

| Reference in scoping report | Mining Regulation 49 of Regulation 527 of 23 April 2004 | NEMA Regulation 29 of Regulation 385 of 21 April 2006 |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | | option of not proceeding, proposed public participation process, other information required by the authorities. |
| Section 7 | Describe the nature and extent of further investigations required in the environmental impact assessment report. | |

The other environmental decision identified at this stage that will be sought for the project is listed below. In this regard, the compilation of this scoping report has also taken cognisance of the requirements for these.

- Water authorisation for various water uses from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), 36 of 1998. These could include taking water from a resource, storing water, discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource, disposing of waste in a manner that may detrimentally impact on a water resource, removing/discharging/disposing of waste found in the open pit(s).

It is expected that any additional approvals/permits needed for the project will be identified during the course of the environmental assessment process. A detailed list will be provided in the EIA/EMP amendment report.

Scoping phase objectives

The objectives of scoping phase are to understand the proposed project, identify and describe potential environmental and social impacts, and to set out any related terms of reference for further investigations that will enable the meaningful assessment of all relevant environmental and social issues. The terms of reference for further investigations are included in section 7.1.

Scoping team

Metago Environmental Engineers (Pty) Ltd (Metago) is the independent firm of consultants that has been appointed by the applicant company to undertake the environmental assessment and related processes. Alex Pheiffer (project reviewer) has approximately nine years of relevant experience and is registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNSP) as a professional natural scientist (*PrSciNat*). Hylton Allison (project manager) has over ten years of relevant experience and is registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNSP) as a professional natural scientist (*PrSciNat*). The environmental scoping team is outlined below:

- Alex Pheiffer – Project Reviewer
- Hylton Allison – Project Manager
- Charlene Mureverwi – Project Assistant
- Stella Moeketse – Project Administrator

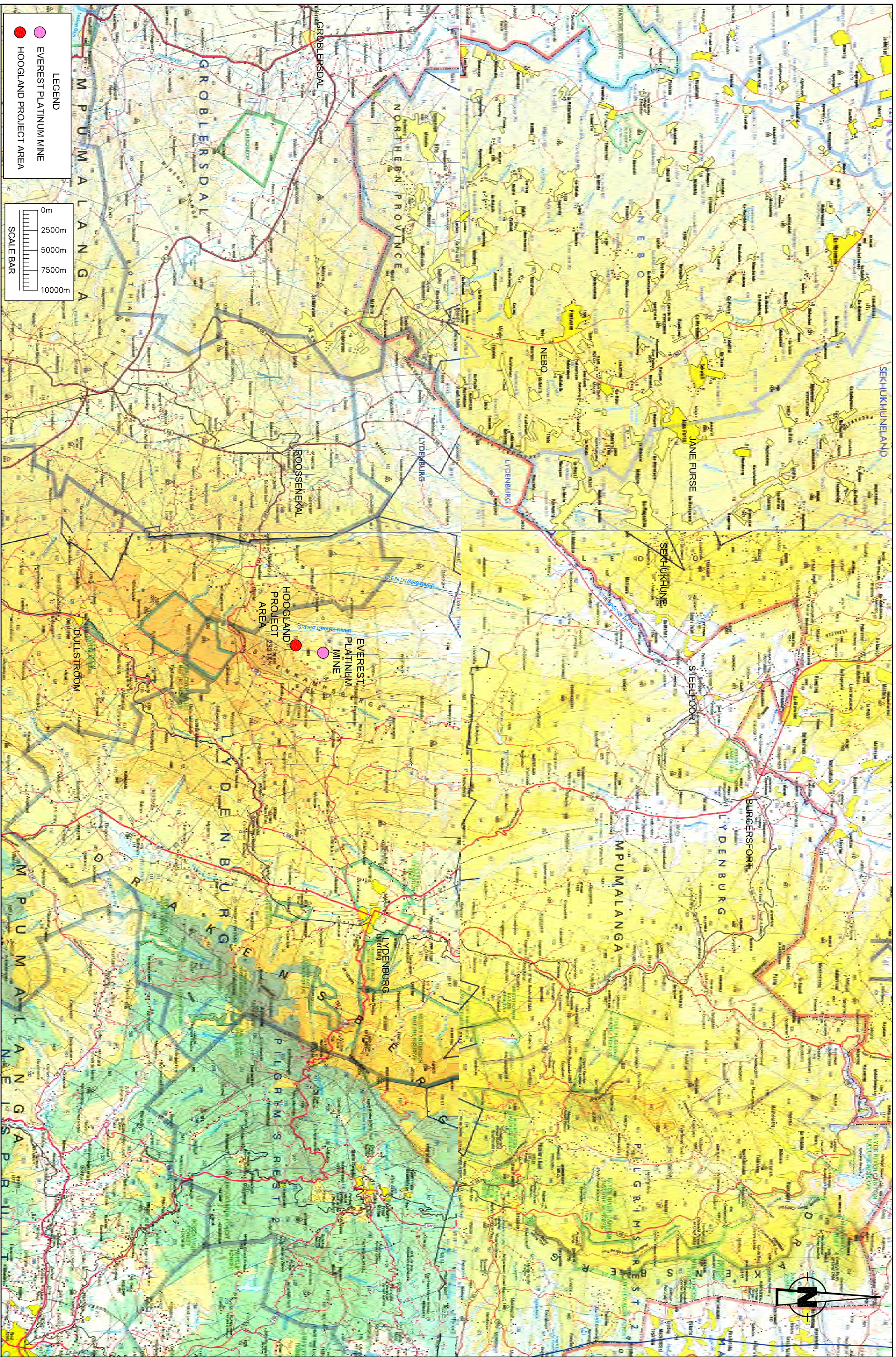
- Natasha Daly – Project Administrator.

Technical input was provided by:

- Gus Simbanegavi – Mine Manager
- Neels Hoek –Mineral Rights Manager
- L. Black – Mine engineer.

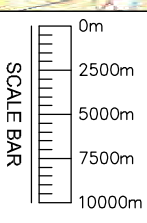
Contact details for responsible persons

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Project applicant: | Aquarius Platinum (South Africa) (Proprietary) Limited (AQPSA) | |
| Contact person: | Mine | Head office |
| Postal address: | Mr Gus Simbanegavi | Mr Neels Hoek |
| Telephone No: | PO Box 1093, Mashishing (Lydenburg), 1120 | PO Box 1282 Bedfordview 2008 |
| Fax No: | 013) 235 8400 | (011) 455-2050 |
| E-mail Address: | (013) 235 8401 | (011) 455-2095 |
| | Gus.Simbanegavi@aquariusssa.co.za | Neels.Hoek@aquariusssa.co.za |

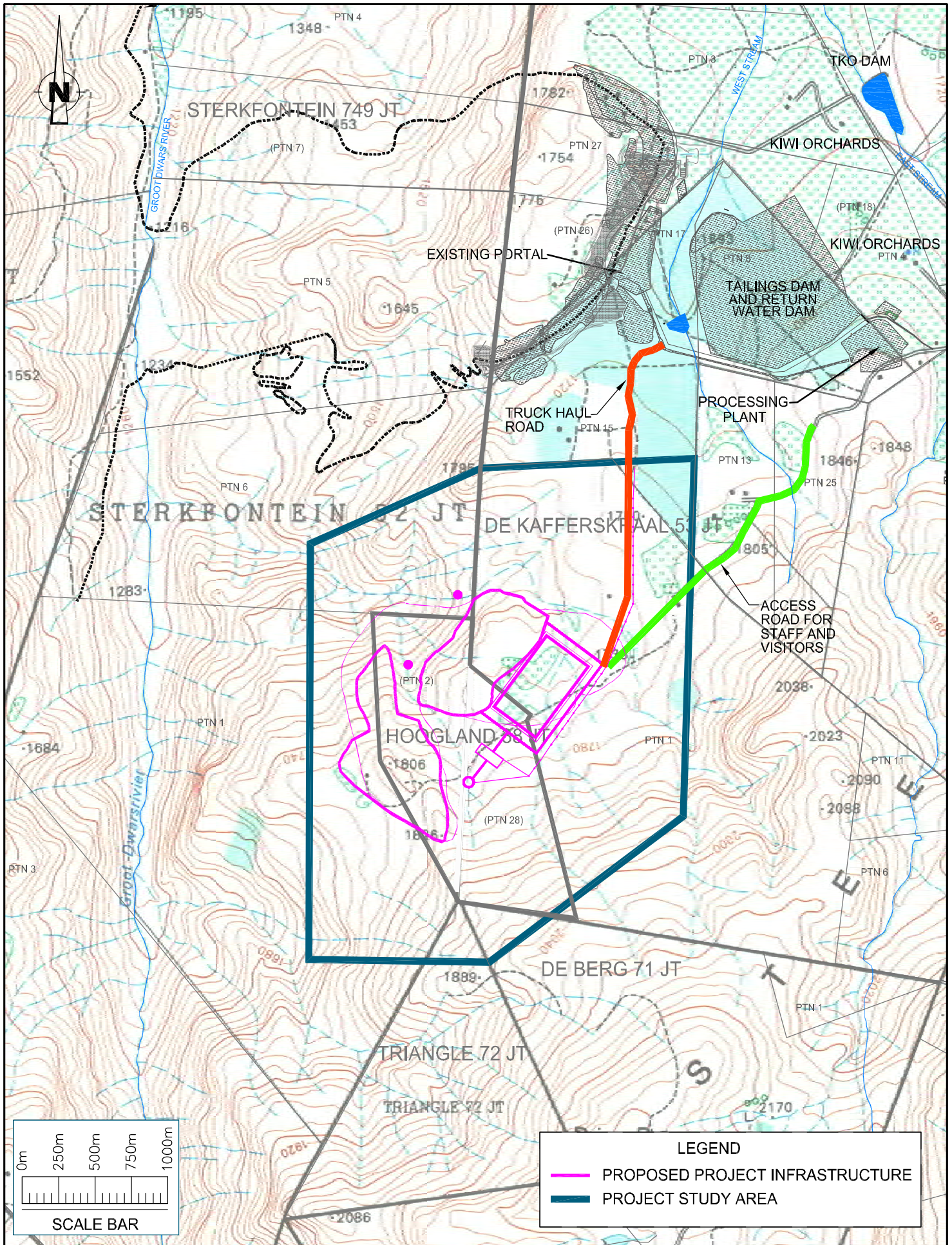


LEGEND

- EVEREST PLATINUM MINE
- HOOGLAND PROJECT AREA



REGIONAL SETTING OF THE HOOGLAND OPEN CAST PLATINUM PROJECT



1 THE METHODOLOGY APPLIED TO SCOPING

The scoping process was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the legal framework outlined above and involved the following steps:

- Key team members conducted a site visit
- Available studies and reports covering the Aquarius Hoogland operations were reviewed
- A project description was drafted in consultation with the client
- Potential positive and negative impacts were identified by considering the project description and site conditions
- Interested and affected parties (IAPs) were identified, notified of the proposed project and consulted (the consultation process is outlined in section 1 of this report). This included landowners
- The relevant authorities were identified, notified of the proposed project and consulted (the consultation process is outlined in section 1 of this report)
- The Metago environmental team identified further investigations required to investigate the positive and negative impacts identified with input from IAPs and the relevant authorities, and drafted terms of reference for these studies
- A Scoping Report was compiled.

The main sources of information used to develop this report are discussed below.

In addition, the following information was used:

- Regional geology map
- Topographical maps (1:50 000 scale).

1.1 RELEVANT COMMUNITIES

The communities as defined in the DMR Guideline are listed below, and the communities closest to the proposed Hoogland area are the Kiwi Communities as well as the surrounding farmers and landowners.

These are communities of the Bakoni Ba Phetla Nation (RBBPN).

1.2 DEPARTMENT OF LAND AFFAIRS INTEREST

The Department of Land Affairs has been identified as an interested and affected party (IAP).

1.3 LAND CLAIMS

There has been a successful land claim by the Phetla community on the farms De Kafferskraal 53 JT (excluding Portions 1 and 13 of the farm) and Hoogland 38JT. AQPSA has finalised a surface lease agreement with the land claimants (Bakoni Ba Phetla Communal Property Association) for the use of their land. Figure 1-1 outlines the Phetla land claim boundary and surface lease area in relation to the mine and proposed project areas.

1.4 RELEVANT TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Traditional authorities identified by the applicant includes, the Bakoni Ba Phetla Communal Property Association.

1.5 LANDOWNERS

Traditional and title deed owners identified by the applicant are listed in the table below.

Surface rights/land ownership within and immediately surrounding the Hoogland project area are held by a number of land owners (Table 1-1). Contact details are included in Appendix B.

TABLE 1-1: SURFACE RIGHTS IN AND SURROUNDING THE HOOGLAND STUDY AREA

| Farm name | Portion | Title deed number | Registered Landowner |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------|--|
| Hoogland 38JT | 0 | T123832/2007 | Bakoni Ba-Phetla Communal Property Association |
| De Kafferskraal 53JT | 1 | T88615/1998 | Daniel Cias Petrus Nel |
| | 13 | T30809/1993 | Maia Elizabeth van Vuuren |
| | 15 | T123831/2007 | Bakoni Ba-Phetla Communal Property Association |
| | 25 | T123833/2007 | Bakoni Ba-Phetla Communal Property Association |
| | 6 | T10246/1994 | Jan Valentine Blake |
| | 11 | T73180/1997 | Jacomina Cecilia Riekert |
| | 0 (R/E) | T32333/1985 | South African Kiwi Fruit Industry (PTY) Ltd |
| | R/E 13 | T39108/1993 | Mrs E. Van Vuuren |
| Sterkfontein 52JT | 1 | T41534/2001 | Aquarius Platinum South Africa (Pty) Ltd |
| | 6 | T41534/2001 | Aquarius Platinum South Africa (Pty) Ltd |
| Triangle 72JT | 0 | T25846/1975 | Breytenbach Belegings (Pty) Ltd |

| Farm name | Portion | Title deed number | Registered Landowner |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| De Berg 71JT | 0 | T25846/1975 | Breytenbach Belegings (Pty) Ltd |

1.6 LAWFUL OCCUPIERS

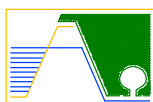
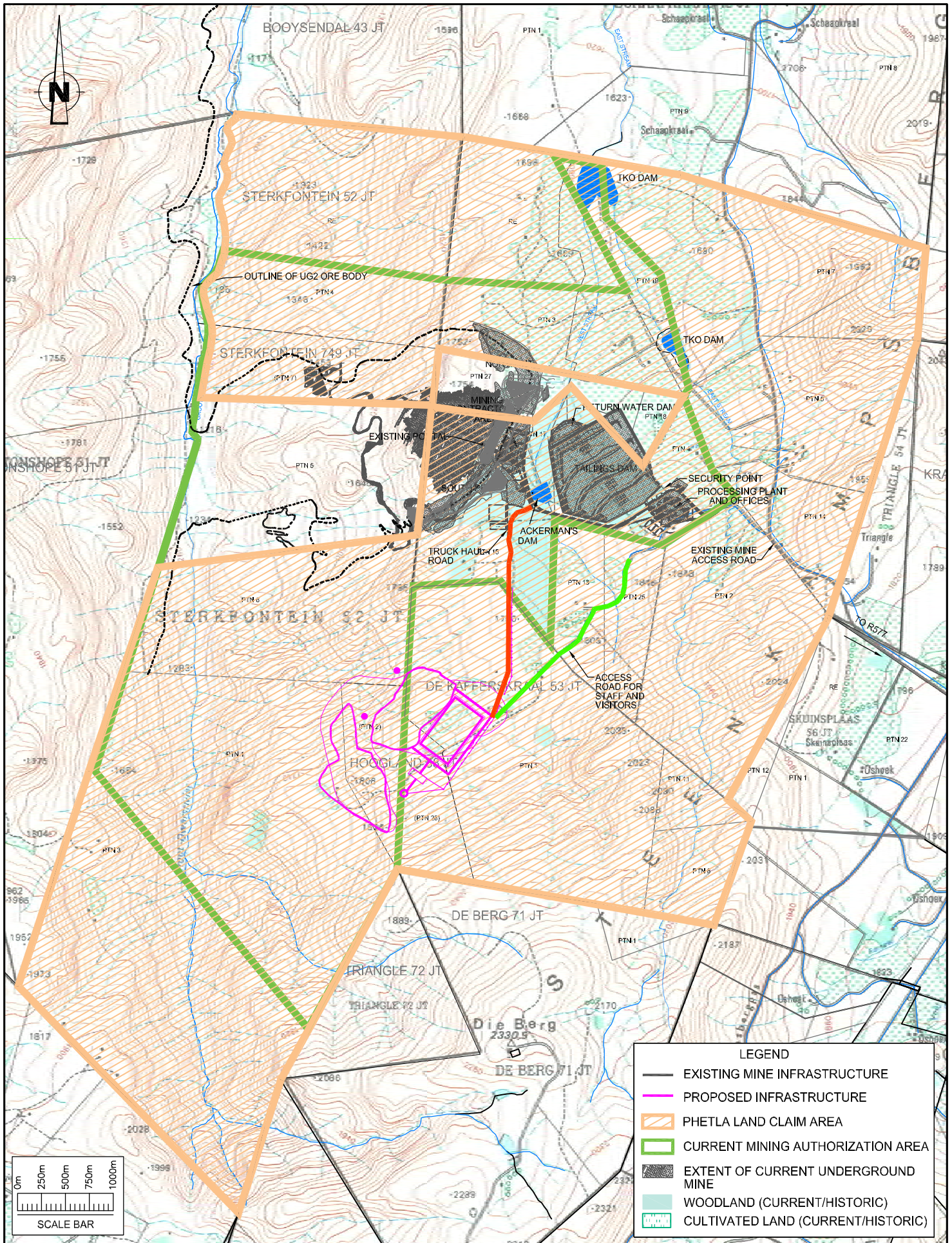
The landowners are the lawful occupiers of the land.

1.7 OTHER PARTIES THAT MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED

The closest residences are those of the landowners on the eastern boundary of the proposed project site and some 3km to the north there is the community is the relocated Kiwi community that has been re-located to the north east of the Everest Platinum Mine.

1.8 RELEVANT LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Thaba Chewu Local Municipality (TCLM).



1.9 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The relevant government departments, agencies and institutions responsible for the various aspects of the environment, land and infrastructure that may be affected by the proposed project are listed below:

- Regulatory authorities:
 - Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism (MDEDET)
 - Department of Water Affairs (DWA)
 - Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)
 - South Africa Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)
 - Department of Agriculture forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
 - Department of Rural Development Land Affairs (DRDLA)
 - Regional Land Claims Commission
 - Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism (MPTA)
 - Mpumalanga Department of Transport Roads and Community Safety (MDTRCS).
 - Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM)
 - Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM)
- Ward councillors.
- Parastatals such as Eskom

1.10 NOTIFICATION OF LANDOWNERS, LAWFUL OCCUPIERS AND IAPS

Proof that the landowners and lawful occupiers were notified of the project is provided in Appendix C. It should be noted that the applicant is the landowner of the portions that will be affected by the proposed project.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

This section has been compiled using studies completed by various specialists as well as information from the relevant site visits by Metago personnel. This baseline information is aimed at giving the reader perspective on the existing status of the cultural, socio-economic and biophysical environment. Detailed information will be provided in the EIA/EMP report.

The existing Hoogland study area comprises farmsteads, farm roads, dams, grazing areas, an adjoining electrical servitude, arable lands, koppies, caves, graves and the deeply incised Groot Dwars River Valley.

Notwithstanding the above the pre-mining baseline is provided below to give the reader the context. This section has been compiled from existing environmental reports as listed in Section 9 and is intended to provide readers with a conceptual understanding of the pre-mining environment in and around the project area. The information was sourced from a number of sources and this is indicated in each section below. More detailed baseline information will be provided in the EIA/EMP amendment report.

2.1 AGREEMENT ON EXISTING STATUS OF ENVIRONMENT

IAPs were provided information on the existing status of the environment during the scoping focussed and public meetings. All of the IAP issues and concerns raised during the scoping meetings have been provided in Appendix D. As such, no objections or disagreement was raised with respect to the information provided on the existing status of the environment. IAPs will also have the opportunity to review this scoping report.

2.2 EXISTING STATUS OF THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

The existing status of the cultural environment that may be affected by the proposed project is described in the section below. Heritage resources are considered to be cultural resources, therefore these resources are dealt with together in the section below.

2.3 EXISTING STATUS OF THE HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing status of the heritage and cultural environment that may be affected by the proposed project.

The broader AQSA project area is located in the Middle veld of the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The land in question is situated on the slopes of the Groot Dwars river Valley and is a portion of land that lies between the lowveld and the centrally situated Highveld. The area is well known for its