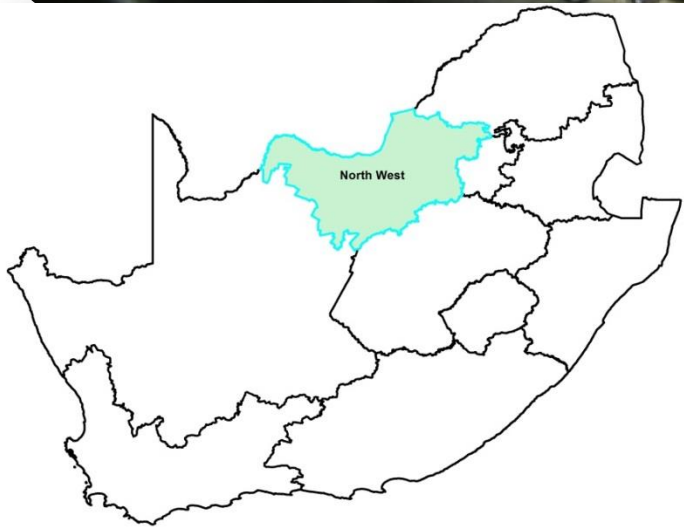


BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

**Basic Assessment Process:**

**Kwa-Nozici Minerals (Pty) Ltd's proposed establishment of a small-scale Alluvial Diamond and Manganese mining project on Farm 361 JP, Welverdiend, North West**



## PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of this document is to provide stakeholders with information, opportunity for registration as Interested and Affected Parties in the environmental assessment process, and to obtain their comments on the proposed establishment of a small-scale 5 hectares mining project for Alluvial Diamonds and Manganese. The mining project will be located on Portions 1 and 35 of Farm 361 JP, near Welverdiend Village, North West.

An application for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) will be made by the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) on behalf of Kwa-Nozici Minerals (Pty) Ltd to the North West Department of Mineral Resources, in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 published in Government Notice (GN) R982 of 4 December 2014. The application will be done in terms of activities listed in GN R.983 and 985 which require a Basic Assessment to obtain EA prior to development. The aim of the environmental assessment is to identify potential impacts associated with the development and to recommend methods to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and promote positive impacts.

If you would like to participate in the process, please complete the included registration form to register as an Interested and Affected Party by quoting the reference number provided and send any concerns or comments that you feel need to be addressed in the process and send to:

<b>Ms. Babalwa Mqokeli</b>	
Email:	bmqokeli@csir.co.za
Tel:	021-888-2432
Fax:	021-888-2693
Address:	CSIR, PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599
Website:	<a href="http://www.csir.co.za/ems/specialneeds/">http://www.csir.co.za/ems/specialneeds/</a>

**Kindly submit comments on or before the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2016.**

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## INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Kwa-Nozici Minerals (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a small-scale 5 hectares mining operation to be located on Portions 1 and 35 of Farm No. 361 JP, situated approximately 3km from the Welverdiend village, North West (see **Figure 1**). The mining operations will involve excavation and processing of minerals (crushing and/or grading, washing and sorting) at the camp site; consisting of mining equipment and associated processing infrastructure/facilities.

The South African mining industry has its origin in small-scale mining activities, with these operations offering much needed employment opportunities and entrepreneurship, as well as contributing to the Mineral sector and local economies. The BA Process plays an important role in promoting sustainable mining through commitment of small-scale miners to their projects and adherence to mining and environmental regulations.

## SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Minister of Environmental Affairs has in terms of Sections 24 and 24 D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA), as amended, listed activities that require an environmental assessment. In terms of EIA Regulations published in GNR 983 and 985, a **Basic Assessment** process is required as the project triggers the following listed activities (Table 1 below):

**Table 1: Listed activities applicable to Kwa-Nozici (Pty) Ltd's proposed project**

Relevant notice and Activity No(s):	Description of each listed activity as per the Government Notice:
GN. R 983, 4 December 2014 Activity 21	An activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).
GN. R 983, 4 December 2014 Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
GN. R 985, 4 December 2014 Activity 12 (a)(ii)	The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. <b>(a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, North West and Western Cape Provinces:</b> ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;

The BA process that will be undertaken for this project is summarised in the following steps:

**Step 1: Notify Authorities and potential Interested and affected parties (I&APs) (30 days) (current stage)**

The first stage in the process entails notifying all potential I&APs of the proposed project, by sending out a Background Information Document (BID), and providing I&APs with an opportunity to register as an I&AP. I&APs are required to register their interest on the project database within 30 days (in order to be included from the outset of the BA process) and/or raise issues or concerns.

**Step 2: Basic Assessment Report for Public Comment (30 days)**

The BA process is undertaken in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the project. Mitigation and management measures will be identified to reduce potential negative impacts and will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for this project. The Basic Assessment Report will include comments received from all I&APs on this document and findings of the specialist study. All registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the 30 day comment period for the BAR.

**Step 3: BAR to be submitted to DMR for decision-making**

The BAR will be drafted and will be submitted to DMR-North West for decision-making. The comments and issues raised will be included in the BAR. All I&APs will be provided with written notification on whether the project has been granted or refused EA and about the appeal process.

