

**TUMELO COAL MINES (PTY) LTD: APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE PARTIAL PILLAR
EXTRACTION OF THE #2 SEAM
TUMELO COAL MINE: MP30/5/1/2/2/10115 MR**

1. INTRODUCTION

Tumelo Colliery is an existing, operational mine located within the Nkangala District Municipality and Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. The Mine has an approved Mining Right (MP30/5/1/2/2/10115MR) and Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA).

The approved EMPr addressed the underground mining (bord-and-pillar) of the reserves associated with the #2 Seam. Upon further assessment of the resource, Tumelo Coal Mines (Pty) Ltd ("Tumelo") now wish to amend the mine plan to include the partial pillar extraction of the #2 Seam (stooping).

This constitutes a change in the approved EMPr and Mine Work Programme and Tumelo therefore has to obtain the Minister's consent in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act No. 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) prior to effecting the change.

No additional infrastructure is associated with the proposed project change; and thus no new Listed Activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA); the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended); and/or the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, Act No 59 of 2008 (NEMWA) will be triggered.

However, as the partial pillar extraction of the #2 Seam will result in a change of Scope and possibly the nature of the environmental impacts, the EMPr will need to be amended as per Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). A Part 2 Amendment Process is therefore relevant to the project.

The Amendment Process will focus on the impacts associated with the pillar extraction, while the impacts from the current and past mining activities of the #2 Seam will be informative of the baseline conditions of the site and the cumulative nature of some of the potential impacts.

An application will also be made in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) to review and amend the existing Integrated Water Use License (IWUL).

2. SUMMARY OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

To implement the proposed project changes, Tumelo is required to apply for authorisation in terms of the following legislation:

- Amendment of the Mine Works Programme and EMPr in terms of Section 102 of the MPRDA;
- Part 2 Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation in term of Regulation 31 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended); and
- An application to review and Amend the Water Use License in terms of Sections 41 and 52 of the NWA.

3. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an Environmental Management Plan report (EMPr) Amendment in terms of the proposed Project.

The Recipients of this document have been identified as potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP). This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide I&APs with information on the proposed project changes and the environmental application processes.

The Reader is hereby invited to participate in the Amendment process freely and submit any questions or information you feel may contribute to the process to us. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the EMPr and IWUL Amendment process.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: (011) 794-6946 or info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za to register as an I&AP.

Alternatively you may contact us on (011) 794-7534.

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tumelo Colliery is an existing, operational mine located on the Farm Boschmanskop 154 IS, approximately 5.5 kilometres south-south-east of the town of Pullenshope and 15 kilometres north-west of the town of Hendrina. The site falls within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality of the Nkangala District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (Plan 1).

Mining of the No. 2 Seam is currently underway by means of underground bord-and-pillar methods, using continuous miners. In mechanized bord-and-pillar mining, extraction is achieved by developing a series of roadways (bords) in the coal seam and connecting them by splits (cut-through) to form pillars. These pillars are left behind as part of a primary roof support system.

Coal is then conveyed to surface before being crushed and screened on site, from here the coal is trucked to market.

As the remaining reserves will be depleted in December 2021, Tumelo wishes to amend their mine plan to include the partial pillar extraction (also known as stooping) so as to extend the remaining life of mine (Plan 2).

Existing infrastructure will continue to be utilised, and no changes to the surface infrastructure is anticipated (Plan 3).

Currently one hundred and twenty five (125) people are employed at Tumelo Colliery. The proposed project changes will not contribute to job creation but rather focus on the retention of jobs by prolonging the remaining life of mine.

Mining Right: MP30/5/1/2/2/10115 MR

Mineral: Coal

Mining Method: Underground bord-and-pillar method, with partial pillar extraction on retreat.

Depth of Mineral: The average depth of the 2 Seam is approximately 50 metres below surface.

Production Rate: 35 000 to 44,000 RoM tons / month.

Product Market: Domestic (Eskom) and export.

Life of Mine (LoM): Four (4) years (including pillar extraction).

Site Co-ordinates: 26° 4'16.29"S; 29°37'7.96"E

Affected Properties: Portion 10 (RE), Portion 6, Portion 21 (a Portion of Portion 6), Portion 14 (RE), Portion 23 (a Portion of Portion 14), and Portion 26 (a Portion of Portion 14) of the Farm Boschmanskop 154 IS.

5. AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS

Tumelo has an approved Mining Right and EMPr in terms of the MPRDA (MP30/5/1/2/2/10115MR), issued in December 2006.

The MPRDA and its Regulations is the predominant legislation dealing with the acquisition of rights to search for, extract and process mineral resources in South Africa. The MPRDA holds that mineral resources in South Africa belong to the nation and that the State is the custodian thereof.

Section 102 of the MPRDA states that the Holder of a Right may not change their authorised activities without the consent of the Minister of Mineral Resources. Tumelo has to apply for consent to amend their Mine Works Programme and EMPr as discussed herein.

On the 2nd September 2014 the NEMA became the overarching environmental legislation and the One Environmental System for mining came into effect.

Section 12 (4) of the NEMA Amendment Act, Act 62 of 2008, states that an EMPr approved in terms of the MPRDA, prior to the One Environmental System coming into effect, is regarded as having been approved in terms of NEMA.

As such, Tumelo is deemed to have a valid Environmental Authorisation for its mining operations.

Where an Environmental Authorisation has been issued an Applicant may apply to have this amended. If the Amendment is considered substantive, but does not constitute a Listed or Specified Activity, a Part 2 Amendment process must be followed.

A Part 2 Amendment process requires that a report be compiled and submitted to the Competent Authority reflecting: -

- An assessment of all impacts related to the proposed changes (EIA);
- Advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed changes;
- Measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change; and
- any changes to the EMPr;

which report has been subjected to a public participation process and reflects the incorporation of comments received.

The Competent Authority is the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).

6. PURPOSE OF THE EIA/EMP PROCESS

All South African's have a Constitutional Right to an Environment that is not harmful to our health or well-being and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

The EIA process is a legal requirement in terms of NEMA, to ensure that pollution and ecological degradation that may be caused by a development proposal are assessed and understood prior to a development taking place. Understanding potential impacts enables developers to implement appropriate measures to avoid or reduce environmental impacts associated with a proposed development. Such an approach is followed in the interest of ensuring ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources, while promoting justifiable economic and social development, in line with the Constitution.

7. WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION

Tumelo was issued with an Integrated Water Use License (IWUL) (Licence No.24090831) by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on 1 October 2010, in terms of the NWA. This was subsequently amended on 4 September 2017. The IWUL was issued for a period of ten (10) years, expiring on 1 October 2020.

A licensee may, before the expiry date of a licence, apply to the responsible authority for the renewal or amendment of the licence.

As the proposed project changes may result in additional water uses and/or a changes to the water balance an application to Amend the IWUL will be made. In accordance with Section 52 of the NWA, unless an Amendment of an IWUL is for minor corrections, it must be dealt with as per the procedures set out in Section 41 (Application for License).

The relevant application processes are illustrated overleaf.

8. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND SPECIALIST ASSESSMENTS

No new surface infrastructure is associated with the proposed project changes and thus impacts are expected to be limited to those associated with groundwater flow and the potential for surface subsidence.

The following Specialist Studies have been identified:

- Groundwater;
- Surface water hydrology;
- Freshwater Ecology (incl. Wetland Delineation) ; and
- Air Quality Impact Assessment.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the EIA process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the proposed developments and to be involved in decisions that may affect them. It also affords the EAP an opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing the EAP to assess all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

As a Registered I&AP you will be kept informed of the Amendment and IWUL application process, invited to Open Day meetings and review draft reports compiled in terms of the abovementioned applications. Furthermore, all comments that registered I&APs submit in terms of the Application(s) will be included in the relevant reports, and addressed throughout the process.

HOW TO REGISTER

Please register as an I&AP to receive information on the document availability as well as the venue, date and time of the Open Day meetings.

Register by completing the attached form and returning it to Cabanga Environmental at the contact details provided, or by submitting written comments in any other format to Cabanga Environmental. Please ensure that Cabanga Environmental has the required contact details so that the communication of all information regarding the EMP Amendment process can be efficient.



Contact Person: Michelle Venter or Jane Barrett

Tel: 011 794 7534 Fax: 011 794 6946

info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za

www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za

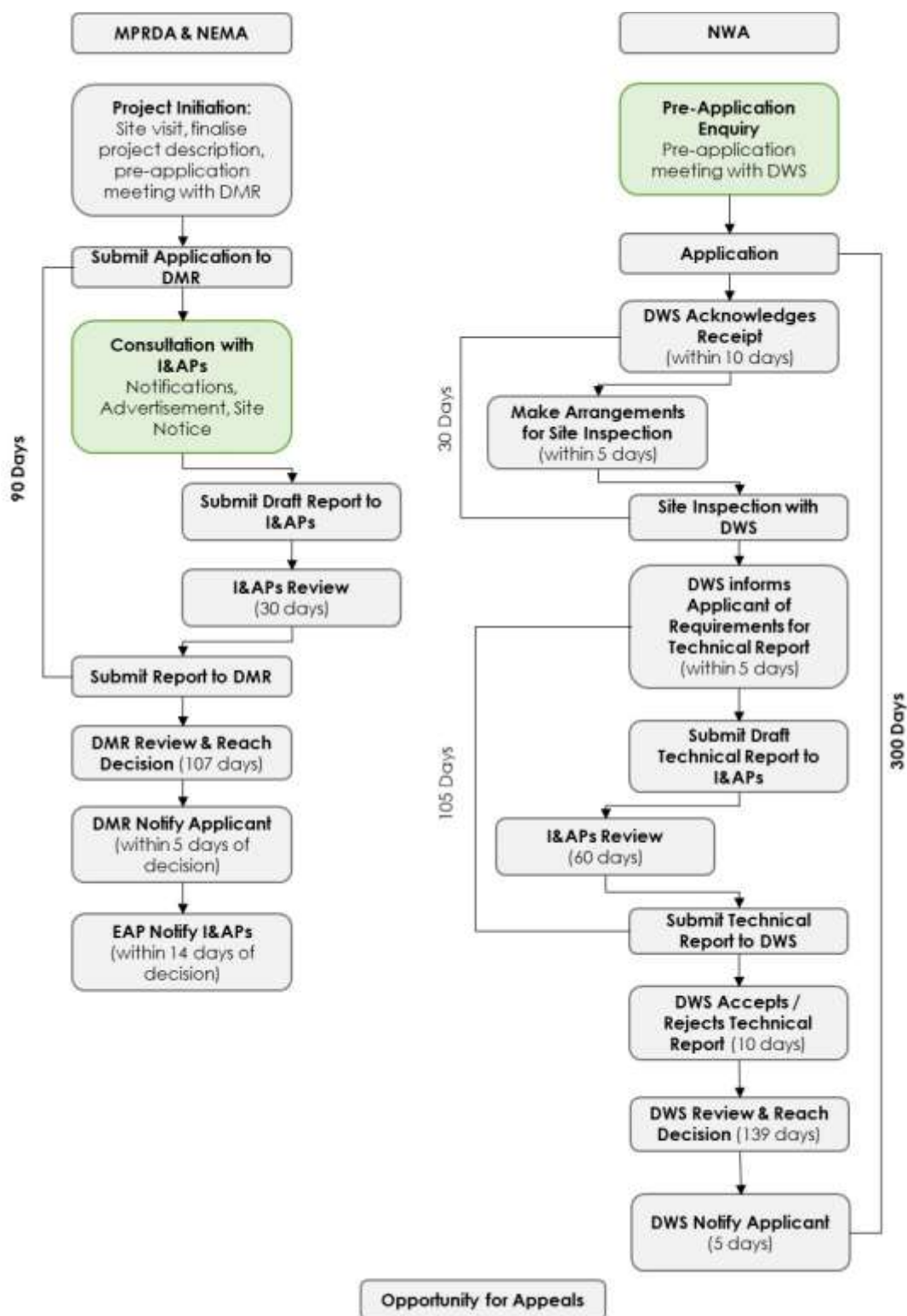
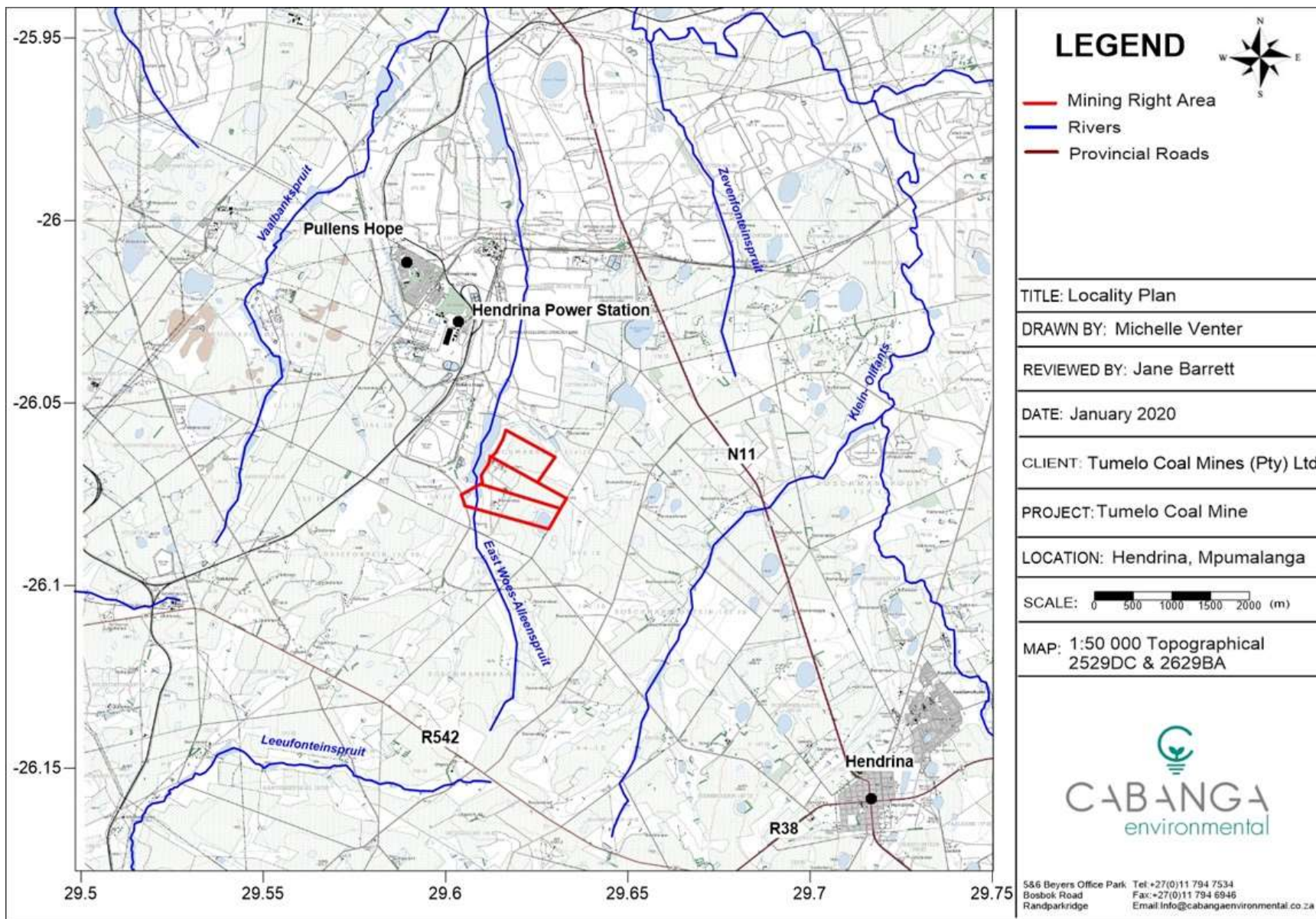
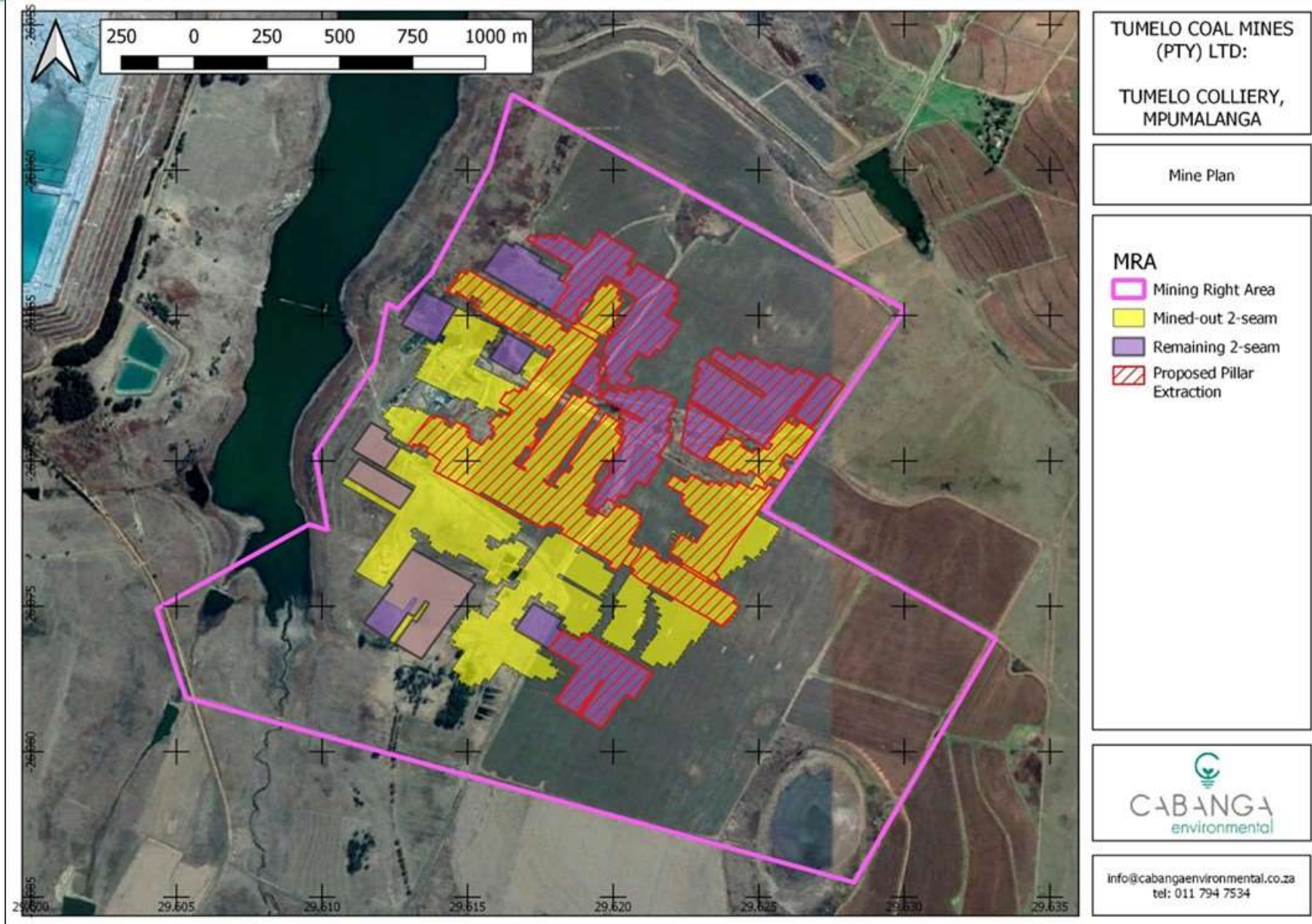


Figure 1: Summary of Application Process (Green indicates the current status of the relevant applications)



Plan 1 Locality Plan



Plan 2 Proposed pillar extraction in relation to the 2 Seam Mine Plan



Plan 3 Existing Infrastructure Layout

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE: TUMELO COAL MINE: 2 SEAM PARTIAL PILLAR EXTRACTION PROJECT

To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail, fax or post:



info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za; Fax: (011) 794 6946

Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162

Alternatively, please register on www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za click on "Public Participation"

Name:		Surname:	
Telephone No.:		Fax No.:	
Post:			
E-mail:			
How would you prefer to be contacted:	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS		
Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user? If no, what is your interest in the project? If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this project? If yes, please elaborate (feel free to attach separate pages).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you feel that the proposed activities will impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions? How? (feel free to attach pages).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified? (feel free to attach pages).			
Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas etc.) (feel free to attach separate pages)			
Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose? (feel free to attach separate pages).			
Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified? Please provide contact details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries? (feel free to attach pages).			