

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR A MINING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR COAL, PSEUDOCOAL, TORBANITE/ OILSHALE, AGGREGATE AND SAND (GENERAL) ON PORTION OF PORTION 12 OF THE FARM SUIKERBOSCHKOP 278 JS, MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF WITBANK IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

DMR REF: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13527 MP

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**2023**

## **1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Bheumdeni Investment (Pty) Ltd has appointed Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, an independent consulting company, to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014 as amended, to evaluate the potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts of the proposed mining project. Bheumdeni Investment (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Mining Permit and Environmental Authorisation in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resource Development Act (MPRDA), No 28 of 2002 and EIA regulations 2014 as amended for extraction of Coal, Pseudocoal, Torbanite/ Oilshale, Aggregate and Sand (General). Mining Permits are limited to an area of 5 ha, are valid for a period of two years and may be renewed for three periods each which may not exceed one year.

## **2 PROJECT LOCATION**

The proposed Bheumdeni Investment (Pty) Ltd site is situated approximately 21 km northwest of eMalahleni town, approximately 10 km northwest of Siyanqoba Settlements in the eMalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District in Mpumalanga Province. The mining permit application area is a 5 ha on Portion of portion 12 of the farm Suikerboschkop 278 JS which is within 6 km radius from the Kromdraai mine as shown in figure 2 below.

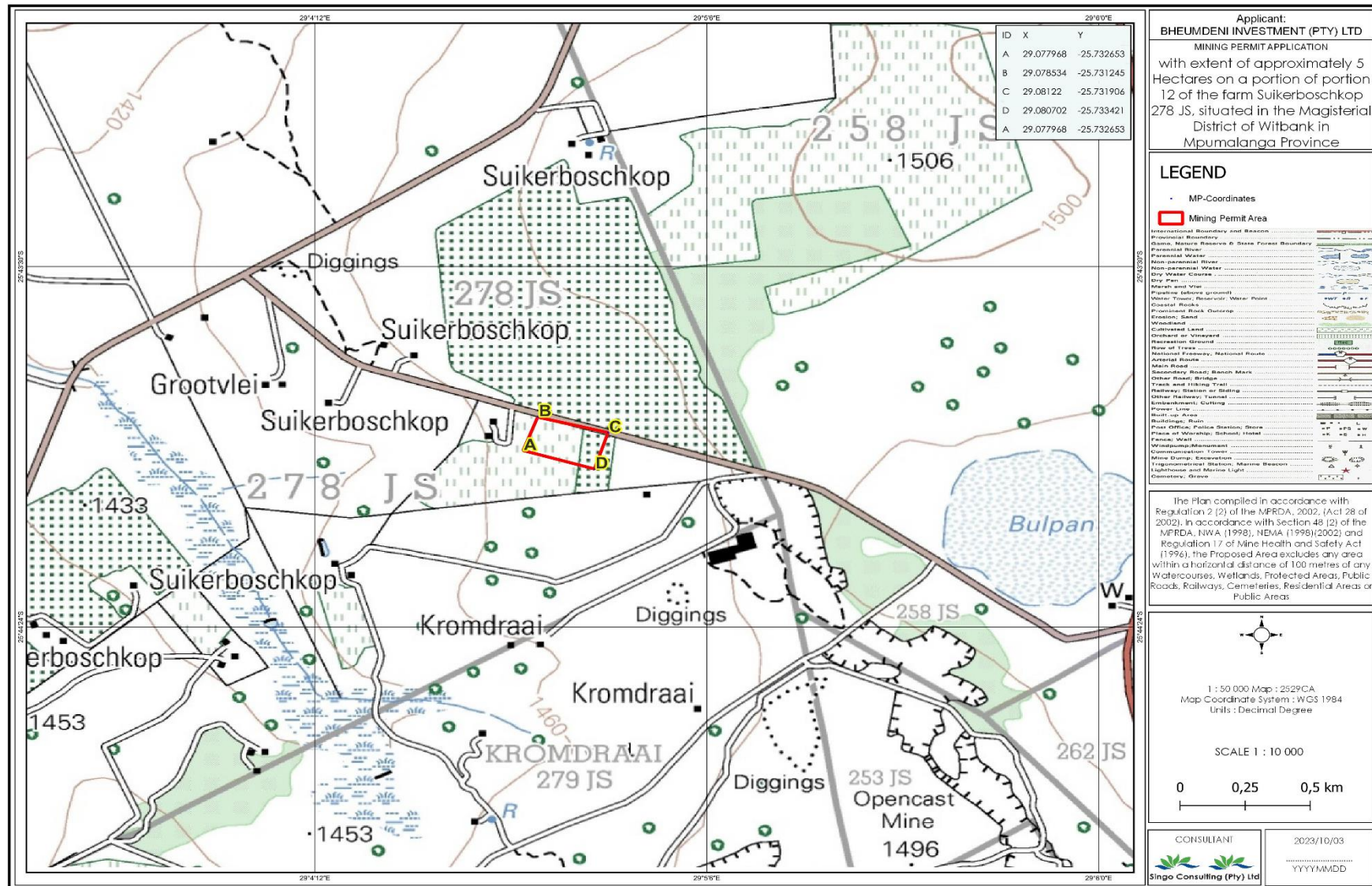


Figure 1: Reg 2.2 map of the project area (A: -25.732653, 29.077968)



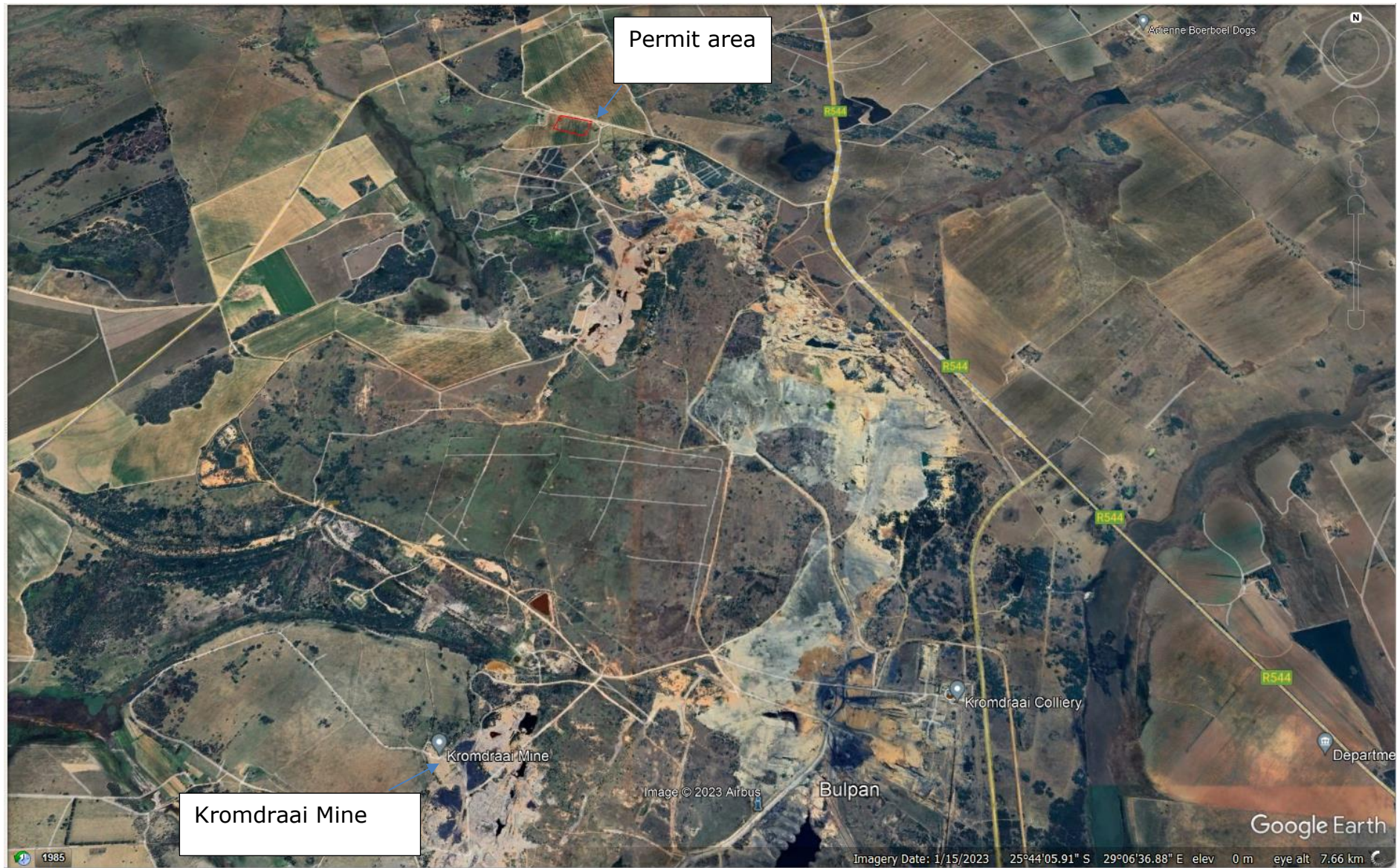


Figure 2: Google Earth view of the project area

### **3 PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

- Provide background about the proposed project;
- Inform stakeholders and Interested and Affected parties (I&AP's) about the proposed mining project and invite them to participate in the Public Participation Process,
- Provide applicable Legislations;
- List potential impacts and
- Provide means for engagement between the EAP and the IAP.

### **4 APPLICABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Chapter 30
- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act No 28 of 2002
- National Water Act 36 of 1998
- Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No. 29 of 1996);
- Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989);
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1993
- Environment Conservation Act 73 of 1989;
- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003;
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004;
- National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 of 2004);
- World Heritage Convention Act 49 of 1999;
- National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999;
- Mountain Catchment Areas Act 63 of 1970;
- National Forest Act 84 of 1998 and National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998 (administered by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries); and
- Other Provincial ordinances and municipal bylaws.

### **5 THE PROPOSED MINING PROCESS**

The proposed mining process to extract the applied for resources (Coal, Pseudocoal, Torbanite/ Oilshale, Aggregate and Sand (General)) will be through the surface mining method. Opencast mining is a surface mining technique that extracts resources from an open cut in the ground. Open-cast mining is the most common method used throughout the world for mineral mining and does not require tunnels. This surface mining technique is used



when minerals or ore deposits are found relatively close to the surface of the earth.



*Figure 3: typical example of surface mining (<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/menar-extends-opencast-coal-operations-2021-04-30>)*

Open-pit mines are dug on benches that are between four and sixty-meters in size, depending on the size of machinery used to excavate. The walls of most open-pit mines are dug at an angle and include steps to prevent avalanches from occurring inside the build site. The bench or berm is the flat part of the step and the incline section of the wall is called the batter.

In some cases, de-watering bores are drilled horizontally into the walls to relieve water pressure, which can destroy the walls if not properly addressed. A haul road is constructed at the side of the pit to form a ramp for ore-carrying trucks to haul material from the mining site. After the physical mine infrastructure has been built, production activities include drilling, blasting, excavation, loading and transporting of broken ore.

Waste rock will be piled up near the edge of the pit and spreads both horizontally and vertically. This is known as the 'waste dump'. The waste dump is also tiered and stepped, to keep rocks from falling into other parts of the site.

Typical mine infrastructure includes haul roads, spoil dumps, surface facilities (e.g. Toilets, stockpiles and storage yard) waste rock disposal areas, transport and service corridors (e.g. roads), product stockpiles, chemicals and fuel storage, storm water management infrastructure and site offices.

### **5.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

- Fencing and site establishment
- Site preparation;
- Clean and dirty water separation system;
- Trenching and construction of Berms
- Topsoil, subsoil, overburden, discard and ROM stockpiles;
- Box cut open cast mining with roll over rehabilitation sequence;
- Drilling and blasting and explosive handling;
- Waste management; &
- Mine closer and rehabilitation.

## **6 THE EIA PROCESS**

An application for environmental authorisation (EA) was lodged together with the Mining Permit application. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2017 as amended, a Basic Assessment Process must be undertaken for an EA application for a Mining Permit.

A Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme will be compiled for the Mining Permit application. The compiled reports will undergo public review for a period of at least 30 days. The timeframes for conducting the EIA Process for Mining Permit are indicated in figure 4 below.





about the proposed mining permit application through fixed notices, newspaper advert, and written notices (BID, SMS, WhatsApp, emails, etc.).

The registered I&APs must in terms of this regulation be provided with a minimum of 30 days to review all environmental reports which in this case are the Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme.

An I&APs register will be maintained for submission to DMRE on completion of the Public Participation Process. All the received correspondence will be included in the final reports to be submitted to the DMRE.

#### **What is expected from the Public?**

- The Public is expected to participate and be involved in the decision making by giving relevant comments to the project and share local knowledge of the project area.

#### **7 HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED**

- By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation and registering as an I&AP.
- By completing the attached comment sheet/ form and mailing or faxing before the 30 days' public participation time period is over.
- By telephonically contacting practitioners if you have a query or and comments on the project within 30-days public participation process period.

#### **8 NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:**

The Environmental Reports will be made available to all Interested and Affected Parties and stakeholders for review for a period of 30 days. The draft BAR & EMPr will be available from **Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 to Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 (Excluding public holidays).**

This report will be available at **Klarinet Public Library (Blesboklaagte 296 JS, eMalahleni, 1035, South Africa)** and a soft copy upon request from **Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd**, using the contact details of the candidate Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), Ms Boitumelo Moholola on the attached form below.

Comments on the Draft BAR & EMPr should be submitted by no later than the **12<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.**

***See comment form below***



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[admin@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:admin@singoconsulting.co.za)

**REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET (DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13527 MP).**

Attention: **Ms Boitumelo Moholola**

Email: [boitumelo@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:boitumelo@singoconsulting.co.za)

Title	Name	Surname	
Company			
Designation			
Address			
Tel No.		Fax No.	
E-mail		Cell No.	
I would like to receive my notifications be (mark with "X"):	Post:	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail: <input type="checkbox"/>
	SMS:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate why you would have an interest in the above-mentioned project.</b>			
<b>Please provide your comments and questions here:</b>			
Please feel free to attach a separate document			
<b>Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:</b>			
Full name		Company	
Address			
E-mail		Contact No.	