

# **Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd**

## **Rietspruit Colliery II Mining Permit**

### **DRAFT**

#### **Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)**

**Compiled in terms of Appendix 1 and Appendix 4 of the amended  
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (Government Notice R  
982 (EIA Regulations, 2014) and submitted as contemplated in Regulation 19 of  
Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014**

**For**

**The application for an Environmental Authorization in terms of the National  
Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Amended  
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, Government Notice  
R983 - Listing Notice 1 of 2014**

**DMRE Reference No.: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13623 MP**

**September 2022**

# **Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)**

**Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd:  
Rietspruit Colliery II**

## **BAR AND EMPr FOR MINING PERMIT**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

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Compiled by: T. Shakwane, B.Sc. Hons. Pr.Sci.Nat and Registered EAP  
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---

(Electronic signature)

T. Shakwane, B.Sc. Hons. (Professional Natural Scientist no: 117080)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd proposes to mine coal on a portion of portion 21 of the farm Roodepoort 40 IS, situated within the Emalahleni Magisterial District. The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II is situated approximately 10 kilometres north of Kriel. A reputable opencast mining company will be contracted to conduct opencast mining operation at the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II. See Regulation 2.2 plan attached as **Appendix A**.

The proposed mining permit area falls within the Witbank coalfield, where the seams are at a shallow depth, with the lowest seam seldom reaching 100 metres in the deepest lying parts of the field. The strata in which the coal seams occur consist predominantly of fine, medium and coarse-grained sandstone with subordinate mudstone, shale, siltstone and carbonaceous shale. Ideally there are seven coal seams with varying degrees of persistence numbered from below as No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 lower, No. 4 upper, No. 4 A and No. 5 Seams. The opencast mining will be undertaken using the conventional truck and shovel mining technique with concurrent rehabilitation.

The life of this resource at the planned mining rate is 24 months, which includes a pre-production build up phase aimed mostly at establishing the box-cut and other related mining infrastructures. All R.O.M coal from the proposed mining area will be stockpiled on site. No coal processing (washing) will be undertaken; hence, no coal discards will be generated from the proposed mining area. However, crushing and screening will be conducted.

The mining related infrastructures such as the mobile offices, hard-park, storm-water management facility and stockpiling facilities will be placed at the mining permit area. Furthermore, an in-pit water storage and in-pit coal storage was decided upon. A surface pollution control dam and ROM stockpile area will; however, be considered and constructed should the in-pit storage facilities not be sufficient during mining.

In view of the above, Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd has lodged a mining permit with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Mpumalanga Regional Office) in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 as amended.

In addition to the above, the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), (NEMA) requires that any person or entity that intends to undertake activities listed in the NEMA listing notice regulations (Government Notices No. 983, 984 and 985) as amended, must obtain an environmental authorisation before undertaking such activities. Activities that will require an environmental authorisation in terms of the above-mentioned acts were identified and are listed in a table contained in this report.

According to the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, an application for an environmental authorisation for the above triggered listed activities, (environmental authorisation) must be submitted to a competent authority in line with the requirements of the above-mentioned regulations. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (eMalahleni Office) is the competent authority for the above-mentioned application.

Regulation 19 of the amended NEMA Regulations requires that if a BAR process must be applied to an application, the applicant must submit a basic assessment report and an EIR/EMPr to the competent authority which has been subjected to a public participation process and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority. In view of



the above, a draft BAR and EMPr report which concerns assessment of environmental impacts and a programme for management of the impacts for the proposed activities at the Rietspruit Colliery II, was compiled and submitted in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, for review and commenting by the public including the competent authority. The environmental impact assessment, which results will thereof be detailed in the final BAR and EMPr, will be undertaken in compliance with the accepted plan of study described in the above-mentioned basic assessment report as well as studies requested by the interested and affected parties during the public and participation process.

# PART A

SECTION ONE

---

## Introduction

# 1 INTRODUCTION

---

## 1.1 WHO IS DEVELOPING THE BAR AND EMPr?

### 1.1.1 Name and contact details of the EAP who prepared the BAR and EMPr

**EAP:** Mr. Ornassis Tshepo Shakwane

**Professional registration:**

SACNASP: 117080

EAPASA: 2019/1763

IAIA Membership No.: 3847

**Company:** Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited

**Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 4050

MIDDELBURG, 1050

**Tel:** (013) 243 5842

**Fax:** (086) 632 4936

**Cell No.:** 082 498 1847

**Email:** [tshepo@geovicon.co.za](mailto:tshepo@geovicon.co.za)

### 1.1.2 Expertise of the EAP who prepared the BAR and EMPr

Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited is a geological and environmental consulting company. The company was formed during 1996, and currently has twenty-six years' experience in the geological and environmental consulting field. Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited has successfully completed consulting work in the Mining sector (coal, gold, base metal and diamond), Quarrying sector (sand, aggregate and dimension stone), Industrial sector and housing sector. Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited has undertaken contracts within all the provinces of South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana and Zambia. During 2001 Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited entered the field of mine environmental management and water monitoring.

Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited is a Black Economically Empowered Company with the BEE component owning 60% of the company. Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited has three members i.e., O.T Shakwane, J.M. Bate and T.G Tefu.

Mr. O.T Shakwane obtained his BSc (Microbiology and Biochemistry) from the University of Durban Westville in 1994, and completed his honours degree in Microbiology in 1995. Mr O.T Shakwane has also completed short courses on environmental law and environmental impact assessment with the University of North West's Centre for Environmental Management. He has worked with the three state departments tasked with mining and environmental management i.e. Department of Water and Sanitation (Gauteng and Mpumalanga Region), Department of Mineral Resources (Mpumalanga Region) and Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (Gauteng Region). Mr.

Shakwane has been in the consulting field since 2004 and has completed various areas similar to the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II as an environmental assessment practitioner. Mr Shakwane is the environmental assessment practitioner for the environmental impact assessment for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area. See the EAP's CV attached as **Appendix B**.

Over the past years Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited has formalised working relationships with companies that offer expertise in the following fields i.e. Geohydrology, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering, Geotechnical Consultancy, Survey and Mine Planning and Soil & Land Use Consultancy. Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited is an independent consulting company, which has no interest in the outcome of the decision regarding the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II's basic assessment process.

## **1.2 WHO WILL EVALUATE AND APPROVE THE BAR AND EMPr?**

Before the proposed project can proceed, an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must compile an application for an Environmental Authorisation for the proposed project. An Impact Assessment (basic assessment process) must be undertaken in support of the application for an Environmental Authorisation. The basic assessment process will determine the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed project and an environmental management programme will be compiled to provide measures for mitigation against the identified impacts. The above-mentioned application must be made to the competent authority and in terms of section 24D (1) of NEMA. The Minister responsible for mineral resources is the responsible competent authority for this application. In view of the above, the application for the environmental authorisation for the proposed project was submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Nkangala Regional Office for their consideration and decision making.

In the spirit of co-operative governance and in compliance with the requirements of NEMA and the MPRDA, the competent authority may, during the processing for the Environmental Authorisation application, consult with other organs of state that administers laws that relate to matters affecting the environment relevant to this application. Note that during the public participation process for the proposed project, the EAP will also consult with the below listed state authorities.

The organs of state that are to be consulted may include the following:

- Department of Water and Sanitation, Mpumalanga Regional Office (Commenting Authority)
- National Department of Agriculture, Mpumalanga Regional Office (Commenting Authority)
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, Provincial Office (Commenting Authority)

Note however that this list is not exhaustive as more organs of state may be identified by the competent authority and EAP during the public participation process.

### **1.3 DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT**

#### **1.3.1 Name of the Applicant**

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd

#### **1.3.2 Name of the Project**

Rietspruit Colliery II

#### **1.3.3 Postal Address of Applicant**

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd

PO BOX 90512

Garsfontein

Gauteng

0181

#### **1.3.4 Responsible Person**

Mojalefa Douglas Mongwe

#### **1.3.5 Contact Person**

Cell No. 074 548 9726

Fax: 086 575 1718

Email: douglas@xakwa.com

### **1.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY (LOCATION OF THE PROJECT)**

#### **1.4.1 Regional Setting**

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II is situated approximately 10 km north of Kriel in the eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

#### **1.4.2 Physical Address and Farm Name of the Mining Permit Area**

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II is situated on a portion of portion 21 of the farm Roodepoort 40 IS, eMalahleni, Mpumalanga. Figure 1 provides the map of the regional setting for the location of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II.

#### **1.4.3 Magisterial District & Regional Services Council**

- Magisterial District of Witbank, Mpumalanga
- District Municipality: Nkangala District Municipality
- Local Municipality: eMalahleni Local Municipality

#### 1.4.4 Direction and Distance to Nearest Towns

Table 1: Direction and Distance to Nearest Towns from the mine.

| TOWN       | DIRECTION   | DISTANCE (KM) |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Kriel      | South       | 10 km         |
| Ogies      | North- West | 23 km         |
| eMalahleni | North       | 30 km         |

#### 1.4.5 Land Tenure and Use of Immediate and Adjacent Land

Figure 2 indicates the Land tenure for the properties within and immediately around the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II and the relevant adjacent and direct farm portion owners are described in Table 2. Land use within the proposed area and immediately adjacent to the proposed area include mainly grazing.

Table 2: Schedule of properties listing surface ownership within and surrounding Rietspruit Colliery II

| FARM NAME AND NUMBER                       | 21 DIGIT SURVEYOR GENERAL CODE | DESCRIPTION OF SUB-DIVISION | SURFACE OWNER                  |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>DIRECT SURFACE OWNER</b>                |                                |                             |                                |
| <b>ROODEPOORT 40 IS</b>                    | T0IS00000000004000021          | Portion 21*                 | Manhattan Syndicate (Pty) Ltd  |
| <b>IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT SURFACE OWNERS</b> |                                |                             |                                |
| <b>ROODEPOORT 40 IS</b>                    | T0IS00000000004000011          | Portion 11                  | Burjan Boerderye (Pty) Ltd     |
|  | T0IS00000000004000015          | Portion 15                  | Manhattan Syndicate (Pty) Ltd  |
|  | T0IS00000000004000017          | Portion 17                  | LIZE Trust                     |
|  | T0IS00000000004000021          | Portion 21                  | Manhattan Syndicate (Pty) Ltd  |
|  | T0IS00000000004000023          | Portion 23                  | Manhattan Syndicate (Pty) Ltd  |
| <b>RIETSPRUIT 597 IS</b>                   | T0IS000000000059700000         | Remaining Extent            | Tavistock Collieries (Pty) Ltd |

\*Portion on which the mining permit is applied for. See the Deeds list for the direct surface owner attached as **Appendix C**.

#### 1.4.6 Locality Plan

See Figure 3 for the locality plan.

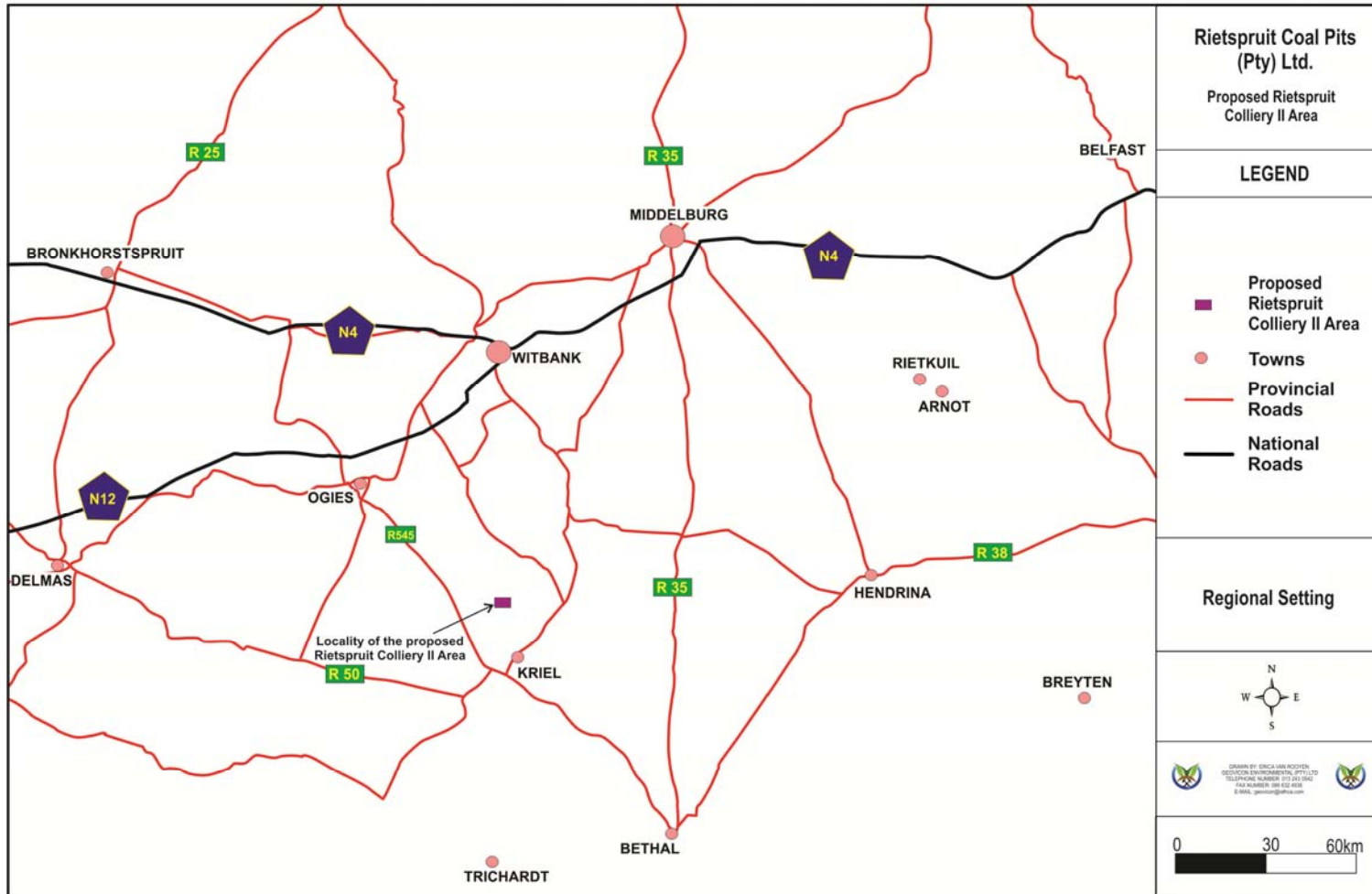


Figure 1: Regional Setting for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II



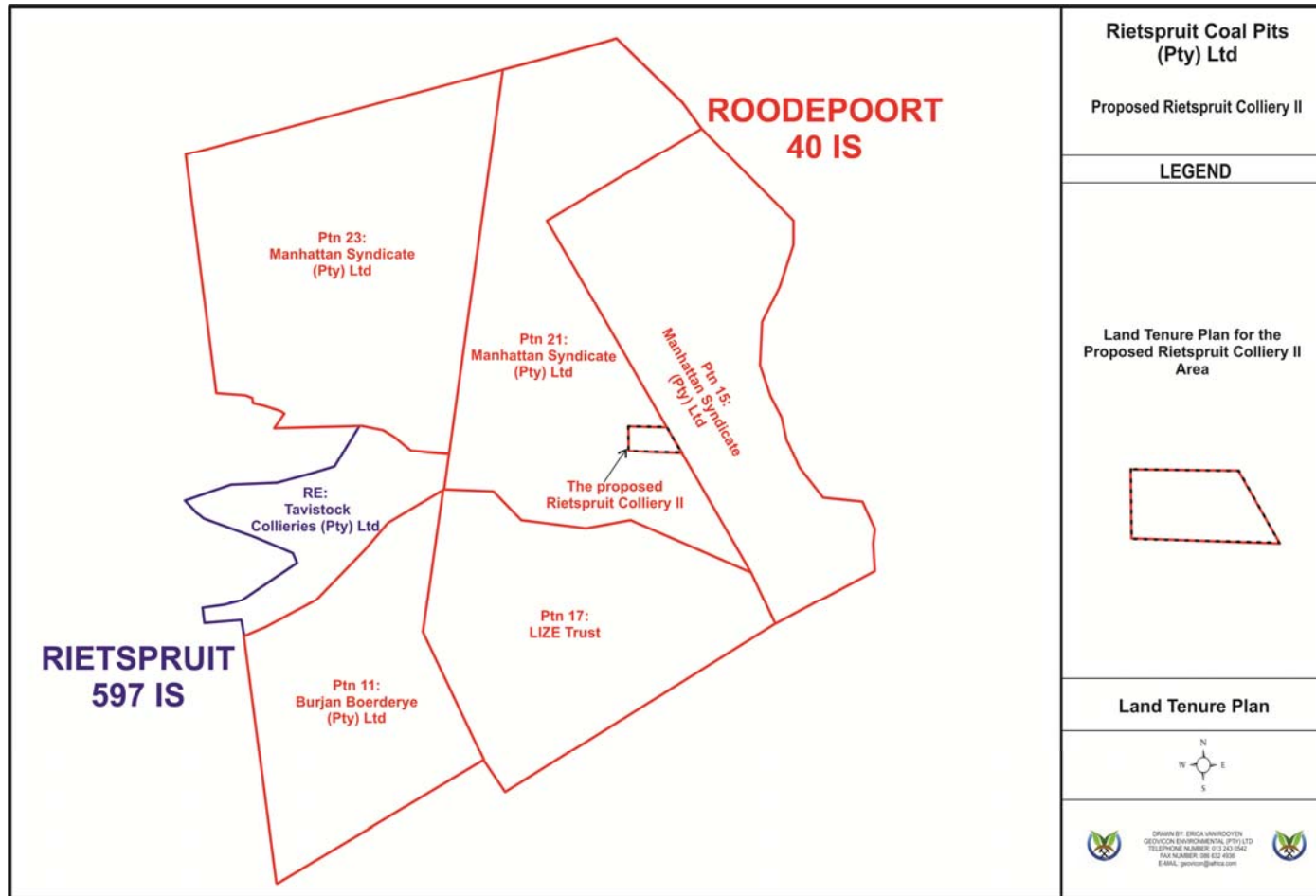


Figure 2: Land Tenure Plan for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II

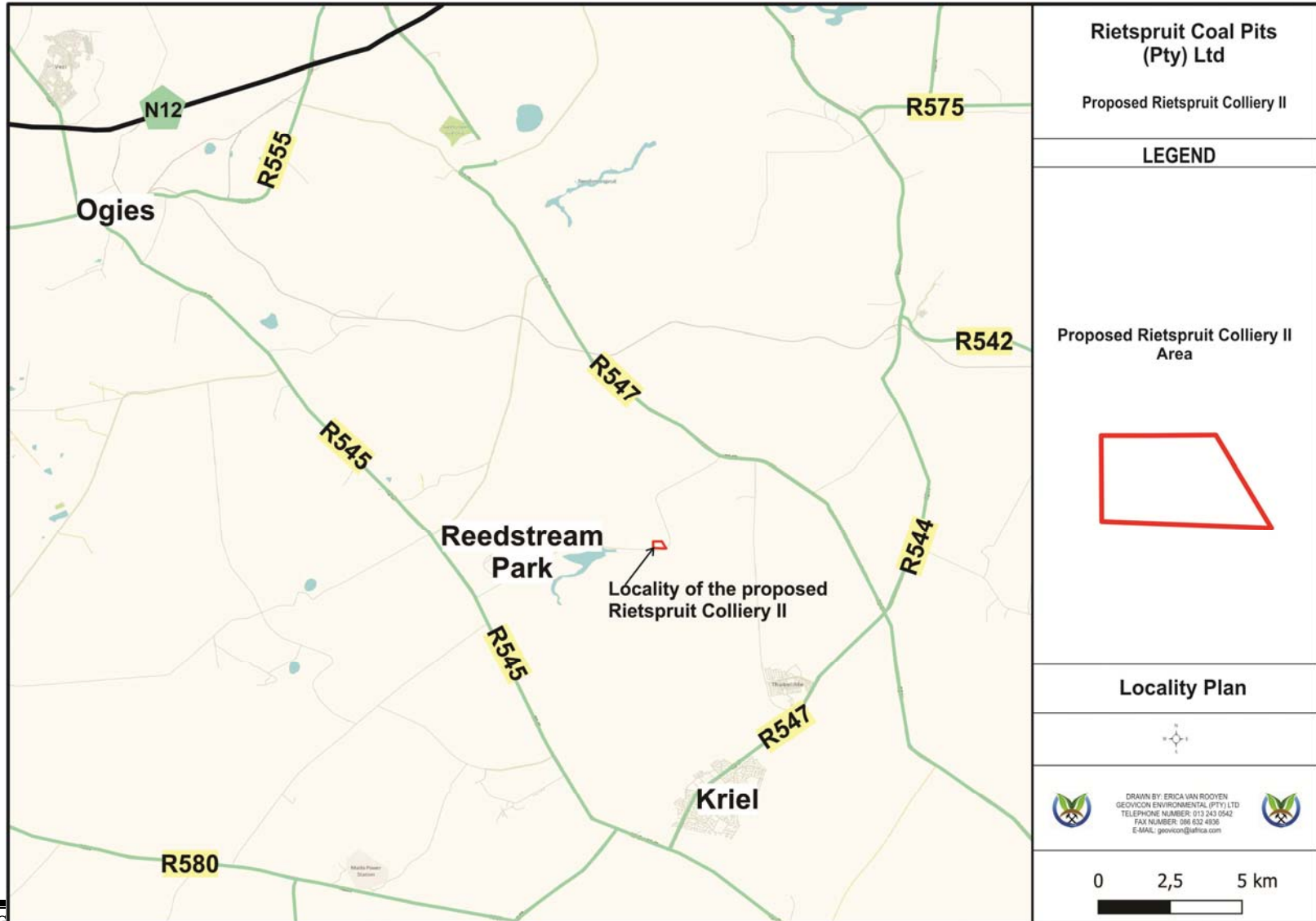


Figure 3: Locality Plan for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II

SECTION TWO

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## **Description of the Scope of the proposed Project**

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

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### **2.1 LISTED ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES**

In terms of the NEMA, the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II will result in the conducting of activities that are considered as listed activities. In terms of the above-mentioned legislation, none of the above-mentioned listed activities can be conducted without an Environmental Authorisation. In view of the above, Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd has submitted an application for an Environmental Authorisation for all listed activities to be conducted at the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II to the competent authority (DMRE).

This section will give a description of the listed activities that will be included in the application for an Environmental Authorisation. Table 3 is compiled as prescribed by the DMRE, EIR and EMPr template and reflects all project activities applied for.

Table 3: Proposed Rietspruit Colliery II listed Activities

| <b>NAME OF ACTIVITY</b><br>(E.g. For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, access route etc...etc...etc E.g. for mining,- excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.) | <b>Aerial extent of the Activity Ha or m<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>LISTED ACTIVITY</b><br><br>(Mark with an X where applicable or affected). | <b>APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE</b><br><br>(GNR 327, GNR 325 or GNR 324) | <b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b><br><br><b>AUTHORISATION</b><br>Indicate whether an authorisation is required in terms of the Waste Management Act). (Mark with an X ) |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Activity 21: Any 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 association infrastructures, earthworks, directly related to the extraction of the mineral resource.   | 5.00 ha  | X  | NO. 327   | N/A   |
| Activity 24: The development of a road where the road is wider than 8 meters.  | 0.20 ha  | X  | NO. 327   | N/A   |
| Activity 9: Activity 9: The construction of storm water channels and water pipelines exceeding 1 km for the conveyance of mine   | 0.25 ha  | X  | NO. 327   | N/A   |

|   |         |   |         |     |
|---|---------|---|---------|-----|
| affected water at the proposed project.   |         |   |         |     |
| 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 the undertaking of a linear activity or maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. | 5.00 ha | X | NO. 327 | N/A |

### **2.1.1 Target Mineral**

Coal.

### **2.1.2 Mining Method Used at the Rietspruit Colliery II Area**

Mining will be conducted by opencast methods, using truck and shovel lateral rollover mining technique. A competent opencast mining contractor will be contracted to conduct the opencast mining at the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II mining permit area.

Access to the opencast pit will be via a pit ramp and an initial box cut.

The soft overburden will be removed by mechanical methods. The hard overburden will be drilled and blasted and then removed by mechanical methods. The coal will be drilled and blasted prior to removal. Replacement of overburden material into the mining pit will be according to the following sequence:

- Placement of hard overburden at base of pit.
- Placement of soft overburden.
- Final cover of topsoil (minimum 300 mm).

### **2.1.3 Planned Life of Project**

The estimated life of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II is 2 years.

## **2.2 RIETSPRUIT COLLIERY II SURFACE INFRASTRUCTURE DESCRIPTION**

### **2.2.1 Access**

There is a good network of both tarred and gravel roads connecting the mining permit area with surrounding towns. Existing roads to be used for the proposed area include the R545 Provincial Road and unnamed secondary road connecting from R545, that passes directly south of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area.

### **2.2.2 Power line Infrastructure**

Diesel powered vehicles and machinery will be used for the proposed project.

### **2.2.3 Water Supply Infrastructure**

Water will be required at the proposed mining area for the purpose of supplying potable water and for dust suppression. Water will be sourced from the borehole or via a water supplier for potable water whereas dust suppression water will be obtained from the pit. Alternatively, water may be sourced from the Local Municipality.

### **2.2.4 Workshops and Buildings**

Mobile buildings will be used for this project. Should emergency repairs be required the repairs will be conducted on site on areas covered with tarpaulins.

Refer to Figure 4 for the infrastructure layout plan (See **Appendix D** for an A3 visualisation of the surface layout plan) and Figure 5 for box-cuts' layout plan.



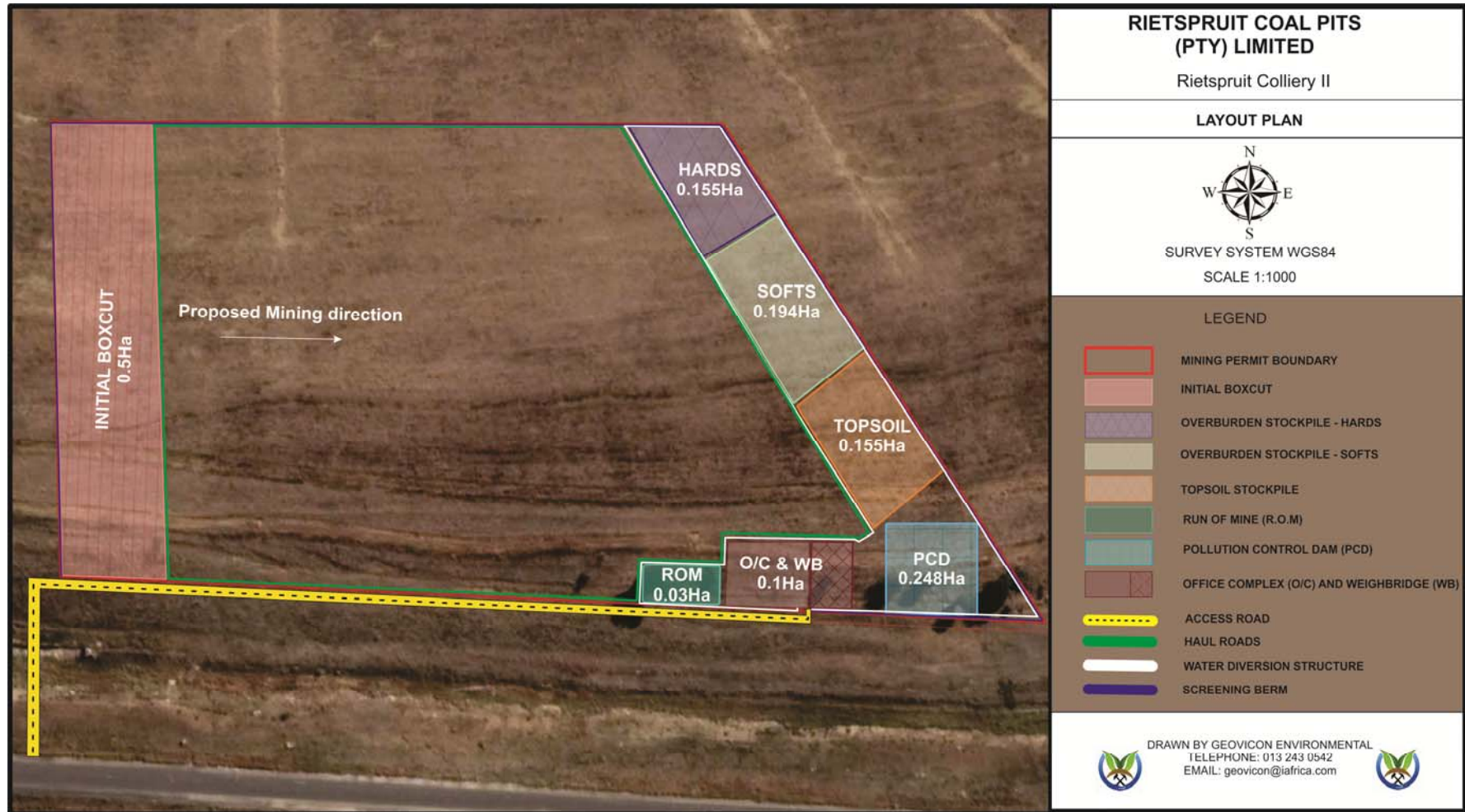


Figure 4: Proposed Surface Layout Plan

Due to space limitations (5 ha), the proponent proposes to use an in-pit sump and coal storage facility. During operation, the in-pit sump and coal storage facility will progress with mining. Figure 5 below shows the layout plan for the box cut that will be used for the in-pits infrastructures mentioned above.

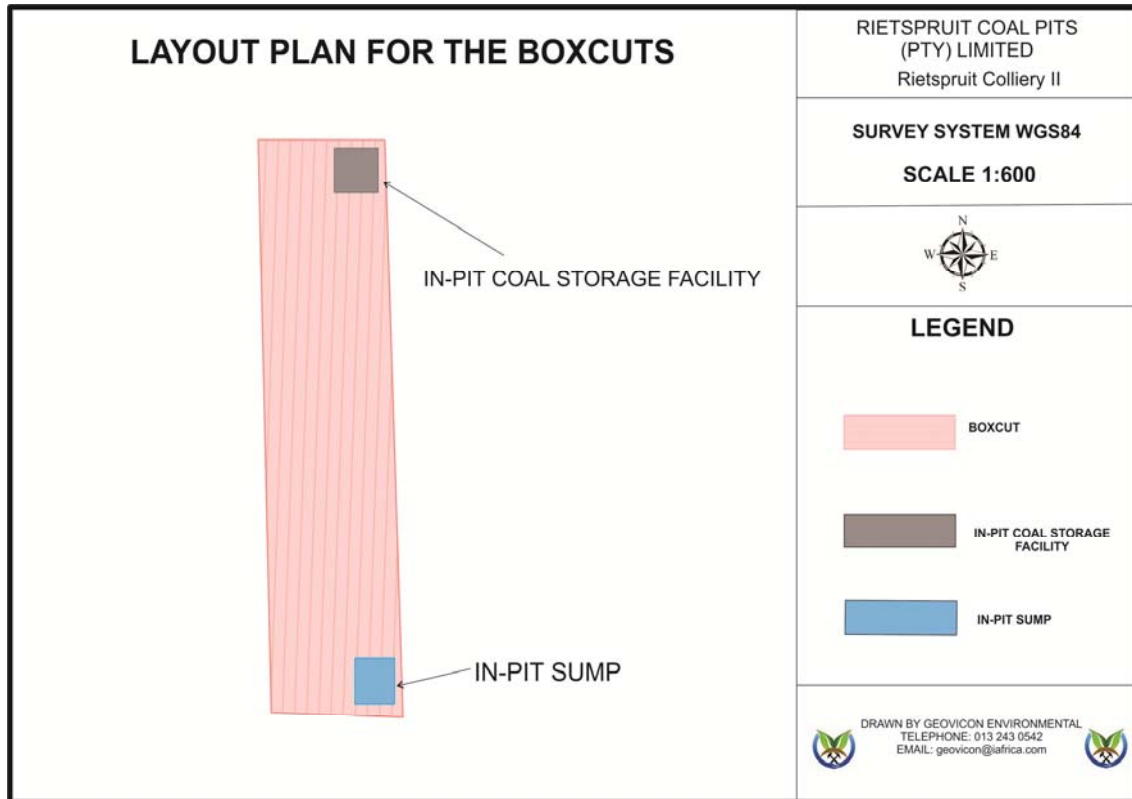


Figure 5: Layout Plan for the boxcut

## **2.2.5 Waste Management**

### **2.2.5.1 Waste Identification and Management**

The proposed mining operation will generate the following waste types i.e.: electronic waste, hazardous waste, general waste, recyclable waste and sewage waste. A waste management procedure will be compiled and implemented by the mine, which will ensure that a waste inventory that may contain all waste including waste not indicated in section of the report is compiled and filed.

#### Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste any waste that contains elements or compounds that may have a detrimental impact on health and the environment is not disposed or handled correctly. This waste generally consists of oil, grease, chemicals, paints, their containers and any materials/substances contaminated by these.

#### General Waste

This is waste that does not contain any hazardous materials. Note that domestic waste, which will be generated from the proposed project, is considered as general waste. Domestic waste includes plastics, discarded food waste, cans, cardboard and packaging, polystyrene, building rubble, etc.

#### Electronic Waste

This waste include products nearing the end of their "useful life" and may include computers, televisions, VCR's radio's, copiers and fax machines and telephones.

#### Recyclable Waste

This waste include material that is collected on the mine for reselling, re-use or recycling purposes. Recyclable materials are divided into the following:

- Scrap metals;
- Paper;
- Used printer cartridges etc.

### **2.2.5.2 Waste Management Facilities**

#### Hazardous Waste

Hydrocarbon waste will be collected in 210 litre drums for storage. The removal of the drums or any other appropriate receptacle will be undertaken by a waste disposal company, for disposal at a registered licensed waste disposal site. The drums will be placed on protected ground. Chemical toilets will be used for the management of sewage waste generated on site.

#### General Waste

The general waste that will be generated is domestic waste will be collected in 210 litre drums and disposed of at a registered domestic waste disposal site (eMalahleni).

## **2.3 RIETSPRUIT COLLIERY II METHOD STATEMENT**

In terms of DMRE BAR and EMPr template, Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd must describe the methods and technology to be employed for the proposed project. In view of the above, a method statement for each phase of the proposed project has been provided. This identifies all actions, activities or processes associated with the proposed mining operation.

### **2.3.1 Construction Phase**

The following mine surface infrastructure will be established, namely:

- Access and haul roads
- Office containers
- In-pit Sump
- Material stockpiles (topsoil, softs, hards and ROM)
- Box-cut

### **2.3.2 Operational Phase**

During the operational phase coal will be mined in a systematic manner to remove the available coal seams. All overburden material removed will be stockpiled in such a manner that concurrent rehabilitation can be undertaken by replacing the said material in the correct sequence into the mined-out cuts.

#### **Water Pollution Management Facilities**

Rietspruit Colliery II will operate on the strategy of maximising the utilisation of “dirty water” in the mining area and will have a policy of zero discharge of contaminated water. The water accumulated in the pit will be pumped into the sump. The water from the in-pit sump and the pit will be utilised to suppress dust in areas where dust may emanate. Where the in-pit sump is not sufficient enough to store water, as an alternative, a PCD will be constructed on surface to store water from the opencast pit. Furthermore, a sump collecting water around the stockpiling area will be developed, this sump will be operated empty and will be kept dry, and water from this sump will be utilized for dust suppression.

#### **Potable water Plant**

There will be no potable water treatment plant at Rietspruit Colliery II. Water will be sourced from the borehole, from a portable water supplier or local municipality.

#### **Transport**

Mine officials and senior skilled employees will use their own vehicles for all transport requirements. Where necessary a bus services will be made available to transport other employees from their residences to their working place. Normal light delivery vehicles will be utilised to transport employees to the opencast mining permit areas.

A number of haul roads will be constructed around the mining permit area for the transportation of coal from the opencast area to be transported by road to the markets.

#### **Housing**

No houses or hostels will be established on the mining permit areas. All employees will be transported on a daily basis to the mine.

#### **Storm water management**

Overburden material will be used as berms to divert storm water away from the mining areas. Rietspruit Colliery II will practice a policy of clean and dirty water separation where dirty water is contained and stored in the in-pit sump and the sump in the stockpiling area and this water will be re-used for dust suppression.

### **2.3.3 Decommissioning phase**

#### **Infrastructure areas**

The retention or demolition of mine infrastructure presents a significant cost and should be considered at the purchasing and planning stages. The market value of infrastructure will change over the life of the operation and the degree to which the infrastructure is maintained during the operational period should reflect the intended post-closure use. The decommissioning phase should be considered during upgrades of mine infrastructure, with the aim to remove upon closure. The following should be available during decommissioning of infrastructure:

- A list of the areas and mine infrastructure that require decommissioning;
- A description of strategy, timing, and the techniques preferred to remove and dispose of mine's infrastructure;
- Consultation with Interested and Affected Parties in regards to retention of mine's infrastructure.

#### **Monitoring and reporting**

The water quality monitoring program will be continued, until it can be shown that water quality (surface and groundwater) is both stable and within acceptable guidelines and limits, as determined by the relevant State Departments. Frequency of monitoring will remain monthly for the surface water monitoring points and three-monthly for groundwater monitoring points for the first three years after closure. Thereafter, the frequency for surface water monitoring points will decrease to 3-monthly and the groundwater monitoring points to 6-monthly. This will again be reviewed after a further 2 years.

#### **Long term stability**

Rehabilitation will be ongoing during the operational phase. The shaping of the pits will allow for the re-establishment of natural runoff patterns.

### **2.3.4 Final Rehabilitation**

No roads will remain in place after the decommissioning phase. Note that the access and haul roads will be graded during this phase, in order to remove any fine carbonaceous material build-up on the roads during mining activities. The said roads will then be ripped to the depth of 300 mm, at 90° to the inherent slope, and seeded with a recommended seed mix. Any carbonaceous material removed from the said roads will be dumped in the final void before the said voids are leveled. After leveling the said voids, the areas will be seeded and conform to the rest of the rehabilitated areas.

### **2.3.5 After Closure Phase**

The rehabilitated area will be monitored until closure of the site. After the decommissioning of the site and if it can be determined that the site is stable, an environmental authorisation for the decommissioning of the site and a closure certificate will be applied for in terms of the relevant laws.

SECTION THREE

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## **Policy and legislative context**

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## 3 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

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### 3.1 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (ACT NO. 108 OF 1996)

Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996) states that everyone has the right:

- a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:
  - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
  - (ii) promote conservation; and
  - ( ) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

In terms of Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996), everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being. In addition, people have the right to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through applicable legislations and other measures that prevent pollution, ecological degradation and promote conservation and secure ecological sustainable development through the use of natural resources while prompting justifiable economic and social development. The needs of the environment, as well as affected parties, should thus be integrated into the overall project in order to fulfil the requirements of Section 24 of the Constitution. In view of the above, a number of laws pertaining to environmental management were promulgated to give guidance on how the principles set out in section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996) would be met. Below are laws applicable to the proposed project that were promulgated to ensure that section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996) is complied with.

### 3.2 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT

Section 24(1) of the NEMA states:

“In order to give effect to the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in this Chapter [Chapter 5], the potential consequences for or impacts on the environment of listed activities or specified activities must be considered, investigated, assessed and reported on to the competent authority or the Minister of the Department of Mineral Resources, as the case may be, except in respect of those activities that may commence without having to obtain an environmental authorisation in terms of this Act.”

In order to regulate the procedure and criteria as contemplated in Chapter 5 of NEMA relating to the preparation, evaluation, submission, processing and consideration of, and decision on, applications for environmental authorisations for the commencement of activities, subjected to environmental impact assessment, in order to avoid or mitigate detrimental impacts on the environment, and to optimise positive environmental impacts, and for matters pertaining thereto, Regulations (EIA Regulations, 2014) were promulgated. These Regulations took effect from the 4th of December 2014.

In addition to the above, Section 28 of the NEMA includes a general “Duty of Care” whereby care must be taken to prevent, control and remedy the effect of significant pollution and environmental

degradation. This section stipulates the importance to protect the environment from degradation and pollution irrespective of the operations taking places or activities triggered / not triggered under GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985.

In view of the above, an environmental impact assessment is being undertaken to comply with the requirements of the NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. The NEMA EIA Regulations of December 2014 determines requirements to be met in order to obtain an environmental authorisation. This report has therefore been compiled in compliance with the above regulations.

### **3.3 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AIR QUALITY ACT**

The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No.39 of 2004) (NEM:AQA) focuses on reforming the law regulating air quality in South Africa in order to protect the environment through the provision of reasonable measures protecting the environment against air pollution and ecological degradation and securing ecological sustainable development while promoting justifiable economic and social developments. This Act provides national norms and standards regulating air quality management and control by all spheres of government. These include the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the National Dust Control Regulations (NDCR). The standards are defined for different air pollutants with different limits based on the toxicity of the pollutants to the environment and humans, number of allowable exceedances and the date of compliance of the specific standard.

On 22 November 2013 the list of activities which result in atmospheric emissions which have or may have a significant detrimental effect on the environment, including health, social conditions, economic conditions, ecological conditions or cultural heritage was published under GN R893 in Governmental Gazette No 37054, in terms of Section 21(1)(b) of the NEM:AQA.

The proposed project will not trigger any of the activities listed under the above-mentioned Regulations, however Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd must ensure that emissions from their activities complies with the standards as set in the above-mentioned regulations.

### **3.4 THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT**

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) focuses on the protection and management of South Africa's heritage resources. The governing authority for this act is the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In terms of the NHRA, historically important features such as graves, trees, archaeology and fossil beds are protected as well as culturally significant symbols, spaces and landscapes. Section 38 of the NHRA stipulates the requirements a developer must undertake prior to development. In terms of Section 38 of the NHRA, SAHRA can call for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) where certain categories of development are proposed.

A HIA is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon.

The Act also makes provision for the assessment of heritage impacts as part of an EIA process and indicates that if such an assessment is deemed adequate, a separate HIA is not required. Measures will be undertaken to ensure that requirements in terms of the HIA are complied with where necessary.



### **3.5 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BIODIVERSITY ACT (ACT 10 OF 2004) (NEMBA)**

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) provides for the management and protection of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework established by NEMA. The Act aims to legally provide for biodiversity conservation, sustainable, equitable access and benefit sharing and provides for the management and control of alien and invasive species to prevent or minimize harm to the environment and indigenous biodiversity. The Act imposes obligations on landowners (state or private) governing alien invasive species as well as regulates the introduction of genetically modified organisms. The Act encourages the eradication of alien species that may harm indigenous ecosystems or habitats. The NEMBA ensures that provision is made by the site developer to remove any aliens which have been introduced to the site or are present on the site.

The NEMBA also provides for listing of threatened or protected ecosystems, in one of four categories: critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or protected. The purpose of listing protected ecosystems is primarily to conserve sites of exceptionally high conservation value.

The Act supports South Africa's obligations under sanctioned international agreements regulating international trade in specimens of endangered species, and ensures that the utilization of biodiversity is managed in an ecological sustainable way.

The BAR and EMPr has been complied to ensure that all applicable requirements prescribed in the NEMBA are complied with.

### **3.6 MPUMALANGA NATURE CONSERVATION ACT (ACT 10 OF 1998)**

The Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act, No. 10 of 1998, aims to consolidate and amend the laws relating to nature conservation within the province and to provide for matters connected therewith. Provincial legislation relevant to biodiversity conservation comprises of two Provincial Acts, the Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act (Act 10 of 1998) and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency Act (Act 5 of 2005). In relation to nature conservation, the province has developed the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP). This plan has been jointly developed by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA). The MBSP takes its mandate from the South African Constitution, the National Biodiversity Act (10 of 2004) and the Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act 10 of 1998. Areas identified under the MBSP as sensitive were identified and where applicable measures will be proposed for ensuring that the areas are not degrade by the proposed project activities.

### **3.7 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (MPRDA): ACT 28 OF 2002**

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) is responsible for regulating the mining and minerals industry to achieve equitable access to the country's resources and contribute to sustainable development. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) requires that an EIA be conducted and that the EMP be drafted for the mitigation of impacts identified during the environmental impact assessment for a mining project. During December 2014, the "One Environmental System" was implemented by Government which initiated the streamlining of the licensing processes for mining, environmental authorisations and water use. Under the One Environmental System, the Minister of Mineral Resources, will issue environmental

authorisations and waste management licences in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

### **3.8 NATIONAL WATER ACT (NWA): ACT NO. 36 OF 1998**

The National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) is the primary regulatory legislation, controlling and managing the use of water resources as well as the pollution thereof in South Africa. The NWA recognises that the ultimate aim of water resource management is to achieve sustainable use of water for the benefit of all users and that the protection of the quality of water resources is necessary to ensure sustainability of the nation's water resources in the interests of all water users. The NWA presents strategies to facilitate sound management of water resources, provides for the protection of water resources, and regulates use of water by means of Catchment Management Agencies, Water User Associations, Advisory Committees and International Water Management. The National Government has overall responsibility for and authority over water resource management, including the equitable allocation and beneficial use of water in the public interest. Further, an industry can only be entitled to use water if the use is permissible under the NWA. The enforcing authority on water users is the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

Further, Regulation 704 of the NWA deals with the control and use of water for mining and related activities aimed at the protection of water resources.

Measures will be undertaken to ensure that requirements in terms of the NWA and the GN 704 are complied with where necessary.

### **3.9 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: WASTE ACT (ACT NO. 59 OF 2008)**

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEMWA) requires that all waste management activities must be licensed. According to Section 44 of the NEMWA, the licensing procedure must be integrated with an EIA process in terms of the NEMA.

The objectives of NEMWA involve the protection of health, wellbeing and the environment. The NEMWA provides measures for the minimisation of natural resource consumption, avoiding and minimising the generation of waste, reducing, recycling and recovering waste, and treating and safely disposing of waste.

Measures will be undertaken to ensure that requirements in terms of the NEMWA are complied with where necessary.

### **3.10 EIA GUIDELINES**

A number of national and provincial EIA guidelines were published by different departments. These guidelines are mainly aimed at assisting relevant stakeholders by providing information and guidance and giving recommendations on a number of aspects relating to the environmental impact assessment process. The guidelines can be used by the competent authority, applicant and the EAP during the EIA process. It is therefore important that the EAP and the person compiling a specialist report must have relevant expertise when conducting the environmental impact assessments.

A number of guidelines were consulted during the compilation of this report and these include amongst them the following i.e. Guidelines on the Need and Desirability, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Integrated Environmental Management Guidelines, Department of Water and Sanitation's Best Practice Guidelines and the Western Cape Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Guidelines on Public Participation.



SECTION FOUR

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## **Need and desirability of the proposed activities**

## 4 NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

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### 4.1 MOTIVATION FOR THE NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

In terms of the EIA Regulations the need and desirability of any development must be considered by the relevant competent authority when reviewing an application. The need and desirability must be included in the reports to be submitted during the Environmental Authorisation application processes.

The section of the BAR and EMPr will indicate the need and desirability for the approval of the BAR and EMPr for Rietspruit Colliery II.

This project is crucial in ensuring that Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd maintains job employment and coal production rates at Rietspruit Colliery II to supply the local and the export markets.

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd expects that substantial benefits from the project will accrue to the immediate project area, the sub-region and the province of Mpumalanga. These benefits must be offset against the costs of the project.

#### **The potential benefits of the proposed project are:**

- Resultant socio-economic benefits from the mine.
- Highly significant benefits to the province of Mpumalanga in terms of the long-term coal supply. Long-term coal supply contracts bring about needed job creation and other local, provincial and national socio-economic benefits.
- Potential reduction in crime as a result of job creation.
- Local growth in the economy of the towns of eMalahleni, Middelburg and surrounding areas, and for local businesses.
- Economic benefits for contractors and other suppliers of goods and services.
- Economic opportunities and other potential benefits for land owners from compensation for impacts.

This BAR recommends that Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd , and also its contractors, follow the approach of maximising and enhancing benefits rather than merely focussing on reducing or avoiding negative impacts, and that all opportunities for additional benefits to local land owners be actively pursued.

Based on the environmental assessment conducted as described in this Report, there are no environmental impacts associated with the proposed project that cannot be mitigated.

SECTION FIVE

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## **Motivation for the preferred development footprint**

## 5 MOTIVATION FOR THE PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT

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### 5.1 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 requires a BAR and EMPr to identify alternatives for projects applied for. In terms of the above-mentioned regulations an alternative in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to the (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity; (b) the type of activity to be undertaken; (c) the design or layout of the activity;(d) the technology to be used in the activity;(e) the operational aspects of the activity; and (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

#### 5.1.1 Location Alternatives

The location of the proposed development is the most suitable due to its ideal location in terms of the requirements for coal mining. Therefore, no alternatives in relation to the location of the mine were considered.

#### 5.1.2 Site Layout Alternatives

Site layout alternatives considered include the following i.e.:

##### **Dirty water dams:**

Two alternatives were considered i.e., in-pit water storage and surface pollution control dam. Due to space limitation (5 ha mining permit area) the in-pit water storage was decided upon. A pollution control dam will; however, be considered and constructed should the in-pit storage facility not be sufficient for the water generated during mining. The third alternative includes building the PCD outside the mining permit area due to space limitation.

##### **Access:**

Two alternatives were considered i.e., expansion of the existing road and constructing a new road. Since the proponent would like to limit their pollution footprint, the existing access road was decided upon. Should permission for using the existing road not be obtained, a new road will be designed and constructed for access to the mining permit area.

##### **Coal stockpiling facility:**

Two alternatives were considered i.e., in pit coal storage and surface coal storage. Due to space limitation (5 ha mining permit area) the in-pit coal storage was decided upon. A surface coal storage facility will however be considered and constructed should the in-pit storage facility not be sufficient for the coal generated during mining. The third alternative includes building the coal storage facility outside the mining permit area due to space limitation.

##### **Topsoil and overburden stockpiling facility:**

Two alternatives were considered i.e., placing the stockpiling facilities outside the mining permit area and placing the stockpiling facilities inside the mining permit area. Due to space limitation (5 ha mining

areas), placing the stockpiling facilities outside the mining permit area was decided upon. Placing stockpiling facilities within the permit area will be considered if the first alternatives is rejected by the competent authority.

### **5.1.3 Transport Alternatives**

In terms of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II the most viable option to accessing the site will be via the unnamed secondary road and R545 Provincial Road.

### **5.1.4 No Go Option**

Should the project not commence, the following will result i.e.:

The mine will not commence, which will result in the potential labour force losing their employment opportunity and all support that the mine would have provided to the local businesses will also cease.

Rietspruit Colliery II have supply contracts for the type of coal that is available in these reserves, hence should the mine not commence, and the mine will not be able to honour their supply contracts. This will have serious impacts on the ability of the mine to continue with their business.

Accordingly, the consequences of not proceeding with the proposed project will have a detrimental impact on the current and future labour force, the surrounding previously disadvantaged communities, the owners of the mine, and the coal export market. This may ultimately have an impact on the region as a whole, due to a loss of revenue and due to a loss in taxes.

## **5.2 CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

Based on the above, the proposed coal mining operation, situated on a portion of portion 21 of the farm Roodepoort 40 IS with an in-pit water and coal storage facility accessed via the access road, is preferred for the proposed mining project.

## **5.3 DETAILS OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOLLOWED AND RESULTS THEREOF**

Public participation is the cornerstone of any EIA process. The principles of the NEMA govern many aspects of EIA's, including public participation. The general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in the NEMA include to "ensure adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment". The National Environmental Management Principles include the principle that "The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary to achieve equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured", which basically means that the person responsible for the application (EAP) must ensure that provision of sufficient and transparent information on an ongoing basis to stakeholders are made to allow them to comment, and to ensure that the participation of previously disadvantaged people like women and the youth are undertaken.

In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, when applying for environmental authorisation, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner managing the application must conduct at least a public participation process where all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, are given a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on each of the basic assessment reports, EMPr, scoping report and environmental impact assessment report, and where applicable the closure plan. In this case a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is considered.



This section of the BAR and EMPr will give an explanation of the public participation process taken in order to comply with the above-mentioned requirements. A number of public participation guidelines were published in a bid to assist persons responsible for the environmental authorisation applications. As much of the available guidelines were used in determining the public participation process, in guiding the public participation process of the proposed project.

Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Ltd on behalf of Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd is applying for an environmental authorisation for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II. The application for the environmental authorisation is undertaken in terms of the process as laid out in part 2 of Chapter 4 under the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. The above-mentioned regulations require that an applicant for an environmental authorisation submit a BAR and EMPr to the competent authority after having subjected the reports to a public participation process.

In view of the above, a public participation process was initiated for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II. The public participation process for the proposed project was designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to interested and affected parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- raise issues of concern and make suggestions for enhanced benefits;
- contribute local knowledge and experience;
- verify that their issues have been captured;
- verify that their issues have been considered in the technical investigations; and
- comment on the findings of the EIA.

The following were conducted in undertaking of the public participation process for the proposed project.

### **5.3.1 Registration and BAR Phase**

The public participation process commences with the provision of potential Interested and affected parties (I&AP's) 30 days to register as interested and affected parties and to comment on the draft BAR and EMPr. The registration and commenting process starts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022 and ends on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

#### **5.3.1.1 Notification of potential interested and affected parties**

The following methods of notification were used to notify the potential interested and affected parties of the opportunity to register during the public participation process for the proposed project:

- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022, notices were posted in the Witbank News which is distributed in host and surrounding town of the proposed mining permit area, informing the public that the draft BAR is in the Kriel Public Library. The notices were compiled in compliance with the requirements of Regulation 41(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- Written notices were sent to all surface owners and lawful occupiers of the land on which the proposed area will be undertaken and owners/lawful occupiers of land immediately adjacent to the proposed area.
- Site notices inviting the public to register as interested and affected parties were also used to invite comments on the BAR and EMPr from the public.

- The draft BAR and EMPr was submitted to all the commenting authorities for their comments.
- A copy of the draft BAR and EMPr was placed in the local library (Kriel Public Library).

#### 5.3.1.2 Registered Interested and Affected Parties

The following are currently registered as interested and affected parties for the Rietspruit Colliery II:

- Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mpumalanga Regional Office (Competent Authority),
- Water and Sanitation, Mpumalanga Regional Office (Commenting Authority)
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Mpumalanga Regional Office (Commenting Authority)
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (Commenting Authority)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (Commenting Authority)
- Ward 32 Councillor (eMalahleni Local Municipality)
- Rietspruit Colliery II, immediate land owners and lawful occupiers.

#### 5.3.1.3 Proof of Consultation

Proof of the above-mentioned consultation and results; thereof, will be included in the final BAR and EMPr.

#### 5.3.1.4 Finalisation of Interested and Affected Party Database

On expiry of registration period, the database of interested and affected parties will be finalised. All parties who indicated the interest of being registered as interested and affected parties will be added to the list of interested and affected parties.

Note: All organs of state, which had jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the proposed project and the competent authority were automatically registered interested and affected parties.

### **5.3.2 Draft Basic Assessment Report**

The draft BAR and EMPr is made available for comment to all relevant stakeholders during the above-mentioned registration phase of the proposed project's public participation process.

#### 5.3.2.1 Comments, Issues and Responses on the Draft Basic Assessment Report

The comments and issues raised by the interested and affected parties will be addressed and included in the final BAR and EMPr as prescribed by the DMRE.

## **5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES (BASELINE INFORMATION)**

### **5.4.1 Geology**

#### **5.4.1.1 Regional Geology**

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area falls within the Witbank Coalfield of the well-known Middle Ecca stage Coal Province. Several coalmines have been, or are operating within this coalfield.

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is situated in close proximity to current small- and large-scale operating collieries, which have an impressive history of exploration and mining activities, associated with them. The geology, sedimentary deposition and mineralogy of the coal seams within the Witbank Coalfield are well understood.

#### **Witbank Coalfield**

The Witbank coalfield extends over a distance of 180 km from Brakpan/Springs in the west to Belfast in the east and about 40 km in a north-south direction. The Witbank Coalfield includes the districts of Benoni, Nigel, Brakpan/Springs, Delmas, Dryden, Bronkhorstspuit, Kendal, Ogies, Witbank, Middelburg, Arnot and Belfast encompassing a surface area of approximately 7 200 km<sup>2</sup>. The Witbank Coalfield has a boundary with the Highveld coalfield to the south, the South Rand coalfields to the southwest and the Eastern Transvaal coalfield to the southeast.

The Witbank coalfield is the centre of the coal mining industry in South Africa. It has been mined since 1890 and is presently producing more than 50% of the South African coal production, and will remain of great importance for the economy for a considerable time.

The coal seams of the Witbank coalfield are at a shallow depth, with the lowest seam seldom reaching 100 metres in the deepest lying parts of the field. Due to erosion of the sediments, all that remains of the Karoo System in this area is that portion from the lower part of the Middle Ecca Stage to the Dwyka tillite. Within the Witbank coalfield, the Karoo System un-conformably overlays the Witwatersrand System, the Waterberg System and the Bushveld Igneous Complex.

The strata in which the coal seams occur consist predominantly of fine, medium and coarse-grained sandstone with subordinate mudstone, shale, siltstone and carbonaceous shale. Ideally there are seven coal seams with varying degrees of persistence numbered from below as No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 lower, No. 4 upper, No. 4 A and No. 5 Seams.

#### **Description and distribution of the coal seams within the Witbank sector.**

The coal seams in the Witbank Coalfield area mainly flat lying to gently undulating. The coal seam topography and aerial distribution are commonly controlled by pre-Karoo topography. Steep dips are encountered where seams abut against pre-Karoo hills. The distribution of some 7 of the coal seams (No. 4 and No. 5 coal seams) is largely limited by present-day surface topography.

The Karoo strata in the Witbank coalfield are virtually unfolded and have not been subjected to marked displacements, except where intersected by dolerites. Faults do occur in the coal seams and where faulting occurs it is usually associated with steeper dips on the flanks of pre-Karoo valleys or hollows. Dolerite intrusions, in a form of sills and dykes, have adversely affected the most areas of the coalfield.

Dykes are ubiquitous throughout the area, the main trends being east, north-east and north. The most prominent of all is the Ogies dyke, which has been traced on surface over a strike length of approximately 100 km. Two main dolerite sills are known in this coalfield i.e. non-porphyrific (attains thickness of up to 50 m) and porphyritic type (attains thickness of up to 15 m).

#### The No. 1 seam

This coal seam is the least important of the economically mineable coal seams. It is generally better developed in the northern and eastern parts of the coalfield. Elsewhere the coal seam is patchily developed and thin. The coal seam typically consists of lustrous to dull coal with local shaly sandstone partings giving rise to a local No. 1 Lower Seam.

#### The No. 2 seam

This coal seam contains approximately 70% of the Witbank coalfield and also contains some of the best quality coal. In the main central part of the coalfield, it attains an average thickness of 6.5 meters. In some areas of the coalfield the No. 2 coal seam commonly attains a thickness of approximately 8 meters. Thick sandstone parting occurs locally in the upper parts of the seam, splitting the seam into a No. 2 and a No. 2 Upper Seam.

The No. 2 coal seam consists of good quality low ash metallurgical coal and steam coal for export.

#### The No. 3 seam

The No. 3 coal is very thin usually less than 0.5 meters thick and has in the past been considered uneconomic. Although considered uneconomic it is locally of high quality and where it attains a thickness of 0.8 meters, it could represent an important opencast resource.

#### The No. 4 seam

This seam contributes about 26% to the coal resources of the Witbank coalfield. It varies in thickness from 2.5 metres in the central Witbank area to 6.5 metres elsewhere where it contains numerous shale and sandstone partings. In addition to the No. 4 seam, the coal zone generally contains a 4 Upper and 4A seam, neither of which is at present of economic importance due to thinness, sporadic development, and poor quality. This seam contains dull to dull lustrous coal.

#### The No. 5 seam

The No. 5 coal seam contributes only approximately 4% of the coal resources of the Witbank Coalfields. This coal seam has been largely eroded over large areas. It attains on average a thickness of 1.8 meters. The seam consists of mixed, mainly bright, banded coal, with thin shale and mudstone partings in a few localities. Figure 4 shows the Coal fields of South Africa.

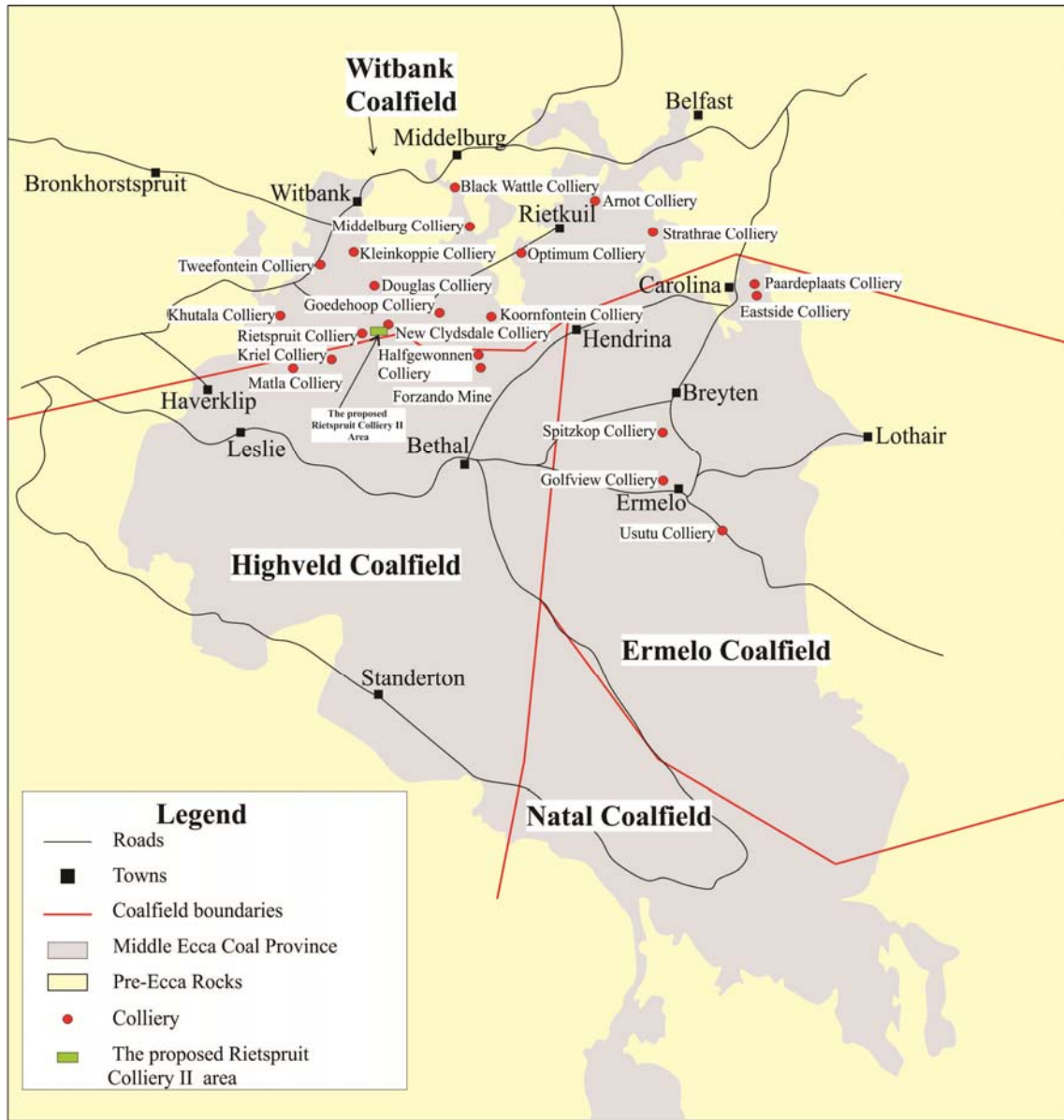


Figure 6: Coalfields associated with the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II

## 5.4.2 Climate

### 5.4.2.1 Mean Monthly Rainfall and Evaporation

Rietspruit Colliery II is within the summer rainfall region of South Africa, which is warm temperate, with cold dry winters and moderate summers. The summer rainfall is sporadic, with frequent thunderstorms, associated with high-intensity rainfall events. The mean annual precipitation of the site is 706 mm, with the high rainfall months between November and April. The mean annual evaporation of the site is 1700 mm (S-Pan). The monthly average rainfall, rainfall days, and evaporation rates are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Mean monthly rainfall, rain days and evaporation data for the site.

| Month              | Ave Rainfall (mm) | Ave rain days | Ave Evaporation (mm S-Pan) |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| January            | 136.1             | 10.4          | 187.0                      |
| February           | 95.6              | 7.3           | 155.9                      |
| March              | 81.6              | 6.8           | 153.9                      |
| April              | 40.6              | 4.2           | 118.3                      |
| May                | 17.6              | 2.0           | 99.6                       |
| June               | 9.0               | 0.9           | 80.9                       |
| July               | 6.4               | 0.8           | 88.6                       |
| August             | 8.9               | 1.1           | 117.3                      |
| September          | 22.4              | 2.6           | 152.0                      |
| October            | 73.6              | 7.0           | 183.3                      |
| November           | 119.3             | 9.6           | 172.9                      |
| December           | 119.4             | 9.6           | 190.4                      |
| <b>Mean Annual</b> | <b>705.8</b>      |               | <b>1700</b>                |

#### 5.4.2.2 Mean Monthly Temperature

The hottest months in the region have been measured from November to February, whilst the coldest months are June and July. The days during summer are generally warm, but a substantial drop in temperature occurs during the nights. The monthly average maximum and minimum temperatures as well as the monthly mean temperature are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Mean monthly temperature data for the site.

| Month     | Daily max. (°C) | Daily min. (°C) | Daily mean. (°C) |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| January   | 26.0            | 15.1            | 20.5             |
| February  | 27.5            | 14.7            | 21.1             |
| March     | 26.9            | 14.0            | 20.5             |
| April     | 24.6            | 11.0            | 17.8             |
| May       | 20.4            | 8.0             | 14.2             |
| June      | 19.4            | 5.0             | 12.2             |
| July      | 18.6            | 5.6             | 12.1             |
| August    | 21.3            | 6.0             | 13.6             |
| September | 22.7            | 8.6             | 15.6             |
| October   | 24.7            | 10.2            | 17.4             |
| November  | 25.7            | 14.3            | 20.0             |
| December  | 25.2            | 14.8            | 20.0             |

#### 5.4.3 Topography

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is situated at a height between 1540 and 1545 metres above mean sea level. See Figure 7 for a visual indication.



Figure 7: Topographic map of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II Area

#### 5.4.4 Soil

Rietspruit Colliery II consist out of red to yellow sandy soils of Ba and Bb land types found on shales and sandstones of Madzaringwe formation (Karoo Supergroup). Land types Bb (65%) and Ba (30%).

#### 5.4.5 Land Use

The land use of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area includes mainly grazing. The surrounding area is used for grazing and has a farm dam (Figure 6).



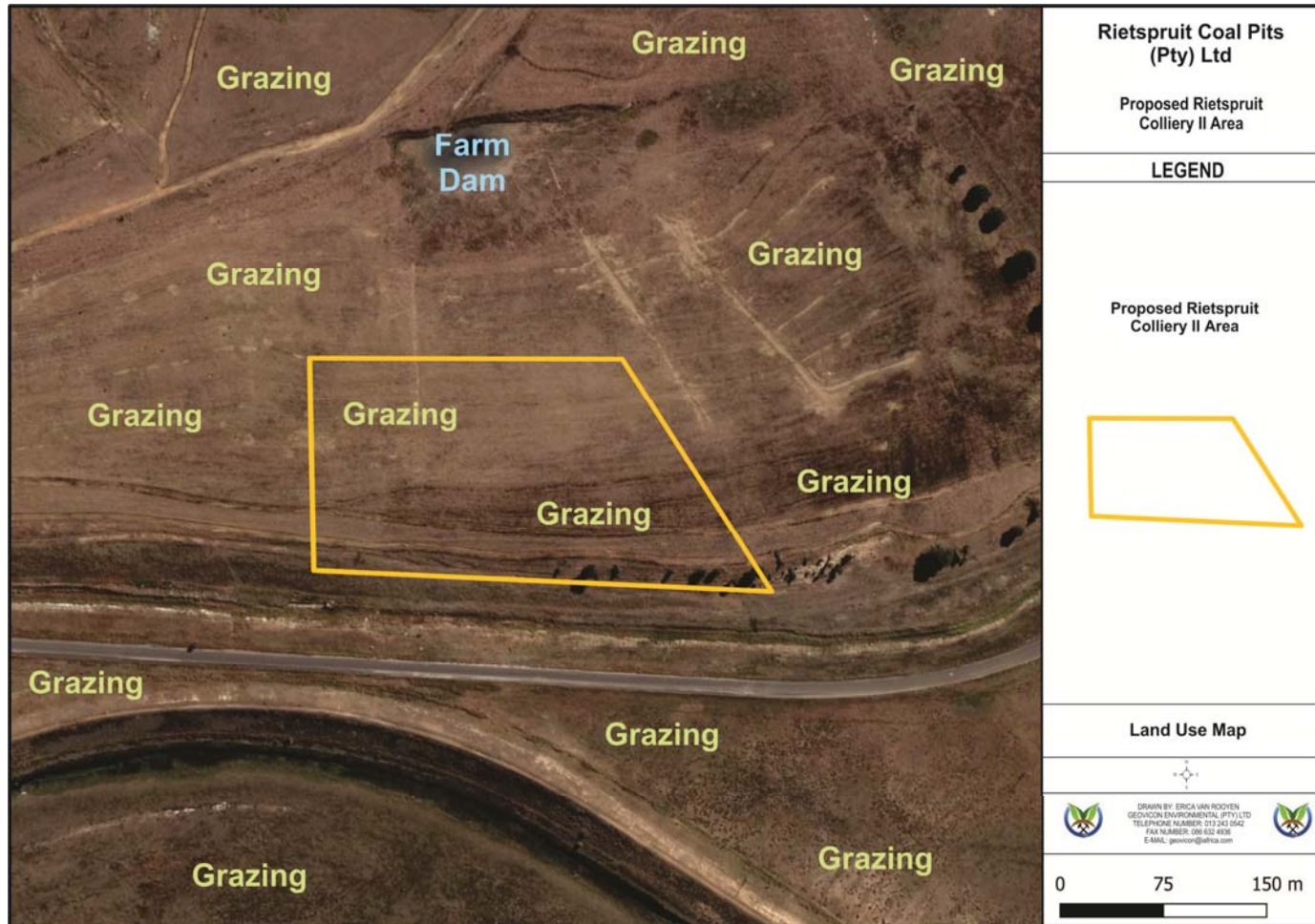


Figure 8: Current land Use Map for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II



#### 5.4.6 Natural Vegetation/Plant Life

Mucina et al., (2006), describes the vegetation unit or ecosystem associated with the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II Area as 'Eastern Highveld Grassland'.or Gm 12, which is situated in the Mesic Highveld Grassland Bioregion and the Grassland Biome of South Africa. Figure 7 provides a visual indication of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area in relation to the Eastern Highveld Grassland ecosystem or vegetation unit (South African National Biodiversity Institution (SANBI) VEGMAP 2018).

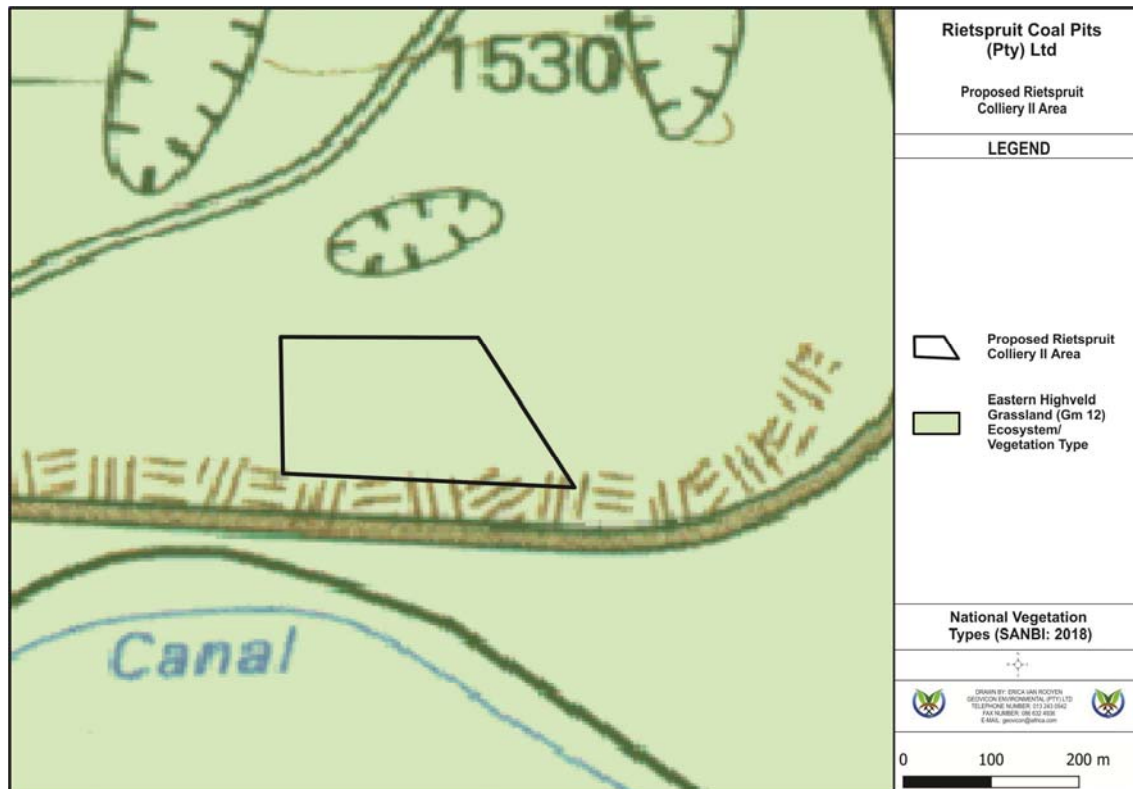


Figure 9: National vegetation unit/ ecosystem Map of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area

The Eastern Highveld Grassland (Gm 12) vegetation unit is endemic to Mpumalanga and Gauteng, where it occurs on slightly to moderately undulating plains with some low hills and pan depressions. The climate is temperate with strongly seasonal summer rainfall and very dry, cold winters.

According to Mucina et. al., (2006), within the or the Eastern Highveld Grassland (Gm 12 vegetation unit) the vegetation is short dense grassland dominated by the usual Highveld grasses that include *Aristida*, *Digitaria*, *Eragrostis*, *Themeda*, *Tristachya* and others with small, scattered rocky outcrops with wiry, sour grasses and some woody species such as *Senegalia caffra*, *Celtis Africana*, *Diospyros lycioides*, *Pirinari capensis*, *Protea caffra*, *P. welwitschii* and *Searsia megalismontanum*.

Table 6, below contains all of the flora species found within the Eastern Highveld Grassland vegetation type.

Table 6: Natural Vegetation representing the Eastern Highveld Grassland Vegetation Type ( Gm 12)

| <b>Graminoids (Grass like plants)</b> |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Aristida aequiglumis</i>           | Three-awn               |
| <i>Aristida congesta</i>              | Tassel three-awn        |
| <i>Aristida junciformis</i>           | Gongoni three-awn       |
| <i>Brachiaria serrata</i>             | Velvet signal grass     |
| <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>               | Couch grass             |
| <i>Digitaria monodactyla</i>          | One finger grass        |
| <i>Digitaria tricholaenoides</i>      | Purple finger grass     |
| <i>Elionurus muticus</i>              | Wire grass              |
| <i>Eragrostis chloromelas</i>         | Narrow curly leaf       |
| <i>Eragrostis curvula</i>             | Weeping love grass      |
| <i>Eragrostis plana</i>               | Tough love grass        |
| <i>Eragrostis racemosa</i>            | Narrow heart love grass |
| <i>Eragrostis sclerantha</i>          | Love grass              |
| <i>Heteropogon contortus</i>          | Spear grass             |
| <i>Loudetia simplex</i>               | Common russet grass     |
| <i>Microchloa caffra</i>              | Pincushion grass        |
| <i>Monocymbium ceresiiforme</i>       | Boat grass              |
| <i>Setaria sphacelata</i>             | Bristle grass           |
| <i>Sporobolus africanus</i>           | Ratstail dropseed       |
| <i>Sporobolus pectinatus</i>          | Dropseed                |
| <i>Themeda triandra</i>               | Red grass               |
| <i>Trachypogon spicatus</i>           | Giant spear grass       |
| <i>Tristachya leucothrix</i>          | Trident grass           |
| <i>Tristachya rehmannii</i>           | Trident grass           |
| <b>Herbs (Forbs, plants)</b>          |                         |
| <i>Berkheya setifera</i>              | Rasperdissedoring       |
| <i>Haplocarpa scaposa</i>             | Tonteldoosbossie        |
| <i>Justicia anagalloides</i>          | --                      |
| <i>Pelargonium luridum</i>            | --                      |
| <i>Acalypha angustata</i>             | Copper leaf             |
| <i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>        | Fishbone cassia         |
| <i>Dicoma anomala</i>                 | Maagbitterwortel        |
| <i>Euryops gilfillanii</i>            | --                      |
| <i>Euryops transvaalensis</i>         | --                      |
| <i>Helichrysum aureonitens</i>        | --                      |
| <i>Helichrysum caespititium</i>       | Speelwonderboom         |
| <i>Helichrysum calicomum</i>          | --                      |
| <i>Helichrysum oreophilum</i>         | --                      |
| <i>Helichrysum rugulosum</i>          | --                      |
| <i>Ipomoea crassipes</i>              | --                      |
| <b>Geophytic herbs</b>                |                         |
| <i>Gladiolus crassifolius</i>         | --                      |
| <i>Haemanthus humilis</i>             | --                      |
| <i>Hypoxis rigidula</i>               | Kaffertulp              |
| <i>Ledebouria ovatifolia</i>          | --                      |

| Succulent herbs             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Aloe ecklonis</i>        | Ecklone's aloe |
| Low shrubs                  |                |
| <i>Anthospermum rigidum</i> | --             |
| <i>Stoebe plumose</i>       | --             |

#### 5.4.7 Animal life

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is situated over the Eastern Highveld Grassland (Gm 12) vegetation unit/ ecosystem type as mentioned above. This ecosystem serves as habitat for a variety of animals. In accordance with the above-mentioned land uses (section 5.2.4), certain species can occur within and in the surrounding areas of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area. Lists of animal species indicated in the tables below have been obtained from the web-accessible Virtual Museum of the Animal Demography Unit. The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is situated within the 2629AA quarter degree square grid. The tables below represent the occurrence of animal species found within the perimeters of the 2629AA quarter degree square grid and is not restricted to the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area.

Table 7: List of Mammal species that occur in the 2629AA quarter degree square grid ( Mammal Map, Animal Demographic Unit)

| # | Species code | Family       | Scientific name                        | Common name                  | Red list category             |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 151492       | Bathyergidae | <i>Cryptomys hottentotus pretoriae</i> |                              |                               |
| 2 | 212030       | Bovidae      | <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>           | Blue Wildebeest              | Least Concern (ver 3.1, 2017) |
| 3 | 192040       | Felidae      | <i>Felis nigripes</i>                  | Black-footed Cat             | Vulnerable (2016)             |
| 4 | 192800       | Felidae      | <i>Leptailurus serval</i>              | Serval                       | Near Threatened (2016)        |
| 5 | 196100       | Herpestidae  | <i>Cynictis penicillata</i>            | Yellow Mongoose              | Least Concern (2016)          |
| 6 | 147490       | Muridae      | <i>Mastomys coucha</i>                 | Southern African Mastomys    | Least Concern (2016)          |
| 7 | 150360       | Muridae      | <i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>               | Xeric Four-striped Grass Rat | Least Concern (2016)          |

Table 8: List of Reptile species that occur in the 2629AA quarter degree square grid( Reptile Map, Animal Demographic Unit)

| # | Species | Family | Scientific name | Common name | Red list |
|---|---------|--------|-----------------|-------------|----------|
|---|---------|--------|-----------------|-------------|----------|

|    | code |                  |  |                              | category                   |
|----|------|------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1  | 4560 | Colubridae       | <i>Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia</i>           | Red-lipped Snake             | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 2  | 5260 | Elapidae         | <i>Hemachatus haemachatus</i>              | Rinkhals                     | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 3  | 490  | Gekkonidae       | <i>Pachydactylus capensis</i>              | Cape Gecko                   | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 4  | 4130 | Lamprophiidae    | <i>Aparallactus capensis</i>               | Black-headed Centipede-eater | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 5  | 4380 | Lamprophiidae    | <i>Lycodonomorphus rufulus</i>             | Brown Water Snake            | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 6  | 4910 | Lamprophiidae    | <i>Psammophis brevirostris</i>             | Short-snouted Grass Snake    | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 7  | 4021 | Leptotyphlopidae | <i>Leptotyphlops scutifrons conjunctus</i> | Eastern Thread Snake         |                            |
| 8  | 2000 | Scincidae        | <i>Acontias gracilicauda</i>               | Thin-tailed Legless Skink    | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 9  | 2450 | Scincidae        | <i>Trachylepis punctatissima</i>           | Speckled Rock Skink          | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |
| 10 | 3910 | Typhlopidae      | <i>Afrotiphlops bibronii</i>               | Bibron's Blind Snake         | Least Concern (SARCA 2014) |

Table 9: List of Frog species that occur in the 2629AA quarter degree square grid( Frog Map, Animal Demographic Unit)

| # | Species code | Family         | Scientific name               | Common name            | Red list category          |
|---|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 370          | Bufonidae      | <i>Sclerophrys capensis</i>   | Raucous Toad           | Least Concern              |
| 2 | 330          | Bufonidae      | <i>Sclerophrys gutturalis</i> | Guttural Toad          | Least Concern (IUCN, 2016) |
| 3 | 660          | Hyperoliidae   | <i>Kassina senegalensis</i>   | Bubbling Kassina       | Least Concern              |
| 4 | 920          | Hyperoliidae   | <i>Semnodactylus wealii</i>   | Rattling Frog          | Least Concern              |
| 5 | 1050         | Pipidae        | <i>Xenopus laevis</i>         | Common Platanna        | Least Concern              |
| 6 | 880          | Pyxicephalidae | <i>Amietia delalandii</i>     | Delalande's River Frog | Least Concern (2017)       |

| #  | Species code | Family         | Scientific name               | Common name         | Red list category    |
|----|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 7  | 890          | Pyxicephalidae | <i>Amietia fuscigula</i>      | Cape River Frog     | Least Concern (2017) |
| 8  | 400          | Pyxicephalidae | <i>Cacosternum boettgeri</i>  | Common Caco         | Least Concern (2013) |
| 9  | 850          | Pyxicephalidae | <i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i> | Giant Bull Frog     | Near Threatened      |
| 10 | 940          | Pyxicephalidae | <i>Strongylopus fasciatus</i> | Striped Stream Frog | Least Concern        |
| 11 | 1030         | Pyxicephalidae | <i>Tomopterna natalensis</i>  | Natal Sand Frog     | Least Concern        |

Table 10: List of Butterfly and Moth species that occur in the 2629AA quarter degree square grid ( Lepi Map, Animal Demographic Unit)

| # | Species code | Family      | Scientific name          | Common name       | Red list category          |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 471640       | HESPERIIDAE | <i>Metisella meninx</i>  | Marsh sylph       | Least Concern (SABCA 2013) |
| 2 | 464050       | LYCAENIDAE  | <i>Leptotes pirthous</i> | Common zebra blue | Least Concern (SABCA 2013) |

Table 11: List of Damselflies and Dragonflies that occur in the 2629AA quarter degree square grid ( Odonata Map, Animal Demographic Unit)

| # | Species code | Family         | Scientific name                | Common name                | Red list category |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 664120       | Aeshnidae      | <i>Anax ephippiger</i>         | Vagrant Emperor            | LC                |
| 2 | 664510       | Aeshnidae      | <i>Zosteraeschna minuscula</i> | Friendly Hawker            | LC                |
| 3 | 662330       | Coenagrionidae | <i>Africallagma glaucum</i>    | Swamp Bluet                | LC                |
| 4 | 663100       | Coenagrionidae | <i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>   | Tropical Bluetail          | LC                |
| 5 | 663260       | Coenagrionidae | <i>Pseudagrion citricola</i>   | Yellow-faced Sprite        | LC                |
| 6 | 667130       | Libellulidae   | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>   | Broad Scarlet              | LC                |
| 7 | 668120       | Libellulidae   | <i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>     | Long Skimmer               | LC                |
| 8 | 668420       | Libellulidae   | <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>  | Red-veined Darter or Nomad | LC                |
| 9 | 668620       | Libellulidae   | <i>Tramea basilaris</i>        | Keyhole Glider             | LC                |

| #  | Species code | Family       | Scientific name           | Common name     | Red list category |
|----|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 10 | 669080       | Libellulidae | <i>Trithemis stictica</i> | Jaunty Dropwing | LC                |

The bird species that occur within the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area has been obtained through the South African Bird Atlas Project version 2 web-based application where the area is situated over pentads. With regards to the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area the pentad id for the area is 2610\_2910).

Table 12: List of Bird species that occur in the 2610-2910 ADU Pentad

| Reference | Common_group | Common_species        | Genus                 | Species                | Status          |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 4         | Grebe        | Great Crested         | <i>Podiceps</i>       | <i>cristatus</i>       |                 |
| 5         | Grebe        | Black-necked          | <i>Podiceps</i>       | <i>nigricollis</i>     |                 |
| 6         | Grebe        | Little                | <i>Tachybaptus</i>    | <i>ruficollis</i>      |                 |
| 47        | Cormorant    | White-breasted        | <i>Phalacrocorax</i>  | <i>lucidus</i>         |                 |
| 50        | Cormorant    | Reed                  | <i>Microcarbo</i>     | <i>africanus</i>       |                 |
| 52        | Darter       | African               | <i>Anhinga</i>        | <i>rufa</i>            |                 |
| 54        | Heron        | Grey                  | <i>Ardea</i>          | <i>cinerea</i>         |                 |
| 55        | Heron        | Black-headed          | <i>Ardea</i>          | <i>melanocephala</i>   |                 |
| 57        | Heron        | Purple                | <i>Ardea</i>          | <i>purpurea</i>        |                 |
| 58        | Egret        | Great                 | <i>Ardea</i>          | <i>alba</i>            |                 |
| 59        | Egret        | Little                | <i>Egretta</i>        | <i>garzetta</i>        |                 |
| 60        | Egret        | Intermediate          | <i>Ardea</i>          | <i>intermedia</i>      |                 |
| 61        | Egret        | Western Cattle        | <i>Bubulcus</i>       | <i>ibis</i>            |                 |
| 62        | Heron        | Squacco               | <i>Ardeola</i>        | <i>ralloides</i>       |                 |
| 67        | Bittern      | Little                | <i>Ixobrychus</i>     | <i>minutus</i>         |                 |
| 72        |              | Hamerkop              | <i>Scopus</i>         | <i>umbretta</i>        |                 |
| 81        | Ibis         | African Sacred        | <i>Threskiornis</i>   | <i>aethiopicus</i>     |                 |
| 82        | Ibis         | Southern Bald         | <i>Geronticus</i>     | <i>calvus</i>          | Vulnerable      |
| 83        | Ibis         | Glossy                | <i>Plegadis</i>       | <i>falcinellus</i>     |                 |
| 84        | Ibis         | Hadada                | <i>Bostrychia</i>     | <i>hagedash</i>        |                 |
| 86        | Flamingo     | Greater               | <i>Phoenicopterus</i> | <i>roseus</i>          | Near Threatened |
| 88        | Goose        | Spur-winged           | <i>Plectropterus</i>  | <i>gambensis</i>       |                 |
| 89        | Goose        | Egyptian              | <i>Alopochen</i>      | <i>aegyptiaca</i>      |                 |
| 90        | Shelduck     | South African         | <i>Tadorna</i>        | <i>cana</i>            |                 |
| 94        | Shoveler     | Cape                  | <i>Spatula</i>        | <i>smithii</i>         |                 |
| 96        | Duck         | Yellow-billed         | <i>Anas</i>           | <i>undulata</i>        |                 |
| 97        | Teal         | Red-billed            | <i>Anas</i>           | <i>erythrorhyncha</i>  |                 |
| 98        | Teal         | Cape                  | <i>Anas</i>           | <i>capensis</i>        |                 |
| 100       | Duck         | White-faced Whistling | <i>Dendrocygna</i>    | <i>viduata</i>         |                 |
| 101       | Duck         | Fulvous Whistling     | <i>Dendrocygna</i>    | <i>bicolor</i>         |                 |
| 102       | Pochard      | Southern              | <i>Netta</i>          | <i>erythrophthalma</i> |                 |

| Reference | Common_group | Common_species  | Genus                  | Species                 | Status |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| 103       | Duck         | Maccoa          | <i>Oxyura</i>          | <i>maccoa</i>           |        |
| 104       | Duck         | White-backed    | <i>Thalassornis</i>    | <i>leuconotus</i>       |        |
| 119       | Falcon       | Amur            | <i>Falco</i>           | <i>amurensis</i>        |        |
| 130       | Kite         | Black-winged    | <i>Elanus</i>          | <i>caeruleus</i>        |        |
| 138       | Eagle        | Long-crested    | <i>Lophaetus</i>       | <i>occipitalis</i>      |        |
| 149       | Eagle        | African Fish    | <i>Haliaeetus</i>      | <i>vocifer</i>          |        |
| 154       | Buzzard      | Common          | <i>Buteo</i>           | <i>buteo</i>            |        |
| 157       | Sparrowhawk  | Ovambo          | <i>Accipiter</i>       | <i>ovampensis</i>       |        |
| 167       | Harrier      | African Marsh   | <i>Circus</i>          | <i>ranivorus</i>        |        |
| 179       | Francolin    | Orange River    | <i>Scleroptila</i>     | <i>gutturalis</i>       |        |
| 185       | Spurfowl     | Swainson's      | <i>Pternistis</i>      | <i>swainsonii</i>       |        |
| 189       | Quail        | Common          | <i>Coturnix</i>        | <i>coturnix</i>         |        |
| 192       | Guineafowl   | Helmeted        | <i>Numida</i>          | <i>meleagris</i>        |        |
| 197       | Rail         | African         | <i>Rallus</i>          | <i>caerulescens</i>     |        |
| 205       | Flufftail    | Red-chested     | <i>Sarothrura</i>      | <i>rufa</i>             |        |
| 208       | Swamphen     | African         | <i>Porphyrio</i>       | <i>madagascariensis</i> |        |
| 210       | Moorhen      | Common          | <i>Gallinula</i>       | <i>chloropus</i>        |        |
| 212       | Coot         | Red-knobbed     | <i>Fulica</i>          | <i>cristata</i>         |        |
| 237       | Plover       | Kittlitz's      | <i>Charadrius</i>      | <i>pecuarius</i>        |        |
| 238       | Plover       | Three-banded    | <i>Charadrius</i>      | <i>tricoloris</i>       |        |
| 242       | Lapwing      | Crowned         | <i>Vanellus</i>        | <i>coronatus</i>        |        |
| 245       | Lapwing      | Blacksmith      | <i>Vanellus</i>        | <i>armatus</i>          |        |
| 247       | Lapwing      | African Wattled | <i>Vanellus</i>        | <i>senegallus</i>       |        |
| 250       | Snipe        | African         | <i>Gallinago</i>       | <i>nigripennis</i>      |        |
| 251       | Sandpiper    | Curlew          | <i>Calidris</i>        | <i>ferruginea</i>       |        |
| 253       | Stint        | Little          | <i>Calidris</i>        | <i>minuta</i>           |        |
| 256       |              | Ruff            | <i>Calidris</i>        | <i>pugnax</i>           |        |
| 262       | Sandpiper    | Marsh           | <i>Tringa</i>          | <i>stagnatilis</i>      |        |
| 263       | Greenshank   | Common          | <i>Tringa</i>          | <i>nebularia</i>        |        |
| 264       | Sandpiper    | Wood            | <i>Tringa</i>          | <i>glareola</i>         |        |
| 269       | Avocet       | Pied            | <i>Recurvirostra</i>   | <i>avosetta</i>         |        |
| 270       | Stilt        | Black-winged    | <i>Himantopus</i>      | <i>himantopus</i>       |        |
| 275       | Thick-knee   | Spotted         | <i>Burhinus</i>        | <i>capensis</i>         |        |
| 282       | Pratincole   | Black-winged    | <i>Glareola</i>        | <i>nordmanni</i>        |        |
| 288       | Gull         | Grey-headed     | <i>Chroicocephalus</i> | <i>cirrocephalus</i>    |        |
| 305       | Tern         | Whiskered       | <i>Chlidonias</i>      | <i>hybrida</i>          |        |
| 311       | Pigeon       | Speckled        | <i>Columba</i>         | <i>guinea</i>           |        |
| 314       | Dove         | Red-eyed        | <i>Streptopelia</i>    | <i>semitorquata</i>     |        |
| 316       | Dove         | Cape Turtle     | <i>Streptopelia</i>    | <i>capicola</i>         |        |
| 317       | Dove         | Laughing        | <i>Spilopelia</i>      | <i>senegalensis</i>     |        |
| 318       | Dove         | Namaqua         | <i>Oena</i>            | <i>capensis</i>         |        |
| 352       | Cuckoo       | Diederik        | <i>Chrysococcyx</i>    | <i>caprius</i>          |        |

| Reference | Common_group | Common_species      | Genus                | Species               | Status     |
|-----------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 359       | Owl          | Western Barn        | <i>Tyto</i>          | <i>alba</i>           |            |
| 360       | Owl          | African Grass       | <i>Tyto</i>          | <i>capensis</i>       | Vulnerable |
| 361       | Owl          | Marsh               | <i>Asio</i>          | <i>capensis</i>       |            |
| 383       | Swift        | White-rumped        | <i>Apus</i>          | <i>caffer</i>         |            |
| 385       | Swift        | Little              | <i>Apus</i>          | <i>affinis</i>        |            |
| 387       | Swift        | African Palm        | <i>Cypsiurus</i>     | <i>parvus</i>         |            |
| 390       | Mousebird    | Speckled            | <i>Colius</i>        | <i>striatus</i>       |            |
| 394       | Kingfisher   | Pied                | <i>Ceryle</i>        | <i>rudis</i>          |            |
| 397       | Kingfisher   | Malachite           | <i>Corythornis</i>   | <i>cristatus</i>      |            |
| 431       | Barbet       | Black-collared      | <i>Lybius</i>        | <i>torquatus</i>      |            |
| 488       | Lark         | Red-capped          | <i>Calandrella</i>   | <i>cinerea</i>        |            |
| 493       | Swallow      | Barn                | <i>Hirundo</i>       | <i>rustica</i>        |            |
| 495       | Swallow      | White-throated      | <i>Hirundo</i>       | <i>albigularis</i>    |            |
| 502       | Swallow      | Greater Striped     | <i>Cecropis</i>      | <i>cucullata</i>      |            |
| 504       | Swallow      | South African Cliff | <i>Petrochelidon</i> | <i>spilodera</i>      |            |
| 506       | Martin       | Rock                | <i>Ptyonoprogne</i>  | <i>fuligula</i>       |            |
| 509       | Martin       | Brown-throated      | <i>Riparia</i>       | <i>paludicola</i>     |            |
| 510       | Martin       | Banded              | <i>Riparia</i>       | <i>cincta</i>         |            |
| 545       | Bulbul       | Dark-capped         | <i>Pycnonotus</i>    | <i>tricolor</i>       |            |
| 568       | Wheatear     | Capped              | <i>Oenanthe</i>      | <i>pileata</i>        |            |
| 575       | Chat         | Ant-eating          | <i>Myrmecocichla</i> | <i>formicivora</i>    |            |
| 576       | Stonechat    | African             | <i>Saxicola</i>      | <i>torquatus</i>      |            |
| 581       | Robin-Chat   | Cape                | <i>Cossypha</i>      | <i>caffra</i>         |            |
| 599       | Warbler      | Willow              | <i>Phylloscopus</i>  | <i>trochilus</i>      |            |
| 604       | Warbler      | Lesser Swamp        | <i>Acrocephalus</i>  | <i>gracilirostris</i> |            |
| 606       | Warbler      | African Reed        | <i>Acrocephalus</i>  | <i>baeticatus</i>     |            |
| 609       | Warbler      | Little Rush         | <i>Bradypterus</i>   | <i>baboecala</i>      |            |
| 629       | Cisticola    | Zitting             | <i>Cisticola</i>     | <i>juncidis</i>       |            |
| 631       | Cisticola    | Cloud               | <i>Cisticola</i>     | <i>textrix</i>        |            |
| 634       | Cisticola    | Wing-snapping       | <i>Cisticola</i>     | <i>ayresii</i>        |            |
| 635       | Cisticola    | Pale-crowned        | <i>Cisticola</i>     | <i>cinnamomeus</i>    |            |
| 637       |              | Neddicky            | <i>Cisticola</i>     | <i>fulvicapilla</i>   |            |
| 646       | Cisticola    | Levaillant's        | <i>Cisticola</i>     | <i>tinniens</i>       |            |
| 649       | Prinia       | Tawny-flanked       | <i>Prinia</i>        | <i>subflava</i>       |            |
| 650       | Prinia       | Black-chested       | <i>Prinia</i>        | <i>flavicans</i>      |            |
| 686       | Wagtail      | Cape                | <i>Motacilla</i>     | <i>capensis</i>       |            |
| 692       | Pipit        | African             | <i>Anthus</i>        | <i>cinnamomeus</i>    |            |
| 694       | Pipit        | Plain-backed        | <i>Anthus</i>        | <i>leucophrys</i>     |            |
| 703       | Longclaw     | Cape                | <i>Macronyx</i>      | <i>capensis</i>       |            |
| 707       | Fiscal       | Southern            | <i>Lanius</i>        | <i>collaris</i>       |            |
| 708       | Shrike       | Red-backed          | <i>Lanius</i>        | <i>collurio</i>       |            |
| 734       | Myna         | Common              | <i>Acridotheres</i>  | <i>tristis</i>        |            |



| Reference | Common_group | Common_species       | Genus               | Species            | Status |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 737       | Starling     | Cape                 | <i>Lamprotornis</i> | <i>nitens</i>      |        |
| 746       | Starling     | Pied                 | <i>Lamprotornis</i> | <i>bicolor</i>     |        |
| 751       | Sunbird      | Malachite            | <i>Nectarinia</i>   | <i>famosa</i>      |        |
| 784       | Sparrow      | House                | <i>Passer</i>       | <i>domesticus</i>  |        |
| 786       | Sparrow      | Cape                 | <i>Passer</i>       | <i>melanurus</i>   |        |
| 803       | Weaver       | Southern Masked      | <i>Ploceus</i>      | <i>velatus</i>     |        |
| 805       | Quelea       | Red-billed           | <i>Quelea</i>       | <i>quelea</i>      |        |
| 808       | Bishop       | Southern Red         | <i>Euplectes</i>    | <i>orix</i>        |        |
| 812       | Bishop       | Yellow-crowned       | <i>Euplectes</i>    | <i>afer</i>        |        |
| 814       | Widowbird    | White-winged         | <i>Euplectes</i>    | <i>albonotatus</i> |        |
| 816       | Widowbird    | Fan-tailed           | <i>Euplectes</i>    | <i>axillaris</i>   |        |
| 818       | Widowbird    | Long-tailed          | <i>Euplectes</i>    | <i>progne</i>      |        |
| 838       | Waxbill      | Orange-breasted      | <i>Amandava</i>     | <i>subflava</i>    |        |
| 843       | Waxbill      | Common               | <i>Estrilda</i>     | <i>astrild</i>     |        |
| 844       |              | Quailfinch           | <i>Ortygospiza</i>  | <i>atricollis</i>  |        |
| 846       | Whydah       | Pin-tailed           | <i>Vidua</i>        | <i>macroura</i>    |        |
| 860       | Canary       | Black-throated       | <i>Crithagra</i>    | <i>atrogularis</i> |        |
| 940       | Dove         | Rock                 | <i>Columba</i>      | <i>livia</i>       |        |
| 1104      | Thrush       | Karoo                | <i>Turdus</i>       | <i>smithi</i>      |        |
| 4142      | Sparrow      | Southern Grey-headed | <i>Passer</i>       | <i>diffusus</i>    |        |

#### 5.4.8 Surface Water

In terms of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry demarcations, Rietspruit Colliery II is situated in the Upper Olifants Sub-Catchment Area of the Olifants Water Management area (WMA), in quaternary catchment B11E. (Figure 11). The Steenkoolspruit flows in a northern direction, east of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area which drains into the Olifants River.

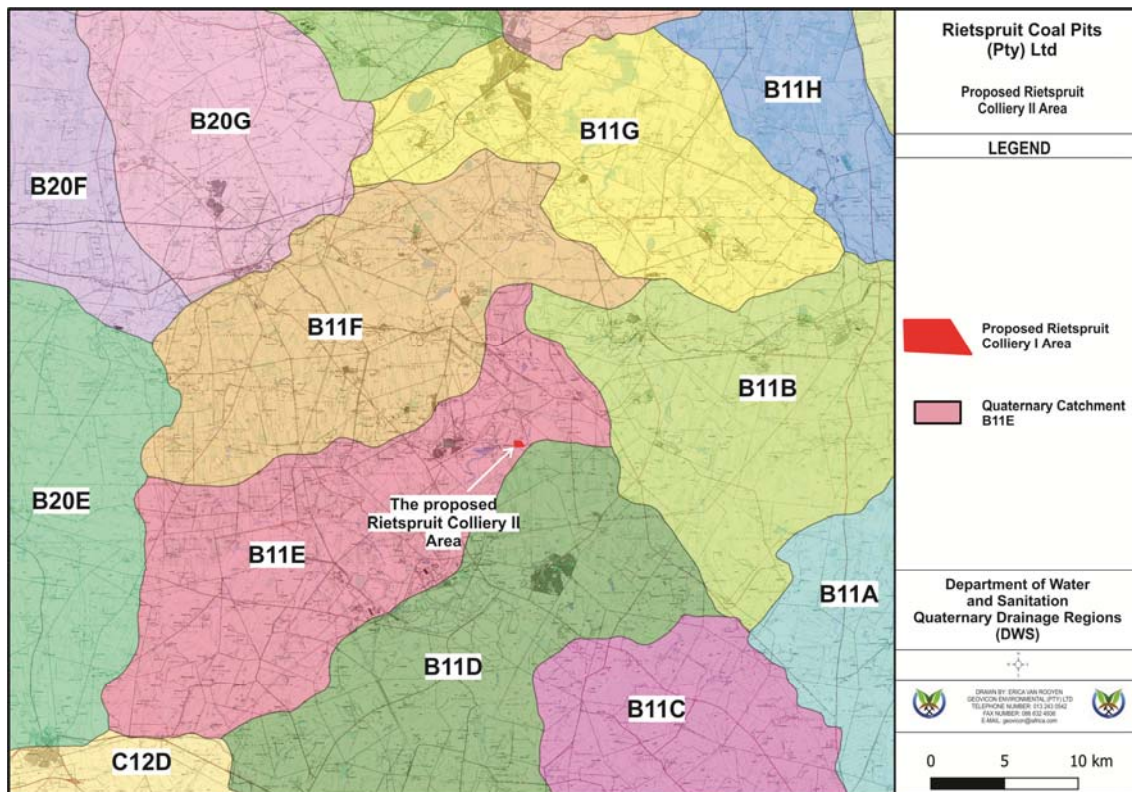


Figure 10: Quaternary Catchments in relation to the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area

Table 13: Summary of the attributes of the B11E quaternary catchment

| B11E                            |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Drains into                     | Olifants River |
| Size in km <sup>2</sup>         | 470            |
| Mean annual precipitation (mm)  | 682            |
| Evaporation (mm)                | 2043,30        |
| Mean annual surface runoff (mm) | 51,40          |

#### 5.4.9 Groundwater

According to the 1:500 000 General Hydrogeological Map2 the Karoo Supergroup sediments typically act as secondary aquifers (intergranular and fractured rock aquifers). However, the multi-layered weathering system present on these rocks could prove to have up to two aquifer systems present in the form of a shallow, regolith aquifer with a weathered, intergranular soft rock base associated with

the contact of fresh bedrock and the weathering zone; and a fractured bedrock aquifer. These aquifer systems are discussed below.

#### 5.4.9.1 Groundwater Aquifer Description

##### **Shallow, regolithic aquifer**

The main source of recharge into the shallow aquifer is rainfall that infiltrates the aquifer through the unsaturated (vadose) zone. Vertical movement of water is faster than lateral movement in this system as water moves predominantly under the influence of gravity. The near surface weathered zone is comprised of transported colluvium and in-situ weathered sediments and is underlain by consolidated sedimentary rocks. Vertical movement of water is faster than lateral movement in this system as water moves predominantly under the influence of gravity. Groundwater flow patterns usually follow the topography, often coming very close to surface in topographic lows, sometimes even forming natural springs. Experience of sedimentary hydrogeology indicates that recharge to the perched groundwater aquifer is relatively high, up to 3% of the Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP).

##### **Fractured, bedrock aquifer**

The host geology of the area consists of consolidated sediments of the Karoo Supergroup and consists mainly of sandstone, shale and coal beds of the Eccca Group. Groundwater movement is predominantly associated with secondary structures in this aquifer (fractures, faults, dykes, etc.). The average water level depth in the area ranges between 5 and 25mbgl. Borehole yields in the Vryheid Formation, Selons River and Dwyka aquifers are generally low and can be expected to be less than 2 l/s. Groundwater quality in the area is also expected to be intermediate to excellent with EC values ranging from 34 to 57mS/m.

Both the porosity and the hydraulic conductivity of the Eccca Group fractured aquifers are known to be low. The commonly expected values of porosity and permeability for the rock types present in the site area, are 0 – 30% (porosity) and 10<sup>-7</sup> – 1 m.d<sup>-1</sup> (hydraulic conductivity) respectively (Kruseman and de Ridder, 1994). Movement of groundwater in this aquifer will be preferential in secondary structures such as joints, faults and fractures.

##### **Aquifers associated with dolerite intrusives**

Dolerite intrusions in the form of dykes and sills are often encountered in these aquifers. These intrusions can serve both as aquifers and aquifuges. Thick, unbroken dykes inhibit the flow of water perpendicular to the dykes, forming (leaky) compartments in most instances. In contrast, the baked and cracked contact zones is normally highly conductive parallel to the dykes and these effectively interconnect the strata of the sediments both vertically and horizontally into a single aquifer, though highly heterogeneous and anisotropic unit on the scale of mining. These structures thus tend to dominate the flow of groundwater in fractured aquifers. Unfortunately, their location and properties are rather unpredictable and expensive to define in sufficient detail. Their influence on the flow of groundwater is thus incorporated by using higher than usual flow parameters for the sedimentary rocks of the aquifer.

#### **5.4.10 Sensitive Landscapes**

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd recognises that all streams and wetlands should be treated as sensitive landscapes. Sensitive landscapes include vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered ecosystems; all water courses and wetland areas. Sensitive areas also include all critical biodiversity

areas, ecological support areas; South African conservation areas, South African protected areas; and strategic water resource areas. To this extent, Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Ltd an independent consultant, undertook a desktop study over the Rietspruit Colliery II area to determine the presence of sensitive landscapes. See the National Environmental Web Based Screening tool report that has been attached as **Appendix E**.

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is situated in Eastern Highveld Grassland vegetation unit (Gm 12) / ecosystem is where the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II is located within the Mesic Highveld Grassland Bioregion of the Grassland Biome.

Figure 11 below shows the threatened ecosystems that are associated with the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area, the Ecosystem is seen as a vulnerable ecosystem which may have a high risk in undergoing significant degradation of ecological structure, function or composition due to human intervention are regarded as vulnerable ecosystems since these ecosystems are threatened, although these ecosystems are not critically endangered or endangered (Government Notice 1002, Government Gazette No. 34809 9 December 2011).

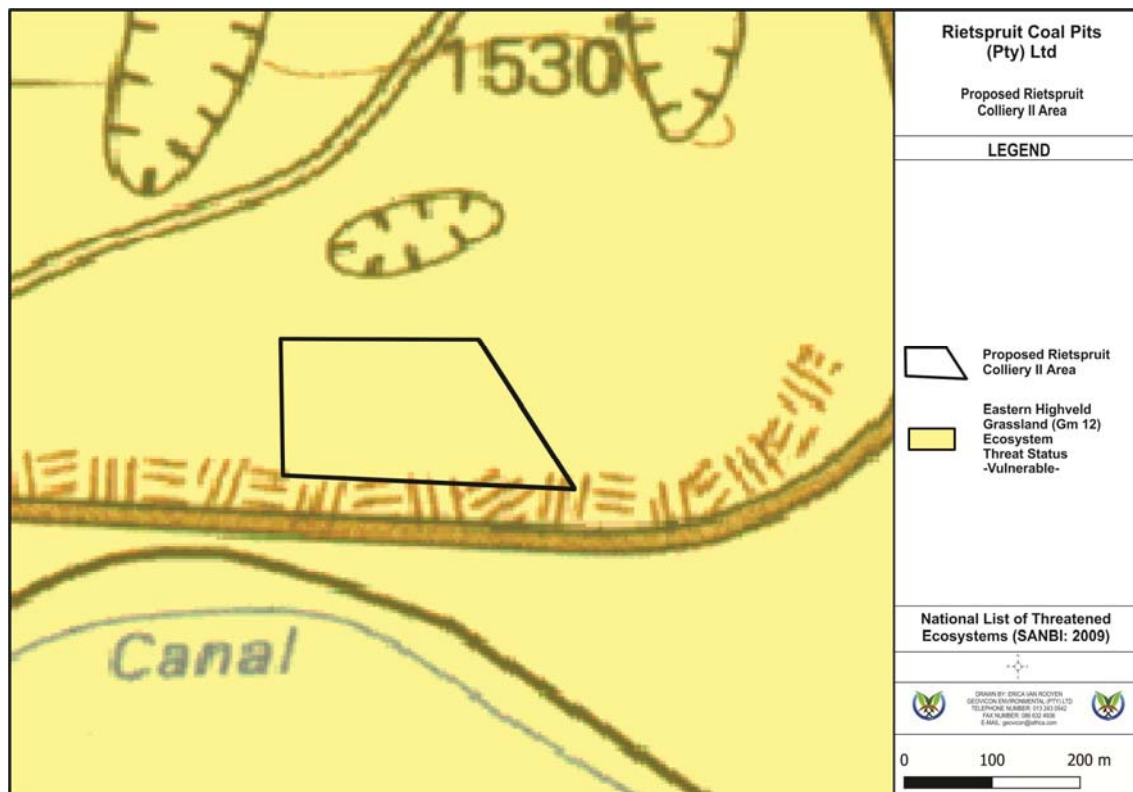


Figure 11: Threatened Ecosystems (SANBI) in the vicinity of Rietspruit Colliery II

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is not situated in the vicinity of any River - National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area or in any Strategic Water Source area of South Africa.

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is situated in the vicinity of a pan/ depression wetland and a channelled valley bottom wetland National Wetland area (Figure 10).

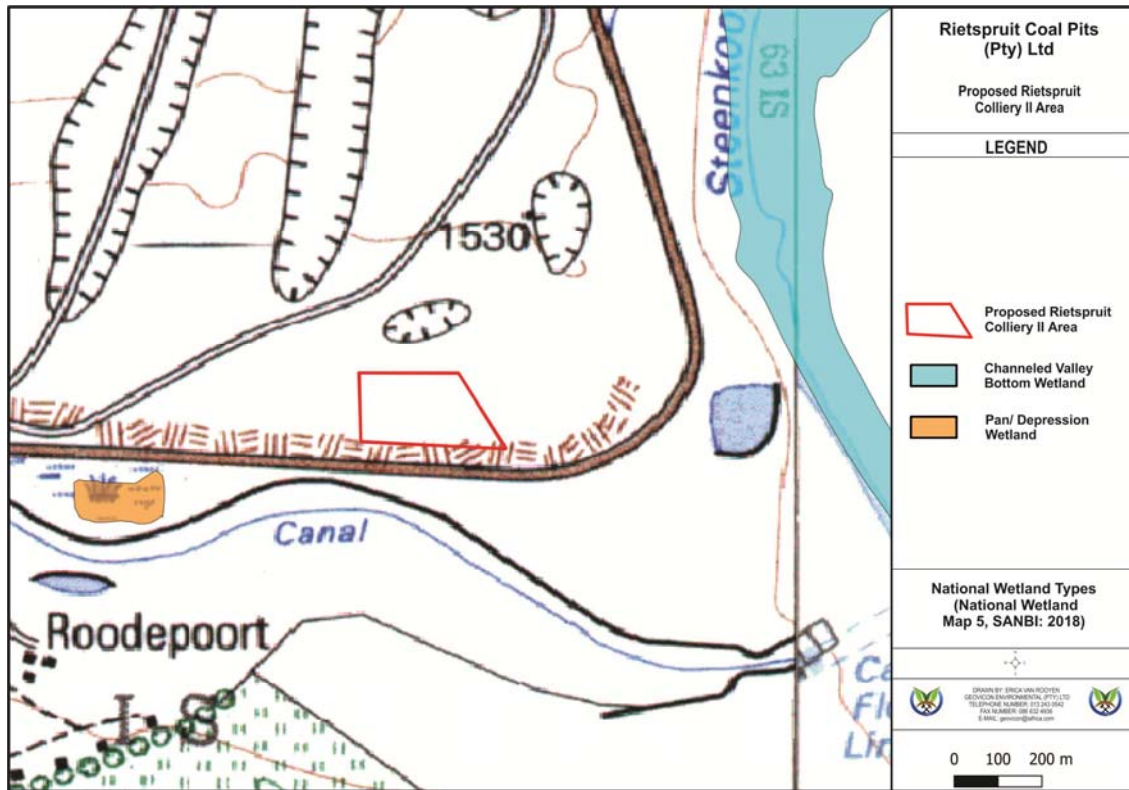


Figure 12: National Wetland Types in relation to the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II.

The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area falls into the Mesic Highveld Grassland Group 4 wetland vegetation type (SANBI). See Figure 13 for a visual indication of the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area in relation to the Mesic Highveld Grassland Group 4 wetland vegetation type/ ecosystem.

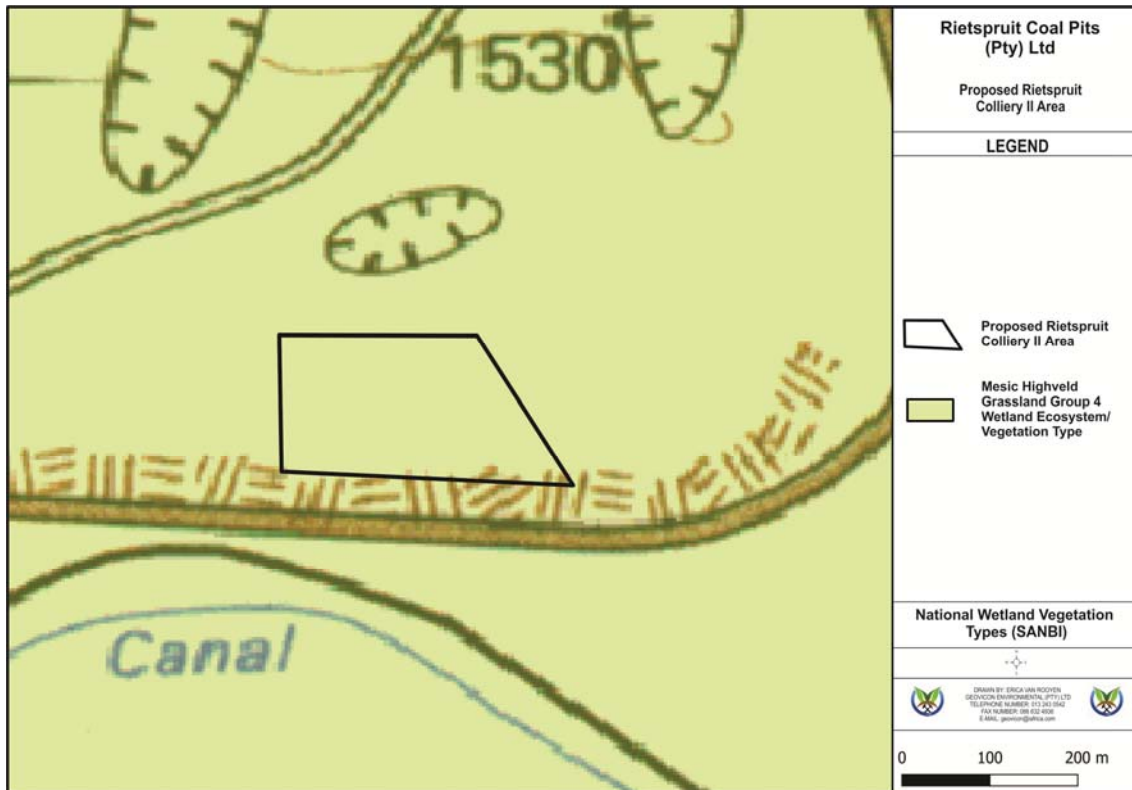


Figure 13: National Wetland Vegetation types in the vicinity of the Rietspruit Colliery II area.

According to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan GIS-based electronic application (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), 2013), the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area is primarily situated in terrestrial assessment categories of “Other Natural Areas”, meaning areas that have not been identified as a priority in the current systematic biodiversity plan but retain most of their natural character and perform a range of biodiversity and ecological infrastructural functions. and “Heavily Modified Areas”, meaning areas that are currently transformed and where biodiversity and ecological function has been lost to the point that it is not worth considering for conservation at all (Figure 14).



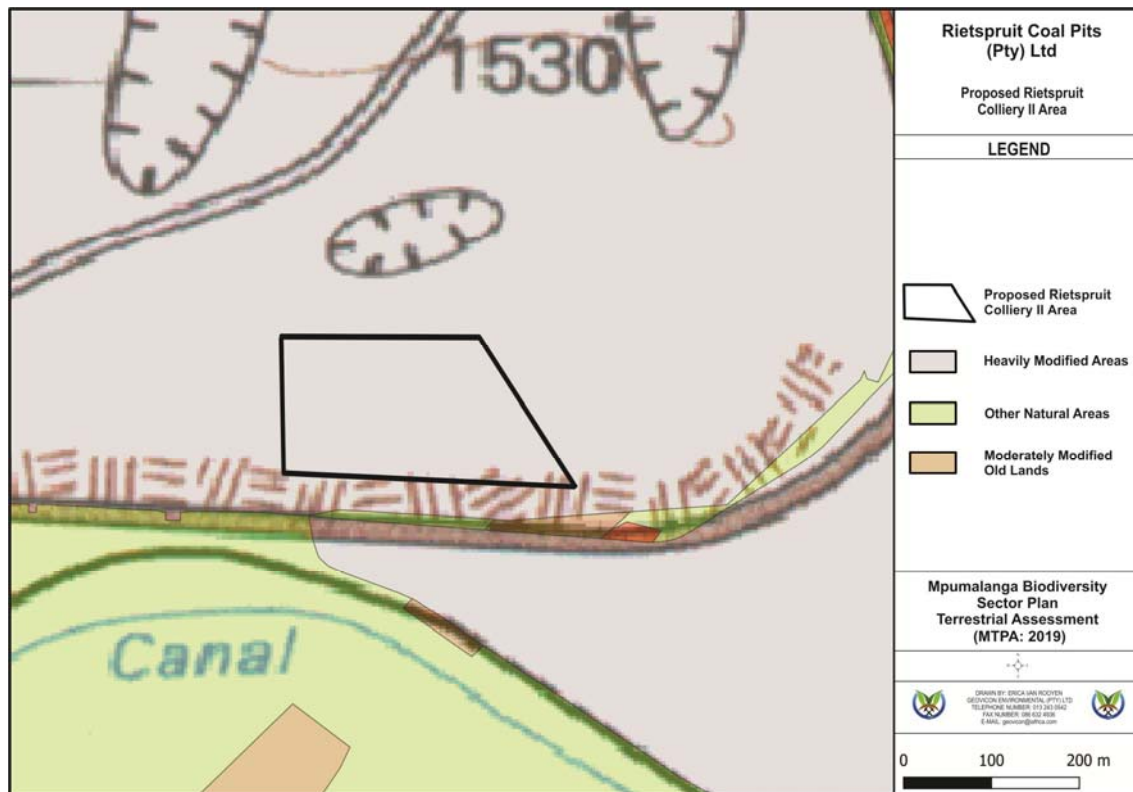


Figure 14: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan – Terrestrial assessment

According to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan GIS-based electronic application (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), 2019), the areas where the above-mentioned activities are located, are primarily situated in freshwater assessment categories of “Heavily Modified” meaning areas that have experienced a form of land use that has resulted in the near complete loss of biodiversity and a degree of loss of ecological function; “Other Natural Areas” meaning areas that have not been identified as a priority in the current systematic biodiversity plan but retain most of their natural character and perform a range of biodiversity and ecological infrastructural function (Figure 15).

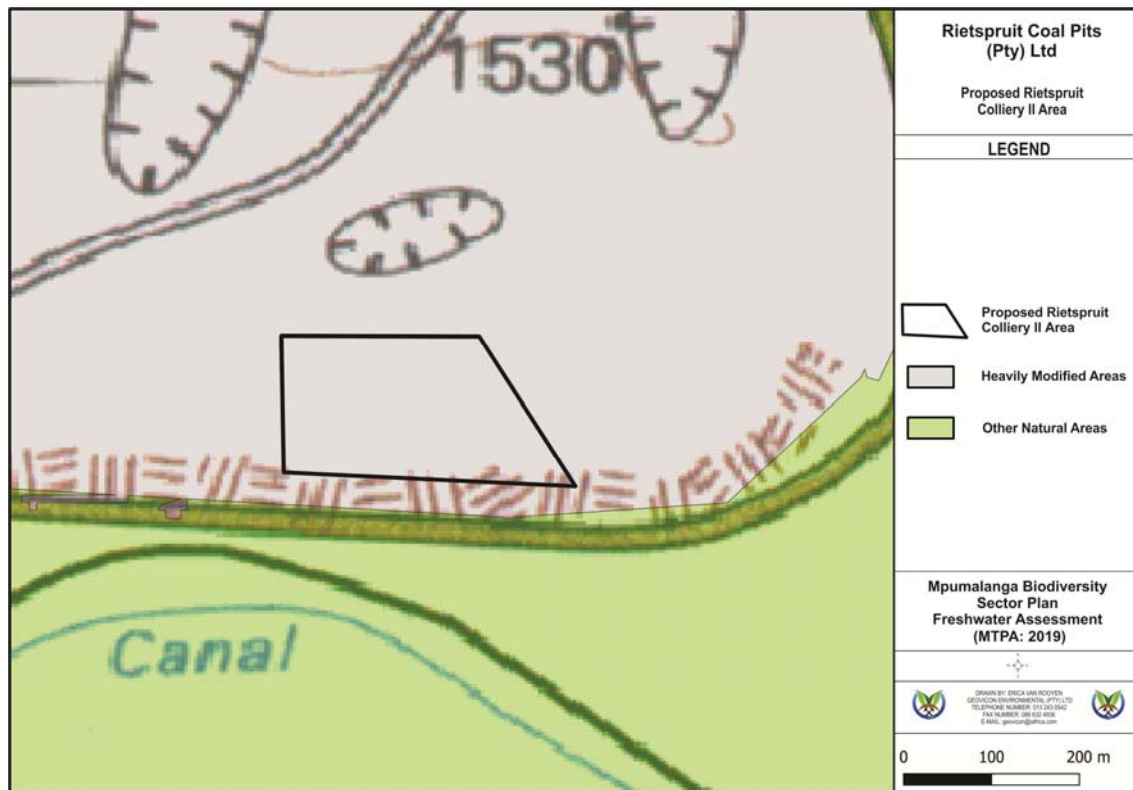


Figure 15: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan Freshwater Assessment for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area

#### 5.4.11 Air Quality

Potentially air pollution from human activities may arise as a result of particulates entering the atmosphere. The sources of air pollution from human activities comprise of three broad categories i.e., stationary sources (agriculture, mining, quarrying, manufacturing, mineral products, industries and power generation), community sources (homes or buildings, municipal waste and sewage sludge incinerators, fireplaces, cooking facilities, laundry services and cleaning plants) and mobile sources combustion-engine vehicles and fugitive emissions from vehicle traffic). Air pollutants are generally classified into suspended particulate matter (dust, fumes, mists and smokes), gaseous pollutants (gases and vapours) and odours.

Assessment of the proposed mining permit area has determined that all three categories of air pollution sources are found at the proposed project area.

#### 5.4.12 Noise

The proposed project area is surrounded by predominantly mining, residential and industrial activities. Potential noise sources from the area may therefore be emanating from these various sources.

#### 5.4.13 Socio-Economic Status

The proposed project is situated in the eMalahleni Local Municipality part of the Nkangala District Municipality, which is one of the three districts in Mpumalanga province.



The eMalahleni Local Municipality can be described as an urban and rural area, consisting of large farms, dispersed urban settlements, coal mines and power stations. The municipality comprises of eMalahleni town as the main urban centre in the municipality, with the other activity nodes/towns in the municipal area represented by:

- Ogies and Phola;
- Ga-Nala and Thubelihle;
- Rietspruit;
- Van Dyksdrift; and
- Wilge.

The eMalahleni municipal node forms part of the precinct referred to as the Energy Mecca of South Africa, due to its rich deposits of coal reserves and power stations.

### **Population density, growth and location**

Compared to the neighbouring economic hubs and regional service centres such as Middelburg and Mbombela, as well as the dense rural settlements in the Nkangala District to the north, the Emalahleni Local Municipality is relatively sparsely populated.

The total population of the municipality has a total population of 395 466 individuals, 81,3% of whom are black African. (Stats SA, 2011). Whites make up 15,7% of the population, and other race groups comprise the remaining 3%.

Of those aged 20 years and older, 4,0% have completed primary school, 35,7% have some secondary education, 31,5% have completed matric, 14,0% have some form of higher education, while 5, 8% have no form of schooling (Stats SA, 2011).

The bulk of the population in eMalahleni is urbanised with only 11% of the population residing in the non-urban areas. The eMalahleni Town is dominant in terms of its population, with only 21% of the urban population residing outside the town. In terms of the urban areas, the highest population density is experienced in Lynnville (202 households/ hectare), followed by Phola (160 households/ hectare) and then Kwa-Guqa (157 households/ hectare).

### **Major economic activities and sources of employment**

The major economic activities in the eMalahleni area are those associated with coal mining, metallurgical industries, commerce and light engineering, power generation, agriculture and administration.

### **Employment Profile**

Approximately 45% of population is economically active, which is considerably higher than the Nkangala District (34%). The highest number of unemployed people reside in Hlalanikahle (23.5%), followed by Lynnville (22.6%), Phola (22.1%) and Kwa-Guqa (20.9%).

Employment of the population according to the major types of industry in the area is as follows:

- 23% in mining and quarrying;
- 13.2% in community, social and personal services;
- 13.1% in wholesale and retail trade;
- 10% in manufacturing; and

- Only 3.1% in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing.

From this breakdown it is clear that most people in the area are employed in the primary and secondary sectors, with very few people employed in the tertiary sector (only 5.7% as professionals and 4.1% as legislators; senior officials and managers).

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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### **6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOLLOWED**

#### **6.1.1 Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**

The term 'environment' is used in the broadest sense in an EIA. It covers the physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, historical, institutional and political environments.

An Environmental Impact Assessment is a good planning tool. It identifies the environmental consequences of a proposed project from the beginning and helps to ensure that the project, over its life cycle, will be environmentally acceptable and integrated into the surrounding environment in a sustainable way.

#### **6.1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Process Followed**

Under Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the Minister promulgated the regulations pertaining to environmental impact assessments (EIA Regulations, 2014) under Government Notice No. 326 in Government Gazette 38282 of 4 December 2014. These EIA regulations repealed the 2010 EIA regulations and therefore any process relating to environmental authorisations must be undertaken under the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 deals with the provisions for application for environmental authorisation. In view of the above, Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd is obliged to comply with provisions of Chapter 4 for the intended environmental authorisation application for the activities (listed activities) within the proposed project.

Part 2 of chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 contemplate process to be undertaken for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed project, which is the BAR process. The process to be followed is describe below.

##### **6.1.2.1 Pre-application consultation with the Competent Authority**

In terms of section 24D (1) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), the Minister responsible for mineral resources is the competent authority for environmental matters relating to mining and associated activities. In view of the above, the application for the environmental authorisation for the proposed project was submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), eMalahleni Regional Office for their consideration and decision making.

##### **6.1.2.2 BAR Phase**

In compliance with Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the BAR and EMPr will be submitted to the competent authority within 90 days after the acknowledgement of the environmental authorisation application.

As part of the public participation, the draft BAR and EMPr has been made available to the competent authority, potential and registered interested and affected parties for their comment for a period of 30 days during the EIA phase.

### 6.1.2.3 Information Gathering

Environmental baseline data has been obtained via desktop studies, pertaining to surface water, geohydrological data, topographical analyses, soil surveys, vegetation surveys, wetland surveys and geological conditions. Weather data was acquired from the South African Weather Service. The data accumulated and analysed is sufficient to gain a baseline indication of the present state of the environment. The use of this baseline study for impact assessments is thus justified and reliable conclusions could be made.

### 6.1.2.4 Decision on the BAR application

In compliance with Regulation 20 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the competent authority will within 107 days of receipt of the BAR and EMPr grant or refuse the environmental authorisation.

## 6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The following prediction and evaluation of impacts is based on the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II and associated activities.

The evaluation distinguishes between significantly adverse and beneficial impacts and allocates significance against national regulations, standards and quality objectives governing:

- Health & Safety;
- Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas;
- Land use; and
- Pollution levels.

Irreversible impacts are also identified.

The significance of the impacts is determined through the consideration of the following criteria:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Probability   | : likelihood of the impact occurring   |
| Area (Extent) | : the extent over which the impact will be experienced.  |
| Duration      | : the period over which the impact will be experienced.  |
| Intensity     | : the degree to which the impact affects the health and welfare of humans and the environment (includes the consideration of unknown risks, reversibility of the impact, violation of laws, precedents for future actions and cumulative effects). |

The above criteria are expressed for each impact in tabular form according to the following definitions:

| Probability   | Definition  |
|---------------|---|
| Low           | There is a slight possibility (0 – 30%) that the impact will occur.         |
| Medium        | There is a 30 –70% possibility that the impact will occur.                  |
| High          | The impact is definitely expected to occur (70% +) or is already occurring. |
| Area (Extent) | Definition  |
| Small         | 0 – 40 ha   |
| Medium        | 40 – 200 ha   |
| Large         | 200 + ha  |
| Duration      | Definition  |
| Short         | 0 – 5 years   |

| Medium    | 5 – 50 years  |
|-----------|---|
| Long      | 51 – 200 years  |
| Permanent | 200 + years   |
| Intensity | Definition  |
| Low       | Does not contravene any laws.<br>Is within environmental standards or objectives.<br>Will not constitute a precedent for future actions.<br>Is reversible.<br>Will have a slight impact on the health and welfare of humans or the environment.             |
| Medium    | Does not contravene any laws.<br>Will not constitute a precedent for future actions.<br>Is not within environmental standards or objectives.<br>Is not irreversible.<br>Will have a moderate impact on the health and welfare of humans or the environment. |
| High      | Contravene laws.<br>May constitute a precedent for future actions.<br>Is not within environmental standards or objectives.<br>Is irreversible.<br>Will have a significant impact on the health and welfare of humans or the environment.                    |

| Significance and Risk Category | Definition   |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Negligible                     | The impact/risk is insubstantial and does not require management   |
| Low                            | The impact/risk is of little importance, but requires management   |
| Medium                         | The impact/risk is important; management is required to reduce negative impacts to acceptable levels   |
| High                           | The impact/risk is of great importance, negative impacts could render options or the entire project unacceptable if they cannot be reduced or counteracted by significantly positive impacts, and management of these impacts is essential |
| Positive (No risk identified)  | The impact, although having no significant negative impacts, may in fact contribute to environmental or economical health  |

### 6.3 RESULTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### 6.3.1.1 Assessment of the Rietspruit Colliery II impacts/risks

#### 6.3.1.2 Construction Phase

| ACTIVITY  | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|---|--|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |  |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b>  |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| <p><b>Activity 21 of listing notice 1:</b> Any 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 association infrastructures, earthworks, directly related to the extraction of the mineral resource.</p> <p><b>Activity 27 of listing notice 1:</b> The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for the undertaking of a linear activity or maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| Construction of haul and access roads, overburden stockpiles and in pit sump.   | All activities will result in the stripping and removal of the topsoil layer, which will disrupt the soil profile. | Soil/Land capability | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Stockpile the removed topsoil on a topsoil stockpile area which is separate from other overburden materials. |
|   |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|   |  |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|   | The stripping of topsoil will result in the reduction of the land capability of the area.                          | Land capability      | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Strip soils with intact vegetation to retain the soil characteristics and reuse soil during rehabilitation.  |
|   |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|   |  |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |

| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                            |  |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | All activities will result in the removal of the topsoil layer, which will result in the loss of natural vegetation cover.                               | Natural vegetation   | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | The topsoil removed from successive cuts must be used to cover the disturbed areas and these areas must then be seeded with a recommended seed mix to ensure natural vegetation remaining in the soil (seed bank) is re-established. |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |  |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | The formation of overburden stockpiles will result in topographical highpoints, which will alter the local topographical patterns of the immediate area. | Topography           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Ensure that as little space as possible is used for the construction of stockpiling facilities for the overburden material.  |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |  |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | The constructed workshop, mine infrastructure and overburden stockpiles may be visible from the nearby roads   | Topography           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Visual berms will be constructed around the visible parts of the mining permit area to shield the said mine infrastructure.  |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |  |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | All activities will result in the removal of the topsoil   | Vegetation           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | All topsoil material to be stockpiled  |

| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT  | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                            |  |                       | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |  |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | layer, which will result in the loss of natural vegetation cover   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M | separately at appropriate height. Note that the topsoil will retain its seed bank if stripped with intact vegetation and stockpiled properly.  |
|                            |  |                       | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | Surface water emanating from the construction site will contain increased amount of silt, which will contaminate the surface water environment   | Surface Quality Water | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Ensure that the dam is designed by a suitably qualified person who will ensure that the dam covers as little space as possible whilst complying with the relevant legal requirements. The mine will be designed and constructed such that all dirty water is drained or pumped to the dam. |
|                            |  |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |  |                       | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | Surface water emanating from the construction site will contain increased amount of silt, which will contaminate the surface water environment   | Surface Quality Water | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Construct berms along the stockpiles and disturbed area to reduce the levels of silt that may report to the nearby stream.   |
|                            |  |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |  |                       | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |  |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | This phase is not expected to influence the groundwater levels. With the exception of lesser oil and diesel spills, there are also no activities | Groundwater           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Water management facilities should be designed to intercept and contain as much contaminated runoff and/or seepage as  |
|                            |  |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |



| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                            |   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | expected that could influence regional groundwater quality. It is important to note that there is large existing underground mining in the area and that the proposed opencasts will intercept these mines. |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   | possible.<br>Apply effective storm water management principles to ensure that clean runoff is maximised and diverted to the receiving water resource, while contaminated runoff is minimised and contained for reuse within the operation.<br><br>Proper storage, handling and monitoring of fuel and chemicals used on site to minimize the risk of spillages to the environment. |
|                            | Movement of vehicles over exposed areas will result in the generation of dust. Generated dust will migrate towards the predominant wind direction.  | Air Quality          | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Conduct dust suppression on haul and access roads on a regular basis. Monitor the dust fall out concentration  |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | Machinery used will generate fumes and noise that may have detrimental effects on the surrounding air quality environment and health of the employees and residents of nearby houses.                       | Air Quality          | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Ensure that the used mine vehicles' exhaust systems are in good repair order.  |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   | Limit speed of mine vehicles.  |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   | Conduct dust suppression   |

| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                            |   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | Noise generated from construction activities may add to the current noise levels. This may have impacts on local residents.   | Noise                | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Limit mining activities during day time  |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            | With mitigation   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | S   | L                    | S                  | L | L |   |   |  |
|                            | Adjacent landowners may be impacted on by dust, noise, vibration, visual impacts and nuisance generated during the construction phase of the proposed opencast areas. | Social               | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | See mitigation under environmental management section, i.e. air, noise, etc<br>Implementation of the Environmental Awareness Plan for the employees. |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            | With mitigation   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | S   | L                    | S                  | L | L |   |   |  |
|                            | Potential increase in crime and petty theft.  | Social               | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Discourage squatting & recruitment on the opencast areas   |
|                            |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            | With mitigation   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | S   | L                    | S                  | L | L |   |   |  |
|                            | The mining operation will create employment opportunities.  | Social               | Positive           |   |   |   |   | No mitigation measures   |

| ACTIVITY                         | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                                  |   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b>       |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Excavation of an initial box-cut | The excavation of the initial box-cut (including the in-pit water and coal storage facilities) will result in the disturbance of the geological profile   | Geology              | S                  | L | S | L | L | No mitigation can be undertaken for the predicted impact.   |
|                                  |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                                  |   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |   |
|                                  | The excavation of the initial box cut (including the in-pit water and coal storage facilities) will result in the formation of topographical voids, which will impact on the local topographical patterns                           | Topography           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Use material from the following cuts to backfill the voids created by the construction of the initial box-cut and the in-pit water and coal storage facilities  |
|                                  |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                                  |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                                  | The stripping of soil layers during the excavation of the initial box-cut (including the in-pit water and coal storage facilities) will result in the loss of topsoil. This will further impact on the land use and land capability | Soil/Land Capability | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Stockpile topsoil to appropriate height hence reducing loss of fertility. Use stockpiled topsoil for rehabilitation of the backfilled opencast pit, hence rehabilitated areas can be used for other purposes. |
|                                  |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                                  |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                                  | The excavation of the initial box-cut (including the in-pit water and coal storage facilities) will result in the removal of natural vegetation due to the  | Vegetation           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | The topsoil removed from successive cuts must be used to cover the disturbed areas and these areas must then be seeded with a recommended seed mix to ensure  |
|                                  |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                                  |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |

| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT     | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                            |   |                          | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |   |                          |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | stripping of topsoil  |                          | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   | natural vegetation remaining in the soil (seed bank) is re-established.                                      |
|                            |   |                          | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | Animal burrows and habitats will be destroyed by the activities. This will further result in the migration of animals away from the areas of disturbance.   | Animal life              | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Rehabilitation of the disturbed areas will encourage the migration of animals back into the destroyed areas. |
|                            |   |                          | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            |   |                          | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |   |                          | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | Rain and runoff water may enter the initial box-cut and the in pit water and coal storage facility). This will result in the loss of clean runoff water that could report to the nearby water body                                  | Surface Quality<br>Water | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Divert runoff water away from the initial box-cut to the in-pit water storage facility and.                  |
|                            |   |                          | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |   |                          | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            |   |                          | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | Contamination of the clean water by the remaining coal and carbonaceous material may result if clean runoff water is allowed to enter the mining pit, which could impact negatively on the surrounding surface water environment if | Surface Quality<br>Water | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Contain all dirty water from the opencast pit into a polluted water containment facility.                    |
|                            |   |                          | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                            |   |                          | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |

| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                            |  |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                            | released.  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                            | This phase is not expected to influence the groundwater levels. With the exception of lesser oil and diesel spills, there are also no activities expected that could influence regional groundwater quality. It is important to note that there is large existing underground mining in the area and that the proposed opencasts will intercept these mines. | Groundwater          | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | <p>Before operation, a plan that includes explicit consideration of closure and rehabilitation issues must be prepared and approved.</p> <p>Water management facilities should be designed to intercept and contain as much contaminated runoff and/or seepage as possible.</p> <p>Apply effective storm water management principles.</p> <p>Monitoring boreholes as discussed in the following sections will be required in strategic locations near the pollution source, to obtain information on the groundwater regime as well as for future monitoring purposes.</p> <p>Construct detailed water and salt balances.</p> <p>Institute detailed monitoring systems that are capable of detecting pollution at the earliest possible stage.</p> |
| S                          |  |                      | M                  | S | H | H |   |  |
| With Mitigation            |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| S                          |  |                      | L                  | S | L | L |   |  |

| ACTIVITY                                       | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT   | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |  | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--|--|------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |                        | E                  | P | D | I | S                                      |   |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b>                     |  |                        |                    |   |   |   |  |   |
|  | The stripping of soils from the initial box-cut will result in the exposure of soils causing the generation of dust during windy periods. Movement of mine vehicles will also result in the generation of dust. This may ultimately affect the occupants of structures within the impact zone. | Air Quality/Social     | Without mitigation |   |   |   |  | Conduct dust suppression daily on dust generating areas. Enforce appropriate speed limits for the mine vehicles.  |
|  |  |                        | S                  | M | S | M | M                                      |   |
|  |  |                        | With mitigation    |   |   |   |  |   |
|  |  |                        | S                  | L | S | L | L                                      |   |
|  | Ground vibration and air blast levels from blasting may affect surrounding structures. A distance of 500 meters from the blast is generally accepted as the area of possible negative impact from blasting.  | Social/Land Capability | Without mitigation |   |   |   |  | No structures occur within the distance of 500 m from the mining permit area, hence blasting is not expected to impact on any structures.                       |
|  |  |                        | S                  | M | S | M | M                                      |   |
|  |  |                        | With mitigation    |   |   |   |  |   |
|  |  |                        | S                  | L | S | L | L                                      |   |
|  | This does however not allow Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd to blast irresponsibly. Irresponsible blasting may still affect the structures within the surrounds of the mine e.g., fly rock may be problematic if blasting is not done properly.   | Social/Land Capability | Without mitigation |   |   |   |  | Conduct blasting according to a blast design designed by a blasting expert. This will ensure that the vibration and air blast are within the acceptable limits. |
|  |  |                        | S                  | M | S | M | M                                      |   |
|  |  |                        | With mitigation    |   |   |   |  |   |
|  |  |                        | S                  | L | S | L | L                                      |   |
| Dust and noxious fumes may be generated during | Social/Land  | Without mitigation     |                    |   |   |   | Proper stemming, and delay blasts when |   |

| ACTIVITY   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S   |  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b>                                     |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|  | blasting that can affect the neighbouring residents and road users.   | Capability           | S                  | M | S | M | M   | prevailing wind is blowing towards the area of concern.<br><br>Conduct blasting according to a blast design by a blasting expert. A blaster with appropriate qualifications must be used for blasting. This will ensure that the generation of excessive dust and fumes are prevented. |
|  |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|  | Machine operators in close proximity to machinery and employees in the opencast pit will be exposed to high noise during blasting and operation of mine machinery. These noise levels will attenuate to acceptable levels within a short distance (500 m). Note that no significant noise increases are expected within a 500 m radius of the activities. | Noise                | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Ensure that the mine employees are issued with earplugs and that they are instructed to use them. Educate employees on the dangers of hearing loss due to mine machinery.  |
|  |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M   |  |
|  |   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L   |  |
| The initial box-cut will be visible from the surrounding area. | Social  | Without mitigation   |                    |   |   |   | Use the topsoil from the initial box-cut to construct a visual berm around visible areas of the mine. |  |
|  |   | S                    | M                  | S | M | M |   |  |
|  |   | With mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   | S                    | L                  | S | L | L |   |  |

| ACTIVITY                   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT                       |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                            |  |                      | E                                       | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASES</b> |  |                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                            | During individual consultations with the adjacent landowners, raised issues with regard to the blasting, which they envisage will affect structural integrity of their houses. | Social               | Without mitigation<br>S   M   S   M   M |   |   |   |   | A structural survey will be done on their houses to identify any cracks or faults present before commencement of the mine             |
|                            |  |                      | With mitigation<br>S   L   S   L   L    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                            | During individual consultations with the adjacent landowners, raised issues with regard to the blasting, which they envisage will affect structural integrity of their houses. | Social               | Without mitigation<br>S   M   S   M   M |   |   |   |   | A seismograph will be placed at the strategic places to record ground vibration and air blast levels at those places during blasting. |
|                            |  |                      | With mitigation<br>S   L   S   L   L    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                            | During individual consultations with the adjacent landowners, raised issues with regard to the blasting, which they envisage will affect structural integrity of their houses. | Social               | Without mitigation<br>S   M   S   M   M |   |   |   |   | If it can be proven that the blasting has damaged their houses, Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd must compensate for their damages.     |
|                            |  |                      | With mitigation<br>S   L   S   L   L    |   |   |   |   |   |



6.3.1.3 Operational Phase

| ACTIVITY   | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--|--|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |                      | E                 | P | D | I | S   |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>   |  |                      |                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <p><b>Activity 21 listing notice 1:</b> Any 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 association infrastructures, earthworks, directly related to the extraction of the mineral resource.</p> <p><b>Activity 27 of listing notice 1:</b> The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for the undertaking of a linear activity or maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> |  |                      |                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Systematic removal of target coal seams at opencast mining areas   | Removal and subsequent replacement of topsoil and subsoil material for access to the target coal will result in the disturbance of the geological profile.           | Geology              | With Mitigation   |   |   |   |   | No mitigation can be undertaken for this impact. The Coal will however be replaced by the overburden material in the mined out opencast pits. |
|  |  |                      | S                 | H | P | M | M   |   |
|  | Without Mitigation   |                      |                   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | S  | H                    | P                 | M | M |   |   |   |
|  | Opening of the coal during mining will result in the formation of a void, which will alter the local topographical patterns within the immediate mining permit area. | Topography           | With Mitigation   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |  |                      | S                 | H | P | M | M   |   |
| Without Mitigation   |  |                      |                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S  | H  | P                    | M                 | M |   |   |   |   |
| Stripping of top- and subsoil layers during mining will result in the disruption of the soil profile. The soils' physical, chemical and  | Land Capability  | With Mitigation      |                   |   |   |   | Systematic removal of coal from the opencast pit. |   |
|  |  | S                    | M                 | S | M | L |   |   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          | biological properties may be altered due to loss of topsoil through erosion, stockpiling of soils and mixing of deep and surface soils during handling, stockpiling and subsequent placement. |                      | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | M | M | M |   |
|                          | The impact on soils may lead to reduction in the land capability and use.   | Land Capability      | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Chemical analyses must be conducted to check the properties of soils and a soil specialist must be appointed who will recommend remediation measures that must be undertaken to restore soil properties. This must be done du |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                          |   | With mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   | S                    | L                  | S | L | L |   |   |
|                          | Opencast mining will result in the removal of the topsoil layer, which will result in the loss of vegetation cover. Mining operation may result in the ingress of alien invasive species.     | Vegetation           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Create an alien and invasive eradication plan. Stockpile topsoil with its intact vegetation to retain soil properties.  |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                          |   | With mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   | S                    | L                  | S | L | L |   |   |
|                          | Disturbance to and/or exclusion of animals currently occupying/utilising the site.  | Animal Life          | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | No unnecessary disturbance of land must be undertaken. Where possible, avoid the distraction of animal habitat. Moreover, rehabilitate the area in such that it will allow animals to migrate back to the land.               |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                          |   | With mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT  | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                          |   |                       | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                          | There is a risk that mining employees will resort to trapping of wild animals that may still be present on site and surrounding areas.                                | Animal Life           | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | No poaching will be allowed on site. Create an environmental awareness plan on biodiversity and educate employees on preserving animals on site.   |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |   |                       | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                          | Formation of a void during mining will result in loss of MAR within the catchments. Surface run-off may result in soil erosion over rehabilitated areas.              | Surface Water Quality | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Ensure that the operational coal covers as little space as possible during mining; hence rehabilitation must be conducted concurrently with mining to ensure that the mined areas are returned to free draining surfaces. Establish vegetation as soon as possible after completion of the soil placement and profiling. |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |   |                       | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | M | S | L | L |  |
|                          | Water captured within the pit may contain elevated ion concentrations, which may impact detrimentally on the environment if allowed to enter the natural environment. | Groundwater Quantity  | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | All dirty water from the mine will be diverted and captured within the opencast pit.<br><br>All mining activities will be undertaken outside the 1:100-year flood line.  |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |   |                       | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |   |                       | S                  | M | S | L | L |  |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT   |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |  |                      | E   | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |  |                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          | Since no mining will be undertaken within the 1:100-year flood line, no wetland is expected to be physically affected by the proposed mine's dewatering.   | Groundwater Quality  | Without Mitigation<br>S M S L L<br>With Mitigation<br>S M S L L |   |   |   |   | Surrounding boreholes used by residents must be monitored on a quarterly basis. This will determine the extent of the dewatering cone from the opencast pit and any user affected must be compensated by the mine   |
|                          | During the operational phase, it is expected that the main impact on the groundwater quantity will be dewatering of the surrounding aquifer and loss of groundwater contribution to catchment base flow. Water entering the mining pit will have to be pumped out to enable mining activities to continue. This may cause a lowering of the groundwater table in and around the mine and hence loss of groundwater to catchment base flow. | Groundwater Quality  | Without Mitigation<br>S M S M M<br>With Mitigation<br>S M S L L |   |   |   |   | Identify and where possible, maximise areas of the mine that will result in clean storm water runoff.<br>Ensure that clean storm water is only contained if the volume of the runoff poses a risk and should be released into natural watercourses under controlled conditions.<br>Ensure the minimisation of contaminated areas, reuse of dirty water wherever possible and planning to ensure that clean areas are not lost to the catchment unnecessarily.<br>Every effort should be made to maximise the clean area and minimise the dirty area.<br>Pumped out water must be contained and used for dust suppression.<br>Mining must be undertaken concurrently with rehabilitation. Only three cuts must be operational at any time during mining, |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   | hence reducing the extent of the cone of depression.  |
|                          | Carbonaceous material remaining from the removal of run of mine coal may cause acid mine drainage after rehabilitation of the opencast pit. This may cause more harm on the already damaged groundwater regime.   | Groundwater Quality  | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Reduce the exposure of the carbonaceous material to free oxygen. This will be achieved by placing the carbonaceous material at the bottom of the opencast pit and backfill as fast as possible.   |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | S | H | H |   |
|                          |   |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |   |
|                          | The flow in the aquifer will be directed towards the mine at this stage and very little groundwater pollution is thus expected. Additionally, current contaminated groundwater could also flow into the mine, temporary diverting the existing contaminant plume, which will have added pressure on the operation to contain more water from the surrounding workings.<br><br>It must be noted that the surrounding opencast workings may have resulted in the dewatering of the workings within the proposed mining permit area. | Groundwater Quality  | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Ensure that seepage losses from storage facilities (such as polluted dams) are minimised and overflows are prevented.<br><br>Ensure that all possible sources of dirty water have been identified and that appropriate collection and containment systems have been implemented and that these do not result in further unnecessary water quality deterioration.<br><br>Rehabilitation should be planned to promote free drainage and to minimise or eliminate ponding of storm water. On-going rehabilitation as mining operations progress is required. |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | M | S | H | H |   |
|                          |   |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |  |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          | During mining, fine coal, coal and soil dust may accumulate in the workings. This may have health impacts on the employees.  | Human Health         | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Employees must be issued with dust masks and instructed to use them.<br><br>Dust suppression must be undertaken at the opencast pit and all areas where dust may emanate. |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                          |  | With Mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |  | S                    | M                  | S | L | L |   |   |
|                          | Machine operators in close proximity to machinery will be exposed to noise levels in excess of 85 dB.  | Noise                | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   | Issue earplugs to employees and educate on their use and on the effect of noise on their health   |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | L | S | H | H |   |
|                          |  | With Mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |  | S                    | L                  | S | L | L |   |   |
|                          | Some of the social impacts on neighbouring parties relate to noise, visual, air quality deterioration etc. and have been addressed earlier in this section of the impact assessment. | Social               | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | No additional mitigation, refer to applicable sections of the impact assessment   |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | L | S | M | M |   |
|                          |  | With Mitigation      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |  | S                    | L                  | S | L | L |   |   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT   | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                          |  |                        | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |  |                        |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          | The proposed project will create much needed employment opportunities, which can be enhanced by employing members of the local communities. Capital and operating expenditure on the proposed Coal will benefit the local economy both directly through local buying and indirectly through salaries earned by employees in the area | Social                 | Positive           |   |   |   |   | No Mitigation Measures   |
|                          | Potential socio-economic impacts of the mining operation include threat of increase in crime and petty theft   | Socio economic aspects | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Through the environmental awareness plan the employees will be made aware of the impact crime will have on the surrounding farmers and the environment.                                    |
|                          |  |                        | S                  | L | S | M | M |  |
|                          |  |                        | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |  |                        | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
|                          | Blasting of the overburden and coal seams will result in the generation of dust, which may contain fine coal. The dust will migrate towards the wind direction, The dust will also settle on the surrounding vegetation cover. This dust cloud may impact negatively on the nearby residents and wetland areas.                      | Air Quality            | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | During blasting, minimum explosives will be used and the blasting holes will be stemmed.<br><br>Despite the above, blasting must be done according to a blast design by a blasting expert. |
|                          |  |                        | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |  |                        | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |  |                        | S                  | S | S | L | L |  |
|                          | During blasting, noise levels may reach in   | Noise                  | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Monitor noise levels to ensure that the  |

| ACTIVITY                             | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT     | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |                 |                 |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
|                                      |   |                          | E                  | P               | D               | I | S |  |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>             |   |                          |                    |                 |                 |   |   |  |
|                                      | excess of 130 dBA. Noise, ground vibration and air blast levels from blasting may affected surrounding structures. A distance of 500 meters from the blast is generally accepted as the area of possible negative impact from blasting. |                          | S                  | M               | S               | M | M | required noise levels are maintained within the surrounding areas.   |
|                                      |   |                          | With Mitigation    |                 |                 |   |   |  |
|                                      | Visual impacts may result from the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II opencast operation   | Visual                   | Without Mitigation |                 |                 |   |   | Ensure that a visual berm is constructed on any visible parts of the proposed mining operation.  |
|                                      |   |                          | S                  | M               | S               | M | M |  |
|                                      |   |                          |                    | With Mitigation |                 |   |   |  |
|                                      |   |                          |                    | S               | S               | S | L | L  |
| Operation of the coal stockpile area | The stockpiling of the coal will result in the formation of a topographical highpoint.  | Topography               | Without Mitigation |                 |                 |   |   | The coal at the coal stockpiles will be removed as soon as possible and the area rehabilitated during the decommissioning phase. Rehabilitate the opencast pit concurrently with mining. |
|                                      |   |                          | S                  | M               | S               | L | L |  |
|                                      |   |                          |                    |                 | With Mitigation |   |   |  |
|                                      |   |                          |                    |                 | S               | M | S | L  |
|                                      | Runoff from the coal stockpiles may contain elevated chemical concentrations, which will impact negatively on the environment if released.  | Surface Water<br>Quality | Without Mitigation |                 |                 |   |   | Divert all runoff water from the coal stockpiles area to the in-pit sump.  |
|                                      |   |                          | S                  | M               | S               | M | M |  |
|                                      |   |                          | With Mitigation    |                 |                 |   |   |  |



| ACTIVITY                               | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT  | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |   |                       | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>               |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |                       | S                  | M | S | L | L |   |
|  | Rain water entering the coal stockpiling areas will come into contact with coal resulting in the contamination of the water. Allowing the water to seep into the groundwater regime will result in the pollution of groundwater.  | Ground Quantity Water | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Use compacted material for the construction of the foundation of the coal stockpile areas and allowing the drainage from the area to report to the in-pit sump.   |
|  |   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|  |   |                       | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |                       | S                  | M | S | L | L |   |
|  | There will be flow of groundwater seepage from the overburden stockpiles and this flow may be of contaminated nature and may contaminate the surrounding groundwater environment. Due to the presence of old mine workings, no borehole use for domestic purposes would be present within the stockpiles area of influence. Contaminated water will most probably seep into the old workings, which will drain to the active opencast workings. | Ground Quality Water  | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Prevent the erosion or leaching of materials from any residue stockpile.<br><br>Water quantity and quality data should be collected on a regular, ongoing basis during mine operations to recalibrate and update the mine water management model, to prepare monitoring and audit reports, to report to the regulatory authorities against the requirements of the IWWMP and other authorisations and as feedback to stakeholders in the catchment. |
|  |   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|  |   |                       | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |                       | S                  | M | S | L | L |   |
| Operation of other mine infrastructure | During transportation and stockpiling of coal, machinery movement and wind blowing over exposed surfaces will generate diesel fumes, soil and coal dust.  | Air Quality           | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Place coal stockpiles such that impacts are limited. Limit the size of the coal stockpiles to the recommended size. Keep mine vehicles in good repair order.  |
|  |   |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|  |   |                       | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                          |  |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |  |
|                          | The dust will during windy days form dust clouds and migrate towards the wind direction, which will eventually settle on vegetation cover and surrounding property. This dust cloud may impact negatively on the nearby residents and on the natural vegetation cover.                             | Vegetation           | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Conduct dust suppression on the roads within the stockpiling area and limit the vehicle activity as much as possible on these roads  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |  |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |  |
|                          | The coal stockpiles may be visible from a certain distance resulting in a visual impact.   | Visual               | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Use visual berms to shield visible parts of the mine.  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |  |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |  |
|                          | The presence of the coal stockpiles will have an impact on the neighbouring landowners due to the dust and noise generated from the operation of the coal stockpiling areas. Note however, that the coal from the mine will be wet resulting in limited generation of dust if removed soon enough. | Social               | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Conduct dust suppression. Maintain the mine vehicles in good order. Limit the activity within the coal stockpiling area. Conduct dust and noise monitoring and undertake recommendations from the results of such monitoring. Remove coal from the stockpile as soon as possible (if possible, within one to two days of |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          |  |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |  |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT  | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |   |                       | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   | stockpiling).   |
|                          | The transportation of coal and overburden material (top soils, sub soils and hards) along the haul roads may result in the contamination of virgin land (soil and vegetation) due to spillages along the roads. | Land Soil Capability/ | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Trucks to obey maximum speed limit to be set by the mine. Construct spillage control measures such as berms along the roads.<br><br>All roads to be inspected regularly for any spillages. Any spillages will be removed as soon as it is practically possible.     |
| S                        |   |                       | M                  | S | M | M |   |   |
| With Mitigation          |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| S                        |   |                       | M                  | S | L | L |   |   |
|                          | The transportation of coal and overburden material (top soils, sub soils and hards) along the haul roads may result in the contamination of virgin land (soil and vegetation) due to spillages along the roads. | Land Soil Capability/ | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Trucks transporting coal to the destined clients must cover the coal with tarpaulins to prevent spillages along the roads.  |
| S                        |   |                       | M                  | S | L | L |   |   |
| With Mitigation          |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| S                        |   |                       | M                  | S | L | L |   |   |
|                          | Leaking oils and fluids from trucks will result in the contamination of soils along the haul and access roads.  | Land Soil Capability/ | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Maintain mine vehicles in good repair order. Emergency repairs to be conducted on protected ground e.g., areas covered with tarpaulins. All roads to be inspected regularly for any spillages. Any spillages will be removed as soon as it is practically possible. |
| S                        |   |                       | M                  | S | M | M |   |   |
| With Mitigation          |   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| S                        |   |                       | M                  | S | L | L |   |   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT       | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                          |  |                            | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |  |                            |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          | Spillage from the hydrocarbon fluids storage areas (diesel tanks and oil storage areas) in the mining permit area may result in the contamination of the soils and nearby streams.               | Soil/Surface Water Quality | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Any accidental spillages to be collected and remedied as soon as possible. Mine must always have oil spill remediation kits at the mine.<br><br>All new hydrocarbons must be stored on demarcated areas and use thereof must be recorded. All old hydrocarbons must be recycled or disposed of properly. |
|                          |  |                            | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          | With Mitigation  |                            |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          | S  | M                          | S                  | L | L |   |   |  |
|                          | Spillage of hydrocarbon fluids outside the mining permit area may result in the contamination of the soils, surface and groundwater.   | Soil/Ground Water Quality  | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Emergency repairs must be conducted on protected ground e.g., tarpaulins.  |
|                          |  |                            | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          | With Mitigation  |                            |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          | S  | M                          | S                  | L | L |   |   |  |
|                          | Runoff water from the haul/access roads will contain elevated levels of hydrocarbons and coal contaminated silt loads respectively, which will impact negatively on the environment if released. | Surface Water              | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Hydrocarbons must be separated from the water and silt before their disposal.  |
|                          |  |                            | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|                          | With Mitigation  |                            |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
|                          | S  | M                          | S                  | L | L |   |   |  |
|                          | Use of haul and access roads will result in  | Air quality                | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Haul roads must be graded regularly to   |

| ACTIVITY                 | NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |  |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b> |  |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          | the generation of dust, which may impact negatively on neighbouring landowners, employees and the nearby roads.  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M | remove any layer of coal material from the vehicles. Conduct dust suppression on the roads Maintain the roads on a regular basis. |
|                          |  |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |   |
|                          | Employees working in close proximity to mine machinery will be exposed to high levels of noise, which may in the long term be detrimental to their health. | Noise                | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | Issue employees with earplugs and instruct them how to use the earplugs.  |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | M | M |   |
|                          |  |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | M | S | L | L |   |
|                          | Employees working in close proximity to mine machinery will be exposed to high levels of noise, which may in the long term be detrimental to their health. | Noise                | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | The mine must through the implementation of the environmental, awareness plan encourages the employees to use these earplugs.     |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | L | S | M | M |   |
|                          |  |                      | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |  |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |   |

6.3.1.4 Decommissioning and Closure Phase

| NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT  | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |                       | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES</b>  |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Decommissioning of mining (Site Rehabilitation)</b>   |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Activity 21 listing notice 1:</b> Any 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 association infrastructures, earthworks, directly related to the extraction of the mineral resource. |                       |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| As large excavations are backfilled, there is a potential for the creation of dangerous excavations and steep embankments, which will need to be backfilled and landscaped.  | Topography            | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | All backfilled areas must be levelled and levelled areas monitored for any settlement depressions, which must be rectified as soon as possible.                                  |
|  |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|  |                       | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
| During the decommissioning phase disturbed surface will be removed of carbonaceous build-up material and rehabilitated. Thus run off from the removed carbonaceous material could cause pollution of the nearby water environment and may cause erosion.   | Surface Water Quality | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Divert all runoff to pollution control structures. Note that the pollution control structure will remain until it can proven that the area does not generate any polluted water. |
|  |                       | S                  | M | S | M | M |  |
|  |                       | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |                       | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |

| NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT             | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES   |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |                                  | E                  | P | D | I | S |   |
| <b>DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES</b>   |                                  |                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| <p>After closure, the water table will rise in the mine to reinstate equilibrium with the surrounding groundwater systems. However, the mined areas will have a slightly larger hydraulic conductivity compared to the pre-mining situation. Following the closure of the opencasts and the cessation of the dewatering it is assumed to lead to groundwater rebound. The influx of water into the mine void will decrease over time due to the change in groundwater gradient as a result of the rise in water level within the opencasts.</p> <p>Once the normal groundwater flow conditions have been reinstated, polluted water could potentially migrate away from the mining areas. As some coal and discards will remain in the mine, this outflow will be contaminated as a result of acid or neutral mine drainage. As sulphate is normally a significant solute in such drainage, it can be modelled as a conservative (non-reacting) indicator of mine drainage pollution.</p> | Groundwater Quantity and Quality | Without Mitigation |   |   |   |   | <p>The post-closure groundwater management of the opencast should be done in two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1: Immediately after closure</li> </ul> <p>The acid producing material should be placed as low in the pits as possible, followed by the non-acid generating material.</p> <p>Rapid flooding should be done by diverting storm water channels and pumping of available groundwater into the pit until the acid producing material is inundated by the water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2: After Rapid Flooding</li> </ul> <p>The final backfilled opencast topography should be engineered such that runoff is directed away from the opencast areas.</p> <p>The final layer (just below the topsoil cover) should be as clayey as possible and compacted if feasible, to reduce recharge to the opencasts.</p> <p>Natural berms should then be constructed to allow free drainage of surface water around the rehabilitated pit.</p> |
|   |                                  | M                  | M | L | H | H |   |
|   |                                  | With Mitigation    |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |                                  | M                  | L | L | L | L |   |
| Hydrocarbon spillages may render the infrastructure areas to be of no agricultural value after mining.  | Land Capability                  | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Remove and dispose of all oil, diesel and   |

| NATURE OF THE IMPACT  | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT  |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |                      | E                  | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES</b>   |                      |                    |   |   |   |   |  |
| The above impacts, if not controlled, may result in the mine not attaining the planned after mining land use, hence not allowing the intended after mining land use to be undertaken. |                      | S                  | L | S | M | M | grease contaminated surfaces and cover with clean topsoil. Work on protected ground (tarpaulins).  |
|   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | L |  |
| Noise will be generated during the hauling and loading of material by trucks on site. This noise may exceed operational noise levels but will be short lived.                         | Noise                | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Issue earplugs to employees.<br><br>Ensure that machinery, equipment and vehicles are regularly serviced. Monitor noise levels in the surrounding communities. |
|   |                      | S                  | L | S | M | M |  |
|   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | N |  |
| As this phase will involve additional traffic such as trucks removing materials, significant dust may be generated on the areas being worked.   | Air Quality          | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | Undertake dust suppression on the areas that generates excessive dust.   |
|   |                      | S                  | L | S | M | M |  |
|   |                      | With mitigation    |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |                      | S                  | L | S | L | N |  |
| If the placement of removed overburden material is not done properly, it may impact on the after mining planned soil  |                      | Without mitigation |   |   |   |   | All hardened areas must be ripped, areas with topsoil scarified and areas without  |



| NATURE OF THE IMPACT   | ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT | IMPACT ASSESSMENT |   |   |   |   | MITIGATION MEASURES  |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |                      | E                 | P | D | I | S |  |
| <b>DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES</b>  |                      |                   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <p>distribution, which will impact on the functioning of the soils and vegetation distribution after mining.</p> <p>Compaction of soil during replacing, by heavy mechanical equipment may occur.</p> <p>The above impacts, if not controlled, may result in the mine not attaining the planned after mining land use, hence not allowing the intended after mining land use to be undertaken.</p> |                      | S                 | M | S | M | M | <p>topsoil covered with a layer of topsoil before being seeded.</p> <p>Construct contours on the placed soil layers at intervals that will help to prevent erosion of the placed soils.</p> <p>Implement a soil management strategy. This will ensure that the soils at the mining area are protected during replacement of the removed soils.</p> <p>Undertake the seeding of the rehabilitated areas as per specialist's recommendation.</p> |
|  |                      | With mitigation   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |                      | S                 | L | S | L | L |  |

## **6.4 SUMMARY OF SPECIALIST REPORTS**

Since desktop information was used, no specialist studies were conducted for the proposed project.

## **6.5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd has applied for a mining permit over the Rietspruit Colliery II. The mining operation will involve the systematic removal of coal within the Rietspruit Colliery II. Conventional opencast mining will be used for the mining of coal. After mining has ceased the mined-out area will be backfilled, the area will be shaped and seeded.

### **6.5.1 Description of affected environment**

The proposed project is situated within the eMalahleni region. The proposed project is situated in area characterised by slightly undulating plains, including some low hills and pan depressions. A variety of soil types were identified within the project area, which include recharge, interflow and responsive soils. The land uses over the project area correspond to the soils found in the area and include grazing and tree stands. Due to the above land uses significant change has occurred on the natural vegetation within the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II, with most of the area being grazing conforming to modified land.

### **6.5.2 Summary of key findings of the environmental impact assessment**

During the proposed mining operation impacts may only occur on soils, natural vegetation, surface water, groundwater, sensitive landscapes, air quality, noise, visual aspects, and sites of archaeological and cultural importance should the mining method statement not be adhered to. Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd will undertake measures to ensure that the identified impacts are minimised. Assessment of the impacts with the proposed mitigation measures has shown the significance of the impacts on all affected environmental aspects to be reduced from to low and negligible significance.

## **6.6 ASPECTS FOR INCLUSION AS CONDITIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

In authorising the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II the following conditions should form part of the environmental authorisation:

- Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd may not alter the location of any of the project activities included in this environmental impact assessment without obtaining the required environmental authorisation to do so under NEMA.
- Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd will not undertake any new activity that was not part of this environmental impact assessment and that will trigger a need for an environmental authorisation without proper.
- The EMPr must be implemented fully at all stages of the proposed project
- Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd must limit night-time operations. This would be relevant for all work taking place at night within 150 m from the closest receptors in this community. If night work is conducted, such must be conducted in agreement with the land owners and affected parties (lawful land occupier and labours).

## **6.7 DESCRIPTION OF ASSUMPTIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE**

The EIA Regulations, 2014 outline specific requirements that a description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge which relate to the assessment and mitigation measures must be provided in the BAR.

The assessments undertaken are based on conservative methodologies and these methods attempts to determine potential negative impacts that could occur on the affected environmental aspects. These impacts may however be of smaller magnitude than predicted, while benefits could be of a larger extent than predicted.

This section outlines various limitations to the specialist studies that have been undertaken and indicates, where appropriate, the adequacy of predictive methods used for the assessment. This has been done to provide the authorities and interested and affected parties with an understanding of how much confidence can be placed in this impact assessment.

The impact assessment has investigated the potential impact on key environmental media relating to the specific environmental setting for the site. A number of desktop assessment were undertaken and result thereof and are presented in this report.

The information provided in this BAR and EMPr is therefore considered sufficient for decision-making purposes.

## **6.8 REASONED OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE PROPOSED PROJECT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT CONTINUE**

### **6.8.1 Reason why the activity should be authorised or not**

According to the impact assessment undertaken for the proposed project, the key impacts of the project are on water, dust and noise.

The project will also have positive impacts due to the employment to be created although for a short term.

The public will also be requested for their comments. These comments will be addressed as far as possible to the satisfaction of the interested and affected parties.

The management of the impacts identified in the impact assessment for all phases of the proposed project will be undertaken through a range of programmes and plans contained in the EMPr. In consideration of the programmes and plans contained within the EMPr, layouts and method statements compiled for the project, which is assumed will be effectively implemented, there will be significant reduction in the significance of potential impacts.

Based on the above, it is therefore the opinion of the EAP that the activity should be authorised.

### **6.8.2 Conditions that must be included in the authorisation**

In authorising the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II the following conditions should form part of the environmental authorisation:

- Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd may not alter the location of any of the project activities included in this environmental impact assessment without obtaining the required environmental authorisation to do so under NEMA.

- Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd will not undertake any new activity that was not part of this environmental impact assessment and that will trigger a need for an environmental authorisation without proper.
- The EMPr must be implemented fully at all stages of the proposed project
- Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd must limit night-time operations. This would be relevant for all work taking place at night within 150 m from the closest receptors in this community. If night work is conducted, such must be conducted in agreement with the land owners and affected parties (lawful land occupier and labours).

#### **6.9 PERIOD FOR WHICH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

Based on the mining method statement, the environmental authorisation should be given for two years.

#### **6.10 UNDERTAKING**

The signed undertaking will be presented to the DMRE on execution of the Rietspruit Colliery II.

#### **6.11 FINANCIAL PROVISION**

According to the EIA Regulations, 2014, where applicable, details of any financial provisions for the rehabilitation, closure, and ongoing post decommissioning management of negative environmental impacts must be provided in the BAR and EMPr.

In order to avoid duplication, the financial provision for the proposed project has only been provided under the relevant section of the EMPr.

#### **6.12 OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Aside from the BAR and EMPr no other information has been requested by the competent authority.

#### **6.13 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24 (4) (A) AND (B) OF THE ACT**

Any matter required in terms of the above section of the Act will be complied together with Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd.

# PART B

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## **Environmental Management Programme**

## **1. DETAILS OF THE EAP**

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The details of the EAP are provided in section 1.1 of Part A of this document.

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## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITY**

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The requirements to describe the aspects of the activity are covered by the environmental management programme and are included in PART A of the document under section 1. The reader is therefore referred to section 1 of PART A of this document.

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## **3 COMPOSITE MAP**

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The map superimposing the proposed project, its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site will be provided on approval of the EMPr.

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## **4 DESCRIPTION OF THE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES INCLUDING MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS**

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### **4.1 GENERAL CLOSURE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

The following are the closure objectives, general principles and objectives guiding closure of the Rietspruit Colliery II area closure planning:

- Rehabilitation of areas disturbed as a consequence of mining to a land capability that will support and sustain a predetermined post-closure land uses;
- Removal of all infrastructure/equipment that cannot be beneficially re-used, as per agreements established, and returning the associated disturbed land to the planned final land use;
- Removal of existing contaminated material from affected areas;
- Establishment of final landforms that are stable and safe in the long run;
- Establishment and implementation of measures that meet specific closure related performance objectives;
- Monitoring and maintenance of rehabilitated areas forming part of site closure to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of measures implemented.

## 4.2 MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION CAUSED BY THE RIETSPRUIT COLLIERY II ACTIVITIES

The following actions will be undertaken by Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd to ensure that the closure objectives are attained.

### 4.2.1 Infrastructure Areas

- All infrastructure and equipment used during the mining operation will be removed from the site.
- All haul roads that were used for access during mining will be allowed to re-establish to its pre-mining condition. Should unsatisfactory results be noted, the area will be physically rehabilitated.
- All rehabilitated areas will be maintained for a period of 2 years, where after the frequency will be reassessed. Where necessary, vegetation cover will be maintained by annual application of fertiliser.
- Maintenance with respect to erosion will be conducted on a minimum three-monthly basis if and where required.

#### 4.2.2.1 Buildings (Offices, Workshops and Stores)

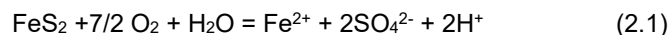
Mobile structures will be used and such structures will be removed from the sites during decommissioning of the site.

## 4.3 POTENTIAL RISK OF ACID MINE DRAINAGE

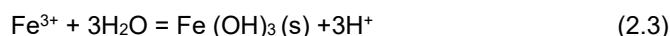
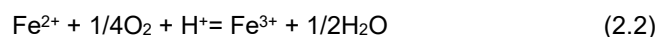
Sulphate is probably the most reliable indicator of pollution emanating from coal mining. Sulphate concentrations can however increase due to mobilisation during the mining process. The chemistry analyses supplied within this report should henceforth serve as baseline water quality throughout of acid mine drainage (AMD) formation.

The reactions of acid and sulphate generation from sulphide minerals are discussed according to the three-stage stoichiometric example of pyrite oxidation after James, (1997) and (Ferguson & Erickson, 1988) in which one mole of pyrite oxidized forms two moles of sulphate:

Reaction (2.1) represents the oxidation of pyrite to form dissolved ferrous iron, sulphate and hydrogen. This reaction can occur abiotically or can be bacterially catalysed by *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans*.



The ferrous iron, ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) may be oxidised to ferric iron, ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ) if the conditions are sufficiently oxidising, as illustrated by reaction (2.2). Hydrolysis and precipitation of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  may also occur, shown by reaction (2.3). Reactions (2.1), (2.2) and (2.3) predominate at  $\text{pH} > 4.5$ .





Reactions (2.1) to (2.3) are relatively slow and represent the initial stage in the three-stage AMD formation process.

Stage the life of the proposed mining operations. The following few paragraphs contains a brief overview 1 will persist as long as the pH surrounding the waste particles is only moderately acidic (pH > 4.5). A transitional stage 2 occurs as the pH decreases and the rate of Fe hydrolyses (reaction 2.3) slows, providing ferric iron oxidant. Stage 3 consists of rapid acid production by the ferric iron oxidant pathway and becomes dominant at low pH, where the Fe<sup>2+</sup> (ferric iron) are more soluble (reaction 4):



Without the catalytic influence of the bacteria, the rate of ferrous iron oxidation in an acid medium would be too slow to provide significant AMD generation. As such the final stage in the AMD generation process occurs when the catalytic bacteria *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans* have become established. Reactions (2.2) and (2.4) then combine to form the cyclic, rapid oxidation pathway mainly responsible for the high contamination loads observed in mining environments.

#### **4.4 STEPS TAKEN TO INVESTIGATE, ASSESS AND EVALUATE THE IMPACTS OF THE ACID MINE DRAINAGE**

The identification of the monitoring parameters is crucial and depends on the chemistry of possible pollution sources. They comprise a set of physical and/or chemical parameters (e.g. groundwater levels and predetermined organic and inorganic chemical constituents). Once a pollution indicator has been identified it can be used as a substitute to full analysis and therefore save costs. The use of pollution indicators should be validated on a regular basis in the different sample position. The parameters should be revised after each sampling event; some metals may be added to the analyses during the operational phase, especially if the pH drops.

#### **4.5 ENGINEERING AND DESIGNS SOLUTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED TO AVOID OR REMEDY ACID MINE DRAINAGE**

Mining should aim to remove as much of the coal seam (acid generating material) as possible.

Separate acid generating material and non-acid generating material, as characterised by geochemical sampling and analyses.

Manage in-pit seepage and rainfall through a collection and storage system. Water stored in pit should be utilised locally for dust suppression, as far as possible.

The size of un-rehabilitated areas (pit, spoils, un-vegetated areas) that produce contaminated runoff should be minimised.

Rehabilitation should be planned to promote free drainage and to minimise or eliminate ponding of storm water. On-going rehabilitation as mining operations progress is required.

The clean and dirty water flow areas on a mine site should be identified.

Engineer the final backfilled opencast topography such that runoff is directed away from the opencast areas.

The final layer (just below the topsoil cover) should be as clayey as possible and compacted if feasible, to reduce recharge to the opencasts.

#### **4.6 MEASURES TO REMEDY RESIDUAL OR CUMULATIVE IMPACTS FROM ACID MINE DRAINAGE**

Remove as much coal from the opencasts as possible, as pyritic material that is the main cause of acid mine drainage, is associated with the coal.

Place remaining acid producing material as low as possible in the pit to ensure fast flooding of the material. All mined areas should be flooded as soon as possible to bar oxygen from reacting with remaining pyrite.

#### **4.7 VOLUMES AND RATES OF WATER USE REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

The volumes and rates of water use required for the mining operation will be assessed during the mining activities.

#### **4.8 WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION**

Department of Water and Sanitation will be consulted for the determination of the requirements in terms of the NWA.

## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

| Impact Activity Reference   | Environmental Attribute                         | Impact Management Objectives  | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes)   | Management Actions And Interventions   | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention              | Monitoring Action                      | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring              | Time period for Management Action |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |                                   |
| <b>Construction of mine infrastructure (office and workshop complex, haul and access roads, diversion trenches and pollution control dam/in-pit dam/sump)</b> |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |                                   |
| Loss of soils, erosion of the soils and impacts on landowner's livelihood.  | Soils, Topography Land Use and Land Capability. | To ensure that the activities in the development of the mining area and associated infrastructure do not have detrimental impacts on the soils, land use and land capability. | Ensure that stockpile construction have minimum impact on topography                                   | Topsoil stockpiled to a height of no more than four meters and in free-draining areas to minimise waterlogging and soil erosion losses. Any topsoil below the 300 mm depths to be stockpiled separately from the topsoil. Locate and manage soil stockpiles so that re-handling is minimised. Mine machinery that will limit soil compaction will be used during stockpile construction. | Appointed contractor and site manager.               | Visual monitoring through inspections. | Environmental Control Officer (ECO) during construction. | During construction phase.        |
|   |   |   | Ensure that excavation activities has minimum impact on topography                                     | Designed position and dimensions of surface infrastructure surveyed before excavation to ensure that the extent of disturbance is limited to the approved area.  | Appointed contractor.                                | Visual monitoring and inspections.     | ECO monthly.   | During construction phase.        |
|   |   |   | Ensure that movement and stockpiling of soils do not detrimentally reduce the fertility of the topsoil | Remove on average a layer of 300 mm of topsoil from the infrastructure areas and stockpile areas (subsoil overburden, hard material and run of mine coal stockpiling areas) before removing the remaining soil profile (subsoil). Stockpile topsoil separately from subsoil. Supervise soil stripping to ensure different soils are not mixed.   | Appointed contractor and the applicant site manager. | Visual monitoring and inspections.     | ECO monthly.   | During construction phase.        |
|   |   |   | Ensure that soil movement is conducted to have minimum impact on the viability of the soils.           | Strip and replace soils in one process wherever possible. Preferably, use a shovel and truck fleet for the stripping and replacement of soils. Ensure that stockpiled soil is only used for its intended purpose/s.  | Appointed contractor.                                | Visual monitoring and inspections.     | ECO monthly.   | During construction phase.        |
| Loss of natural   | Flora.  | To ensure that the establishment of the mining  | Ensure that the removal of topsoil is  | Minimum depth of topsoil removal will be 300 mm from the stockpiling and   | Appointed contractor and site manager.               | Visual monitoring and inspections.     | ECO monthly.   | During construction phase.        |

| Impact Activity Reference   | Environmental Attribute   | Impact Management Objectives   | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes)   | Management Actions And Interventions  | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention   | Monitoring Action   | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring                 | Time period for Management Action   |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| vegetation in the affected areas.   |                           | area and associated infrastructure/equipment do not have detrimental impact on the area's flora.   | <p>conducted such that the impacts on the area's ability to maintain a natural vegetation cover is minimised.</p> <p>Ensure that stockpiling of topsoil is conducted in a manner that will not impact on the ability of the area to maintain vegetation cover</p>  | <p>infrastructure areas. This will ensure that the seed bank of the topsoil is as far as possible preserved.</p> <p>Pre-stripping of virgin ground will be limited to the preceding cuts. No unnecessary pre-stripping of preceding cuts will be conducted.</p> <p>All topsoil removed will be stockpiled separately on the designated topsoil stockpile area.</p>  | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Visual monitoring and inspections.  | ECO monthly.  | During construction phase.  |
| Migration of animal life due to disturbance caused proposed project                       | Animal Life               | Ensure that the animal life within in the project is not affected by the proposed project  | Maintenance of the current status on animal life within the project area   | <p>Establishment of the site will be undertaken according to the mining method statement.</p> <p>Poaching will be prohibited at the mining site.</p>  | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p>   | <p>Visual monitoring and inspections.</p> <p>Visual monitoring and inspections.</p>   | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p>                     | <p>During construction phase.</p> <p>During construction phase.</p>                                   |
| Deterioration of water quality in in the nearby steams and within the groundwater regime. | Surface and Ground Water. | Ensure that the establishment of the project and its associated infrastructure does not have detrimental impact on nearby stream and the groundwater regime. | <p>Ensure that construction of mine infrastructure has the least possible impact on the surface water runoff patterns, and thus loss of MAR within all catchments.</p> <p>Ensure that impacts from hydrocarbon liquid spills on surface water quality are minimised.</p> <p>Ensure that impacts from dirty water</p> | <p>Construct infrastructure according to design specifications and approved extent. The stripped areas will be demarcated with berms such that all silted water runoff is diverted to a paddock where silt will be settled before allowing the clean water to runoff to the nearby stream. Note that this does not include the acid mien water or water displaying acid mine drainage tendencies. All infrastructure will be constructed to be more than 100 meters away from the nearby stream.</p> <p>All hydrocarbon liquids will be handled (stored and dispatched) within properly designed and constructed facilities. This will either be banded areas or facilities manufactured to contain hydrocarbon liquid without spilling.</p> <p>Any dirty water captured within the mine will be diverted via the storm water diversion</p> | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> | <p>Regular inspections. Monitoring of the surrounding water resources.</p> <p>Regular inspections. Monitoring of the surrounding water resources.</p> <p>Regular inspections. Monitoring of the surrounding water</p> | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p> | <p>During construction phase.</p> <p>During construction phase.</p> <p>During construction phase.</p> |

| Impact Activity Reference   | Environmental Attribute | Impact Management Objectives   | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes)   | Management Actions And Interventions  | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention  | Monitoring Action  | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring                 | Time period for Management Action                               |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|
|   |                         |  | <p>captured within the mine, on surface water quality is minimised.</p> <p>Ensure that diversion trenches/berms, the pollution control dam and in-pit sump are designed and constructed to minimise impacts on ground water.</p>   | <p>trenches to an in-pit sump and/or a pollution control dam.</p> <p>Excavation of the in-pit sump to be undertaken such that as much coal as possible is removed and only sandstone walls are used. Any remaining coal and carbonaceous material to be moved away from the in-pit sump. Should a pollution control dam be constructed, the dam will be constructed in line with an approved civil designs drawing and will be in line with the requirements of the regulations under GN 704.</p>                   | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p>  | <p>resources.</p> <p>Regular inspections. Monitoring of the surrounding water resources.</p> | <p>ECO monthly.</p>   | <p>During construction phase.</p>                               |
| Deterioration of water quality in in the nearby steams and within the groundwater regime. | Ground Water            | <p>Ensure that the establishment of the project and its associated infrastructure does not have detrimental impact on groundwater.</p> | <p>Ensure that impacts from hydrocarbon liquid spills are minimised.</p> <p>Ensure that impacts from dirty water captured within the mine is minimised.</p> <p>Ensure that diversion trenches/berms, the pollution control dam and in-pit sump are designed and constructed to minimise impacts on ground water.</p> | <p>Water management facilities should be designed to intercept and contain as much contaminated runoff and/or seepage as possible.</p> <p>Apply effective storm water management principles to ensure that clean runoff is maximised and diverted to the receiving water resource, while contaminated runoff is minimised and contained for reuse within the operation.</p> <p>Proper storage, handling and monitoring of fuel and chemicals used on site to minimize the risk of spillages to the environment.</p> | <p>Appointed contractor, site manager and Environmental Co-ordinator/Office.</p> <p>Appointed contractor, site manager and Environmental Co-ordinator/Office.</p> <p>Appointed contractor, site manager and Environmental Co-ordinator/Office.</p> | <p>Regular inspections.</p> <p>Regular inspections.</p> <p>Regular inspections.</p>          | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p> | <p>During construction phase.</p>                               |
| Air pollution through air pollutants' emissions, from the construction site.              | Air quality.            | <p>Ensure that not all operations during the construction phase result in detrimental air quality impacts.</p>                         | <p>Ensure that impacts from dust and diesel fumes generated by machinery on local air quality is minimised</p> <p>Ensure that impacts</p>  | <p>All machinery will be fitted with the correct exhaust systems, which will be maintained in good repair.</p> <p>All area generating significant dust will be</p>  | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor</p>  | <p>Visual inspections of areas with possible dust emissions.</p> <p>Regular inspections.</p> | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p>                     | <p>Throughout the construction phase.</p> <p>Throughout the</p> |

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|---|-------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|   |                         |   | <p>from dust generated by blowing wind on local air quality is minimised</p> <p>Ensure that impacts from dust generated by blasting on local air quality is minimised.</p> | <p>dust suppressed using mine affected water. Water for dust suppression purposes will be obtained from the in-pit sump or pollution control dam. Speed on access and haul roads will be limited to 40 km/hour.</p> <p>Blasting will as far as possible be conducted when wind direction is away from the houses.</p>  | <p>and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p>                      | <p>Ambient air quality will be monitored.</p> <p>Regular inspections.</p>  | <p>ECO monthly.</p>   | <p>construction phase.</p> <p>Throughout the construction phase.</p>                                    |
| Increased noise levels.   | Noise aspects.          | Ensure that the noise levels emanating from the construction sites will not have detrimental effects on the mine employees and surrounding communities/land owners. | <p>Ensure that noise impacts on machine operators and/or residences are minimised.</p>   | <p>Machine operators will be issued with earplugs, and instructed how to use them.</p> <p>Construction will be undertaken such that noise impacts on the nearby industrial park (northwest of the mine) and residential area (south west of the mine) is minimal. The noise levels will be monitored to ensure that ambient noise standards are met.</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager</p>  | <p>Use of earplugs will be checked and reported.</p> <p>Ambient noise monitoring will be undertaken</p> <p>Regular Inspection.</p> | <p>Site manager will check the use of the earplugs as regularly as possible.</p> <p>Ambient noise monitoring will be undertaken twice every year.</p> | <p>Throughout the construction phase.</p> <p>Throughout the construction phase.</p>                     |
| Impacts on the Visual Aspects   | Visual Aspects.         | Ensure that the impacts on the overall visual aesthetic to the residences and landowners in the vicinity of the permit mining area.                                 | <p>Ensure that visual impacts from the generation of dust are minimized.</p> <p>Ensure that visual impacts from the mining activities are minimized.</p>                   | <p>All area generating significant dust will be dust suppressed using mine affected water.</p> <p>Topsoil berms will be constructed around visible parts of the mine to act as visual berms.</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> | <p>Visual monitoring and Inspection.</p> <p>Visual monitoring and Inspection.</p>  | <p>ECO monthly</p> <p>ECO monthly</p>   | <p>Throughout the construction phase.</p> <p>Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase.</p> |
| Impact from the influx of job seekers and employment of farm labourers. | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that measures are taken to discourage influx of job seekers and employment of farm labourers.  | Measures taken will be in line with the company's recruitment policies.  | <p>Local labour and contractors will be appointed. This will ensure that economic spin-offs that result due to employment benefit the local community.</p> <p>The mine will ensure that the creation of unrealistic expectations is prevented by communicating the period of the construction phase to the local communities and the communities will be informed that few new positions will be created. Local councillors and recognised community forums/groups</p> | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Visual monitoring.   | Site manager  | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase.  |

| Impact Activity Reference                   | Environmental Attribute | Impact Management Objectives   | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes)   | Management Actions And Interventions   | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention | Monitoring Action  | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring | Time period for Management Action                      |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|   |                         |  |  | will be involved in the above communication. The mine will adhere to its procurement strategy, which aims to increase local content of the project to its maximum.   |   |  |   |  |
| Impact on the livelihood of the landowners. | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that measures are taken to reduce the impact on the livelihood of the landowners.                                   | Measures taken will be in line with the company's social policy.   | All personnel entering the properties will be vetted and checked for criminal records. Employees will not wonder around the properties without supervision. Measures will be taken to avoid the spread of veld fires by the applicant's workforce. Sitting, designing and construction of the access road will be undertaken such that it complies with the relevant laws. The access road must be capable of accommodating heavy vehicles traveling in both directions. The road will be wide enough (10m) to allow two heavy vehicles to use the access road safely. | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Site inspections and meetings with the landowners and relevant regulators.   | Site manager                                | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase. |
| <b>Construction of the Initial Box cut</b>  |                         |  |  |  |   |  |   |  |
| Disturbance of the geological profile       | Geology                 | To ensure that the construction of the initial box cut does not have detrimental impacts on the geology                    | Replacement of the opencast voids with removed overburden material   | Use removed material to backfill the opencast voids.<br><br>All remaining carbonaceous material will be placed at the bottom of the mining pits and should be covered with the rest of the remaining overburden material. This will reduce the exposure of the carbonaceous material to free oxygen, hence limiting the formation of acid mine generation.   | ECO and Mining Contractor               | Measuring volumes of overburden removed and replaced. Check the volumes against volumetric assessment done by mine surveyor. | Surveyor and Monthly                        | Throughout Construction Phase                          |
| Formation of topographical voids            | Topography              | To ensure that the construction of the initial box cut does not have detrimental impacts on the local topographic patterns | The initial box cut will be excavated to comply with the safety standards set in the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 26 of 1996), the mine's health and safety policies, relevant operational procedures | Use material from the successive cuts to backfill the voids created by the construction of the initial box cut. Note that since concurrent rehabilitation will be used at the mine, only three to four cuts will at all times be open at the opencast mining area.   | ECO and Mining Contractor               | Measuring volumes of overburden removed and replaced. Check the volumes against volumetric assessment done by mine surveyor. | Surveyor and Monthly                        | Throughout Construction Phase                          |
| Degradation of topsoil                      | Soils                   | To ensure that the construction activities does  | Ensure that the handling (stripping  | Topsoil stripping will conduct a suitable distance ahead of mining to avoid soil loss  | ECO and Mining Contractor               | Monitor for compaction and erosion   | Every three months by ECO                   | During the first month                                 |

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|   |                         | not have detrimental impacts on the soils  | and stockpiling) of the soils are undertaken in accordance with the applicable rehabilitation guidelines.   | and contamination from throw/blast rock. Subsoil will be stripped separately from the topsoil. Stripping will be supervised to ensure different soils are not mixed. Stockpile the stripped soils in designated stockpile areas. Locate and manage soil stockpiles so that re-handling is minimised. Ensure stockpiles are placed in free draining areas to minimise waterlogging and soil erosion losses. Stockpile topsoil to heights that will ensure maintenance of a maximum level of biological activity.  |   |  |  | During and after the soil stripping process. During and after the completion of the stockpiles. |
| Removal of natural vegetation due to the stripping of topsoil and disturbance of faunal habitat | Terrestrial Ecology     | Ensure that the activity does not impact detrimentally on the terrestrial ecological features at the study area                            | The management of the impact will comply with the mine's mine closure/rehabilitation plan.  | Development and implementation of a rehabilitation plan, concurrent to the mining operation; areas of indigenous vegetation, even secondary communities outside of the direct project footprint, should under no circumstances be disturbed further. Clearing of vegetation should be minimized and avoided where possible. The areas to be developed must be specifically demarcated to prevent movement of workers into, especially high sensitive areas and the surrounding.  | ECO, Mining Contractor and relevant environmental specialist. | Biodiversity and rehabilitation monitoring.    | Once during the construction phase by a suitably qualified environmental specialist. | Throughout Construction Phase   |
| Deterioration of water quality in the west and east unnamed streams                             | Surface Water           | To ensure that the runoff water from the mine access and haul roads during construction does not adversely affect clean water environment. | Management of the storm water will comply with the requirements of the regulations under the GN704 and as far as possible with the requirements of the relevant DWS Best Practice Guidelines. | Areas that are stripped should be optimised to limit unnecessary stripping. Storm water from upslope of the stripped areas should be diverted around these areas to limit the amount of storm water flowing over from these areas. The timing of the topsoil stripping should be optimised to limit the time between stripping and construction. Where practical constraints exist and areas need to be left stripped for long periods, contour ploughing, or ripping could reduce run-off and hence reduce erosion. Dry season construction is preferable where practical. An appropriate seed mix should be designed by a vegetation specialist. | ECO and Mining Contractor.                                    | Site inspections and surface water monitoring. | Monthly by an independent environmental specialist.                                  | Throughout Construction Phase   |



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| Deterioration of groundwater quality  | Groundwater.            | Ensure that the groundwater regime is not detrimentally affected by the carbonaceous material excavated from the project site. | Groundwater quality in the vicinity of the site will not deteriorate beyond groundwater water quality targets set by the authorities. | <p>Deterioration of water quality must be prevented wherever possible and minimised where complete prevention is not possible. Mining will where possible commenced at an unmined area. This will allow minimum seepage water collection at the initial box cut. An in-pit sump designed and constructed to contain water from the mine will be used at the initial box cut. The sump will be assessed for its ability to contain water from the pit and should more capacity be required, a pollution control dam will be constructed.</p> <p>The initial box cut will be assessed for use as a temporary handling facility for any excessive water that may be emanating from the underground mine areas.</p> <p>The mine must investigate and develop a long-term water management strategy for the management of water from the mined out underground workings that are connected to the mining permit areas. This strategy must ensure that the management of water from the mining permit areas together with the prospecting right area (future mining right area) are undertaken such that the nearby water resources are protected.</p> <p>Water users affected by the mine must be provided with water of a quality that does not cause significant user, water quality, product quality or process related problems (scaling etc.).</p> <p>The plan must be sustainable over the life cycle of the mine and over different hydrological cycles.</p> | ECO, Mining Contractor and relevant environmental specialist.t   | Groundwater quality and quantity monitoring. This will include monitoring of any situation for excess water from the mined out underground workings steer at the initial box cut. | Quarterly by an environmental specialist.   | Throughout Construction Phase     |
| Deterioration of water quality in in the nearby steams and within the groundwater regime. | Ground Water            | Ensure that the operation of opencast workings do not have detrimental impact on groundwater.                                  | Ensure that impacts on groundwater from opencast workings are minimised.  | <p>Before operation, a plan that includes explicit consideration of closure and rehabilitation issues must be prepared and approved.</p> <p>Monitoring boreholes will be required in strategic locations near the pollution source,</p>  | <p>Appointed contractor, site manager and Environmental Co-ordinator/Office.</p> <p>Environmental Co-ordinator/Office.</p> | <p>Management meetings.</p> <p>Monitoring of boreholes.</p>   | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p>     | Throughout Construction Phase     |

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|--|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|  |                                 |  |   | to obtain information on the groundwater regime as well as for future monitoring purposes.<br><br>Construct detailed water and salt balances. Institute detailed monitoring systems that are capable of detecting pollution at the earliest possible stage.  | Environmental Co-ordinator/Office.                           | Regular inspections.  | ECO monthly.   |   |
| Wetland destruction and loss of habitat.                                     | Wetlands                        | Ensure that the establishment of the proposed Mining Project do not have detrimental impacts on the wetlands identified within the project study area. | Maintain or improve the current PES and EIS of the remaining wetlands within the project study area in accordance with the water use licence conditions. The areas to be rehabilitated will be in compliance with relevant rehabilitation guidelines. | Implementation of a rehabilitation plan, concurrent to the mining operation;<br><br>No loss of wetland habitat should be permitted. Demarcated recommended buffer over the mining plan. Signpost the identified wetlands and their buffers as environmentally sensitive area and keep all mining related activities and general access out of this area;<br>Avoid mining or constructing any more roads within the identified wetlands without due environmental and water use authorisation. Landscape and re-vegetate all unnecessarily denuded areas as soon as possible. | ECO, Mining Contractor and relevant environmental specialist | The affected wetlands will be assessed.   | Annually by an environmental specialist.                                   | Throughout Construction Phase                                 |
| Air pollution through air pollutants' emissions, from the construction site. | Air quality.                    | Ensure that all operations during the pre-construction and construction phase of the mining project do not result in detrimental air quality impacts.  | The mine project will be constructed such that the ambient air quality does not exceed the National Air Quality Standards.  | Conduct dust suppression daily using water from the pollution control dam. If the use of the water from the pollution control dam does not field satisfactory results chemicals will be used for the suppression of dust from the roads and other dust generation areas. Enforce appropriate speed limits for the mine vehicles.<br><br>Implement a dust and noxious gas minimisation strategy where necessary.  | Appointed contractor and ECO.                                | Visual inspections of areas with possible dust emissions such as unpaved roads and transfer points will be conducted on a monthly basis.<br><br>Ambient dust fall monitoring will be conducted. | ECO weekly and site manager daily.<br><br>Environmental specialist monthly | Throughout the construction phase.                            |
| Increased ground vibration and air blasts.                                   | Ground vibration and air blast. | Ensure that the ground vibration levels and air blasts do not have detrimental effects on surrounding structures.                                      | The ground vibration and air blast from the development of the adit will not exceed the United States Bureau of Mines (USBM) criteria for   | Best practises must be used during blasting to ensure that the ground vibration and air blast pressure is within acceptable limits.<br><br>Undertake a full risk assessment in order to address the aspects and to put proper controls in place.   | Appointed blasting contractor and/or mine blaster            | Blasting holes will be inspected before any blasting is conducted.<br><br>Seismic monitoring will be conducted during and after every blast.  | Mine blaster will undertake the inspection before and after every blast.   | When blasting during the construction phase of the operation. |

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|  |                         |  | safe blasting for ground vibration and recommendations on air blast.  | Proper stemming and use of stemming material.<br>Blasts can be delayed when prevailing wind is blowing towards the area of concern and not leaving blasts standing for long periods of time.  |  |  |  |                                    |
| Increased noise levels.  | Noise aspects.          | Ensure that the noise levels emanating from the mining project construction site will not have detrimental effects on the mine employees and surrounding communities.                                    | The noise levels from the mining project site will be managed and measures will be taken to ensure that noise levels are below the National Noise Control Regulations, SANS10103:2008 guidelines and the International Finance Corporation (World Bank) guidelines. | Ensure routeing has less impacts on sensitive receptors.<br><br>Limit vehicle speed within the mining right areas;<br><br>Ensuring all equipment in use is maintained and equipped with the OEM's required muffler/exhaust/silencer; Consider the acoustic rating of equipment when selecting equipment;<br><br>Minimise site and plant activities after hours; Limiting the number of activities that take place simultaneously in close proximity to sensitive receptor's; and maintaining a healthy consultative relationship with sensitive receptor's in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and possible complaints as well as proposed corrective/preventative actions between parties. | Appointed contractor and ECO.  | Undertake ambient noise monitoring programme.<br><br>Speed checking will be conducted.<br><br>Visual inspections<br><br>Regular inspections.   | Environmental specialist twice a year.<br><br>Safety Officer will conduct speed checking as regularly as possible.<br><br>ECO monthly. | Throughout the construction phase. |
| Visual impacts on the surrounding communities and road users from the construction site. | Visual aspects.         | Ensure that all operations during the pre-construction and construction phase of the proposed project do not result in detrimental visual impacts on surrounding properties, communities and road users. | Measures will be undertaken by the mine to ensure that the visual aspects from the site are complying with the relevant visual standards and objectives.  | Use the perimeter berms and topsoil as a visual screen from the surrounding communities.<br><br>Ensure that the initial box cut, successive cuts and the associated stockpiles and surface infrastructure are removed or rehabilitated during the decommissioning phase of the mine.<br><br>Where possible areas disturbed by construction activity, must be suitably   | Mine engineer and the ECO.<br><br>Mine engineer and the ECO.<br><br>Mine engineer and the ECO. | The constructed perimeter berms will be inspected for compliance with the design specifications.<br><br>The slopes will be inspected for compliance with the construction method statement and designs.<br><br>Areas of disturbance will be inspected to determine | Mine Engineer and ECO on a monthly basis.<br><br>Mine Engineer and ECO on a monthly basis.<br><br>Mine Engineer and ECO on a monthly   | Throughout the construction phase. |

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|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |   | <p>topsoiled and vegetated as soon as is possible. The progressive rehabilitation measures will allow for the maximum growth period before the completion of the project.</p> <p>Limit areas of disturbance to areas where infrastructure or facilities will be constructed or placed. Where possible, the existing vegetation will be supplemented with indigenous plant species to increase the effectiveness of the visual buffer.</p> <p>Dust suppression will be undertaken at all areas that will be affected by construction activities and where dust will be generated.</p> <p>Existing large trees that fall outside the earthworks area must be retained. Note that the alien plant eradication will supersede this commitment.</p> | <p>Mine engineer and the ECO.</p> <p>Mine engineer and the ECO.</p> <p>Mine engineer and the ECO.</p> | <p>areas that need rehabilitation.</p> <p>Areas of disturbance inspected against the approved design specifications of the project.</p> <p>See monitoring under air quality.</p> <p>Inspection of the site will be conducted.</p> | <p>basis.</p> <p>Mine Engineer and ECO on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Mine Engineer and ECO on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Mine Engineer and ECO on a monthly basis.</p> |  |
| Damage or destruction of sites with archaeological and cultural significance. | Sites of archaeological and cultural importance. | Ensure that the development of the mine does not have detrimental impacts on heritage sites.         | The construction will be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) and recommendations from the heritage specialist. | Controls and monitoring should be aimed at the possible unearthing of such features. If any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence.   | ECO, mining contractor and heritage specialist.   | Inspection by mining contractor and ECO.  | Weekly by both ECO and mining contractor.  | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase  |
| Impact from the influx of job seekers and employment of farm labourers.       | Socio-economic aspects.                          | Ensure that measures are taken to discourage influx of job seekers and employment of farm labourers. | Measures taken will be in line with the company's recruitment policies.   | Local labour and contractors will be appointed. This will ensure that economic spin-offs that result due to employment benefit the local community. The mine will ensure that the creation of unrealistic expectations is prevented by communicating the period of the construction phase to the local communities and the communities will be informed that few new positions will be created. Local councillors and recognised community forums/groups will be involved in the above communication. The mine will adhere to its procurement  | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Visual monitoring.  | Site manager   | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase. |

| Impact Activity Reference  | Environmental Attribute                                  | Impact Management Objectives  | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes)   | Management Actions And Interventions   | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention | Monitoring Action                                  | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring | Time period for Management Action                      |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  |  |   |  | strategy, which aims to increase local content of the project to its maximum.  |   |  |   |  |
| Impact on the livelihood of the landowners.  | Socio-economic aspects.                                  | Ensure that measures are taken to reduce the impact on the livelihood of the landowners.  | Measures taken will be in line with the company's social policy.                     | All personnel entering the properties will be vetted and checked for criminal records<br>Employees will not wonder around the properties without supervision.<br>Measures will be taken to avoid the spread of veld fires by the applicant's workforce.                    | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Site inspections and meetings with the land owners | Site manager                                | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase. |
| <b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>   |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Operation of other mine infrastructure (pollution control facilities/ mine workshop complex, overburden stockpiles and use of haul and access roads).</b> |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |
| Soil profile disruption, contamination of soils, destruction of natural vegetation and loss of land use.   | Soils, Natural Vegetation, Land Use and Land Capability. | Ensure that the operation and maintenance of the mine infrastructure do not have detrimental impacts on the soils, natural vegetation and current land use. | Ensure that the operation of the mine infrastructure has minimum impact on the soil. | Any emergency repairs within the mining area outside the workshops must be conducted on protected ground.  | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Visual monitoring and inspections.                 | ECO monthly.                                | During the operational phase of the project.           |
|  |  |   |  | Any accidental spillage of hydrocarbon fluids outside the workshop areas must be reported and appropriated measures (environmental emergency procedures) taken to clean the spills.  | Appointed contractor.                   | Visual monitoring and inspections.                 | ECO monthly.                                | During the operational phase of the project.           |
|  |  |   |  | All hydrocarbon fluids will be stored within bunded areas or facilities suitably manufactured for storage of dangerous goods without spilling to the environment. The usage of the fluids will be undertaken within the bunded areas.                                      | Appointed contractor.                   | Visual monitoring and inspections.                 | ECO monthly.                                | During the operational phase of the project.           |
| Migration of animal life due to disturbance caused proposed project  | Animal Life  | Ensure that the animal life within in the project is not affected by the proposed project   | Ensure that loss of indigenous fauna is minimised.                                   | Ensure that environmental education of mine staff takes place at all levels to limit unnecessary damage to habitats and/or disturbance of fauna. Educate employees on dangers of trapping endangered species during the mines environmental awareness plan implementation. | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Visual monitoring and inspections.                 | ECO monthly.                                | During operational phase.                              |

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|---|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Exposure of soils may lead to increased silt loads in surface water runoff. | Surface and Ground Water. | Ensure that the operation and maintenance of the mine infrastructure do not have detrimental impacts on the soils, natural vegetation and current land use.       | <p>Ensure that diesel spillages do not occur.</p> <p>Ensure that impacts of seepage from the rehabilitated workings on groundwater is minimised.</p>   | <p>Ensure that all possible sources of dirty water have been identified and that appropriate collection and containment systems have been implemented and that these do not result in further unnecessary water quality deterioration.</p> <p>Separated diesel and oils will be disposed of in accordance to relevant legislation.</p> <p>All clean and dirty water management facilities will be operated and maintained in line with the relevant regulations and guidelines. Water contained in the dirty water facilities will not impact detrimentally the nearby water resources (surface water and ground water resources). Ensure that seepage losses from storage facilities (such as polluted dams) are minimised and overflows are prevented.</p> | <p>Appointed contractor, site manager and Environmental Co-ordinator/Office</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> | <p>Regular inspections.</p> <p>Visual monitoring and inspections.</p> <p>Visual monitoring and inspections.<br/>As and when necessary, a suitably qualified engineer must be appointed to audit all water management facilities.</p> | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p> | <p>During operational phase.</p> <p>During operational phase.</p> <p>During operational phase.</p> |
| Generation of dust and fuel fumes by vehicular movement.                    | Air quality.              | Ensure that the air quality in the vicinity of the mining sites and sites' access routes are not detrimentally altered.   | <p>Ensure that impacts from dust and diesel fumes generated by machinery on local air quality is minimised.</p> <p>Ensure that impacts from dust generated by blowing wind on local air quality is minimised</p> | <p>All machinery will be fitted with the correct exhaust systems, which will be maintained and in good repair.</p> <p>Apply approved dust suppression/curbing material on roads if water dust suppression is insufficient.</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p>   | <p>Visual inspections of areas with possible dust emissions.</p> <p>Regular inspections.</p>   | <p>ECO monthly.</p> <p>ECO monthly.</p>                     | <p>Throughout the operational phase.</p> <p>During operational phase.</p>                          |
| Increased noise levels.   | Noise aspects.            | Ensure that the noise levels emanating from the operational site will not have detrimental effects on the mine employees and surrounding communities/land owners. | Ensure that noise impacts on machine operators and/or residences are minimised.  | Machine operators will be issued with earplugs, and instructed how to use them.  | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Site checks regularly.   | Site manager.   | During operational phase.  |
| Safety, intrusion and livelihood impacts on                                 | Socio-economic aspects.   | Ensure that the mining operation does not   | The mine will ensure that all safety   | Announce any road closures and other disruptions and maintain roads used for the   | Appointed contractor and site manager.  | Liaison with affected parties.   | Site manager as and when necessary.                         | Throughout the operational phase.  |

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| the landowners and occupiers.  |                         | significantly disrupt the daily living and movements of the landowners and occupiers.  | standards are met and that access to landowners and occupiers are not detrimentally affected.   | operation in good order.<br>Keep communication with landowners and land occupiers open during the operational phase of the project. Ensure that negotiations on compensation are undertaken before the mining can commence. This will include any other conditions that the landowner may deem necessary for the mining operation.<br><br>Ensure that safety measures are implemented to prevent impacts on landowners and occupiers. | Applicant and site manager.<br><br>Site manager. | Meetings with the landowners.<br><br>Minutes of any meeting held with landowners and agreements will be recorded and filed.<br><br>Regular checks and inspections. | Site manager as and when meetings are held.<br><br>Site manager. | Throughout the operational phase.<br><br>Throughout the operational phase. |
| Impact on the livelihood of the landowners.                                  | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that measures are taken to reduce the impact on the livelihood of the landowners.   | Measures taken will be in line with the company's social policy.  | All personnel entering the properties will be vetted and checked for criminal records<br>Employees will not wonder around the properties without supervision.<br>Measures will be taken to avoid the spread of veld fires by the applicant's workforce.   | Appointed contractor and site manager.           | Site inspections and meetings with the land owners   | Site manager   | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase.                     |
| <b>Systematic removal of the target coal seam by opencast mining methods</b> |                         |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Disruption of geological profile   | Geology                 | Ensure that the disruption of the geological profile do not results detrimental effects to the environment.                      | Undertake the mining and rehabilitation in line with the relevant mining and rehabilitation guidelines  | Use removed overburden to replace the overburden material in the mined out opencast pits during rehabilitation of the opencast pit.   | ECO and Mining Contractor                        | Measuring volumes of overburden removed and replaced. Check the volumes against volumetric assessment done by mine surveyor.                                       | Surveyor and Monthly   | Throughout Operational Phase   |
| Formation of topographical voids   | Topography              | To ensure that the systematic removal of the target coal seams do not have detrimental impacts on the local topographic patterns | The opencast workings will be operated to comply with the safety standards set in the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 26 of 1996), the mine's health and safety policies, relevant operational procedures | Use material from the successive cuts to backfill the voids created by the construction of the initial box cut. Note that since concurrent rehabilitation will be used at the mine, only three to four cuts will at all times be open at the opencast mining area.  | ECO and Mining Contractor                        | Measuring volumes of overburden removed and replaced. Check the volumes against volumetric assessment done by mine surveyor.                                       | Surveyor and Monthly   | Throughout Operational Phase   |
| Degradation of topsoil   | Soils, Land Use and     | To ensure that the   | Ensure that the   | Implement a soil management strategy for  | ECO and Mining                                   | Monitor for compaction   | Every three months by  | Throughout   |

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|---|-------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| and loss of land capability   | Capability              | systematic removal of the target coal seams does not have detrimental impacts on the soils                        | stripping and stockpiling of the soils are undertaken in accordance with the applicable rehabilitation guidelines.   | the mining area. This will ensure that the soils at the mining area are protected during stripping and stockpiling of the encountered soils.<br><br>Assign proper storm water management plans.<br>Replacing of topsoil restore the suitable land capability.   | Contractor   | and erosion.<br><br>Monitor progress of rehabilitation at the opencast workings.  | ECO<br><br>Weekly by ECO  | Operational Phase                 |
| Removal of natural vegetation due to the stripping of topsoil and disturbance of faunal habitat | Terrestrial Ecology     | Ensure that the activity does not impacts detrimentally on the terrestrial ecological features ate the study area | The management of the impact will comply with the mine's biodiversity management plan and closure plan for the mine. | Dust-reducing mitigation measures must be put in place and must be strictly adhered to, for all roads and dumps. This includes wetting of exposed soft soil surfaces and not conducting activities on windy days which will increase the likelihood of dust being generated;<br><br>Noise reduction measures must be installed for all machines, vehicles and equipment. Appropriate silencers to control potentially disrupting noises to be fitted. The noise impact assessment must advise.  | ECO, Mining Contractor and relevant environmental specialist<br><br>ECO, Mining Contractor and relevant environmental specialist | Biodiversity monitoring.<br><br>Air quality monitoring<br><br>Ambient monitoring  | Annually by suitably qualified environmental specialist.<br>Monthly by suitably qualified environmental specialist.<br>Annually by suitably qualified environmental specialist. | Throughout Operational Phase      |
| Reduction in the catchment yield  | Surface Water Quantity  | Ensure that the loss in the catchment yield is kept minimal   | As much of storm water runoff to report to the nearby stream as possible.  | All clean storm water runoff during flood events will be diverted away from the opencast areas.<br><br>Rainfall water entering the opencast pits during flood events will be removed with the use of pumps with sufficient pumping capacity. The water will be pumped into the in-pit sump, initial box cut (used for containment of excess water) or pollution control dam, which will be designed and constructed to be able to handle water from the 1:50 year flood event.<br><br>The opencast pit must be designed and planned to be outside the 1:100 year flood line or 100 meters away from the affected streams and such that it can be maintained safe during high rainfall events. | ECO and the appointed contractor.<br><br>ECO and the appointed contractor.<br><br>ECO and the appointed contractor.              | Mine water balance will be updated to determine the catchment yield during the operational phase.<br><br>Mine water balance will be updated to determine the catchment yield during the operational phase.<br><br>Mine water balance will be updated to determine the catchment yield during the operational phase. | Environmental specialist on an annual basis<br><br>Environmental specialist on an annual basis<br><br>Environmental specialist on an annual basis                               | Throughout Operational Phase      |



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|---|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|   |                         |  |   | The mine will develop an emergency procedure for evacuating employees in case the volumes of water captured in the pit are beyond the capacity of the pumping systems.  | ECO and the appointed contractor.  | Mine water balance will be updated to determine the catchment yield during the operational phase.            | Environmental specialist on an annual basis.                             |  |
| Deterioration of water quality in the west and east unnamed streams                         | Surface Water Quality   | To ensure that the water from the opencast workings does not adversely affect clean water environment.   | Management of the storm water will comply with the requirements of the regulations under the GN704 and as far as possible with the requirements of the relevant DWS Best Practice Guidelines. | Contaminated shallow seepage and storm water run-off must be collected and routed to into the in-pit sump, initial box cut (used for containment of excess water) or pollution control dam. The facilities must be operated in accordance with Government Notice 704 of the South African National Water Act.<br><br>Water reuse from the facilities must be maximised.   | ECO and Mining Contractor<br><br>ECO and Mining Contractor   | Surface Water Monitoring<br><br>Surface Water Monitoring   | Monthly by an independent environmental specialist.                      | Throughout Operational Phase                     |
| Deterioration of water quality within the affected wetlands and destruction of the wetlands | Wetland Ecology         | Ensure that the systematic removal of the target coal seams do not result in the destruction of the remaining wetlands and deterioration of its water quality. | The systematic removal of the target coal seams will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of the GN704 regulations and the conditions stipulated in the water use licence         | Implement storm water management plan;<br><br>Reduce the extent of bare surfaces wherever possible by rehabilitating and re-vegetating them;<br><br>Promote infiltration wherever possible (e.g. with semipermeable paving bricks), and Operate the mine to be within the approved buffer from the wetland areas.   | ECO, mining contractor and wetland specialist appointed by the mine.<br><br>ECO, mining contractor and wetland specialist appointed by the mine. | Inspections and audits (monitoring) conducted at the affected wetland areas.<br><br>Environmental inspection | ECO and wetland specialist annually<br><br>ECO weekly                    | Throughout the operational phase of the project  |
| Deterioration of groundwater.   | Groundwater             | Ensure that management of mineral residue stockpiles.  | The quality of the groundwater around the stockpiles will comply with the target as set in the water use licence or the catchment water quality objectives.                                   | Prevent the erosion or leaching of materials from any residue stockpile.<br><br>Water quantity and quality data should be collected on a regular, ongoing basis during mine operations to recalibrate and update the mine water management model, to prepare monitoring and audit reports, to report to the regulatory authorities against the requirements of the IWWMP and other authorisations and as feedback to stakeholders in the catchment. | ECO and mining contractor.<br><br>ECO and mining contractor.   | Regular checks and inspections.<br><br>Groundwater monitoring.   | ECO weekly.<br><br>Quarterly by an independent environmental specialist. | Throughout the operational phase of the project. |
| Deterioration of groundwater.   | Groundwater             | Ensure that systematic removal of the target coal  | The quality of the groundwater around   | Surrounding boreholes i.e. monitoring and boreholes used by residents (if identified  | ECO and mining contractor.   | Groundwater monitoring.  | Quarterly by an independent  | During the operational phase of                  |

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|  |                         | seams do not result in the contamination of the groundwater.                 | the mine will comply with the target as set in the water use licence or the catchment water quality objectives.   | <p>during mining) must be monitored on a quarterly basis to determine the extent of the dewatering cone from the mining workings.</p> <p>Mining must be undertaken concurrently with rehabilitation.</p> <p>Water seeping into the opencast pits must be removed into the in-pit sump, initial box cut (used for containment of excess water) or pollution control dam as soon as possible.</p> <p>Reduce the exposure of the carbonaceous material to free oxygen. This will be achieved by placing the carbonaceous material at the bottom of the opencast pits and backfill as soon as possible thereby reducing the potential of exposure to free oxygen and hence reducing the possibility of acid mine drainage.</p> <p>A long-term water management strategy as indicated in the construction phase must be implemented.</p> | <p>ECO and mining contractor.</p> <p>ECO and mining contractor.</p> <p>ECO and mining contractor.</p> <p>ECO and mining contractor.</p>   | <p>Environmental inspections.</p> <p>Regular checks and inspections.</p> <p>Regular checks and inspections.</p> <p>Regular checks and inspections.</p>   | <p>environmental specialist.</p> <p>ECO weekly.</p> <p>ECO weekly.</p> <p>ECO weekly.</p>                           | the project.                                 |
| Air pollution through air pollutants' emissions and spontaneous combustion from the mining site. | Air quality.            | Ensure that all operations do not result in detrimental air quality impacts. | The systematic removal of the target coal seams will be conducted such that the ambient air quality does not exceed the National Air Quality Standards. | <p>Wet suppression using water carts will be conducted at areas with excessive dust emissions, which will include used open spaces and unpaved roads and any other areas with potential to generate excessive dust. Chemical surfactants will be considered should water suppression not yield satisfactory results.</p> <p>Traffic will be restricted to demarcated areas and traffic volumes and speeds within the active site will be controlled.</p> <p>Employees must be issued with dust masks and instructed to use them.</p> <p>Covering of burning areas in the high wall, with soil material to prevent spontaneous combustion.</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and Safety Officer.</p> <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and Safety Officer.</p> <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and Safety Officer.</p> <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and Safety Officer.</p> | <p>Visual inspections of areas with possible dust emissions such as unpaved roads and transfer points will be conducted on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Ambient dust fall and PM monitoring (including recommended additional monitoring points) will be conducted as part of the existing monitoring programme.</p> <p>Meetings with farmers will be arranged.</p> | <p>ECO/safety officer weekly and site manager daily.</p> <p>Monthly by an independent environmental specialist.</p> | During the operational phase of the project. |

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|  |                                 |   |  | Rehabilitation of mined out areas as soon as possible to limit spoils areas from spontaneous combustion risk.  | Appointed contractor, ECO and Safety Officer.  |   |   |   |
| Increased ground vibration and air blasts. | Ground vibration and air blast. | Ensure that the ground vibration levels and air blasts do not have detrimental effects on surrounding structures.                         | The ground vibration and air blast from the development of the adit will not exceed the United States Bureau of Mines (USBM) criteria for safe blasting for ground vibration and recommendations on air blast. | <p>Minimum explosives will be used and the blasting holes will be stemmed. This will be done in order to ensure that levels of ground vibration and air blast are within acceptable limits, hence not induce damage to nearby property. Reduced charge mass per delay limit as specified by a suitably qualified blaster, will be used.</p> <p>A log of blasting must be maintained and the following will be complied with i.e.:<br/>Blasting may only take place between 06h00 and 18h00.<br/>Notify people within 1 km radius 1hr prior to blasting.<br/>Monitor and review noise levels – amend where necessary.<br/>Address all complaints logged.<br/>Undertake a risk assessment.</p> <p>A blast design by a blasting expert, which must include closing of private roads at a safe point and preferably, where traffic can access an alternative route, will be implemented by the mine when blasting is undertaken.</p> | <p>Appointed blasting contractor and/or mine blaster</p> <p>Appointed blasting contractor and mine blaster or geologist.</p> <p>Appointed blasting contractor and mine blaster or geologist.</p> | <p>Blasting holes will be inspected before any blasting is conducted.</p> <p>Mine engineer will check that that the log is maintained.</p> <p>The mine engineer will ensure that the blasting designs are compiled and approved by a blaster before blasting.</p> | <p>Mine Engineer will undertake the inspection before and after every blast.</p> <p>Mine Engineer will undertake the inspection before and after every blast.</p> <p>Mine Engineer will undertake the monitoring action before every blast.</p> | <p>When blasting during the operational phase of the operation.</p> <p>When blasting during the operational phase of the operation.</p> <p>When blasting during the operational phase of the operation.</p> |
| Increased noise levels.                    | Noise aspects.                  | Ensure that the noise levels emanating from the site will not have detrimental effects on the mine employees and surrounding communities. | The noise levels from the site will be managed and measures will be taken to ensure that noise levels are below the National Noise Control Regulations, SANS10103:2008 guidelines and the                      | <p>The topsoil berms/stockpiles and overburden stockpiles will be used as a sound barrier around noisy parts of the adit complex. This will control noise towards the informal settlement.</p> <p>Limit the maximum speed on the haul roads, subject to risk assessment.</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and safety Officer</p> <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and safety Officer</p>  | <p>Undertake ambient noise monitoring programme.</p> <p>Speed checking will be conducted.</p>   | <p>Environmental specialist will undertake the monitoring annually.</p> <p>Safety Officer will conduct speed checking as regularly as possible.</p>   | Throughout the operational phase.   |

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|   |                         |   | International Finance Corporation (World Bank) guidelines.   | <p>Ensure that the mine employees are issued with earplugs and that they are instructed to use them.</p> <p>Educate employees on the dangers of hearing loss due to mine machinery noise.</p> <p>Any deviation detected by the noise monitoring results must be addressed.</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and safety Officer</p> <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and safety Officer</p> <p>Appointed contractor, ECO and safety Officer</p> | <p>Use of earplugs will be checked and reported.</p> <p>Use of earplugs will be checked and reported.</p> <p>Use of earplugs will be checked and reported.</p>   | <p>Safety Officer will; check the use of the earplugs as regularly as possible.</p> <p>Safety Officer will; check the use of the earplugs as regularly as possible.</p>   |                                   |
| Impact on employment.                                       | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that the positive impacts on employment are sustained.             | Employment at the proposed site will be conducted in compliance with mine recruitment policies.  | Local labour and contractors will be appointed. This will ensure that economic spin-offs that result due to employment benefit the local community.  | Community Liaison Officer.  | Records of recruitment will be kept for audit purposes.  | Human Resources Manager will keep records after recruitment.  | Throughout the operational phase. |
| Impact from the influx of job seekers.                      | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that measures are taken to discourage influx of job seekers.       | Measures taken to control influx of job seekers will be in line with the mine's safety and security standards.   | The mine will ensure that the creation of unrealistic expectations are prevented by communicating the period of the construction phase to the local communities and the communities will be informed that few new positions will be created. Local councillors will be involved in the above communication.  | Community Liaison Officer.  | Number of job seekers will be monitored and meetings held by, and with the communities, will where possible, be attended by the mine.  | Community Liaison Officer and Safety officer will monitor the number of job seekers weekly and will attend meetings as and when these are held.   | Throughout the operational phase. |
| Impacts on the local economy during the construction phase. | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that the positive impacts on local economic aspects are sustained. | The mine will ensure that the implementation of the measures are in line with the mine's targets committed to in the mine's local economic development plan or procurement strategy. | <p>The mine will adhere to its procurement strategy, which aims to increase local content of the project to its maximum.</p> <p>As much of the construction material and service requirements as possible will be sourced from suitably qualified supplies and contractors in Witbank and the surrounds.</p> <p>The mine must comply with the requirements as guided by the Mining Charter with regards to SMME development and the mine's procurement policy.</p> | <p>Community Liaison Officer.</p> <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Procurement Officer.</p>  | <p>The procurements will be monitored against the mine's procurement strategy.</p> <p>Providers for services, capital goods and consumables will be checked against the procurement targets.</p> <p>Audits against the requirements of the Mining Charter will be conducted.</p> | <p>Procurement Officer will monitor the procurement regularly.</p> <p>Procurement Officer will check how the mine performs against the targets monthly.</p> <p>Procurement Officer will undertake the audits quarterly.</p> | Throughout the operational        |
| Disruption in daily living and movement patterns.           | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that the disruption in daily living and movements is not           | The mine will ensure that all mine safety standards are met.   | Announce road closures and other disruptions;  | Safety Officer.   | Keep records of the number of announcements made to  | Safety Officer will populate records monthly.   | As and when necessary             |

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|  |                         | detrimental to the local communities.  |   | <p>Erect signboards (if required) indicating access restrictions to the construction site;</p> <p>Non compliances will be managed according to the mine's complaints procedure</p> <p>Limit all activities to the development footprint of the proposed construction site;</p> <p>Maintain fence used to fence off the development footprint;</p> <p>Keep communication with neighbouring landowners, land occupiers and the public (interested and affected parties) open during the construction phase of the project.</p> | <p>Safety Officer.</p> <p>Safety Officer.</p> <p>Safety Officer.</p> <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Environmental Officer and Community Liaison Officer.</p> | <p>this effect.</p> <p>Inspections conducted at the site.</p> <p>Records of non-compliances and redress measures taken recorded and filed for audit purposes.</p> <p>Inspection of the construction activities against the management action will be undertaken monthly.</p> <p>Inspection will be undertaken.</p> <p>Minutes of any meeting held with landowners will be recorded and minutes filed for audit purposes.</p> | <p>Safety Officer will conduct inspections monthly.</p> <p>Safety Officer will keep all information on non-compliance and measures taken to redress the situation.</p> <p>ECO will undertake the inspections monthly.</p> <p>ECO will conduct the inspections monthly.</p> <p>ECO will keep the minutes as and when meetings are held.</p> | <p>Throughout the operational phase.</p>  |
| Increase in already high criminal activities due to the construction activities. | Socio-economic aspects. | Ensure that the mine for protection of mine employees takes security measures. | Mine's safety and security standards will be adhered to at all times during the construction phase. | <p>Keep local SAPS informed of the construction and its progress.</p> <p>Use local labour with no criminal records.</p> <p>Limit access to the site to employees and visitors with access permits.</p>   | <p>Safety Officer.</p> <p>Protection Officer</p> <p>Human Resource Officer.</p> <p>Safety Officer.</p>  | <p>Communication with SAPS recorded and filed.</p> <p>Recruitment records kept for audit purposes.</p> <p>Register all employees reporting for duty and visitors reporting to the project area.</p>  | <p>Community Liaison Officer will communicate with the SAPS regularly.</p> <p>Human Resource Manager will keep records after recruitment.</p> <p>Human Resource Manager will ensure that records of employees reporting for duty and visitors</p>  | <p>Throughout the operational phase.</p> <p>When recruiting employees.</p> <p>During the pre-operational phase.</p> |

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|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |                         |  |  | Safety and security measures will be undertaken to comply with the current mine safety standards. These may include fencing, installation of CCTV cameras, 24-hour security guards, random security checks and access control.  | Safety Officer.   | Measures taken will be recorded and filed.  | are kept and updated monthly.<br><br>Safety Officer will keep records.   | During the operational phase.                      |
| <b>DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASE</b>                                     |                         |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |
| <b>Removal of infrastructure and final rehabilitation of disturbed areas</b> |                         |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |
| Compaction and contamination of soils within the rehabilitation site.        | Soils and Topography.   | Ensure that the soil in the vicinity of the rehabilitation site is not detrimentally impacted. | Ensure that all areas are kept free of erosion | Rehabilitate to ensure the following i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All areas must be backfilled and levelled. Levelled areas will be monitored for any settlement depressions, which must be rectified as soon as possible.</li> <li>Ripping of hardened areas will be conducted at right angles to the natural slope.</li> <li>Construct contours on the placed soil layers at intervals that will help to prevent erosion of the placed soils.</li> <li>Implement a soil management strategy to ensure that the soils at the mining area are protected during replacement of the removed soils.</li> <li>Undertake the seeding of the rehabilitated areas as per specialist's recommendation.</li> </ul> Storm water diversion channels will be kept in place.<br><br>All stockpiled soil will be chemically analysed prior to use. Dependent on the analysis obtained, fertiliser will be added as per | Appointed contractor.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Appointed contractor.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Appointed contractor. | Regular site check.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Regular site check.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Regular site check. | Site manager will conduct the inspections monthly.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Site manager.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>ECO will conduct the inspections monthly. | Throughout the decommissioning and closure phases. |

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|  |   |   |   | analysis recommendation report prior to use for rehabilitation.   |  |  |   |   |
| Re-instatement of, land capability, land use and topographical patterns. | Land Capability, Land Use and Topography. | Ensure that the rehabilitation of the site re-instate the soil productivity, land capability, land use and topographical patterns | <p>Ensure that all areas are kept free of erosion.</p> <p>Ensure that the vegetation has sufficient time to colonise the area.</p> <p>Ensure that the vegetation has sufficient time to colonise the area</p> | <p>Erosion maintenance will be undertaken by surface ripping of compacted and eroded areas at right angles to the inherent slope.</p> <p>After this initial period, the rehabilitated areas will be assessed to determine the colonisation of the area and recommendations obtained as to when cultivation/grazing can commence.</p> <p>Rehabilitated areas will be seeded after the first rain. This will ensure that the desired vegetation cover will be achieved.</p> | <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Appointed contractor.</p> | <p>Regular site check.</p> <p>Regular site check.</p> <p>Regular site check.</p>   | <p>Site manager will conduct the inspections.</p> <p>Site manager will conduct the inspections.</p> <p>Site manager will conduct the inspections.</p> | <p>During decommissioning phase.</p> <p>During decommissioning phase.</p> <p>During decommissioning phase.</p>                                      |
| Pollution of surface water environment.                                  | Surface Water.                            | Ensure that the rehabilitation of the site does not have detrimental impacts on the surface water environment.                    | <p>Ensure that the vegetation has sufficient time to colonise the area.</p>   | <p>Dirty water diversion trenches will be kept in place until all dirty areas are rehabilitated.</p> <p>All haul roads and stockpiling areas will be graded and ripped.</p> <p>Ripping to be at right angles to the natural slope.</p> <p>The storm water diversion trenches will be kept intact and maintained until such time that it can be proven that the rehabilitated area is maintenance free and self-sustaining.</p>  | <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Appointed contractor.</p> | <p>Regular site check.</p> <p>Regular site check.</p> <p>Site inspections will be conducted.</p>                             | <p>Site manager will conduct the inspections.</p> <p>Site manager will conduct the inspections.</p> <p>Site manager will conduct the inspections</p>  | <p>Throughout the decommissioning and closure phases.</p> <p>Throughout the decommissioning phase.</p> <p>Throughout the decommissioning phase.</p> |
| Air pollution from rehabilitation site.                                  | Air quality.                              | Ensure that rehabilitation do not have detrimental impacts on air quality.  | Ensure that the vegetation has sufficient time to colonise the area   | <p>Dust suppression will be on going during working day. Water will be obtained from the sump in the pit.</p> <p>All machines will be fitted with the correct exhaust systems.</p>  | <p>Appointed contractor.</p> <p>Site manager and appointed contractor.</p>             | <p>Visual inspections of areas with possible dust emissions will be conducted</p> <p>Site inspections will be conducted.</p> | <p>ECO will conduct inspections monthly.</p> <p>Site manager will conduct inspections monthly.</p>  | <p>Throughout the decommissioning phase.</p> <p>Throughout the decommissioning phase.</p>   |
| Generated noise from the rehabilitation site.                            | Noise.                                    | Ensure that the rehabilitation activities do not have detrimental impacts on people.  | To ensure that the rehabilitation personnel's health is not adversely affected by noise   | <p>All rehabilitation activities will cease at 18h00 to ensure that no third party is impacted on during the night-time hours.</p> <p>Vehicles will be serviced regularly. Broken</p>   | <p>Appointed contractor and site manager.</p> <p>Site manager and</p>                  | <p>Regular site check.</p> <p>Regular site check.</p>  | <p>Site manager.</p> <p>Site manager.</p>   | <p>Throughout the decommissioning phase.</p> <p>Throughout the</p>  |

| Impact Activity Reference   | Environmental Attribute                          | Impact Management Objectives   | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes)   | Management Actions And Interventions  | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention    | Monitoring Action   | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring | Time period for Management Action  |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|   |  |  | generation.  | exhaust systems will be replaced.   | appointed contractor.                      |   |   | decommissioning phase.   |
| Damage or destruction of sites with archaeological and cultural significance. | Sites of archaeological and cultural importance. | Ensure that the rehabilitation does not have detrimental impacts on heritage sites.                            | Should heritage sites be identified, they should not be damaged or destroyed by the rehabilitation activities.                                 | A hundred meter buffer will be maintained between any site and the rehabilitation site.   | Appointed contractor and the site manager. | The sites will be monitored for any rehabilitation related damages.                                   | ECO will monitor the site monthly.          | Throughout the decommissioning phase.  |
| Impact on the livelihood of the landowners.                                   | Socio-economic aspects.                          | Ensure that measures are taken to reduce the impact on the livelihood of the landowners.                       | Measures taken will be in line with the company's social policy.   | All personnel entering the properties will be vetted and checked for criminal records Measures will be taken to avoid the spread of veld fires by the applicant's workforce.  | Appointed contractor and site manager.     | Site inspections and meetings with the land owners  | Site manager                                | Throughout the pre-construction an construction phase.   |
| <b>AFTER CLOSURE PHASE</b>  |  |  |  |   |  |   |   |  |
| Residual impacts of the mined out areas on groundwater.                       | Surface and Groundwater.                         | Ensure that the decommissioned opencast workings do not result in detrimental surface and groundwater impacts. | The groundwater around the decommissioned opencast workings will comply with the water quality standards to be provided by the DWS on closure. | <p>The numerical and geochemical model needs to be updated against monitored data during the post-closure phase.</p> <p>The post-closure groundwater management of the opencast should be done in two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1: Immediately after closure</li> </ul> <p>The acid producing material should be placed as low in the pits as possible, followed by the non-acid generating material.</p> <p>Rapid flooding should be done by diverting storm water channels and the water inundates pumping of available groundwater into the pit until the acid producing material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2: After Rapid Flooding</li> </ul> <p>The final backfilled opencast topography should be engineered such that runoff is directed away from the opencast areas.</p> <p>The final layer (just below the topsoil cover) should be as clayey as possible and compacted if feasible, to reduce recharge to the opencasts.</p> <p>Natural berms should then be constructed to</p> | Mine Environmental Co-ordinator.           | Groundwater quality will be monitored around the rehabilitated proposed Opencast Mining Project Area. | Mine Environmental Co-ordinator.            | Throughout the closure phase until it can be proven that the water quality has stabilised and will not cause significant impacts on the surrounding environment and water users. |



| Impact Activity Reference | Environmental Attribute | Impact Management Objectives | Targets (Impact Management Outcomes) | Management Actions And Interventions  | Responsibility For Actions/Intervention | Monitoring Action | Responsibility and Frequency For Monitoring | Time period for Management Action |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|                           |                         |                              |                                      | <p>allow free drainage of surface water around the rehabilitated pit.</p> <p>Should monitoring indicate the passive methods employed during the rehabilitation of the opencast are ineffective and the decant water quality is unacceptable for release the following can be implemented.</p> <p>Passive Method: Should low volumes of water be encountered (&lt; 5 l/s) an interception trench can be designed.</p> <p>Active method: Should high volumes of water be encountered (&gt; 5 l/s), Treatment strategies may include a greater or lesser degree of water treatment in order to render the water suitable for reuse. If there is still a residual water management problem, then the operation could evaluate and negotiate options with DWA for the discharge of such water to the water resource.</p> |   |                   |   |                                   |

## 6 FINANCIAL PROVISION

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Section 24 P of NEMA requires an applicant applying for an environmental authorisation related to mining to comply with the prescribed financial provision for the rehabilitation, closure and ongoing post decommissioning management of negative environmental impacts before the Minister responsible for mineral resources issues the environmental authorisation. The above-mentioned financial provision may be in the form of a bank guarantee, trust fund or cash.

### 6.1 DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OBJECTIVES AND EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ALIGNED TO THE DESCRIBED BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

The closure objectives for the proposed project as detailed under section 4.1 of the EMPr, were determined in consideration of physical (infrastructure), biophysical (environmental) and socio-economic measures as well as alignment to the closure components provided by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). See section 4.1 for the closure objectives.

### 6.2 CONFIRMATION THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES IN RELATION TO CLOSURE HAVE BEEN CONSULTED WITH LANDOWNERS AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The draft BAR and EMPr is made available to the interested and affected parties during the public participation process for the proposed project. Note that the consultation of interested and affected parties included the owners of the properties directly affected by the proposed project and owners of land immediately adjacent the proposed project area. See Table 15 for the proposed Financial Provision for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II area.

The above confirms that the land owners and interested and affected parties will be consulted regarding the environmental objectives in relation to the closure of the proposed project.

### 6.3 REHABILITATION PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In terms of Regulation 23 of NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, an EMPr must address the requirements as determined in the regulations, pertaining to the financial provision for the rehabilitation, closure and post closure of mining operations. In view of the above, a rehabilitation plan must be provided to the DMRE in support of the financial provision determined for mining operations. This section details the rehabilitation plan for the Rietspruit Colliery II Project.

The aim of rehabilitation is to return the land disturbed by all mining activities to at least the pre-mining use and ensure that residual and latent impacts at the closure of the mine are minimal. Objectives associated with rehabilitation include:

The closure objectives and targets for Rietspruit Colliery II are as follows:

- Rehabilitation of areas disturbed as a consequence of mining to a land capability that will support and sustain a predetermined post-mine closure land use;
- Removal of all infrastructure that cannot be beneficially re-used, as per agreements established, and returning the associated disturbed land to the planned final land use;
- Removal of existing contaminated material from mine-affected areas;

- Reinstatement of self-sustaining ecosystems over the rehabilitated infrastructure and mining affected areas, requiring minimum on-going maintenance to facilitate a walk away situation;
- Establishment of final landforms that are stable and safe in the long run;
- Management of mine-affected water to prevent long-term risk of contamination of surface and underground water sources, which include where possible treatment of mine-affected water to;
- Prevention of acid mine drainage;
- Monitoring and maintenance of rehabilitation areas and water treatment processes forming part of mine closure to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of measures implemented.
- Regarding closure targets for Rietspruit Colliery II, the mine will ensure that the rehabilitation of disturbed areas, removal of infrastructure, management of rehabilitated areas and management of mine affected water and water leaving the mining are is undertaken such that it ensures compliance with all relevant standards as published by the relevant state authorities.

#### **6.3.1 Infrastructure Areas**

- Whenever possible, buildings and their infrastructure will not be demolished but left for after mining use.
- All concrete, steel works and structures will be removed so that the land can be returned to as near as practically possible to its original state. Concrete work that extends below ground level will be removed to a metre below the surface. Steel will be sold as scrap metal.
- All rehabilitated areas will be shaped to be free draining without concentrating flow such that erosion occurs, fertilised and a mixture of indigenous and pasture grasses will be planted. Following this rehabilitation, the infrastructure areas will have a capability similar to the pre-mining environment.
- All rehabilitated areas will be maintained for a period of 3 years, where after the frequency will be reassessed. Vegetation cover will be maintained by annual application of fertiliser combined with biennial cutting or burning for the first three years. After this period, fertilizer will be applied as and when required. This will be determined by monitoring the basal cover and fertilizer levels against Rietspruit Coal Pits Proprietary Limited standards.
- Maintenance with respect to erosion will be conducted on a minimum three-monthly basis if and where required. This frequency will be reassessed after a 3-year period. The final rehabilitated surface will be stable, self-sustaining and erosion-free.
- All roads not required for residential or farming purposes and water pipelines will be removed and the ground restored as above.

#### **6.3.2 Roads and Pipelines**

The NEMA require all infrastructure associated with the mining operation to be removed and the surface on which it was situated to be returned, as close as is practically possible, to the original land use.

## Roads

- Access roads to the Rietspruit Colliery II Project will be rehabilitated. All gravel roads will be graded to remove coal material. The roads will be cross-ripped to 300 mm at right angles to the natural slope, fertiliser added as per soil requirements and vegetated with a seed mix of indigenous and pasture grasses. Maintenance will be conducted on the rehabilitated areas as indicated in the policy statement.
- Where the road (service road) crosses wetland areas, the affected area will be top soiled with wetland soils (preferably soils removed from the site and stockpiled) and the area vegetated with a seed mix of indigenous and wetland grasses.
- Where buildings and associated infrastructure will be left intact for non-mine use post closure, all access roads to the residential areas will be left in-situ. In this case, ownership and thus maintenance of these roads will be transferred to a third party.
- Note that if the ownership of the areas is not transferred to a third party, the buildings, roads and access roads will be removed, the areas rehabilitated and maintained as per point 1 above.

## Pipelines

During the decommissioning phase, the water pipeline will be undug and removed.

Once the pipeline is removed, where pipeline was placed will be:

- Graded to remove all carbonaceous build-up.
- Re-shaped to prevent erosion and promote free-runoff.
- Ripped to a minimum depth of 300 mm at right angles to the inherent slope.
- Treated with an addition of fertiliser as per soil requirements.

Where the potable pipeline crosses an area utilised for crop production, no seeding will be undertaken (these areas will be incorporated into the surrounding crop production area).

Where the potable pipeline crosses natural grassland, the area disturbed pipeline route will be vegetated with a seed mix of indigenous and pasture grasses.

Where the potable pipeline crosses wetlands, the disturbed pipeline route will be top soiled with wetland soils (preferably removed from the site and stockpiled) and the area vegetated with a seed mix of indigenous and wetland grasses.

Maintenance will be conducted on the vegetated rehabilitated areas as indicated in the Policy statement.

Note that the above will ensure that the areas affected by the potable pipeline approximate the adjacent land capability.

### **6.3.3 Coal Crushing and Screening Plant**

The bulk of the activity in removing the plant will be the dismantling and removal of the plant and the demolition and disposal of concrete floor structures. The entire area will be shaped to prevent erosion and promote free-runoff.

The entire area will be ripped to a minimum depth of 300 mm at right angle to the inherent slope.

Fertiliser will be applied to the rehabilitated area as per soil requirements and vegetated with a seed mix of indigenous and pasture grasses.

Maintenance will be conducted on the rehabilitated areas as indicated in the Policy statement.

#### **6.3.4 Buildings (Offices and Stores)**

The bulk of the activity in rehabilitating the stores and administration area will be the removal of the temporary prefabricated structures. All scrap metals will be cleared from the area and sold.

The actions as stipulated above will apply to all prefabricated temporary structures.

If any soils are contaminated with hydrocarbons, they will be bio-remediated.

#### **6.3.5 General Overall Rehabilitation Procedures**

The above areas will all be rehabilitated according to the following principals:

- All areas will be cleared of potentially contaminating material, which will be disposed of at an appropriate waste facility.
- Areas will be filled to attain adequate topographical levels similar to that of pre-mining. The areas will be contoured to ensure adequate drainage and prevent pooling or ponding of water.
- Where pooling or ponding of water occurs, the areas will be revisited and graded and filled as necessary.
- Soils that were removed and stockpiled need to be re-assessed prior to and during rehabilitation. This is necessary to ensure nutrients are adequate.
- The rehabilitated areas will be sampled and the necessary lime and fertiliser requirements applied prior to re-vegetation. Any area profiled and topsoiled will be vegetated within the same growing season. These areas will be vegetated with the prescribed seed mix, which will reflect the original biome type. The seed mixture should as a minimum, be made up according to the specifications of the specialist study. Rehabilitation should be done as soon as possible to reduce risk of soil erosion and to increase habitat availability for fauna as soon as possible.
- Once areas have been rehabilitated and seeded, access to these areas should be restricted.
- Rehabilitated areas will be monitored for vegetation cover and alien invasive encroachment on a 6 monthly basis. Areas of failed growth will be fertilised (if necessary) and re-seeded. All exotic and invasive vegetation should be removed.
- Erosion and pooling of water / impaired surface water flow will be monitored on a monthly basis during the rainy season and/or after each heavy rainfall event, any areas of concern will be addressed immediately. Where erosion gullies are noted, hale bales, gabion baskets or stick energy dissipaters are to be installed, and storm water control structures will be reviewed.
- The status of biodiversity and land management will be monitored on an annual basis and specialist recommendations applied.
- Groundwater and surface water monitoring will continue during the decommissioning, closure and post-closure phases.
- Maintenance and monitoring will continue for a period of at least 4 years following closure.

#### **6.4 COMPATIBILITY OF THE REHABILITATION PLAN WITH THE CLOSURE OBJECTIVES**

The rehabilitation plan was drafted to be compatible with the closure objectives.

#### **6.5 DETERMINATION OF THE QUANTUM OF THE FINANCIAL PROVISION REQUIRED TO MANAGE AND REHABILITATE THE ENVIRONMENT**

The financial pecuniary provision for Rietspruit Colliery II will be determined based on the requirements of Chapter 2.4.1 of the Guideline document for the evaluation of the quantum of closure-related financial provision provided by a Mine, revision 1.6, September 2004, DMRE.

#### **6.6 METHOD OF PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCIAL PROVISION**

According to Regulation 8 of the Regulations pertaining to the pertaining to the financial provision for mining, exploration, mining or production operations (GNR 1147), an applicant or holder of a right or permit must make financial provision by one or a combination of the following:

- financial guarantee from a bank registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act No. 94 of 1990) or from a financial institution registered by the Financial Services Board as an insurer or underwriter;
- deposit into an account administered by the Minister responsible for mineral resources; or,
- contribution to a trust fund established in terms of applicable legislation.

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd has opted to use a financial guarantee to provide for the determined quantum for financial provision. See Table 17 below.

Table 14: Financial Provision for the proposed Rietspruit Colliery II

| <b>"Rules-based" assessment of the quantum for financial provision</b> |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           |                       |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>CALCULATION OF THE QUANTUM</b>                                      |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           |                       |
| <b>Mine:</b>   | Rietspruit Colliery II - Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Limited              |  | <b>Location:</b> Mpumalanga |                    |                              |                           |                       |
| <b>Evaluators:</b>   | O.T Shakwane of Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Limited                     |  | <b>Date:</b> 22/09/2022     |                    |                              |                           |                       |
| <b>No.:</b>  | <b>Description:</b>  | <b>Unit:</b>                                       | <b>A</b>                    | <b>B</b>           | <b>C</b>                     | <b>D</b>                  | <b>E=A*B*C*D</b>      |
|  |  |  | <b>Quantity</b>             | <b>Master rate</b> | <b>Multiplication factor</b> | <b>Weighting factor 1</b> | <b>Amount (Rands)</b> |
|  |  |  | <b>Step 4.5</b>             | <b>Step 4.3</b>    | <b>Step 4.3</b>              | <b>Step 4.4</b>           |                       |
| 1  | Dismantling of processing plant & related structures                     | m <sup>3</sup>                                     | 0.00                        | R 18.36            | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 2 (A)  | Demolition of steel buildings & Structures                               | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 0.00                        | R 255.82           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 2 (B)  | Demolition of reinforced concrete buildings & structures                 | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 0.00                        | R 376.99           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 3  | Rehabilitation of access roads   | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 355.00                      | R 45.78            | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 17 877.36           |
| 4 (A)  | Demolition & rehabilitation of electrified railway lines                 | m  | 0.00                        | R 444.30           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 4 (B)  | Demolition & rehabilitation of non electrified railway lines             | m  | 0.00                        | R 242.34           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 5  | Demolition of housing &/or administration facilities                     | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 0.00                        | R 511.63           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 6  | Opencast rehabilitation including final voids & ramps                    | ha   | 0.50                        | R 268 200.17       | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 147 510.09          |
| 7  | Sealing of shafts, adits & inclines                                      | m <sup>3</sup>                                     | 0.00                        | R 137.33           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 8 (A)  | Rehabilitation of overburden & spoils                                    | ha   | 0.51                        | R 178 800.11       | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 100 306.86          |
| 8 (B)  | Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits & evaporation ponds (basic)  | ha   | 0.00                        | R 222 692.31       | 0.80                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 8 (C)  | Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits & evaporation ponds (acidic) | ha   | 0.25                        | R 646 804.03       | 0.80                         | 1.10                      | R 142 296.89          |
| 9  | Rehabilitation of subsidised areas                                       | ha   | 0.00                        | R 149 733.48       | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 10   | General surface rehabilitation   | ha   | 1.00                        | R 141 639.86       | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 155 803.84          |
| 11   | River diversions   | ha   | 0.00                        | R 141 639.86       | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 12   | Fencing  | ha   | 0.00                        | R 161.56           | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 0.00                |
| 13   | Water management   | ha   | 0.10                        | R 53 855.46        | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 5 924.10            |
| 14   | 2 to 3 years of maintenance & aftercare                                  | ha   | 5.00                        | R 18 849.42        | 1.00                         | 1.10                      | R 103 671.79          |
| 15 (A)   | Specialist study   | SUM  | 0.00                        | R 200 000.00       | 1.00                         | 1.00                      | R 0.00                |
| 15 (B)   | Specialist study   | SUM  | 0.00                        | R 0.00             | 1.00                         | 1.00                      | R 0.00                |
| <b>Sub Total 1</b>   |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           |                       |
| (Sum of items 1 to 15 Above)   |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           | <b>R 673 390.93</b>   |
| <b>Multiply by Weighting factor 2</b>                                  |  | 1.1  |                             | R 67 339.09        |                              |                           | R 67 339.09           |
| 1  | Preliminary and general  | Add 12% if subtotal 1 is less than R100,000,000.00 |                             |                    |                              |                           | R 80 806.91           |
| 2  | Contingencies  | Add 10% of subtotal 1                              |                             |                    |                              |                           | R 67 339.09           |
| <b>Sub Total 2</b>   |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           |                       |
| (Subtotal 1 plus sum of management & contingencies)                    |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           | <b>R 888 876.03</b>   |
| VAT (15%)  |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           | R 133 331.40          |
| (Subtotal 2 plus VAT)  |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>    |
|  |  |  |                             |                    |                              |                           | <b>R 1 022 207.43</b> |

## **7 MECHANISM FOR MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH AND PERFORMAMCE ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND REPORTING THEREOF**

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### **7.1 INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING**

During the impact assessment, potential impacts on the environment were identified. Mitigation measures were also specified for prevention and management of the impact so as to minimise their effect on the environment. This section will describe how the mine intends to ensure that the mitigation measures are being undertaken and that their effectiveness is proven.

A monitoring programme has been developed for the identified impacts and their mitigation measures. This monitoring programme will be undertaken and results thereof used to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. The ECO will have an overall responsibility for ensuring that all monitoring is conducted according to the approved EMPr.

### **7.2 MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND REPORTING THEREOF**

As part of the general terms and conditions for a mining permit, and in order to ensure compliance with the environmental management programme and to assess the continued appropriateness and adequacy of the environmental management programme Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd will:

- Conduct monitoring on a continuous basis
- Conduct performance assessments of the environmental management programme annually
- Compile and submit a performance assessment report to the minister in which compliance with the approved environmental management programme is demonstrated

The performance assessment report will as a minimum contain the following:

- Information regarding the period applicable to the performance assessment
- The scope of the assessment
- The procedure used for the assessment
- The interpreted information gained from monitoring the approved environmental management programme
- The evaluation criteria used during the assessment
- The results of the assessment

Recommendations on how and when non-compliance and deficiencies will be rectified.



## **7.3 PROCEDURE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED EMERGENCIES AND REMEDIATION**

Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd has developed procedures for environmental related emergencies for Rietspruit Colliery II which is explained in more detail below. Note that these procedures will be revised by the responsible person. The date of commencement of the revised procedures will always be indicated to prevent confusion.

### **7.3.1 Introduction**

An effective, comprehensive, well considered and tested environmental emergency preparedness and response plan has the potential to save lives, prevent unnecessary damage to the company and other property and to manage environmental risk. The aim is to identify potential for and respond to accidents and emergency situations, and for preventing and mitigating the environmental impacts that may be associated with them. However, the emergency preparedness and response should be reviewed and revised where necessary.

### **7.3.2 What is an Environmental Emergency?**

An environmental emergency is an unplanned event, which has the potential to result in a significant adverse environmental impact and/or could result in legal liability to Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd in terms of environmental legislation requirements. The following define most likely potential environmental emergencies:

- Hydrocarbon spills or leaks
- Surface fires, including veld fires
- A chemical spill
- Transportation accidents
- Other environmental emergencies requiring special services

### **7.3.3 Purpose of the procedure**

To provide guidance to all mine employees and contractors in the event of an environmental emergency at Rietspruit Colliery II and related to its activities.

This procedure is developed so as to provide guidance to ensure that:

Danger to the environment, personnel, contractors and the non-employee is minimised.

- Legal liability is managed and minimised.
- Public relations are effectively managed during and following emergencies.
- Reporting is effective and corrective/follow-up actions are implemented.

### **7.3.4 Who should use these procedures?**

This procedure contains information relevant to all employees and contractors of the mine. It is the responsibility of all employees to familiarise themselves with the contents of this procedure. Furthermore, mine management should ensure that all contractors have access to this procedure and the requirements contained herein.

### 7.3.5 Responsibilities

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Mine Management</b>                                       | Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd is responsible for the safety and well-being of employees working at Rietspruit Colliery II as well as the protection of the environment from unnecessary negative impacts. The management of the Colliery has a responsibility to initiate a warning process should an emergency occur or should something at the Colliery deteriorate in an uncontrolled manner presenting a risk to employees, the public or the environment. |
| <b>Local Government(s)</b>                                   | Local governments have the responsibility to warn residents of a hazardous situation, these warnings must be based on information provided by the Colliery.   |
| <b>All employees, contractors and other relevant parties</b> | All employees, contractors and other relevant parties should ensure that they are familiar with this procedure.   |

### 7.3.6 Notification process

There are six main steps in managing an emergency, from the identification of the situation to final close off. They are as follows:

- Find and identify
- Ensure human safety
- Reporting
- Containment and clean-up
- Corrective action
- Monitoring

### 7.3.7 Emergency equipment and supplies

There is a directory of emergency equipment and other supplies on site as well as person/s responsible for the equipment.

### 7.3.8 Communication systems

Communication is critical during an emergency on site so that efforts to manage the situation are coordinated to produce the desired results. The communication channels that are available on site include:

- Internal phone line system
- Hand held radios
- Cellular phones

### 7.3.9 Training

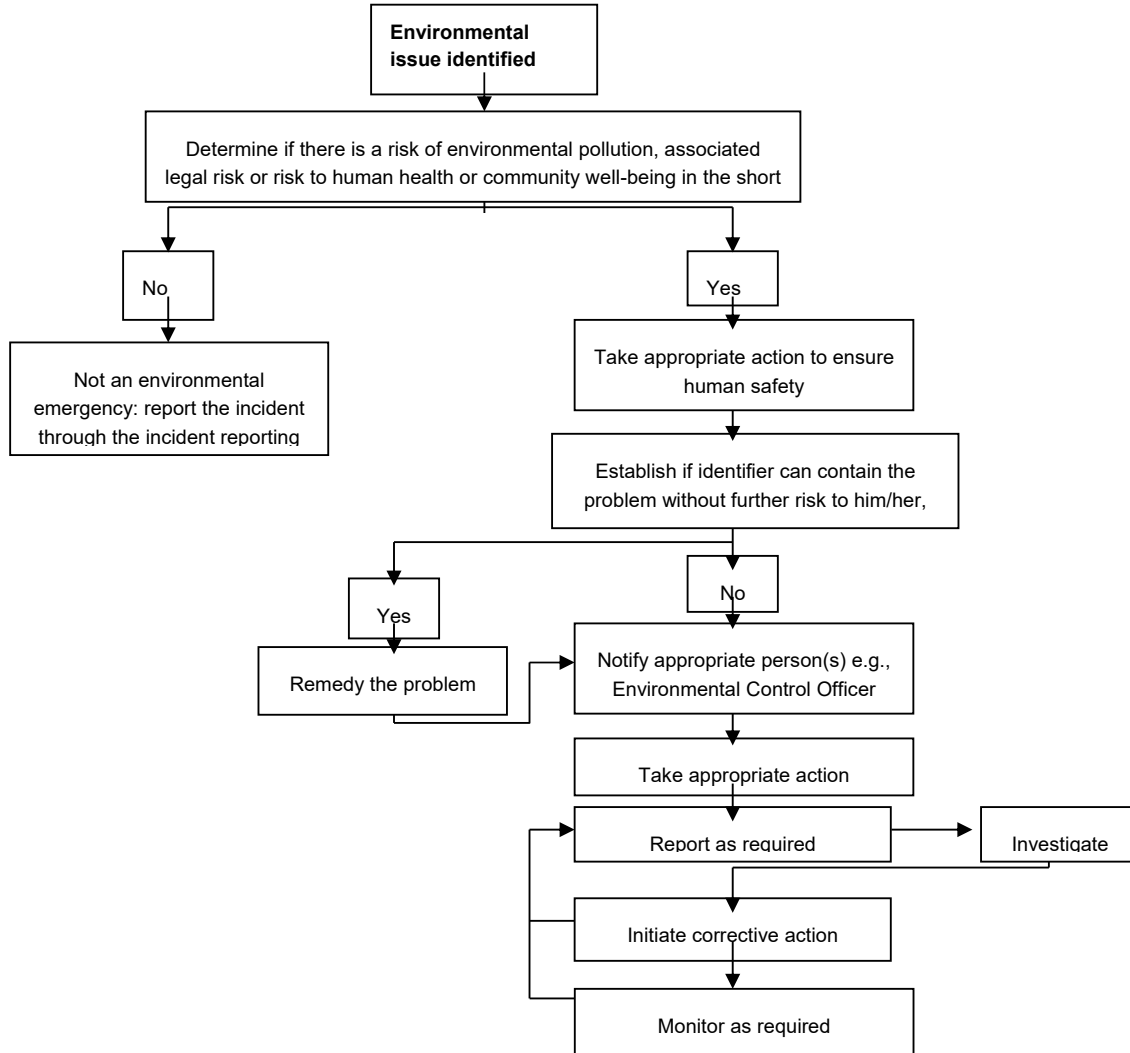
The mine management ensures that employees are trained regarding potential emergencies that may occur at Rietspruit Colliery II.

### 7.3.10 Review of procedure

To ensure that the procedure is adequate, management will review the procedure at any time deemed necessary and change the emergency procedures at Rietspruit Colliery II.

### 7.3.11 Emergency Response flowchart for Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd

The emergency response at Rietspruit Colliery II is undertaken, as shown below.



### 7.4 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PLAN

In terms of section 39(3)(c) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002), Rietspruit Colliery II must compile and implement an environmental awareness plan. The above-mentioned environmental awareness plan must describe the manner in which the site manager

(in this case Rietspruit Colliery II) will inform their employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work and the manner in which the environmental risks will be addressed to avoid pollution or/and degradation of the environment. This document, therefore concerns the details of the environmental awareness plan for Rietspruit Colliery II as required by the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002).

#### **7.4.1 Objectives and Legal Requirements**

The following are the objectives of the environmental awareness plan

- To identify the necessary training needs for different categories of employees in the mine
- To train all employees on environmental issues on the mine

The following legislation apply to this environmental awareness plan

- Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act 55 of 1998)
- National Environmental Management Act, 198 (Act 77 of 1998)
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002).

#### **7.4.2 Manner of informing employees of risks to avoid pollution and degradation of the environment**

The identification of environmental training and environmental awareness needs are derived from an analysis of the type of role different categories of employees play at Rietspruit Colliery II. The following categories are considered, viz:

- Senior Management
- Middle management (Environmental Officers)
- Supervisors
- Operators
- Visitors and contractors

Each of these categories has different responsibilities and therefore has different knowledge requirements and environmental awareness training needs, to obtain that knowledge.

The different categories and environmental awareness and training needs are summarised below:

### Environmental Awareness Matrix

| Occupation Category                     | EMP Responsibility                        | Required knowledge and output                              | Training required                              | Interval                   |
|---|---|--|--|----------------------------|
| Senior management                       | Managing                                  | Understand the EMP objectives                              | Induction and post-leave awareness/training    | Annually                   |
|   |   | Knowledge of the Colliery's significant impacts and risks. | EMP Workshops                                  | Once off                   |
|   |   | Review the EMP actions                                     | EMP objectives and actions /Management reviews | Annually                   |
|   |   | Knowledge of EMP Procedures (awareness and emergency)      | Specific training program on EMP               | Once off, refresh annually |
| Middle and Junior management            | Implementing and daily management         | Knowledge of Colliery's significant environmental impacts  | EMP Review workshops                           | Annually                   |
|   |   | Setting of EMP objectives for environmental improvement    | EMP Review workshops                           | Annually                   |
|   |   | Knowledge of EMP procedures (awareness and emergencies)    | Specific training programmes on EMP            | Once off, refresh annually |
|   | Adhering to procedures to control impacts | Understand EMP objectives                                  | Induction and post-leave training              | Annually                   |
|   |   | Knowledge of significant impacts                           | Induction and post-leave training              | Annually                   |
|   |   | Knowledge of procedures (awareness and emergency)          | EMP Review workshop                            | Annually                   |
| Plant and machine operators, assemblers | Executing assigned EMP actions            | General awareness of EMP impacts and objectives.           | Induction and post-leave training              | Continuously               |

| Occupation Category   | EMP Responsibility   | Required knowledge and output  | Training required                                  | Interval                              |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| and elementary occupations  | Controlling work activities to prevent impacts.                      |  |  |                                       |
|   |  | Understand environmental requirements relating to work activities and consequences of not following requirements | Induction and post-leave training                  | Annually                              |
|   |  | Knowledge of procedures  | Training and information sharing                   | Continuously                          |
| Visitors and contractor   | Managing and controlling daily actions to prevent or control impacts | Basic awareness of EMP   | Induction or specific modules/ awareness programme | Once off, annual review if applicable |
|   |  | Environmental requirements of work activities  | Induction or specific awareness programme          | Once off, annual review if applicable |
|   |  | Knowledge of procedures  | Training and information sharing                   | Continuously                          |
|   |  | Understanding environmental consequences of personal actions and performance.                                    | Induction or specific modules/ awareness programme | Once off, annual review if applicable |
|   |  | Compliance to procedures   | Induction or specific awareness programmes.        |                                       |
| Personnel requiring specific training and awareness identified on site by management, | Managing and controlling daily actions to prevent impacts            | Examples include but are not limited to:<br>Waste management<br>Hazardous chemical handling                      | Specific training programme on EMP procedures.     | As required                           |

| Occupation Category                                 | EMP Responsibility | Required knowledge and output | Training required | Interval |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Environmental Officer,<br>training department, etc. |                    |                               |                   |          |

#### **7.4.3 Induction for all employees, including contractors**

All employees (including contractor employees) undergo induction. Rietspruit Colliery's induction includes training and awareness on environmental issues on the Colliery and is compulsory for all new employees. The induction programme as mentioned above, have an environmental management component. On an annual basis the environmental section of the induction gets updated. Consideration is given to the following:

- Significant environmental impacts as identified in the EMP
- Procedures: environmental awareness and emergency procedures
- Trends in incidents
- Trends in audit findings

#### **7.4.4 General environmental awareness training**

General awareness training is offered to operators, processors and the other various sections of the mine during the safety toolbox talks. This is conducted on rotational basis. New environmental awareness topics are determined and new topics are introduced after all the shifts have received training/awareness on the current topic. The following is undertaken to ensure that the above awareness training is conducted.

- A monthly environmental awareness topic for discussion is distributed to all mine sections. These topics are discussed at the safety toolbox talks, by SHE (Safety, Health and Environmental) representative and environmental officers if available.
- The topics are displayed on the notice boards of all mine sections.
- Ad hoc environmental awareness sessions to various departments/sections are conducted on request. The presentations focus on the environmental issues relevant to individual tasks.

#### **7.4.5 Provision for job specific environmental awareness training**

Job specific training is developed to address urgent training needs as identified /required. The training material focuses on the following:

- Waste prevention and control (implementation of the waste management procedure).
- Water management (Leaking pipes and taps)
- Hydrocarbon and chemical spill reporting and clean-up
- Storing and handling of chemicals
- Rehabilitation
- Dust management on the mine

Supervisory staff within specific mine sections are equipped with the necessary knowledge and information to guide their employees on environmental aspects applicable in performing a specific task.

#### **7.4.6 Competency training**

Management (training official/environmental officer) is responsible for the environmental awareness training of middle management and supervisors. This training is conducted through workshops. If required, external organisations may be requested to provide training to selected employees (e.g. EMP auditing).



Competence and the effectiveness of training and development initiatives as described in the matrix are determined through the following:

- Trend analysis and reporting
- Analysis of work areas during visits and audits
- Trend analysis of monthly incidents (or zero tolerance if available) as recorded per mine section.

#### **7.4.7 Review of awareness and training material**

The content of all awareness and training material will be updated at least once a year.

#### **7.4.8 Roles and responsibilities**

In the case where there is no training department on site, a responsible person should be identified (Mine manager, Environmental Officer or Consultant) to ensure that the objective of this procedure is met.

**7.5 UNDERTAKING TO COMPLY**

I, ....., the undersigned and duly authorised thereto by **Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd** have studied and understand the contents of this document in its entirety and hereby duly undertake to adhere to the conditions as set out therein including the amendment(s) agreed to by the Regional Manager.

Signed at ..... this.....day of.....20.....

.....  
**Signature of applicant**

.....  
**Designation**

**APPROVAL**

Approved in terms of Section 39(4) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 29 of 2002)

Signed at..... this.....day of.....20.....

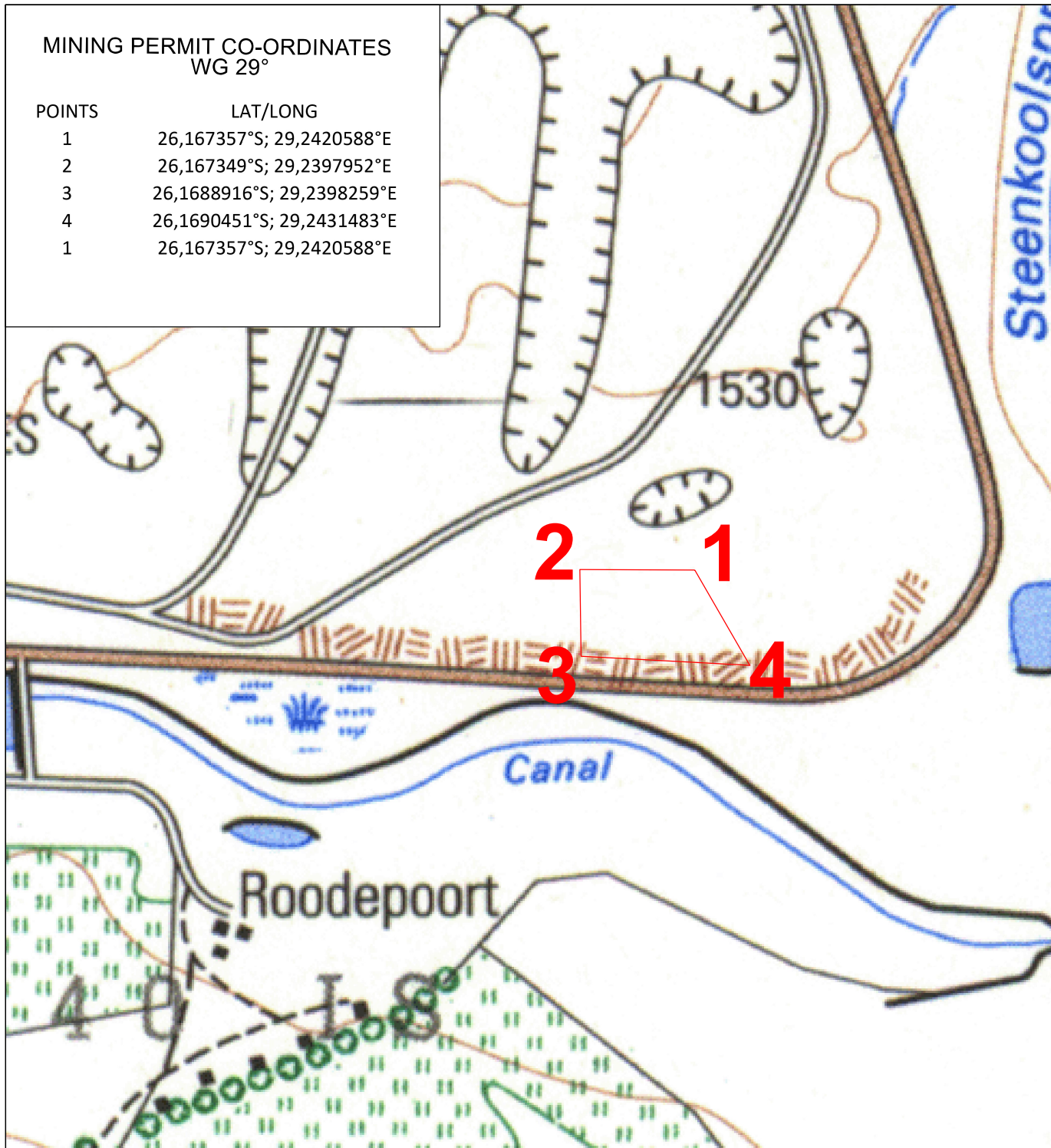
.....  
**REGIONAL MANAGER**

**REGION:** .....

## Appendix A Regulation 2 (2) Plan

**MINING PERMIT CO-ORDINATES  
WG 29°**

| POINTS | LAT/LONG                   |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 1      | 26,167357°S; 29,2420588°E  |
| 2      | 26,167349°S; 29,2397952°E  |
| 3      | 26,1688916°S; 29,2398259°E |
| 4      | 26,1690451°S; 29,2431483°E |
| 1      | 26,167357°S; 29,2420588°E  |



**RIETSPRUIT COAL PITS  
(PTY) LTD**

**REG NO: 2021/702659/07**

APPLICATION FOR MINING PERMIT

Plan compiled in accordance with  
Regulation 2(2) of the Mineral & Petroleum  
Resources Development Act 2002  
(ACT 28 of 2002)

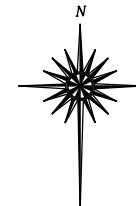
Scale 1 : 290

**LEGEND**



**MINING PERMIT AREA**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| National Freeway; National Route             |  |
| Arterial Route                               |  |
| Main Road                                    |  |
| Secondary Road; Bench Mark                   |  |
| Other Road; Bridge                           |  |
| Track and Hiking Trail                       |  |
| Railway; Station or Siding                   |  |
| Other Railway; Tunnel                        |  |
| Embankment; Cutting                          |  |
| Power Line                                   |  |
| Built-up Area                                |  |
| Buildings; Ruin                              |  |
| Post Office; Police Station; Store           |  |
| Place of Worship; School; Hotel              |  |
| Fence; Wall                                  |  |
| Windpump; Monument                           |  |
| Communication Tower                          |  |
| Mine Dump; Excavation                        |  |
| Trigonometrical Station; Marine Beacon       |  |
| Lighthouse and Marine Light                  |  |
| Cemetery; Grave                              |  |
| International Boundary and Beacon            |  |
| Provincial Boundary                          |  |
| Game, Nature Reserve & State Forest Boundary |  |
| Perennial River                              |  |
| Non-perennial River                          |  |
| Dry Water Course                             |  |
| Dry Pan                                      |  |
| Marsh and Vlei                               |  |
| Pipeline (above ground)                      |  |
| Water Tower; Reservoir; Water Point          |  |
| Coastal Rocks                                |  |
| Prominent Rock Outcrop                       |  |
| Erosion; Sand                                |  |
| Woodland                                     |  |
| Cultivated Land                              |  |
| Orchard or Vineyard                          |  |
| Recreation Ground                            |  |
| Row of Trees                                 |  |



The figure lettered 1-4 AND 1 represent a MINING PERMIT area in extent of approximately 5ha, comprising of a portion of portion 21 of the farm ROODEPOORT 40 IS, Located 21.92km North of the town KRIEL, in the Magisterial district of KRIEL for which RIETSPRUIT COAL PITS (PTY) LTD REG NO 2021/702659/07 has applied for a mining permit in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, (Act 28 of 2002), but subject to Regulation 17 of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 29 of 1996), excluding any area within 100 meters of any public road, railway, cemetery, residential area or public area.

SIGNED: .....  
REGIONAL MANAGER  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

SIGNED: .....  
RIETSPRUIT COAL (PTY) LTD  
REG NO: 2021/702659/07



Contact : 012 472 0328      Address : 175 Corobay  
Email : info@xakwa.com      Waterkloof Glen  
tiisetso@xakwa.com      0010

## Appendix B EAPs Details

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### ORNASSIS TSHEPO SHAKWANE (TSHEPO)

#### PERSONAL DETAIL

**ID:** 7207085407082

**ADDRESS:** 68 Pongola Drive

Aerorand West, Middelburg

Mpumalanga

**CONTACT:** 013 243 0542 / 082 498 1847

**E-MAIL:** tshepo@geovicon.co.za

#### CAREER SUMMERY

**2004 TO CURRENT:** Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Ltd previously Geovicon (Pty) Ltd – Environmental Assessment Practitioner, Owner and Managing Director

As an environmental assessment practitioner I assist my clients to ensure that their operations complies with the external (international, national and local government) and internal environmental requirements. The following are the responsibilities of an environmental manager: developing and implementing environmental strategies and action plans that ensure compliance with the environmental laws; coordinating all aspects of pollution control, waste management, recycling, environmental management, conservation and renewable energy; ensuring the implementation of environmental policies and practices; ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and keeping up to date with new regulations and legislation; liaising with relevant bodies such as state authorities and the public; auditing, analysing and reporting environmental performance to internal personnel and regulatory bodies; development of applications for environmental authorisations, water use licences, waste management licences and atmospheric air emissions licences; carrying out impact assessments to identify, assess and reduce the mine's environmental risks and financial cost; promoting and raising awareness of the impact of environmental issues; developing and implementing environmental management systems to continually improve the impact of the organisation on the environment; coordinating public meetings and consultations on environmental matters; managing relations with clients (board of directors, senior management and internal staff); training staff at all levels in environmental issues and responsibilities; writing environmental reports.

**2004:** Department of Minerals and Energy, eMalahleni Regional Office - Assistant Director

Evaluate Environmental Impact Assessment reports, Basic Assessment reports, Scoping reports, Environmental Management Programmes/Plans, Closure plans and other technical and Environmental documents. Recommend approval of the Environmental Management Programmes Conduct comprehensive environmental Inspection and environmental audits in line with Minerals Act, 1991 and related regulations. Identify environmental liabilities for mining operations and ensure evaluation of adequacy of financial provision. Investigate and resolve mine environmental related issues, attend to environmental related queries and complaints in mines. Assist public clients through promotion of administrative justice, Environmental, enforcement and investigate illegal mining. Participate in Environmental related forums and meetings. Supervision and management of the subordinates

**2002 – 2003:** Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (Gauteng Regional Office), Pretoria - Senior Water Pollution Control Officer

Managing Water Quality issue in the Vaal River catchment area; Managing both industrial and mining impacts; reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Management Programmes and Integrated Water Use Licence Applications. Managing junior officers and being involved in policy making processes. Establishment of water quality monitoring network, water quality sampling, environmental compliance inspections, drafting of Water Use License Reports, Making recommendations on decisions to be taken on Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Management Programmes and Integrated Water Use Licence Applications and other technical reports.

**2001 – 2002:** Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Administration (Gauteng Provincial Office), Johannesburg - Environmental Control Officer

Managing the Environmental Impact Assessment authorization processes for industrial and urban development in the Gauteng province; conducting compliance monitoring in accordance with the environmental laws, attending to pollution incidents and investigating public complaints; providing technical support to the directorate during Policy formulation.

**2000 – 2001:** Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (Mpumalanga Regional Office), Nelspruit - Water Pollution Control Officer

Managing Water Quality issue in the Olifants River catchment area; Managing both industrial and mining impacts; reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Management Programmes and Integrated Water Use Licence Applications.

## **EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

B. Sc. (Hons): 1995  
University of Durban-Westville

B. Sc.: 1994

University of Durban-Westville

MATRIC: 1991

Imemeza High school, Waterval Boven

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Environmental Law for Environmental Management
- Environmental Impact Assessment for Practitioners
- Environmental Risk Assessment for Practitioners

**PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS**

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR NATURAL SCIENTIFIC PROFESSIONS (SACNASP)

(117080)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSORS SOUTH AFRICA (IAIASA)

(IAIASA 3847)

**SKILLS**

- Compilation of Integrated Water Use Licence Application
- Compilation of Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan
- Determination of Financial Provisions for Mines
- Compilation of Basic Assessment Reports
- Compilation of Scoping Reports
- Compilation of Environmental Impact/Risk Assessment Reports
- Compilation of Environmental Management Programme
- Compilation of Mine Closure Plans
- Compilation of Waste Management Plans and Procedures
- Compilation of Water Quality Reports
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Internet
- Email



# University of Durban-Westville



This is to certify that

ORNASSIS TSHEPO SHAKWANE

was this day at a congregation of the University  
admitted to the

degree of

**Honoris Baccalaureus Scientiae**

having complied with the requirements of the  
Act, Statute and regulations



Westville, 3 AUG 1996

*m. Balitlo*  
Vice-Chancellor

*A. Bruma*  
Registrar



# University of Durban-Westville



This is to certify that

ORNASSIS TSHEPO SHAKWANE

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degree of

**Baccalaureus Scientiae**

having complied with the requirements of the  
Act, Statute and regulations



Westville,

26 MAY 1995

*m. Balitelo*  
Vice-Chancellor

*A. Brimer*  
Registrar

## Appendix C Deeds List for the direct surface owner

# Deeds Office Property - List

IS, 40, MPUMALANGA

Lexis® WinDeed

Any personal information obtained from this search will only be used as per the Terms and Conditions agreed to and in accordance with applicable data protection laws including the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI), and shall not be used for marketing purposes.

## SEARCH CRITERIA

|                   |                  |                       |              |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Search Date       | 2022/08/08 10:10 | Farm Number           | 40           |
| Reference         | -                | Registration Division | IS           |
| Report Print Date | 2022/08/08 10:11 | Portion Number        | -            |
| Farm Name         | -                | Remaining Extent      | NO           |
| Deeds Office      | Mpumalanga       | Search Source         | Deeds Office |

## PORTION LIST

| Portion | Owner                                       | Title Deed   | Registration Date | Purchase Price (R) |
|---------|---|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 0       | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -            | -                 | -                  |
| 1       | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -            | -                 | -                  |
| 2       | ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LTD                      | T874/2021    | -                 | -                  |
| 4       | INGWE SURFACE HOLDINGS PTY LTD              | T40581/1981  | -                 | -                  |
| 5       | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -            | -                 | -                  |
| 6       | EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY               | T129043/2002 | -                 | -                  |
| 7       | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -            | -                 | -                  |
| 10      | WET ALBERTUS NICOLAAS DE                    | T13285/1965  | -                 | -                  |
| 11      | BURJAN BOERDERYE PTY LTD                    | T52433/1986  | -                 | -                  |
| 12      | EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY               | T129043/2002 | -                 | -                  |
| 13      | TAVISTOCK COLLIERIES PTY LTD                | T40269/1998  | -                 | -                  |
| 14      | SCHUTTE WILHELMINA SUSANNA                  | T100586/1995 | -                 | -                  |
| 15      | MANHATTAN SYNDICATE LTD                     | T26923/1973  | -                 | -                  |
| 16      | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -            | -                 | -                  |
| 17      | LIZE TRUST                                  | T85746/2006  | -                 | -                  |

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**PORTION LIST**

| Portion | Owner                                       | Title Deed  | Registration Date | Purchase Price (R) |
|---------|---|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 18      | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -           | -                 | -                  |
| 19      | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -           | -                 | -                  |
| 20      | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -           | -                 | -                  |
| 21      | MANHATTAN SYNDICATE LTD                     | T38160/1979 | -                 | -                  |
| 22      | *** NO LONGER EXISTS - SEE ENDORSEMENTS *** | -           | -                 | -                  |
| 23      | MANHATTAN SYNDICATE LTD                     | T40271/1979 | -                 | -                  |
| 33      | NEBDA BELEGGINGS CC                         | T53477/2002 | -                 | -                  |

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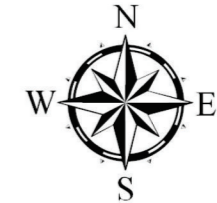
## Appendix D Surface Layout Plan



# RIETSPRUIT COAL PITS (PTY) LIMITED

Rietspruit Colliery II


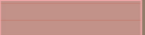




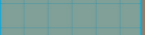





## LAYOUT PLAN



SURVEY SYSTEM WGS84

SCALE 1:1000

## LEGEND

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | MINING PERMIT BOUNDARY                    |
|    | INITIAL BOXCUT                            |
|    | OVERBURDEN STOCKPILE - HARDS              |
|    | OVERBURDEN STOCKPILE - SOFTS              |
|   | TOPSOIL STOCKPILE                         |
|  | RUN OF MINE (R.O.M)                       |
|  | POLLUTION CONTROL DAM (PCD)               |
|  | OFFICE COMPLEX (O/C) AND WEIGHBRIDGE (WB) |
|  | ACCESS ROAD                               |
|  | HAUL ROADS                                |
|  | WATER DIVERSION STRUCTURE                 |
|  | SCREENING BERM                            |



DRAWN BY GEOVICON ENVIRONMENTAL  
TELEPHONE: 013 243 0542  
EMAIL: geovicon@iafrica.com





Appendix E National Web Based  
Environmental Screening Tool  
Report



**SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS  
REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY**

**EIA Reference number:** MP 30/5/1/1/3/13623 MP

**Project name:** The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II Mining Permit Project

**Project title:** The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II

**Date screening report generated:** 22/09/2022 09:04:41

**Applicant:** Rietspruit Coal Pits (Pty) Ltd

**Compiler:** Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Ltd

**Compiler signature:**  
.....

**Application Category:** Mining|Mining Permit

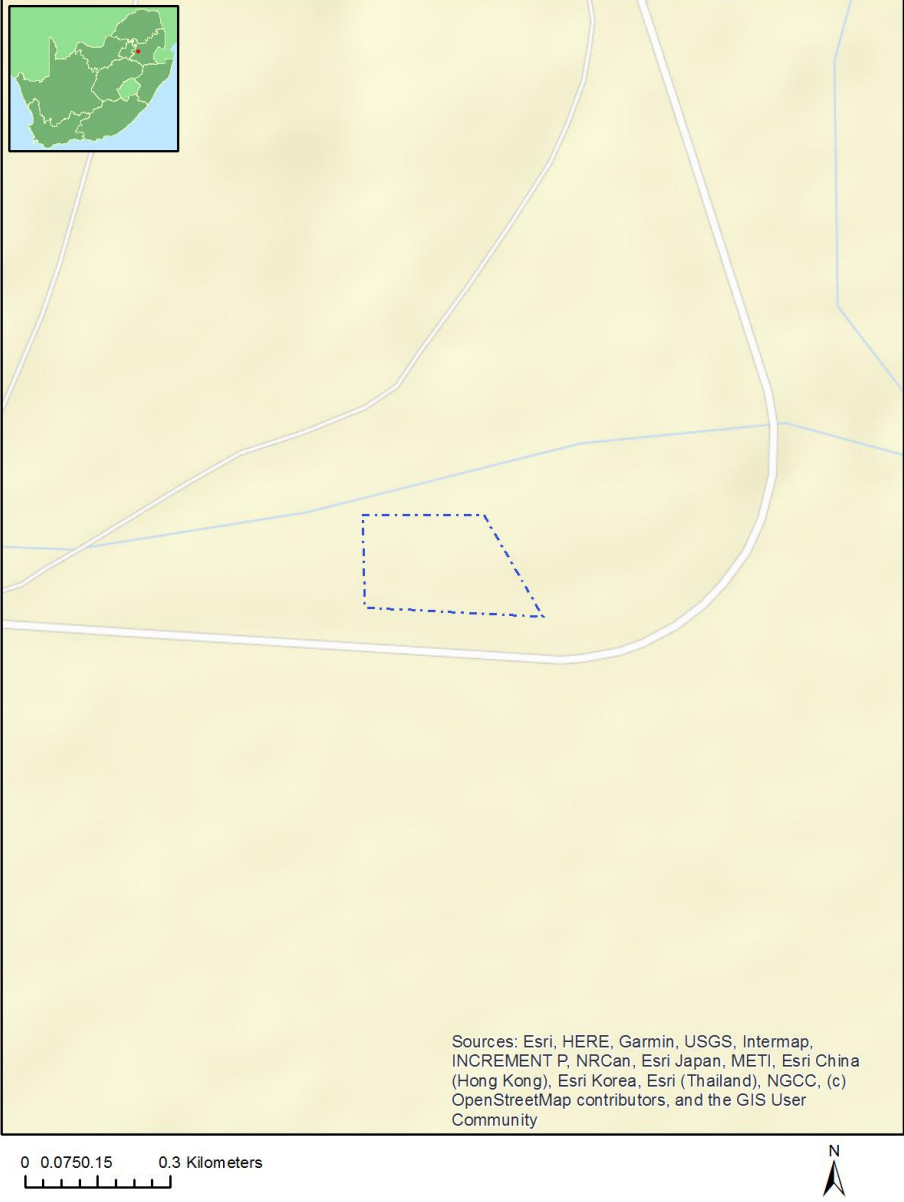
# Table of Contents

- Proposed Project Location ..... 3
  - Orientation map 1: General location ..... 3
- Map of proposed site and relevant area(s) ..... 4
  - Cadastral details of the proposed site ..... 4
  - Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area ..... 4
  - Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application ..... 5
- Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes ..... 5
  - Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions ..... 5
- Map indicating proposed development footprint within applicable development incentive, restriction, exclusion or prohibition zones ..... 7
  - Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity ..... 7
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  - MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY ..... 10
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  - MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY ..... 17
  - MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY ..... 18

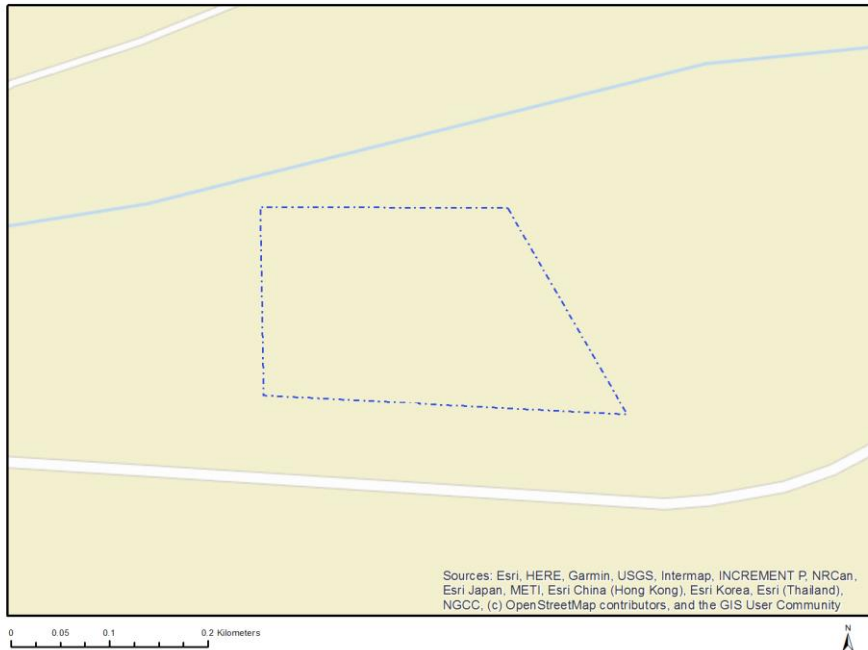
# Proposed Project Location

## Orientation map 1: General location

**General Orientation: The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II Mining Permit Project**



## Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



## Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

| No | Farm Name    | Farm/ Erf No | Portion | Latitude     | Longitude    | Property Type |
|----|--------------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1  | ROODEPOORT - | 40           | 0       | 26°10'36.88S | 29°13'23.75E | Farm          |
| 2  | ROODEPOORT - | 40           | 21      | 26°9'37.75S  | 29°14'6.97E  | Farm Portion  |

Development footprint<sup>1</sup> vertices:

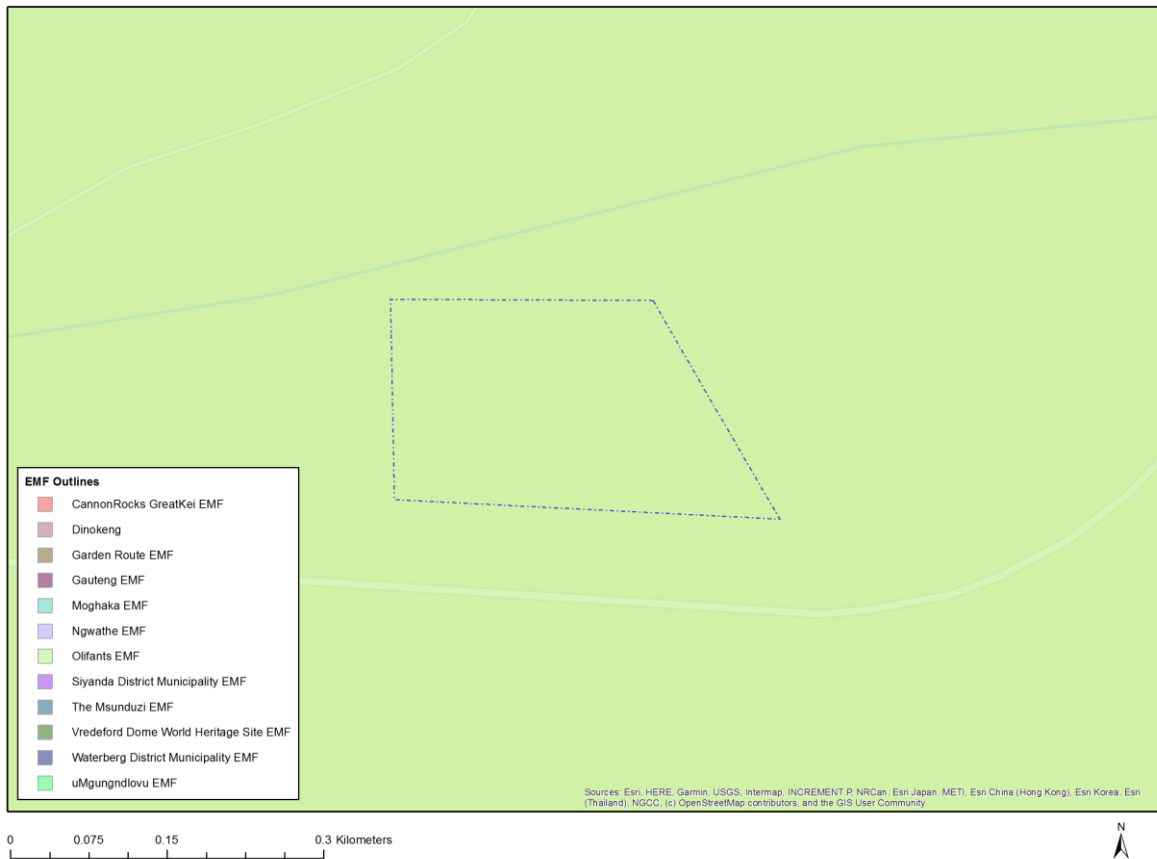
No development footprint(s) specified.

## Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

| No | EIA Reference No   | Classification | Status of application | Distance from proposed area (km) |
|----|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1  | 14/12/16/3/3/2/759 | Solar PV       | Approved              | 26.8                             |

<sup>1</sup> "development footprint", means the area within the site on which the development will take place and includes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

## Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application



| Environmental Management Framework | LINK  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Olifants EMF                       | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/EMF/Zone_46,_67,_78,_80,_92,_103,_122,_129.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/EMF/Zone 46, 67, 78, 80, 92, 103, 122, 129.pdf</a> |

## Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is: **Mining | Mining Permit.**

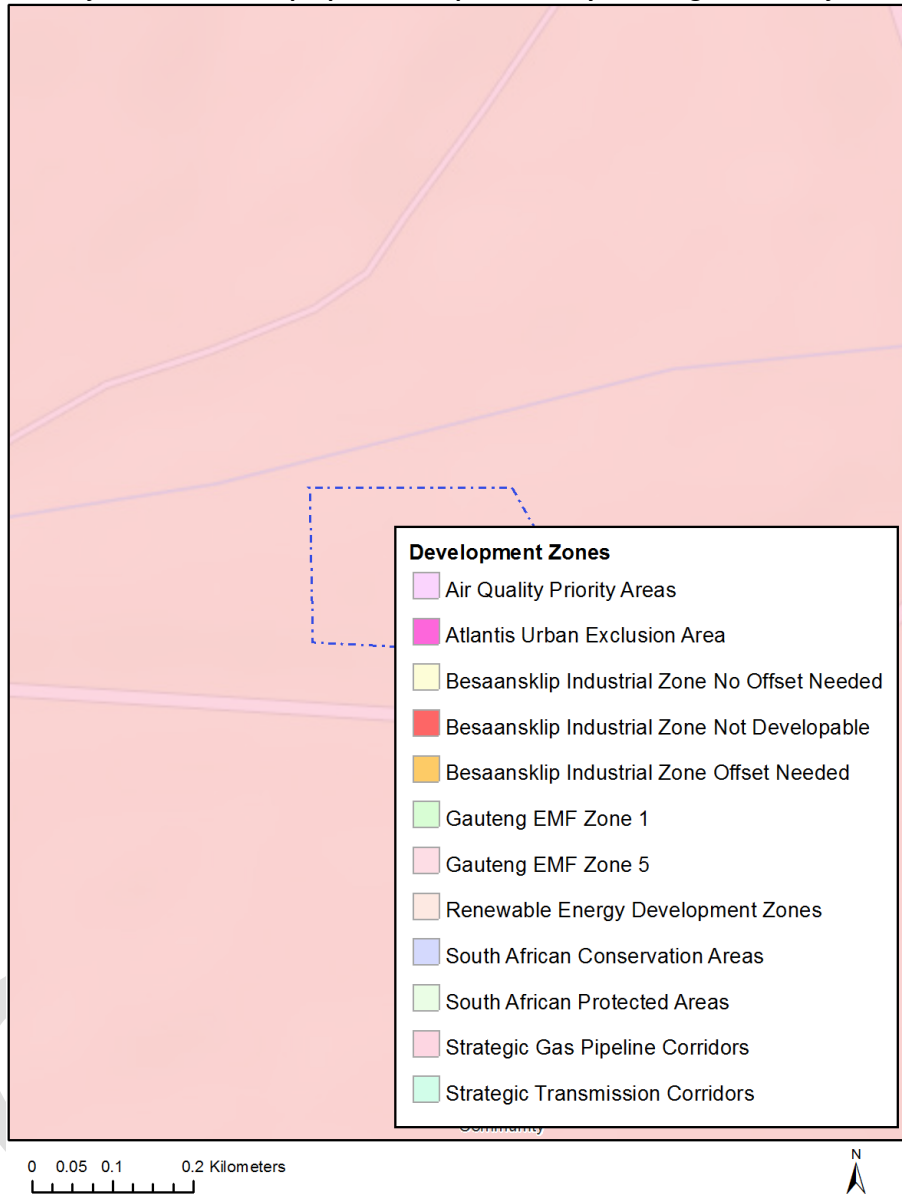
### Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

| Incentive, restriction or prohibition                               | Implication   |
|---|---|
| Air Quality-Highveld Priority Area                                  | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/HIGHVELD_PRIORITY_AREA_AQMP.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/HIGHVELD_PRIORITY_AREA_AQMP.pdf</a> |
| Renewable energy development zones 9-Emalahle ni                    | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_REDZ.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_REDZ.pdf</a>                             |
| Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors -Phase 8: Rompco Pipeline Corridor | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_GAS.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_GAS.pdf</a>                               |

## Map indicating proposed development footprint within applicable development incentive, restriction, exclusion or prohibition zones

**Project Location: The proposed Rietspruit Colliery II Mining Permit Project**



### Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

| Theme                | Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Agriculture Theme    |                       |                  | X                  |                 |
| Animal Species Theme |                       | X                |                    |                 |

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Aquatic Biodiversity Theme                 |   |   |   | X |
| Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme |   |   |   | X |
| Civil Aviation Theme                       |   | X |   |   |
| Defence Theme                              |   |   |   | X |
| Paleontology Theme                         | X |   |   |   |
| Plant Species Theme                        |   |   | X |   |
| Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme             | X |   |   |   |

### Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

| No | Specialist assessment                                  | Assessment Protocol   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | Agricultural Impact Assessment                         | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>           |
| 2  | Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>           |
| 3  | Palaeontology Impact Assessment                        | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>           |
| 4  | Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment             | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a> |
| 5  | Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment                 | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>         |
| 6  | Hydrology Assess                                       | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>           |

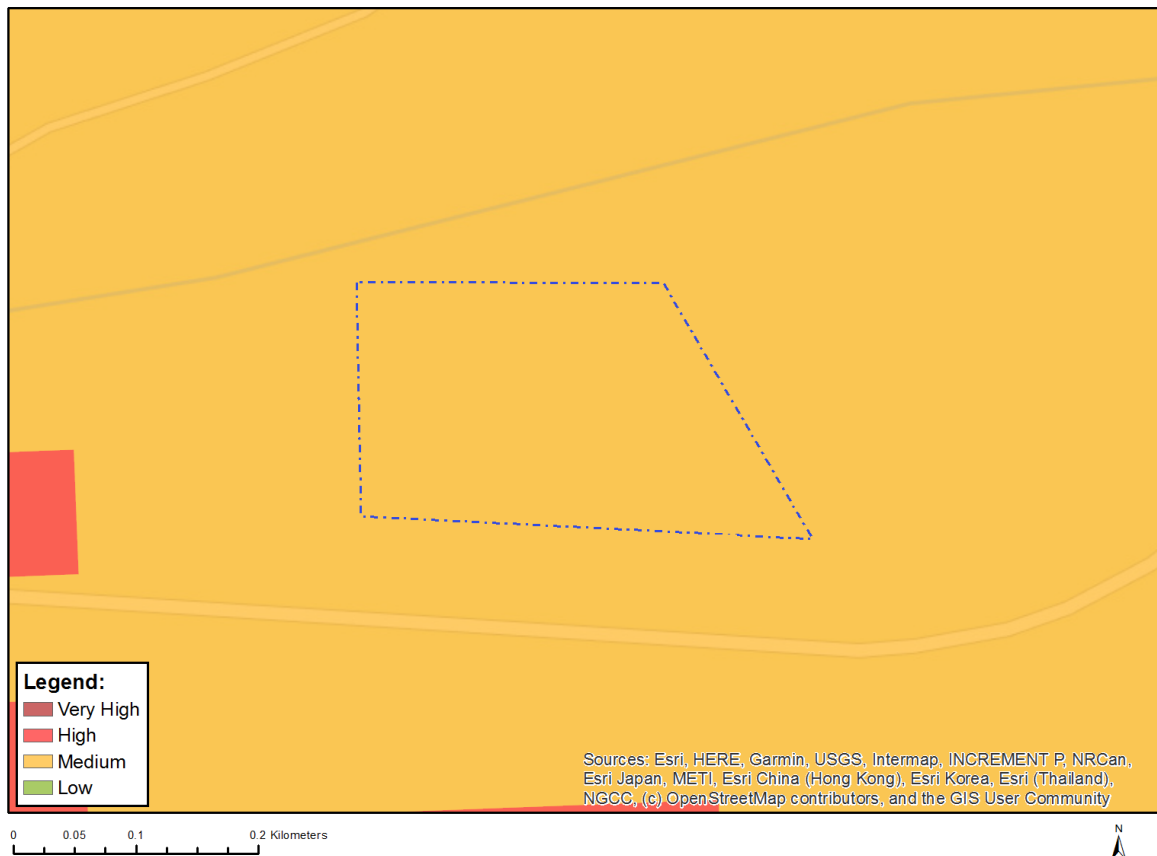


|    |                                 |   |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
|    | ment                            |   |
| 7  | Noise Impact Assessment         | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>               |
| 8  | Radioactivity Impact Assessment | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a> |
| 9  | Traffic Impact Assessment       | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a> |
| 10 | Geotechnical Assessment         | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a> |
| 11 | Socio-Economic Assessment       | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a> |
| 12 | Plant Species Assessment        | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>             |
| 13 | Animal Species Assessment       | <a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>           |

## Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

### MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

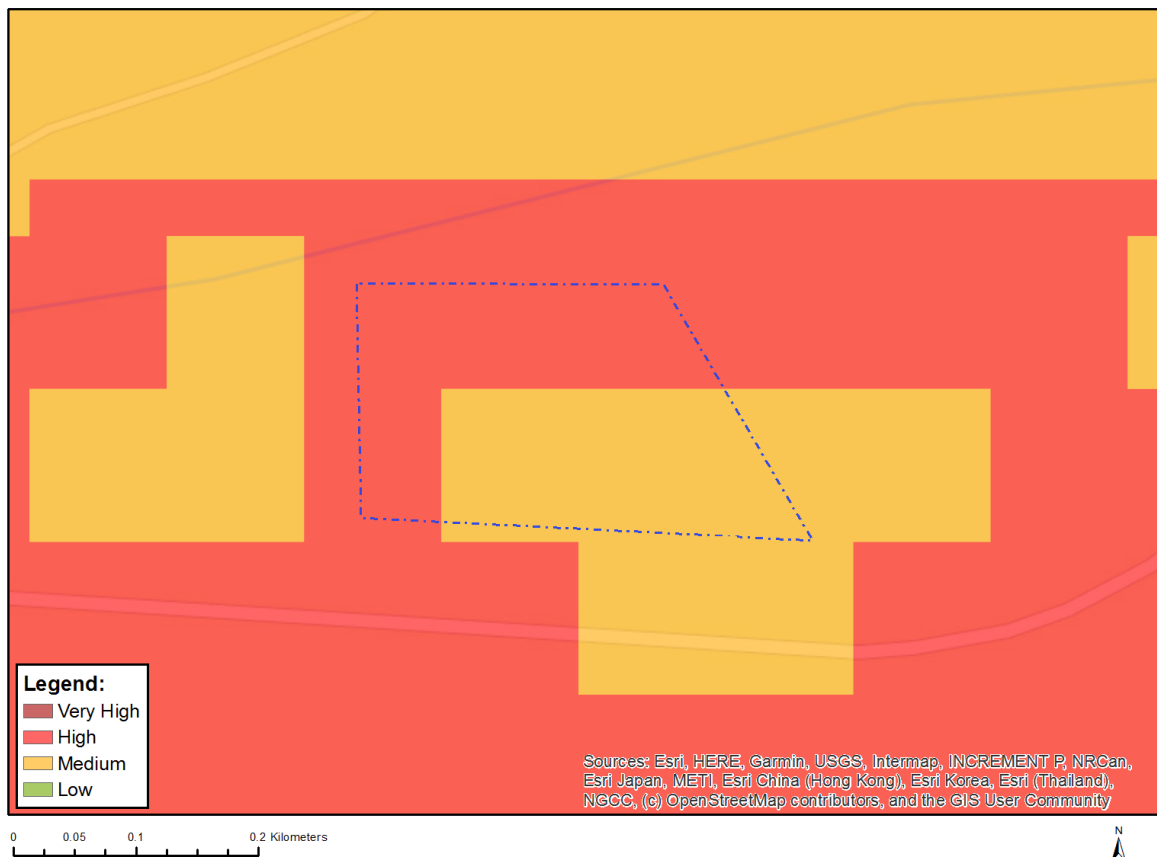


| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                  | X                  |                 |

#### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)   |
|-------------|--|
| Medium      | Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate |

## MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



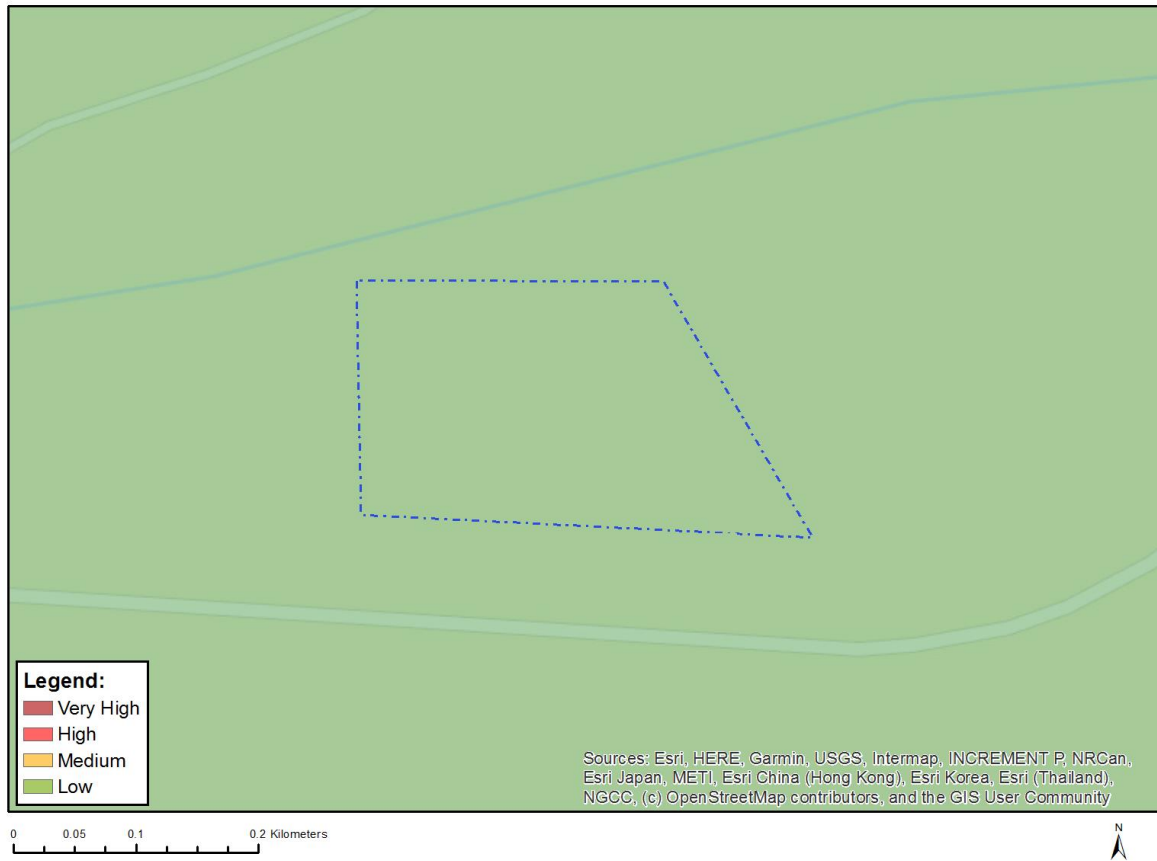
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at [eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za](mailto:eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za) listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       | X                |                    |                 |

### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)                       |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| High        | Aves-Tyto capensis               |
| Medium      | Mammalia-Crocidura maquassiensis |
| Medium      | Mammalia-Hydricotis maculicollis |
| Medium      | Mammalia-Ourebia ourebi ourebi   |

## MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

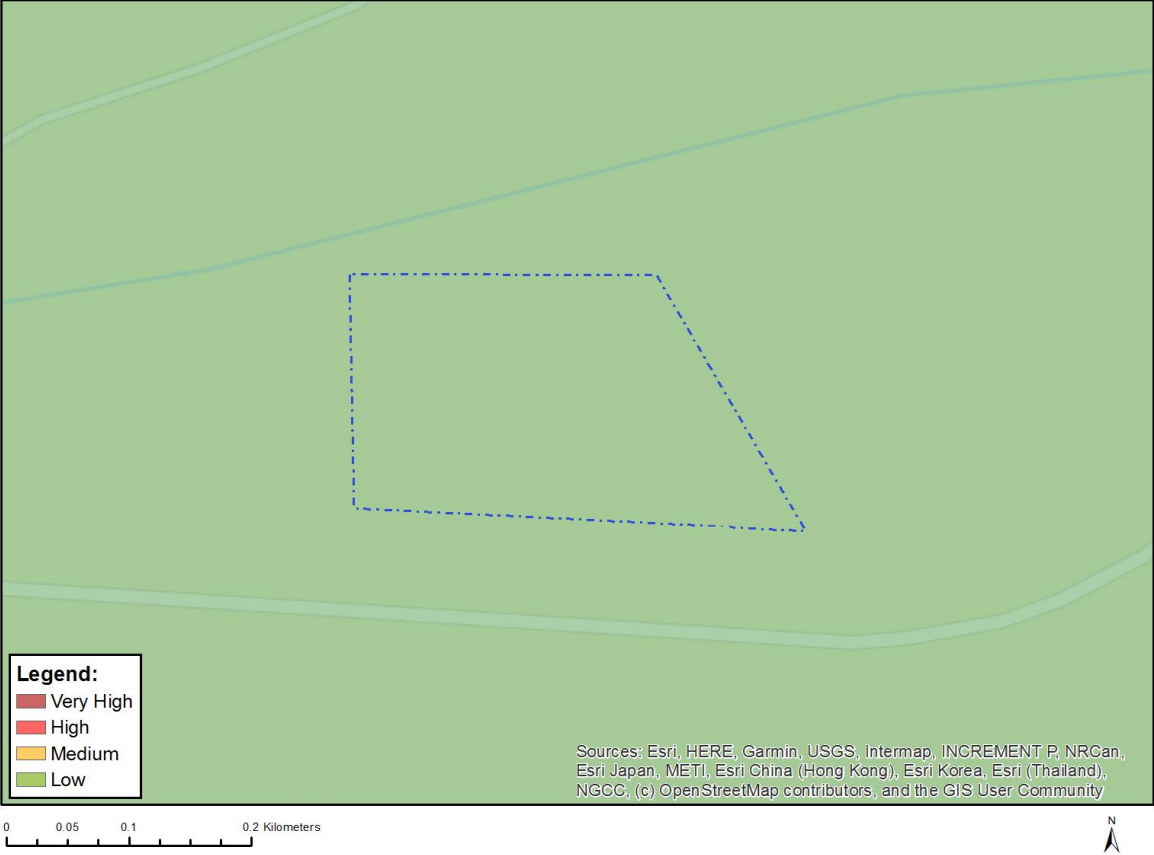


| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                  |                    | X               |

### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)      |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Low         | Low sensitivity |

# MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY

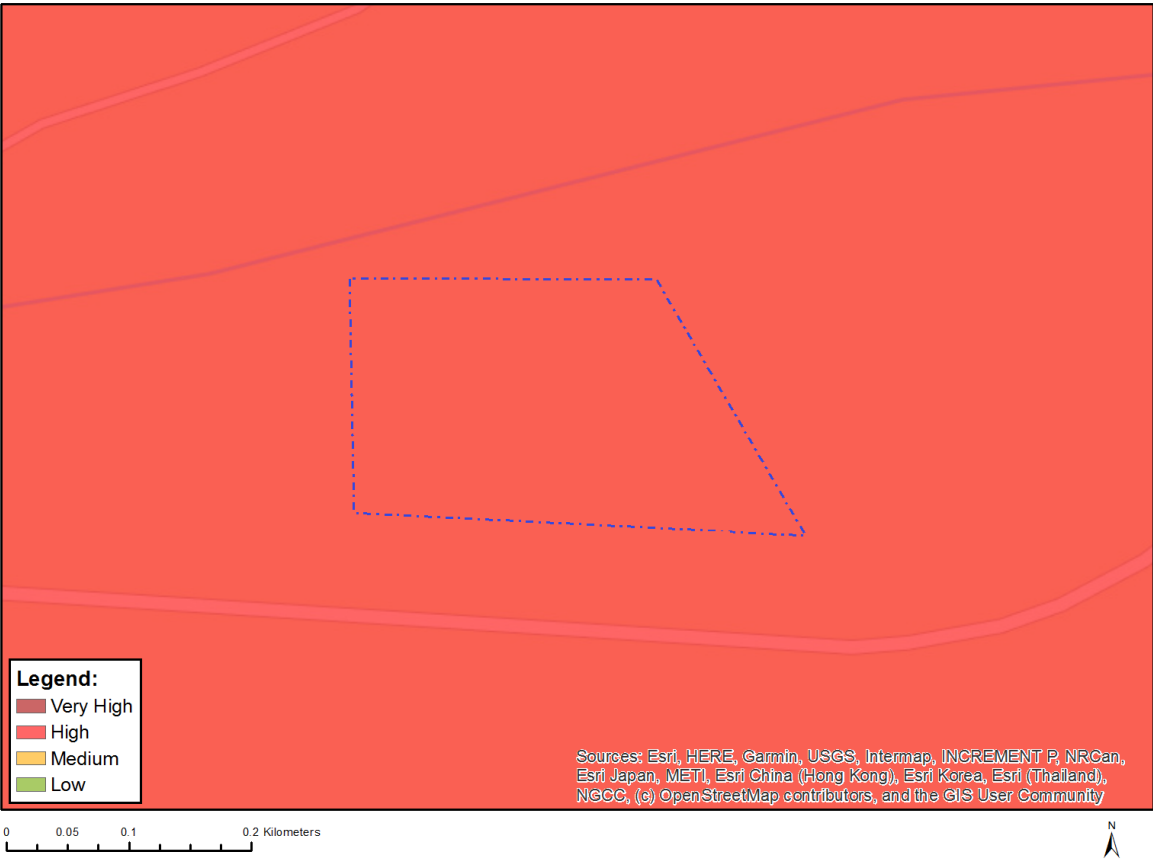


| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                  |                    | X               |

**Sensitivity Features:**

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)      |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Low         | Low sensitivity |

# MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

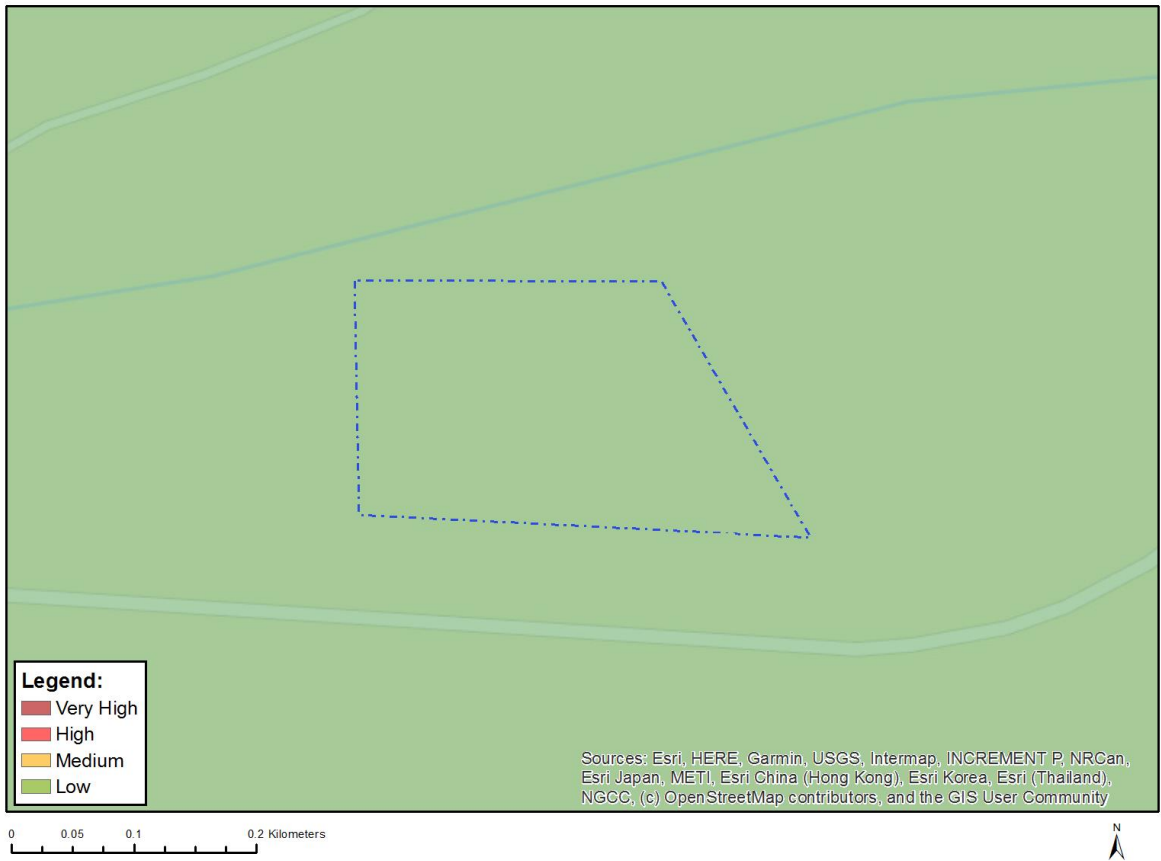


| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       | X                |                    |                 |

**Sensitivity Features:**

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)                                    |
|-------------|---|
| High        | Within 8 km of other civil aviation aerodrome |

# MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

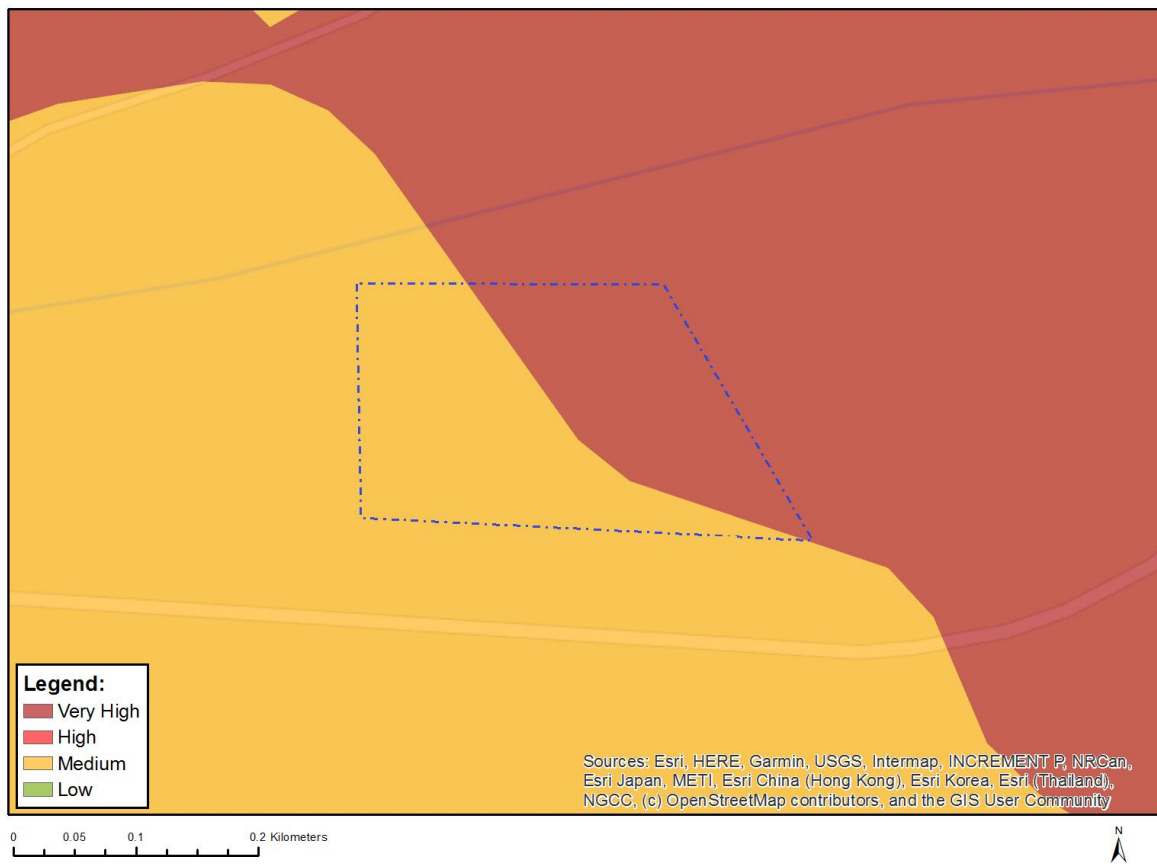


| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                  |                    | X               |

### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)      |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Low         | Low Sensitivity |

## MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY



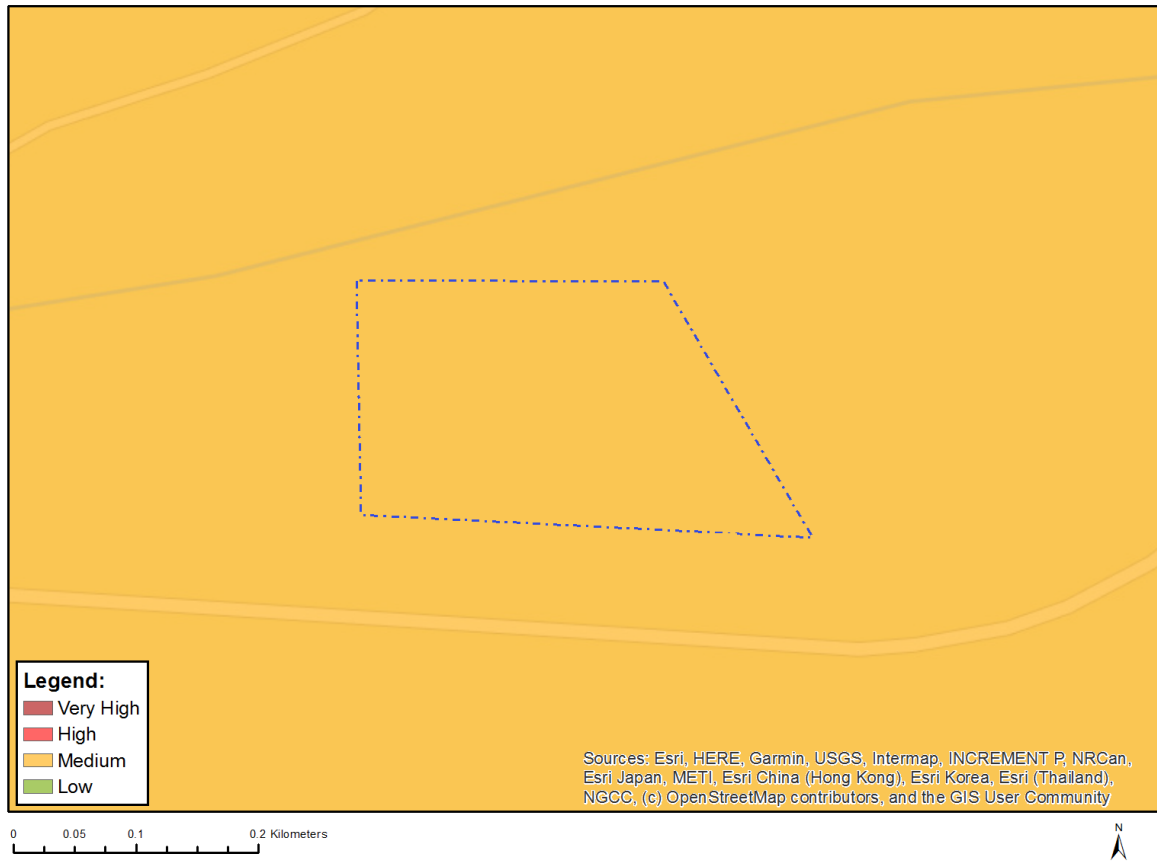
| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| X                     |                  |                    |                 |

### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)  |
|-------------|---|
| Low         | Features with a Low paleontological sensitivity       |
| Medium      | Features with a Medium paleontological sensitivity    |
| Very High   | Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity |



## MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



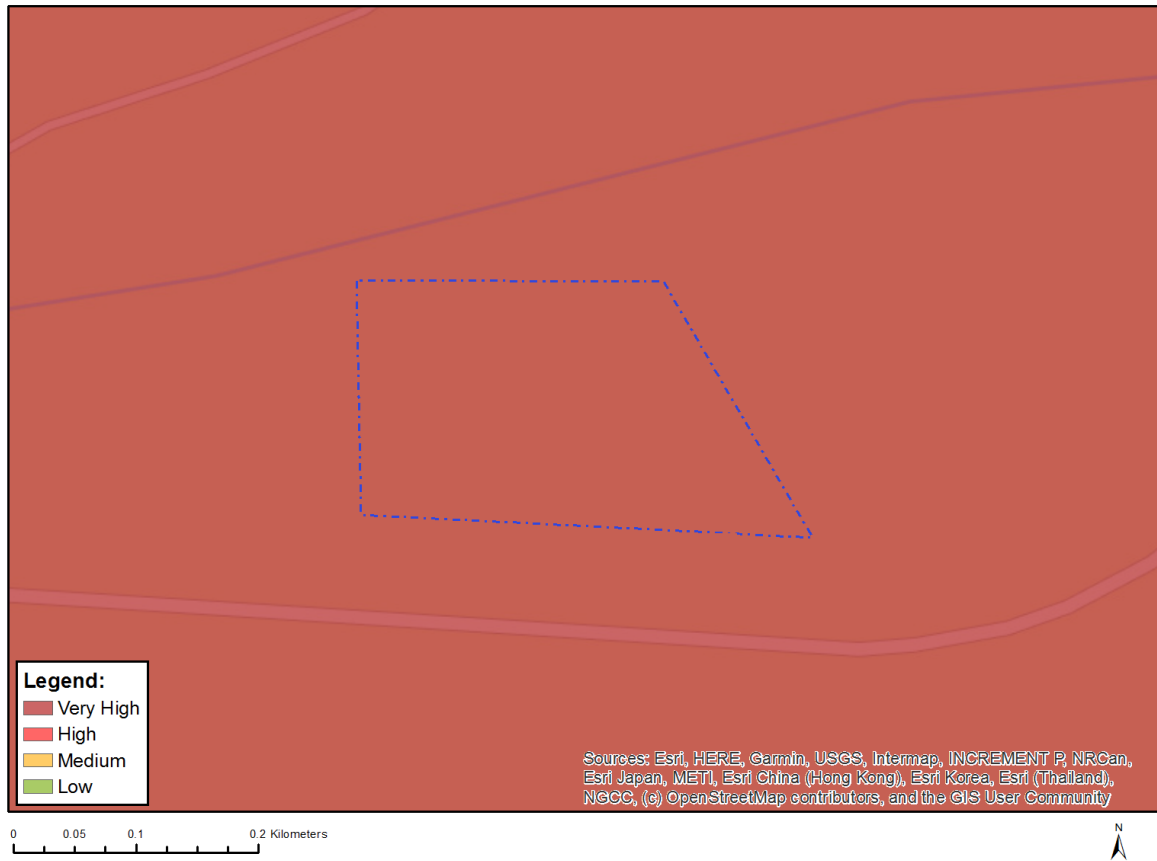
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at [eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za](mailto:eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za) listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                  | X                  |                 |

### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)                                  |
|-------------|---|
| Low         | Low Sensitivity                             |
| Medium      | Sensitive species 41                        |
| Medium      | Sensitive species 691                       |
| Medium      | Pachycarpus suaveolens                      |
| Medium      | Brachycorythis conica subsp. transvaalensis |

## MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



| Very High sensitivity | High sensitivity | Medium sensitivity | Low sensitivity |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| X                     |                  |                    |                 |

### Sensitivity Features:

| Sensitivity | Feature(s)           |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Very High   | Vulnerable ecosystem |