

Our Ref: J37158

DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1879



Tshwane

Podium at Menlyn
43 Ingersol Road
Menlyn
PO Box 35007, Menlo
Park 0102

Tel: +27 12 348 5880
Fax: +27 12 348 5878
Web: www.gibb.co.za

29 January 2018

Dear Interested and Affected Party

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE TO SUBLIME ACCESS ROAD AND NEW INTERSECTION WITH R580, EXARRO MATLA MINE, EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Project Description

GIBB (Pty) Ltd (GIBB) has been appointed by Exarro Matla Coal (Exarro) to conduct a Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use License Application (WULA)/General Authorisation (GA) Process for the proposed upgrade of Sublime Access Road and the construction of the new intersection with R580 to provide access to the Exarro Coal Mine in Matla, Mpumalanga Province. The road upgrade is approximately 1,82km in length. The road access will be widened to accommodate a dual lane road, along the existing gravel road and upgraded to asphalt standard. There will be a new alignment (approximately 180m) of the existing access road of the R580 and the road alignment will then follow along the existing gravel road. The road will be designed with an average road width of 11.2m. Stormwater upgrades (such as installation of box culverts) will be required as well to allow for drainage along the road.

Study Area:

The study area is located within the Emahlaleni Local Municipality in Mpumalanga. The nearest town is Kriel which is located 9km south-west of the study area. The study area is approximately 50 km southwest of Witbank, 30 km south and north of Ogies and Seconds, respectively.

The purpose of the Project:

At present, the Matla Coal Mine is accessed via the R580 intersection with Sublime Access Road. However, there has been increased traffic from coal imports to sustain the Matla Power Station burn rate, due to decreased production from Matla Colliery. Therefore, to accommodate the increased traffic, road infrastructure improvements are proposed (new intersection off R580 and the upgrade of the existing Sublime Access Road) to the existing stockpile exit road. Sublime Access Road requires the upgrading of the current pavement layers, which will need to be surfaced as well as widened. The upgrading of the intersection to accommodate the slow turning traffic onto the R580 provincial road is required.

Legislative requirements:

Eskom has submitted an application for Environmental Authorisation with the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in terms of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, April 2017 for the abovementioned project.

The following listed activities have been triggered in terms of the above legislation:

Government Notice	Listed Activities
R 327	19; and 56
R324	12; 14 (a) (ff); and 18

Further to this, a Water Use License General Authorisation will be required in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), Section 21 (c) and (i).

Specialist Studies

The following specialist studies have been conducted for the BA study and WULA:

- Ecological Impact Assessment;
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Impact Assessment;
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment;
- Wetland Impact Assessment; and

Public involvement: All Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to participate by:

- Registering written comments on the abovementioned project to GIBB. Comments should include the I&AP's name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the project, and can be submitted by post, fax or email to **the Public Participation Office:**

Attention: Richard Myburgh

GIBB Public Participation Office

Email: publicparticipation@gibb.co.za

Tel: (012) 471 8916

Fax: (012) 348 5878

Post: P O Box 35007, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0102

Review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report

The Public is afforded a 30 (thirty) day period from **Monday, 05 February to Wednesday, 07 March 2018 (inclusive)** to register and/or comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report for the above mentioned project

The report will be made available at the following locations:

Place	Address	Contact Person	Telephone
Kriel Public Library	Cnr. Quinton & Hendrikz, Kriel, 2271	The Librarian	017 648 2241
The Draft BAR and associated WULA is also available on the GIBB website at the following link:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://projects.gibb.co.za/Sublime_Access_Road_Upgrades_BA • A CD copy is available upon request. 			

Please register all written comments on the abovementioned project to GIBB. Comments can be submitted by post, fax or email to the GIBB Public Participation Office (details provided below) by no later than **Wednesday, 07 March 2018**.

GIBB Public Participation Office

Attention: Richard Myburgh

Tel: 012 471 8916

Fax: 012 348 5878

Post: PO Box 35007, Menlo Park, 0102

Email: publicparticipation@gibb.co.za

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,
For GIBB



Willie Howell
for GIBB (Pty) Ltd
Senior Environmental Scientist

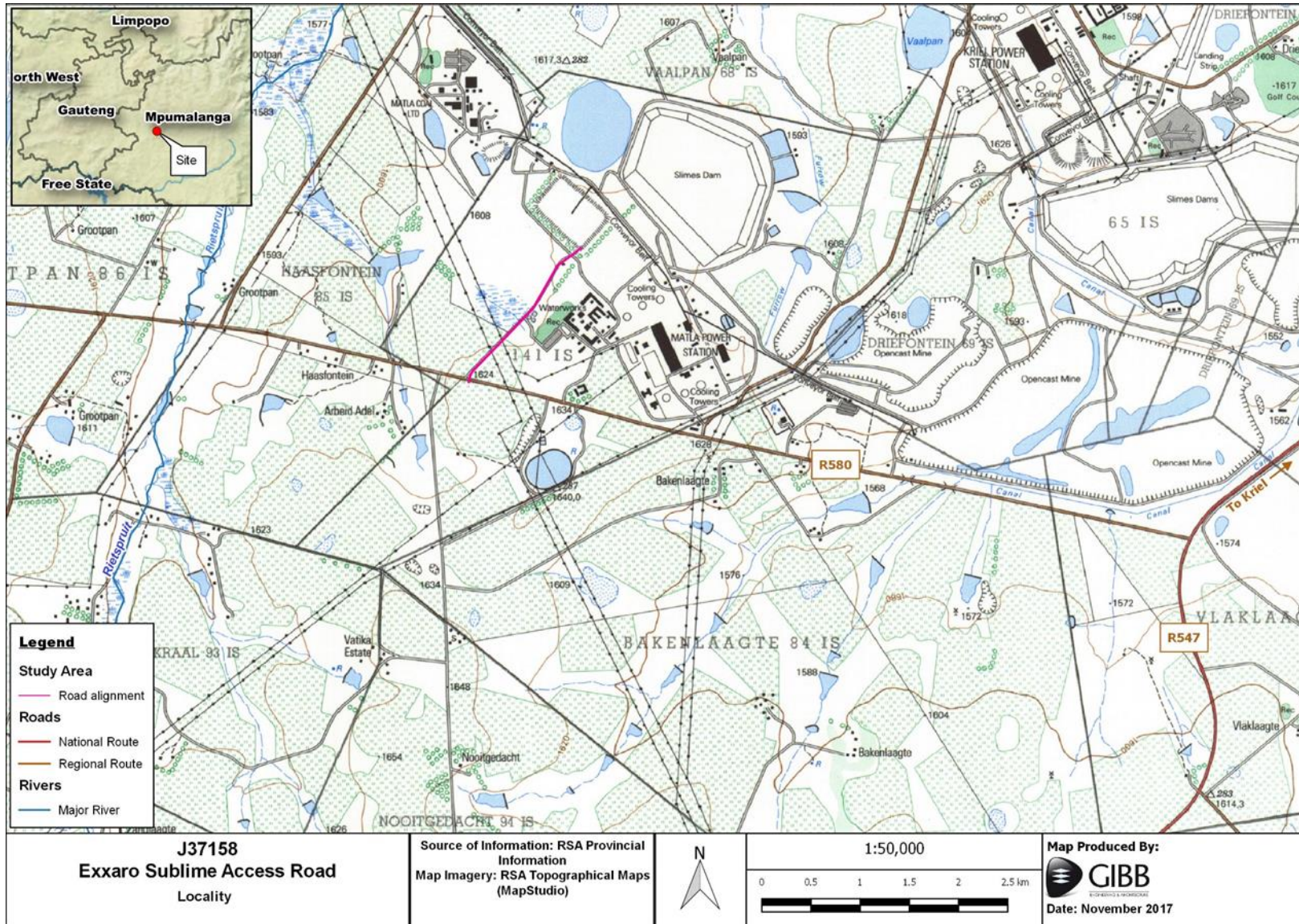


Figure 1: Locality Map

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION SHEET

Name	
Organisation	
Telephone number	
Physical address	
Postal address	
Fax number	
Email address	

Please state your interest (i.e. direct business, financial, personal or other interest) with respect to the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed development

Please state any concerns, suggestions and/or potential impacts that should be considered during the Basic Assessment Process.

All comments must be submitted to GIBB by no later than Wednesday, 07 March 2018.

Contact:

Attention: Richard Myburgh
GIBB Public Participation Office
GIBB, P O Box 35007, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0102
Tel: (012) 471 8916
Fax: 012) 348 5878
Email: publicparticipation@gibb.co.za

