. Scattered settlements e.g. the Maremane Village is also found in the area. Various infrastructure is present, and a railway line runs along the eastern border of the proposed mining site. The area is not pristine and various disturbances to the natural area characterise the study area.

The main visual impact associated with the construction phase would be the actual construction site, possible storage of equipment and construction vehicles (laydown area), as well as the disruption of the soil and vegetation. Construction activities at the mining area to be located to the west of the R325 could possibly be visible to the road users.

These temporary impacts do not necessarily bring new negative impacts to the already disturbed area. Although there are no sensitive receptors in close proximity to the site, the temporary visual impact is still rated as medium.

The rating prior to mitigation and post mitigation remains similar as the impacts cannot necessarily be successfully mitigated.

Table 16: Visual Impact and Sense of Place

THEME: VISUAL IMPACT AND SENSE OF PLACE		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Average (-3)
Significance	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management of the mining activities must adhere to environmental regulations and strive towards international best practice. • Rehabilitation of areas to be undertaken as soon as the mining programme allows. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mining site, R325 and area surrounding the mine		
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative visual impact as a result of various mining activities and expansions of other mines in the larger area.		
Residual impacts: None anticipated.		

7.5 Intrusion Impacts

7.5.1 Traffic Movement

Construction activities will mainly include clearing of vegetation and preparation of the site, the establishment of the new access roads, construction of the mine and plant infrastructure and the development of the water and power supply infrastructure. A crushing and screening plant will also be erected on site.

These activities will result in the movement of heavy machinery and vehicles within the boundaries of the site and with some movement of construction vehicles on the provincial road R325. The number of vehicles is unknown. The increased noise and dust created by these vehicles, vehicle emissions and increased risk of accidents as well as possible impact on the road surfaces are of concern. These impacts, however, will be intermittent and of a short duration.

Table 17: Traffic Movement

THEME: TRAFFIC MOVEMENT		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (7) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised entry onto the mining area must not be allowed. Access control should continue to be implemented. • Mining areas must be secured and fenced. • All construction vehicles should be in a good condition and adhere to road worthy standards. • Construction vehicles must keep to speed limits. • Limit construction hours to daylight hours e.g., 6am to 6 pm. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mining site, Glosam, R325 and area surrounding the mine.		
Cumulative impacts: None anticipated		
Residual impacts: None anticipated.		

7.5.2 Air quality Impacts

The air quality impacts refer to dust pollution and emissions.

Mining activities in the larger area can already have negative impacts on the air quality. The construction activities can add to the existing dust pollution impact through vehicular movement on gravel roads and general mining activities. Emissions would include vehicle emissions, emissions from large construction equipment, carbon monoxide, and particulates. Fugitive dust would be caused by the disturbance and moving of soils (clearing, excavating, trenching, backfilling, and dumping).

The main area of impact would be at the mining site. Impacts can thus also be experienced by the residents who are situated in close proximity of the proposed mining activities.

Table 18: Air Quality Impacts

THEME: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (9) (-)	Medium (7) (-)
Mitigation:		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust suppression (if feasible) to be implemented on the frequently used gravel roads on site, especially during windy conditions. • Construction vehicles should keep to speed limits. • Construction vehicles must be in a good working order. Inspections of vehicles, as well as maintenance must be undertaken on a regular basis. • Concurrent rehabilitation to be undertaken e.g., establishment of vegetation or covers (where feasible) to assist with dust suppression. • A dust management plan to be strictly implemented.
Expected areas of impact: Mining site, R325 and area surrounding the mine.
Cumulative impacts: Possible overall increase in dust generated due to mining activities and other existing mining activities in the area
Residual impacts: Possible continued cumulative dust impact.

7.5.3 Noise Impacts

A Noise Impact Assessment can determine the extent and intensity of the noise impacts. This section aims to highlight the possible social consequences associated with the anticipated noise impacts.

During the construction phase, the mining activities will generate noise intrusions due to the movement of vehicles, worker conduct, reverse indicator of trucks and loading of material. It is anticipated that the increased noise levels will mainly be experienced on site, but it can have nuisance impacts on nearby settlements such as the Glosam Village or residents at farm dwellings.

From a social perspective though, the noise of the reverse indicator of the trucks is the major concern as this impact would occur frequently. It is unlikely that this impact can be mitigated due to the safety requirements on site.

Table 19: Noise Impacts

THEME: NOISE IMPACTS		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (6) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation measures with regards to noise impacts as per the EIA Report should be implemented. • All construction vehicles should be in a good condition and adhere to road worthy standards. • Maintenance of vehicles and machinery should be done regularly. • Construction hours must preferably be limited to daylight day hours e.g., 6 am to 6 pm where possible. 		
Expected areas of impact: On site and at Glosam Village, with limited impacts off-site and at nearby residential areas		
Cumulative impacts: Possible overall increase in noise generated due to the mining activities, as well as other mining activities in the area.		

Residual impacts: Possible continued impact of cumulative noise.

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS DURING OPERATION

The following section provides a description of the social impacts anticipated to occur during the operational phases of the proposed mining project. The Life of Mine is planned for 12 years during which production would be aimed at approximately 500 000 tonnes per annum of marketable manganese. It is planned that the plant will operate daily for approximately 9 hours per day.

The mining method will be conventional opencast mining with a maximum footprint (at full production) of 350 ha.

8.1 Employment and income opportunities during operation

During the operational phase it is anticipated that 178 individuals would be employed. The draft SLP³⁹ provides the following information in terms of the occupational levels of permanent employees:

Table 20: Occupational Levels⁴⁰

OCCUPATIONAL LEVELS	TOTAL EMPLOYEES
Top Management	1
Senior Management	3
Professionally qualified and experienced specialists and mid-management	4
Skilled technical and academically qualified workers, junior management, supervisors, foremen and superintendents	131
Semi-skilled and discretionary decision making	25
Unskilled and defined decision making	14
TOTAL	178

From this information it is recognised that the majority of opportunities would require skilled (73.5%) and semi-skilled (14%) individuals. The benefit to the local communities in this regard thus depends on whether the local skills match the requirements of the skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities and whether local individuals would thus be employable as part of the project.

Although there are relative low levels of specialised skills present among the residents of the TLM, it is expected that the skilled and semi-skilled positions referred to above could be filled from individuals within the TLM due to the various mining activities in the region and historical downscaling within the mining sector. If this high percentage of the skilled and semi-skilled competencies can be sourced from the municipal area, it would have direct benefits to the local communities. As the area is further known for a wide range of mining activities, it is a definite that the unskilled levels can be filled from locals.

³⁹ Wepex Trading (Pty) Ltd. (2021) Draft Social and Labour Plan

⁴⁰ Wepex Trading (Pty) Ltd. (2021) Draft Social and Labour Plan

Even though the 170 individuals that are highly likely to be sourced locally constitute a small portion of the employment figures of the TLM it will contribute to the socio-economic wellbeing within the area, as these opportunities can benefit more than 500 individuals based on the average household size in the TLM.

The proposed mining project on the farm Gloucester can thus be seen as a relative small scale mining operation, that will have direct positive impacts on income and employment created by the project itself; indirect positive impacts due to backward linkages to local suppliers and induced impacts due to the overall increase in income levels and increased spending on goods and services which could lead to a further increase in production and employment in the local area.

Table 21: Employment and Income Opportunities

THEME: Employment and Income Opportunities		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Positive (+)	Positive (+)
Extent	Local and regional (3)	Local and regional (3)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly probable (3)	Highly probable (3)
Intensity	Beneficial (3)	Significant benefit (4)
Significance	Medium (11) +	High (12) +
Enhancement:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wepex Trading must prioritise local labour in the recruitment process as part of the company's own recruitment policy or as part of the Contractor Management Plan. • Sub-contractors should adopt a recruitment policy to enhance employment positive impacts, limit in-migration of outside jobseekers and mitigate the potential impact of residual in-migration. • Communities within the TLM area, and where possible residents from Maremane, should be given preference if any new employment opportunities will be created, as these communities will be mostly affected by the existing approved mining activities and proposed infrastructure development. The ideal objective should be to reach 100% recruitment of semi-skilled and unskilled labour from local communities. • Wepex Trading to adhere to the Social and Labour Plans as per the Regulation 46 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) and the Mining Charter (2018). • Wepex Trading, as indicated in the draft SLP, to undertake the annual skills audit among its employees to establish training needs and areas for skills development. The Workplace Skills Plan to then be developed and implemented. • Wepex Trading, through their SLP (Workplace Skills Plan), to provide skills development opportunities for employees that could include learnerships, functional literacy and numeracy programmes, ABET programmes, career progression plans, up-skilling for hard to fill vacancies and management positions, bursary and internships and portable skills training. • Wepex Trading to develop a database of SMME's for the procurement of goods and services that could potentially be outsourced to the local communities. 		
Expected areas of impact: TLM area and Northern Cape Province		
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative impact of all mining activities in the area on employment and on infrastructure and services.		
Residual impacts: Up-skilled labour force (positive) and increased employment profile in TLM.		

8.2 Project induced in-migration

In the event that e.g. half of the permanent employee profile, in a worst case scenario, are sourced from outside the local communities, it would only slightly increase the local population figures (less

than 1%). This limited increase in population figures would have an insignificant impact on the local residents' settlements in terms of housing, land available for future development, and increased pressure on infrastructure and services. This cumulative impact on the available services and infrastructure however must still be mitigated.

Any possible project induced in-migration can thus be mitigated through the employment of locals and through some form of housing assistance to the employees. For permanent employees, accommodation could be sourced in Postmasburg and surrounds. Another option would be to provide employee remuneration packages which include for a housing allowance, or the combination of a retention scheme and housing allowance. The employment of local community members would assume that these individuals would maintain their existing home ownership. In case of the latter, transportation options can be considered to assist these workers and to limit additional traffic to and from the site.

Table 22: Project Induced In-migration

THEME: PROJECT INDUCED IN-MIGRATION		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local and regional (3)	Local and regional (3)
Duration	Short term (1)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Probable (2)	Improbable (1)
Intensity	Minor (-2)	Negligible (-1)
Significance	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (7) (-)
Enhancement:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local labour must be prioritised in the recruitment process as part of the company's own recruitment policy or as part of the Contractor Management Plan. Sub-contractors should adopt a recruitment policy to enhance employment positive impacts, limit in-migration of outside jobseekers and mitigate the potential impact of residual in-migration. Communities within the TLM area, and where possible residents from Maremane, should be given preference if any new employment opportunities will be created, as these communities will be mostly affected by the existing approved mining activities and proposed infrastructure development. The ideal objective should be to reach 100% recruitment of semi-skilled and unskilled labour from local communities. The Social and Labour Plans as per the Regulation 46 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) and the Mining Charter (2018) must be adhered to. Wepex Trading to adhere to the Statutory Plans such as the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) with regards to infrastructure and housing. Some form of housing assistance or allowance to employees as part of the remuneration must be considered. 		
Expected areas of impact: TLM area		
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative impact of all mining activities in the area on infrastructure and services.		
Residual impacts: Possible continued impact on housing infrastructure and services within the TLM.		

8.3 Impact on Socio-Economic Development

Mining developments are usually perceived as a positive injection to the economic standard of an area as it could lead to further developments in the regional area. It is anticipated that the TLM would be positive towards the proposed development due to the additional employment creation and the positive economic spin-offs that could occur.

Local procurement could have some local economic benefits, should community members within the TLM be involved in the procurement of capital goods, consumables and services.

Targets for the procurement of capital goods, consumer goods and services should be set and action plans to meet these targets should be developed accordingly. These plans should include, but are not limited to, the development of Economic Empowerment (EE) policies, procedures and guidelines, as well as the development of a database of local small businesses (entrepreneurs and SMME's).

In terms of local contributions, mining legislation specifies that mining operations should contribute to the economic development of the affected local community as per a Social and Labour Plan (SLP). The 2018 Mining Charter targets an equity equivalent benefit to the minimum of 5% to be allocated to the socio-economic development of local communities. The Mining Works Programme (MWP) for this project must thus make provision for the local economic development over the lifetime of the project.

Through the SLP, the mine, will provide skills development opportunities for employees that could include learnerships, functional literacy and numeracy programmes, ABET programmes, career progression plans, up-skilling for hard to fill vacancies and management positions, bursary and internships and portable skills training. In an area such as the TLM, with relative low skill levels, this skills development will make a positive contribution to the overall socio-economic development of the resident communities.

Table 23: Impact on socio-economic development

THEME: IMPACT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Positive (+)	Positive (+)
Extent	Local and regional (3)	Local and regional (3)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Probable (2)	Highly probable (3)
Intensity	Beneficial (3)	Significant benefit (4)
Significance	Medium (10) (+)	High (12) (+)
Enhancement:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social and Labour Plans as per the Regulation 46 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) and the Mining Charter (2018) must be adhered to. • Wepex Trading, as indicated in the draft SLP, to undertake the annual skills audit among its employees to establish training needs and areas for skills development. The Workplace Skills Plan to then be developed and implemented. • Through the SLP (Workplace Skills Plan), the applicant must provide skills development opportunities for employees that could include learnerships, functional literacy and numeracy programmes, ABET programmes, career progression plans, up-skilling for hard to fill vacancies and management positions, bursary and internships and portable skills training. • Wepex Trading to develop a LED programme with the aim of strengthening the local economy and assist with socio-economic upliftment through sustainable initiatives. • The Social Development Fund should be aligned with the requirements as set out in the Mining Charter of 2018. • The mine to ensure that the allocation as per the Mine Works Programme for the updated SLP is in line with the targets of the Mining Charter of 2018. 		
Expected areas of impact: TLM area		

Cumulative impacts: None anticipated
Residual impacts: Socio-economic upliftment of resident communities

8.4 Visual impact and sense of place

The visual impacts associated with the mining development relate to the development and intrusion of infrastructure, topsoil and waste rock dumps that would be highly visible. Opencast pits also have a significant impact in this regard due to the vegetation removal and disturbance to the natural landscape. Intrusions such as the impact on the noise levels, dust pollution and movement of vehicles and workers would further impact on the overall sense of place.

It must, however, be noted that the area has been extensively disturbed over time due to prospecting, open pits, access roads and historical mining infrastructure. The proposed mining activities is thus not perceived to have entirely new impacts on the sense of place, as well as on the daily living and movement patterns of residents in the larger area as their way of life has developed around mining activities over time. Infrastructure and developments with an existing visual impact in the area include roads, power lines, existing mining activities and various settlements. One can argue that the various mines alongside the R325 have become an infrastructural feature in the area over time and have become part of the local sense of place.

The proposed mining development, together with the other existing mining activities in the area, is thus not expected to severely change the existing landscape character. The activities could be absorbed by the existing features. The impact of the proposed project on the visual character is therefore considered to be of a limited significance. It should, however, be noted that the intensity of the visual impact associated with the mining infrastructure and the associated impact on the sense of place would depend on the angle of observation, the number of viewers, the duration of the view, and lighting at night.

Once rehabilitation has been undertaken, the negative visual impacts will have been mitigated to some extent.

Table 24: Visual Impact and Sense of Place

THEME: VISUAL IMPACT AND SENSE OF PLACE		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent rehabilitation to be undertaken where feasible. Mining areas should be rehabilitated as soon as the Mining Works Programme allows. • Un-rehabilitated and poorly rehabilitated mining areas must not be allowed to remain. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management of the mining activities must adhere to environmental regulations and strive towards international best practice. • The eradication of alien invasives, aimed at ensuring the integrity of the biodiversity, should form part of the mitigation to limit further negative impacts on the overall sense of place. • Placement of lighting at infrastructure should be optimally placed with the least negative visual impacts possible.
Expected areas of impact: Mining site and surrounding area
Cumulative impacts: Visual impacts of various other mining activities in the larger area and associated infrastructure
Residual impacts: Mining characteristics of the area; rehabilitated mining areas

8.5 Impact on Resource Use

The farm Gloucester where the mining activities are proposed has already been disturbed and prospecting has been undertaken on site. No agricultural activities have taken place on the property for quite some time. The impact on the land-use is thus negligible.

The TLM IDP stated that groundwater is mainly used for rural domestic water supplies, stock watering and water supplies to towns and settlements. Low rainfall patterns are also experienced over the area. Recharging of groundwater aquifers is therefore limited, and only small quantities can be abstracted on a sustainable basis. Careful groundwater utilisation is thus important in the area and constitutes the only source of water over much of the rural areas⁴¹.

Energy and water infrastructure in the municipal area is under pressure in terms of challenges related to the provision of bulk infrastructure development, high electricity and water distribution losses as well as high municipal debts to Eskom and Sedibeng Water. The impact of mining on the groundwater sources can result in water service provision challenges for the TLM. The possible impact on the water quality and quantity would also always be of concern to the neighbouring farmers, property owners and the communities in close proximity to the mining area. Any negative impact on this resource use could result in negative impacts on the farming practices with subsequent financial losses, and possibly impact on the quality of life of the residents of these communities.

It is, however, not anticipated that the proposed project will increase the demand for additional water. Water for use on the mine will be received from Sedibeng Water based on the agreed upon allocation.

From a social perspective the possible pollution of the water source remains a possible risk of a medium significance.

⁴¹ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/2021

Table 25: Impact on Resource Use

THEME: IMPACT ON RESOURCE USE		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wepex Trading can develop a resource use plan with the specific objective to minimise the mining operations' energy and water use as far practical. • The water quality and quantity issues must be managed through engineering controls and through regular and required quality and quantity groundwater monitoring. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mining site, surrounding area and possibly TLM area		
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative impact on water resources due to various mining activities in the larger area		
Residual impacts: Impact of mining in the larger TLM area and the impact of these activities on the water resources.		

8.6 Community Safety and Security Related Impacts

The mining activities and the storage of hazardous substances (diesel) on site create safety risks. Even though all precautionary safety measures will be implemented with regards to the mining activities, storage, transportation and handling of these substances, this issue is anticipated to remain of concern to community members.

There is furthermore the possible increased risk in accidents due to the mining activities and the movement of heavy vehicles on sections of the R325, which serves as main link between Kathu and Postmasburg with relatively high traffic volumes.

Table 26: Community Safety and Security Risks

THEME: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SECURITY RISKS		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory health and safety training to be implemented. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fire/Emergency Management Plan should be developed and implemented, if not yet in place. It would be important to regularly review the functionality and efficiency of such a plan in conjunction with the local emergency teams, mine management and affected communities as well as neighbouring landowners. • Unauthorised entry onto the mining area must be avoided. Fencing of the site and access control should continue to be implemented. • Mining areas must be sufficiently secured and fenced. • Warning signs indicating the movement of heavy vehicles to be erected at entrance from the R325 to the mining site. • Occupational safety risks (e.g. mining related accidents) would have to be dealt with under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (1993).
Expected areas of impact: Mining site and surrounding area.
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative traffic impacts of various other mining activities along the R325.
Residual impacts: None anticipated.

8.7 Intrusion Impacts

8.7.1 Traffic Movement

During the operational phase, movement of heavy vehicles (excavators, articulated dump trucks, Front End Loaders and Tractor Loader Backhoe trucks (TLBs)) will be operational on site. The mining operation will create an additional 7-8 km of roads, with a width of 20 meters to allow sufficient space for the movement of haul trucks.

The traffic related impacts such as increased vehicular movement with increased noise, vehicle emissions, and increased risks of accidents would be concentrated locally. Limited impacts on the R325 are foreseen as the product would be transported via rail.

Table 27: Traffic Movement

THEME: TRAFFIC MOVEMENT		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised entry onto the mining area must not be allowed. Access control should continue to be implemented. • Mining areas must be secured and fenced. • All mining vehicles should be in a good condition and adhere to road worthy standards. • Mining vehicles must keep to speed limits. • Mining vehicles must not be overloaded. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mining site and surrounding area.		
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative traffic impacts of various other mining activities along the R325.		

Residual impacts: None anticipated.

8.7.2 Air Quality Impacts

The air quality will be affected by open pit excavations, the mine vehicles travelling on internal and access gravel roads, crushing, screening and hauling, as these activities can create dust impacts. Relatively high predicted concentrations as a result of dust generated on the haul roads could be noteworthy. These dust impacts, however, are not anticipated to reach residential areas and the impact would possibly be localised on site. Fugitive dust from stockpile areas and waste rock dumps are also of concern. Windblown dust from these facilities will vary according to the season, with possible higher levels and frequency during the windy months. The probability and intensity of these possible impacts would further depend on the wind directions and the proximity of sensitive receptors such as the Maremane community⁴².

The proposed project is located within an area with various mining operations. The TLM IDP indicated that due to the major increase in mining developments over the last few years there is an increased impact on air quality and pollution in the area⁴³.

It is furthermore anticipated that residents in close proximity to the mining activities have a high level of awareness of the existing air quality impacts, monitoring processes and possible negative impact on community health. Should there be a possible increase in the air pollution (dust), these sensitivities should be adequately dealt with and be taken into account in the monitoring processes stipulated as part of the EMPr.

In the event that sensitive receptors are affected, based on dust fallout rates, the necessary mitigation measures as stipulated through a specialist study must be implemented. The rating below is based on the general air quality impacts usually experienced with mining projects and the proximity of sensitive receptors in the study area.

Table 28: Air Quality Impacts

THEME: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)

⁴² This section with regards to the assessment of the possible air quality impacts must be read from a social perspective and does not aim to replace specialist air quality assessments.

⁴³ Tsantsabane Local Municipality (2020) Final 2020/21 Revised Integrated Development Plan 2020/2021

Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust suppression methods as recommended by a specialist study should be strictly implemented as required. • An approved dust management plan and ongoing monitoring of dust fallout rates and emissions must be implemented. • Dust buckets can be considered in areas close to the surrounding communities. • Wepex Trading to keep a grievance register that is easily accessible and regularly monitored.
Expected areas of impact: Mining site and surrounding area
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative air quality impacts due to various other mining activities in the larger area
Residual impacts: Negative impact on air quality due to mining activities in the area.

8.7.3 Noise

The larger study area is already characterised by mining related noise, and vehicular traffic on the public road. These existing noise impacts are intermittent and site specific, and the overall area, from a social perspective, is characterised by relative low noise levels.

Primary sources of noise during mining would include noise emanating from equipment used and vehicular traffic. The intensity would depend on the proximity of mainly Glosam Village and the Maremane Village from the noise zones. Noise created by mining activities outside normal working hours would be even more intrusive than those created during daytime due to the low night time ambient noise levels.

Table 29: Noise Impacts

THEME: NOISE		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Highly Probable (3)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise noise impacts and implement all mitigation measures as specified in the EMP. • All vehicles should be in a good condition and adhere to road worthy standards. • Maintenance of vehicles and machinery should be done regularly. • Limit significant noise generating activities to normal daytime hours e.g. 6 am to 6 pm where possible. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mining site and surrounding area		
Cumulative impacts: Cumulative noise impacts due to various other mining activities in the larger area		
Residual impacts: None anticipated.		

8.8 Health Related Risks

Concerns could revolve around the possible public health impact of the general mining activities due to possible air/dust pollution, as well as noise pollution and a possible impact on the water

quality. Should it be found that any pollution occurs, the existing health services such as the clinics in Postmasburg, Boichoko and Postdene would come under additional pressure especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic which also puts strain on the health services.

In mining areas there are further concerns relating to migrant employees bringing health risks and nowadays the threat of Covid-19 infection to small towns. Postmasburg and surrounds is already characterised by vulnerable households and inadequate public health services that cannot always effectively deal with the health risks associated with the pandemic. With regards to the proposed mining at Glosam, limited in-migration is anticipated. It will however remain the responsibility of mining companies to continue their support to surrounding communities to reduce vulnerability.

The storage of hazardous substances (diesel) on site furthermore creates safety risks. Even though all precautionary safety measures will be implemented with regards to the storage, transportation and handling of these substances, this remains a concern as there are limited firefighting services provided by the TLM. The residents are mainly reliant on the service provided by mining companies.

Table 30: Health Related Risks

THEME: Health Related Risks		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation / enhancement
Status	Negative (-)	Negative (-)
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Duration	Medium term (2)	Medium term (2)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Intensity	Average (-3)	Minor (-2)
Significance	Medium (9) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Mitigation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social and Labour Plan (SLP) of Wepex Trading should make provision for addressing any possible direct health related risks and providing a supporting role to minimise the vulnerabilities of the communities, without having to take over the role of the local health services and municipality. • On site, all the appropriate health, hygiene and distancing measures aimed at protecting the employees' safety and health, must be implemented. • Wepex Trading can investigate ways to support to the local clinics through their community support programmes and SLP initiatives. • Educational videos on COVID-19, and general health and hygiene measures associated with the pandemic should be provided to employees. • Wepex Trading can consider as part of the SLP, to redirect corporate social investment (CSI) and SLP funding to Covid-19 lockdown mitigation. • Care should be taken to limit any possible health related impacts by striving towards international best practice. 		
Expected areas of impact: Mainly on-site and possibly at select areas within surrounding area e.g. Maremane		
Cumulative impacts: Other mining activities in the area		
Residual impacts: None foreseen.		

9. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS DURING DECOMMISSIONING AND POST-CLOSURE

Decommissioning refers to the actual closure of the mine, the dismantling of the infrastructure and/or replacement of the infrastructure with newer technology, as well as the final rehabilitation process.

Possible social impacts to be experienced during decommissioning (closure of the mine) could include the following:

- Job losses due to mine closure;
- Decline in the sustainability of the local economy as a result of the loss of employment, household income and capital investments;
- Reduced economic activities within the area with subsequent negative impacts on smaller businesses;
- A decline in the local economy would also have a direct impact on the financial status of the TLM;
- Negative impact on the revenue base of the TLM;
- Population changes and out-migration of people from the area, as well as relocation of families;
- Negative impact on the social fabric and social networks;
- A new class of jobseekers targeting other mines in the area;
- Skilled workers moving out of the area in search of employment elsewhere;
- Decrease in the quality of life of the surrounding communities due to the discontinuation of social development support and local economic development programmes;
- Negative impact on infrastructure development and maintenance;
- A change in community infrastructure;
- Disruptions and nuisance factors associated with the actual decommissioning such as noise, visual and traffic related impacts;
- Increased safety risks associated with the decommissioning of the infrastructure;
- Possible negative impact on the crime levels due to increased unemployment rate;
- Remnants of possible environmental impacts; and
- Remaining visual impact as a result of mining.

Decommissioning and its associated closure programmes must ensure that communities are not left stranded without alternative forms of livelihoods, with subsequent degradation of the communities' socio-economic quality of life.

As the timing with regards to decommissioning or the replacement of the infrastructure cannot be determined at this stage, it is recommended that a detailed Social Impact Assessment be undertaken at the time of decommissioning to determine the actual impacts on the changing social environment at that stage. No rating will thus be provided, but mitigation measures have been included as part of Section 11: Socio-economic Risk Management and Monitoring Plan.

10. THE NO-GO ALTERNATIVE

Should the proposed project not proceed, the status quo in terms of the existing social impacts in the area would therefore remain. The most significant social impact with regards to the no-go

alternative relates to the loss in employment opportunities and the overall direct and indirect economic impacts for the region.

As Wepex Trading, through the SLP will be involved in various corporate social investment programmes it would impact on poverty alleviation as a result of such programmes. The potential loss in terms of employment and economic benefits to the local communities is considered as a critical negative impact.

The 'no-go alternative' should thus not be considered from a social point of view as the negative social impacts anticipated with the proposed mining project are deemed low. The negative impacts would further respond to mitigation as proposed. The proposed activities further fall within the mining rights area and the area is already characterised by and surrounded by various mining infrastructure.

11. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

From a social perspective the following objectives and measures, as summarised in Table 32, should be included as part of the Socio-Economic Risk Management Plan (SMP) as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Table 31: Socio-Economic Risk Management and Monitoring Plan

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN		
OBJECTIVE 1:	MAXIMISE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND LOCAL PROCUREMENT DURING CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION AND MINIMISE JOB LOSSES DURING DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Prioritise any possible new local labour in the recruitment process as part of the company's own recruitment policy or as part of the contractor management plan and stipulate the procurement of new employees, especially in the unskilled category, from the local communities.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Provide up-skilling opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled local workers during the construction phase to allow them to attain the necessary requirements for operational employment opportunities.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction
Explore possible placement of local construction workers in mining operations	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction
Sub-contractors should adopt a recruitment policy to enhance employment positive impacts, limit in-migration of outside jobseekers and mitigate the potential impact of residual in-migration.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Communities within the TLM area, and where possible residents from Maremane, should be given preference if any new employment opportunities will be created, as these communities will be mostly affected by the existing approved mining activities and proposed infrastructure development. The ideal objective should be to reach 100% recruitment of semi-skilled and unskilled labour from local communities.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Wepex Trading to adhere to the Social and Labour Plans as per the Regulation 46 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) and the Mining Charter (2018).	Wepex Trading	Operations

Wepex Trading, as indicated in the draft SLP, to undertake the annual skills audit among its employees to establish training needs and areas for skills development. The Workplace Skills Plan to then be developed and implemented.	Wepex Trading	Operations
Wepex Trading, through their SLP (Workplace Skills Plan), to provide skills development opportunities for employees that could include learnerships, functional literacy and numeracy programmes, ABET programmes, career progression plans, up-skilling for hard to fill vacancies and management positions, bursary and internships and portable skills training.	Wepex Trading	Operations
Wepex Trading to develop a database of SMME's for the procurement of goods and services that could potentially be outsourced to the local communities	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Monitoring	Annually as per the agreed commitments and procurement strategies	
OBJECTIVE 2:	MINIMISE ANY POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECT INDUCED IN-MIGRATION	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Local labour must be prioritised in the recruitment process as part of the company's own recruitment policy or as part of the Contractor Management Plan.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
The development, publication and widespread dissemination of a recruitment policy could serve to encourage local employment and reduce the potential influx of jobseekers to the area.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
The communication strategy should ensure that unrealistic employment expectations are not created.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
A representative of Wepex Trading could liaise with the local leaders and local councillors to either attend key community meetings arranged within the affected wards to discuss the possible employment and recruitment process; or liaise with the local leaders and local councillors to ensure that the correct information regarding this issue is portrayed to the communities.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Wepex Trading should, where possible, support efforts by TLM to limit squatting and sub-letting in the area, e.g., no informal settlements should be allowed within the mining rights area.	Wepex Trading and TLM	Construction and Operations
Review and updates of the draft SLP must specify efforts by Wepex Trading to continue to seek sustainable solutions to the issue of housing for employees.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Sub-contractors should adopt a recruitment policy to enhance employment positive impacts, limit in-migration of outside jobseekers and mitigate the potential impact of residual in-migration.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Communities within the TLM area, and where possible residents from Maremane, should be given preference if any new employment opportunities will be created, as these communities will be mostly affected by the existing approved mining activities and proposed infrastructure development. The ideal objective should be to reach 100% recruitment of semi-skilled and unskilled labour from local communities.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
The Social and Labour Plans as per the Regulation 46 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) and the Mining Charter (2018) must be adhered to.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations

Wepex Trading to adhere to the Statutory Plans such as the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) with regards to infrastructure and housing.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Some form of housing assistance or allowance to employees as part of the remuneration must be considered	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Monitoring	Wepex Trading and TLM annually	
OBJECTIVE 3:	MINIMISE INTRUSION IMPACTS	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Unauthorised entry onto the mining area must not be allowed. Access control should continue to be implemented.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Mining areas must be secured and fenced.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
All mining vehicles should be in a good condition and adhere to road worthy standards. Inspections of vehicles, as well as maintenance must be undertaken on a regular basis.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Mining vehicles must keep to speed limits.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Mining vehicles must not be overloaded	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Dust suppression (if feasible) to be implemented on the frequently used gravel roads on site, especially during windy conditions.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Concurrent rehabilitation to be undertaken e.g., establishment of vegetation or covers (where feasible) to assist with dust suppression.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
A dust management plan to be strictly implemented, dust suppression methods as recommended by a specialist study should be strictly implemented and ongoing monitoring of dust fallout rates and emissions must be undertaken.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Dust buckets can be considered in areas close to the surrounding communities.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Keep a grievance register that is easily accessible and regularly monitored	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operation
Mitigation measures with regards to noise impacts as per the EIA Report should be implemented.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction
Monitoring	Annual environmental performance audits	
OBJECTIVE 4:	MITIGATE VISUAL IMPACT AND SENSE OF PLACE	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Environmental management of the mining activities must adhere to environmental regulations and strive towards international best practice.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Concurrent rehabilitation to be undertaken where feasible. Mining areas should be rehabilitated as soon as the Mining Works Programme allows.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Un-rehabilitated and poorly rehabilitated mining areas must not be allowed to remain.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operation

The eradication of alien invasives, aimed at ensuring the integrity of the biodiversity, should form part of the mitigation to limit further negative impacts on the overall sense of place.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operation
Placement of lighting at infrastructure should be optimally placed with the least negative visual impacts possible.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operation
Monitoring	Annual environmental performance audits	
OBJECTIVE 5:	MINIMISE RISKS TO COMMUNITY SAFETY	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Maximise the use of local labour and contractors where possible by developing a strategy to involve local labour in the construction process to limit the inflow of outsiders.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Mining vehicles must adhere to all mine related safety regulations and drivers must adhere to road regulations.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Drivers and operators must have the necessary qualifications to operate the vehicles and equipment they are assigned to.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Mining vehicles must be in a good working order. Inspections of vehicles, as well as maintenance must be undertaken on a regular basis.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Compulsory health and safety training to be implemented.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
A Fire/Emergency Management Plan should be developed and implemented, if not yet in place. It would be important to regularly review the functionality and efficiency of such a plan in conjunction with the local emergency teams, mine management and affected communities as well as neighbouring landowners.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Unauthorised entry onto the mining area must be avoided. Fencing of the site and access control should continue to be implemented.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Mining areas must be sufficiently secured and fenced	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Warning signs indicating the movement of heavy vehicles to be erected at entrance from the R325 to the mining site.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Occupational safety risks (e.g. mining related accidents) would have to be dealt with under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (1993	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Monitoring	Wepex Trading annually	
OBJECTIVE 6:	MINIMISE HEALTH RELATED RISKS	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
The Social and Labour Plan (SLP) should make provision for addressing any possible direct health related risks and providing a supporting role to minimise the vulnerabilities of the communities, without having to take over the role of the local health services and municipality.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
On site, all the appropriate health, hygiene and distancing measures aimed at protecting the employees' safety and health, must be implemented.	Wepex Trading and contractor	Construction and Operations
Investigate ways to support to the local clinics through their community support programmes and SLP initiatives.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations

Educational videos on COVID-19, and general health and hygiene measures associated with the pandemic should be provided to employees.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Consider as part of the SLP, to redirect corporate social investment (CSI) and SLP funding to Covid-19 lockdown mitigation.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Care should be taken to limit any possible health related impacts by striving towards international best practice	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Monitoring	SLP Programmes and Corporate Social Investment initiatives	
OBJECTIVE 7:	MANAGEMENT OF IMPACT ON RESOURCE USE	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Wepex Trading can develop a resource use plan with the specific objective to minimise the mining operations' energy and water use as far practical.	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
The water quality and quantity issues must be managed through engineering controls and through regular and required quality and quantity groundwater monitoring	Wepex Trading	Construction and Operations
Monitoring	Wepex Trading annual environmental performance audits	
OBJECTIVE 8:	SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
The Social and Labour Plans as per the Regulation 46 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) and the Mining Charter (2018) must be adhered to.	Wepex Trading	All phases
Undertake the annual skills audit among its employees to establish training needs and areas for skills development. The Workplace Skills Plan to then be developed and implemented.	Wepex Trading	All phases
Through the SLP (Workplace Skills Plan), the applicant must provide skills development opportunities for employees that could include learnerships, functional literacy and numeracy programmes, ABET programmes, career progression plans, up-skilling for hard to fill vacancies and management positions, bursary and internships and portable skills training.	Wepex Trading	All phases
Develop a LED programme with the aim of strengthening the local economy and assist with socio-economic upliftment through sustainable initiatives.	Wepex Trading	All phases
The Social Development Fund should be aligned with the requirements as set out in the Mining Charter of 2018.	All phases	All phases
The mine to ensure that the allocation as per the Mine Works Programme for the updated SLP is in line with the targets of the Mining Charter of 2018	Wepex Trading	All phases
Monitoring	Wepex Trading SLP	
OBJECTIVE 9:	MANAGEMENT OF DECOMMISSIONING / CLOSURE IMPACTS	
Mitigation: Action/Control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Develop mechanisms to assist employees, prior to retrenchment date, in the transition phase after closure of the operations. This includes offering portable skilled development programmes during the operational phase of the project, providing assistance in accessing available and suitable jobs with other local mines or	Wepex Trading	Operations, Decommissioning and Closure

companies, providing positions during the Aftercare and rehabilitation phase etc.		
Focus on non-core related local supply links during the operational phase to facilitate easier transitioning of local suppliers to other industries	Wepex Trading	Decommissioning and Closure
Develop and implement an exit strategy of any social projects that was implemented during the operational phase well in advance (2 years) before closure of the Project.	Wepex Trading	Decommissioning and Closure
Follow a clear communication strategy to inform the local community of arrangements made related to any social spending and project closure. The communication strategy should commence two years prior to project closure	Wepex Trading	Decommissioning and Closure
Commence discussions with local community related to post-closure land-use. Final agreement with the representative community forum on the post-closure management will be needed before signing off on the project closure	Wepex Trading and community representatives	Decommissioning and Closure
Pollution control measures must be implemented over a long period of time	Wepex Trading	Decommissioning and Closure
Monitoring	Wepex Trading annual environmental performance audits	

12. SUMMARY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT RATINGS

Table 33 below provides a summary of the ratings for the different impact categories. The positive impacts associated with the proposed project include the provision of employment and income generation opportunities, the impact on poverty reduction through the socio-economic development programmes which the mine will be involved in through their SLP, as well as stimulation of downstream economic opportunities and local economic growth.

There are however several potential negative socio-economic impacts of the proposed project that may affect surrounding landowners and communities. These negative impacts associated with the proposed project include the visual impact and possible impact on sense of place, nuisance factors (dust levels, noise and traffic movement), and community safety impacts (health risks and concerns, and general community safety).

The social impacts associated with the mining operations are not viewed as a major threat to the quality of life of the residents of the area. The negative socio-economic impacts remain at a medium rating after mitigation measures have been applied. Although the rating level remains within the same level of significance rating, the impacts can be mitigated.

Mitigation is mainly dependent on appropriate and successful environmental management, as well as the strict implementation of pro-active mitigation and management measures.

Table 32: Summary of Socio-Economic Impact Ratings

Socio-economic Impact	Phase	Significance of Impact	
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
Employment and income opportunities	Construction	Medium (9) +	Medium (10) +
Project induced in-migration	Construction	Medium (8) -	Medium (7) -

Community Safety and Security	Construction	Medium (8) -	Medium (7) -
Visual impact and sense of place	Construction	Medium (8) -	Medium (8) -
Traffic Movement	Construction	Medium (8) -	Medium (7) -
Air quality impacts	Construction	Medium (9) -	Medium (7) -
Noise	Construction	Medium (8) (-)	Medium (6) (-)
Employment and income opportunities	Operations	Medium (11) +	High (12) +
Project induced in-migration	Operations	Medium (8) -	Medium (7) -
Impact on socio-economic development	Operations	Medium (10) +	High (12) +
Visual impact and sense of place	Operations	Medium (10) -	Medium (8) -
Impact on resource use	Operations	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Community safety and security	Operations	Medium (10) -	Medium (8) -
Traffic Movement	Operations	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Air quality impacts	Operations	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Noise	Operations	Medium (10) (-)	Medium (8) (-)
Health Related Risks	Operations	Medium (9) -	Medium (8) -

13. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the social assessment, the following concluding remarks should be noted:

- From a social perspective it can be concluded that the socio-economic benefits associated with the project outweigh the negative social impacts, which mainly relate to intrusion impacts that can be successfully mitigated if appropriate and successful environmental management, as well as the strict implementation of pro-active mitigation and management measures are applied.
- There are a range of positive impacts associated with the proposed project, such as the creation of employment and income generation, local procurement and social development and services support, as well as the stimulation of local economic growth.
- There are however several potential negative socio-economic impacts of the proposed project that may affect surrounding landowners and communities. These negative impacts associated with the proposed project include the visual impact and possible impact on sense of place, nuisance factors (dust levels, noise and traffic movement), and community safety impacts (health risks and concerns, and general community safety). These impacts would respond to mitigation.
- The proposed mining project is anticipated to facilitate economic benefits to the local area, currently faced with relative high rates of unemployment and poverty.
- Local labour must be prioritised in the recruitment process as part of the company's own recruitment policy or as part of the Contractor Management Plan, as this would assist in

mitigating various social impacts, and it would also enhance the potential benefits of the proposed project to the local community members.

- Local procurement, especially during the operational phase, would have various trickle down positive socio-economic impacts on the beneficiary communities and local businesses. This aspect should thus be pursued as far as possible.
- Capacity building and skills training among employees are critical and would be highly beneficial to those involved, especially if they receive portable skills to enable them to also find work elsewhere and in other similar environments.
- Socio-economic issues and concerns could arise during the implementation of the project. These should be thoroughly dealt with taking the sensitivities into consideration.

From a socio-economic perspective it is concluded that the project can be supported. It is therefore recommended that the development of the proposed Glosam Mine on the farm Gloucester be approved by the relevant authorities.

14. SOURCES CONSULTED

14.1 Documents

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www.localgovernment.co.za

www.maremanecpa.co.za

www.mining-atlas.com

www.postmasburg.co.za

www.statssa.gov.za

www.tsantsabane.gov.za

www.wazimap.co.za

www.zfm-dm.co.za

15. ANNEXURE A

15.1 CURRICULUM VITAE OF SPECIALIST

CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE SOCIAL SPECIALIST: INGRID SNYMAN

Ms. Ingrid Snyman holds a BA Honours degree in Anthropology. She has 20 years' experience in the social field. Ms. Snyman has been involved in various Social Impact Assessments during her career as social scientist. These project themes consist of infrastructure development, waste management, road development, water and sanitation programmes, township and other residential type developments. She has also been involved in the design and management of numerous public participation programmes and communication strategies, particularly on complex development projects that require various levels and approaches.

CURRICULUM VITAE: INGRID SNYMAN

Name:	Ingrid Helene Snyman		
Profession:	Social Development Consultant	Name of firm:	Batho Earth
Years of Experience:	20 + years		

KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- Social Impact Assessment (SIA)
- Public Participation programmes
- Communication, development of community structures and community facilitation
- Community-based training and
- Workshop reports

EDUCATION

1992:	B A (Political Science) University of Pretoria
1995:	B A (Hons) Anthropology University of Pretoria
1996 - 1997:	Train the Trainers Centre for Development Administration – UNISA

EXPERIENCE RECORD

2000 to date	Independent Development Consultant: Batho Earth
1996 to 2000	Social Consultant: Afrosearch (Pty) Ltd.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Mining Industry

- SIA for the Beeshoek Optimisation Project, Postmasburg, Northern Cape (ongoing)
- SEIA for the proposed Kareerand Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Expansion Project, Near Stilfontein, North West Province
- SEIA for the proposed Khumani Mine, Mokaning Expansion, Kathu, Northern Cape Province (ongoing)
- SEIA and PPP for the proposed Theta Hill Gold Mining Project near Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga (ongoing)
- SIA for the proposed Khulu TSF at Dwarsrivier Mine, near Steelpoort, Limpopo Province (ongoing)
- Social Risk Assessment for Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, near Steelpoort, Limpopo Province
- SIA for the proposed Vandyksdrift Central (VDDC) Mining: Infrastructure Development, Mpumalanga

- (ongoing)
- PPP for the development of various additional listed activities at the Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, near Steelpoort, Limpopo Province
- SIA and Public Participation for the proposed Project 10161 and Project 10167 (Gold Mining) by Stonewall (Pty) Ltd., near Sabie and Pilgrims Rest, Mpumalanga
- SIA for the Manganese Mine North West of Hotazel, Northern Cape (Mukulu Environmental Authorisation Project)
- SIA for the proposed South32 SA Coal Holdings Middelburg Colliery Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Water Use Licence (WUL) Application Project (Life of Asset Open Cast Expansion and Dispatch Rider Project), Middelburg, Mpumalanga
- SIA for the proposed Manganese Mine on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Paling 434, Northern Cape Province: Revision and Amendment of Existing Approved Environmental Management Programme (EMP) For A Mining Right
- SIA and Public Participation for the proposed Western Bushveld Joint Venture Project (Maseve Platinum Mine), North West Province
- Public Participation for Sable Platinum for the proposed prospecting application on the farm Doornpoort, Pretoria, Gauteng
- Public Participation for the prospecting application on the farms Frischgewaagd and Kleinfontein, Mpumalanga Province for PTM
- SIA to determine the impact of the Tharisa Mine on the neighbouring properties and property owners, Buffelspoort area, near Marikana, North West Province
- Public Participation for the prospecting application on the farm Klipfontein, Gauteng for PTM
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the extension of the Komati coal stockyard, Mpumalanga
- SIA for the proposed Dorstfontein Mine Western Expansion Project, Kriel, Mpumalanga
- SIA for the proposed Grootboom Platinum Mine, Steelpoort, Limpopo Province
- SIA for the proposed Dorstfontein Mine Expansion Project, Kriel, Mpumalanga

Bulk Infrastructure and Supply

- SIA for the proposed Integrated Public Transport Network for the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (ongoing)
- SEIA for the Olifantsfontein Landfill site, Gauteng (ongoing)
- SEIA for the proposed K43 Road Construction near Lenasia, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed Mangaung Bus Depot for the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) in Bloemfontein, Free State
- SEIA for the proposed Greenwich Landfill Site, Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal
- SIA for the proposed Mangaung Gariap Water Augmentation Project, Free State
- SIA for the proposed development of the new Tshwane Regional General Waste Disposal Facility (Multisand Landfill), Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed K97 Road northbound of the N4 at Bon Accord and investigation with regards to the possible resettlement of business premises, Pretoria, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed extension of the Wemmershoek Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), decommissioning of the Franschhoek WWTW and construction of a transfer and outfall sewer between the two works, Franschhoek, Western Cape
- SIA for the proposed Lefaragathle, Mogono, Rasimone, Chaneng outfall sewer and Chaneng sewer treatment plant, Rustenburg (Phokeng), North West Province
- SIA for the proposed upgrading of railway stations and railway line for Metrorail in Mamelodi, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed ACSA Remote Aprons Project, O.R. Tambo International Airport, Gauteng

- Public Participation and SIA as part of the Environmental Scoping Study for the proposed upgrading of the Waterval Water Care Works

Ecosystem Services Review

- Proposed Ngonye Falls Hydro-Electric Power Plant Project, Western Province, Zambia: Biodiversity Assessment: Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Social Assessment for the Ecosystem Services Review (ESR)

Projects related to electricity generation, transmission and distribution

- SIA for the proposed Crowthorne-Lulamisa power line, Midrand, Gauteng
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed Crowthorne Underground Cable, Gauteng
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed Diepsloot East Servitude and substation, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed Mitchells Plain-Firgrove-Stikland Transmission Line project and investigation with regards to the possible resettlement of individuals within Mitchells Plain, Western Cape
- SIA for the proposed 400 kV Transmission Power Line for approximately 10km to the west of the existing Marathon Substation and possible resettlement of homesteads, Nelspruit area, Mpumalanga
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed construction of a 400 kV transmission line between the Ferrum substation (Kathu) and the Garona substation (Groblershoop), Northern Cape Province
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed construction of the Eskom Rhombus-Lethabong 88kv Powerline and Substation, North West Province
- SIA for the proposed Aberdeen-Droerivier 400 kV Transmission Power Line, Eastern and Western Cape Province
- SIA for the proposed Houhoek Substation Upgrade and Bacchus-Palmiet Loop-In and Loop-Out, near Botrivier, Western Cape Province
- SIA for the proposed Arnot-Gumeni 400 kV Transmission Power Line, Mpumalanga
- SIA for the proposed Aggeneis-Oranjemond Transmission Line project, Northern Cape Province
- SIA for the proposed Ariadne-Venus Transmission Line, KwaZulu Natal
- SIA for the proposed Dominion Reefs Power Line project, North West Province
- SIA for the proposed Kyalami Strengthening Project, Kyalami, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed Apollo Lepini 400 kV Transmission Line Project, Tembisa, Gauteng
- Public Participation for the proposed new Medupi (then referred to as Matimba B) coal-fired power station in the Lephalale area, Limpopo Province
- Public Participation and SIA for the proposed Poseidon-Grassridge No. 3 400 kV Transmission line and the extension of the Grassridge Substation, Eastern Cape Province
- Public Participation and SIA for the proposed construction of power lines between the Grassridge Substation (near Port Elizabeth) and the Coega Industrial Development Zone, Eastern Cape Province
- Public Participation and SIA for the Matimba-Witkop No. 2 400 kV Transmission line in the Limpopo Province

Photovoltaic and Wind Energy Facilities

- SIA for the proposed Christiana PV facility on the farm Hartebeestpan, North West Province
- SIA for the proposed Hertzogville PV facility on the farms Albert and Wigt, Free State Province
- SIA for the proposed Morgenzon PV facility on the farm Morgenzon, Northern Cape Province
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment Process for the Exxaro Photovoltaic Facility, Lephalale, Limpopo Province
- SIA for the Upington Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province
- SIA for the Kleinbegin Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province

- SIA for the proposed Ilanga solar thermal power plant facility on a site near Upington, Northern Cape Province
- SIA and public participation for the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility, Northern Cape
- SIA for the Wag'nbiekiespan Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province
- SIA for the proposed Kathu and Sishen Solar Energy Facilities, Northern Cape Province
- Public Participation and SIA for the proposed Thupela Waterberg Photovoltaic Plant, Limpopo Province
- SIA for the proposed Kannikwa Vlakte Wind Farm Project, Northern Cape

Township Developments

- SEIA for the Gauteng Rapid Land Release Programme: Four Sites: Hekpoort / Bryanston / Lenasia / Rietfontein (Ennerdale), Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed Wildealskloof Mixed Use Development near Bloemfontein, Free State
- SIA for the proposed Mixed Land Use Township Establishment on the Remainder of Portion 406 of the Farm Pretoria Town and Townlands 351 JR, and investigation with regards to the possible resettlement of households, Salvokop, Tshwane CBD
- SIA for the proposed Mixed Land Use Development situated on the Remainder of Allandale 10 IR, known as Rabie Ridge Ext 7, Midrand, Gauteng
- SIA as part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed development of Project One (1) of the Vosloorus Extension 9 High Density Housing Project, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
- SIA for the proposed Mapochsgronde Residential Development, Roosenekal, Limpop Province
- SIA for the proposed Cullinan Estate Development, Cullinan, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed Vlaktefontein Residential Development and investigation with regards to the possible resettlement of individual households, Brakpan, Gauteng
- SIA for the proposed township development/eco-estate on the farm Grants Valley, Eastern Cape

Public Participation

- Public participation for the proposed Theta Project, near Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga
- Public Participation for Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine (Pty) Ltd.: Environmental Authorisation Application for various Listed Activities at the Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, Near Steelpoort, Limpopo Province (ongoing)
- Public Participation for the proposed piggery near Modimolle, Limpopo Province
- Public Participation for the proposed development of a Truck Stop, Buffelspoort, North West Province
- Public Participation for the upgrading of the Menlyn Road Network and the investigation, as well as negotiations with regards to the resettlement of households, Pretoria, Gauteng
- Public participation and SIA for the proposed Platinum Highway Project from the N1 (Gauteng) to the Botswana Border (North West Province), including investigations with regards to the possible resettlement of individual households
- Public participation assistance for the proposed construction of a brewery and associated industrial activities for Heineken Supply Co (Pty) Ltd, Kempton Park, Gauteng.

15.2 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended in respect of the EIA Regulations of December 2014, and GNR 982 published on 4 December 2014, an independent consultant must be appointed to act on behalf of the client. In this regard Batho Earth submit that they have:

- The necessary required expertise to conduct a Social Impact Assessment, including the required knowledge and understanding of any guidelines or policies that are relevant to the proposed process;
- Undertaken all the work and associated studies in an objective and independent manner, even if the findings of these studies are not favourable to the project proponent;
- No vested financial interest in the proposed project or the outcome thereof, apart from remuneration for the work undertaken under the auspices of the above-mentioned regulations;
- No vested interest, including any conflicts of interest, in either the proposed project or the studies conducted in respect of the proposed project, other than complying with the required regulations; and
- Disclosed any material factors that may have the potential to influence the competent authority's decision and/or objectivity in terms of any reports, plans or documents related to the proposed project as required by the regulations.