BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Environmental Applications for Changes to Infrastructure at Bakubung Platinum Mine, Ledig, North West Province

21 July 2015

INTRODUCTION

Wesizwe Platinum Limited is the owner of Bakubung Platinum Mine, currently shaft sinking on the farm Frischgewaagd 96JQ (Portions 3, 4 and 11). The mine is located near Ledig, just south of the Pilanesburg Game Reserve and Sun City in the North West Province. Two reefs will be mined for Platinum Group Elements - platinum, palladium, rhodium and gold, with copper and nickel as by-products. A locality map of the mine is shown in Figure 1.

The Bakubung Platinum Mine received Environmental Authorisation in 2009, in terms of both the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). The mine's Water Use Licence was issued in 2010.

Wesizwe would now like to make several changes to the approved mine which require additional Environmental Authorisations, a Waste Management Licence and an additional Water Use Licence.

Wesizwe appointed SLR Consulting (Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SLR) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to assist with the applications required for authorisation in terms of the environmental legislation. The initial legal review has indicated that the changes to the Bakubung Platinum Mine will require multiple authorisations under a number of different sets of legislation administered by different competent authorities.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AMENDMENT, WATER USE LICENCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE

FOR THE CHANGES TO INFRASTRUCTURE AT BAKUBUNG PLATINUM MINE

YOUR ROLE

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with information and invite them to participate in a public consultation process regarding the changes to the Bakubung Platinum Mine. You have been identified as an IAP who may want to be informed about the proposed project and have input into the environmental assessment process.

ATTEND ONE OF THE PUBLIC OPEN DAYS

Two Public Open Days will be held to give further details about the project:

Open Day 1:	**Open Day 2:**
Place: Phatsima Hall, Phatsima	**Place: Bakubung Community Hall, Ledig**
Date: 11 August 2015	**Date: 12 August 2015**
Time: 10h00 to 16h00	**Time: 10h00 to 16h00**

You have the opportunity to provide input through review and comment on this document, the scoping report, the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report and interaction with the environmental team.

All comments will be recorded and will be addressed as part of the EIA process.

Please send us your initial comments and questions by **24 August 2015**. There will be additional opportunities in the future for you to provide further comments.

HOW TO RESPOND

Please respond by submitting the attached comment sheet (last page of this document) or communicating with the persons listed below.

WHO TO CONTACT

Shelley Seton-Rogers or Chiara Kotze
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Post: P.O. Box 1596, Cramerview, 2060
Email: sholt@slrconsulting.com /ckotze@slrconsulting.com

PROJECT LOCATION

The changes to the Bakubung Platinum Mine will take place on the farms Frischgewaagd 96JQ (Portions 3, 4 and 11) and Mimosa 81JQ near Ledig and Sun City, North West. The site is located near the R565 and R556 roads, and lies north of the Elands River (Figure 1).

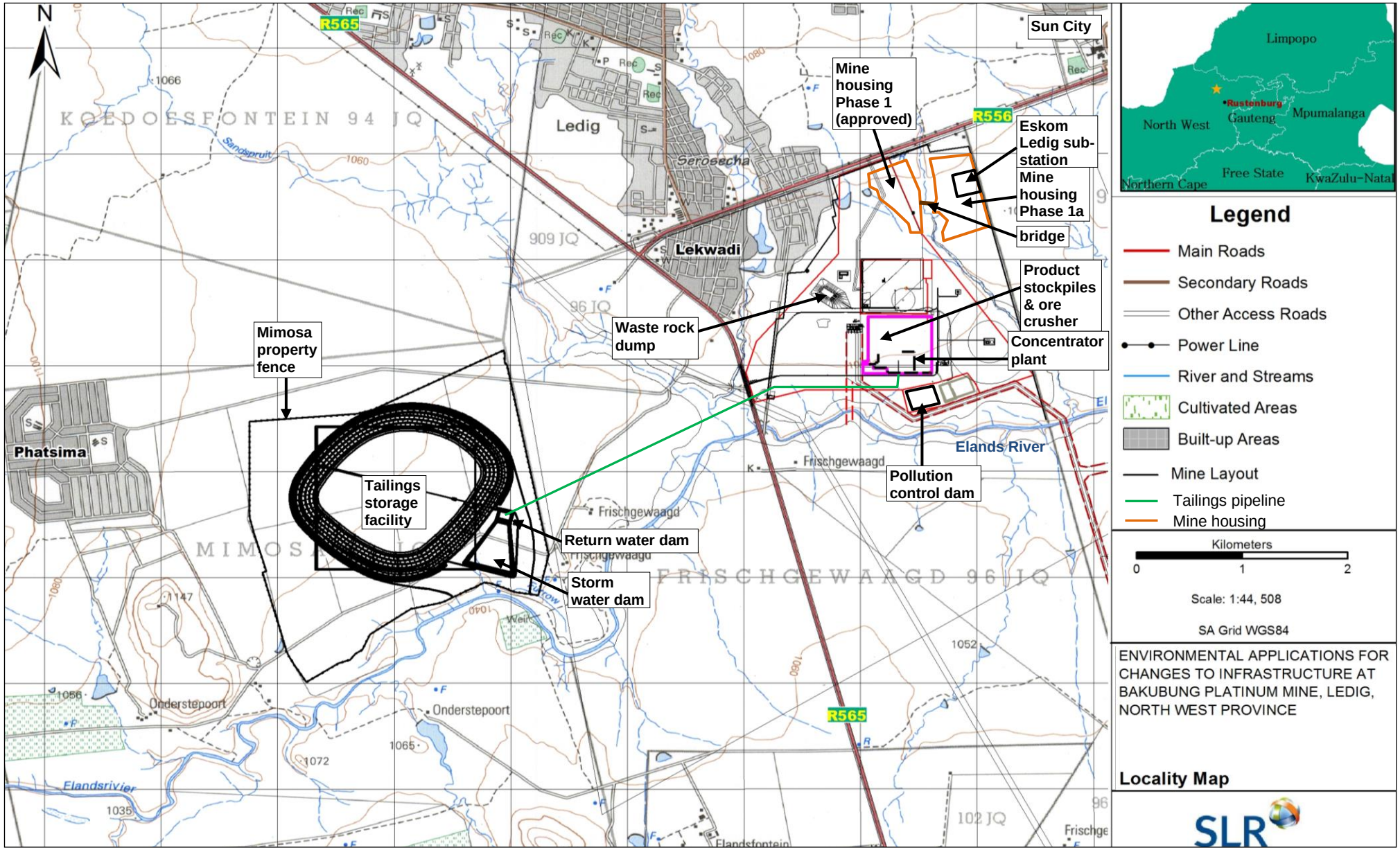


Figure 1. Locality map of the Bakubung Platinum Mine and related infrastructure

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed project will involve the following changes to the approved Bakubung Platinum Mine (note that this is a preliminary list):

- The construction of a larger tailings dam on the farm Mimosa 81JQ. The area will increase from 142 ha to approx. 166 ha. The height will be approx. 44m;
- A tailings pipeline between the mine and the tailings dam;
- An increase in the capacity of the concentrator plant from 230 000 tons per month to approx. 265 000 tons per month;
- Increased capacity of the mine product stockpiles;
- Relocation of the ore crusher from underground to the surface;
- Inclusion of the minerals in the waste rock into the mining licence, as the waste rock may potentially be crushed and sold as aggregate;
- Construction of erosion control measures along watercourses within the mine;
- Storage and handling of dangerous goods such as diesel and reagents on site;
- Various pipeline and road crossings over watercourses, including a bridge crossing;
- New sewage and water pipelines;
- New internal mine roads;
- Ventilation shafts and raise boreholes;
- Generators or possibly a solar power plant on site, for back up ventilation; and
- The construction of phase 1a of the mine housing.

The following water uses will take place, which will require an amendment to the Bakubung Platinum Mine's Water Use Licence:

- *Taking water from a water resource* – dewatering the mine shafts;
- *Storing of water (not containing waste)* – storing water in water reservoirs;
- *Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a water course, and altering the bed banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse* – various watercourse crossings including a bridge, and erosion control measures;
- *Disposing of waste in a manner which may impact on a water resource* – tailings dam, return water dams, storm water dams, pollution control dams, settling dams, waste rock dumps, sewage treatment plant, ore stockpiles, dust suppression with water;
- *Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity, or for the safety of people* – dewatering the mine shafts.

The following waste activities will take place, which will require a Waste Management Licence:

- The tailings dam;
- Waste rock dumps;
- The salvage yard (temporary storage of general and hazardous waste).

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following preliminary list of potential impacts has been identified and will be investigated as part of the environmental assessment process.

Safety: The proposed project has the potential to alter the topography and present infrastructure and excavations which may present potential safety risks for both people and animals.

Soil and land capability: The placement of infrastructure has the potential to compromise soil resources through physical disturbance (erosion and compaction) and/or pollution. Loss of soil resources has a direct impact on the natural capability of the land.

Biodiversity: The placement of infrastructure has the potential to disturb and/or destroy vegetation, habitat units and related ecosystem functionality.

Surface water: The proposed project has the potential to alter surface drainage patterns through the placement of infrastructure and to pollute surface water resources.

Groundwater: The proposed project has the potential to contaminate groundwater resources which could impact availability to other groundwater users.

Air: The proposed project has the potential to contribute additional air pollution.

Noise: The proposed project has the potential to cause noise pollution through the construction of infrastructure and activities.

Visual: The placement of infrastructure has the potential to create visual impacts through topographical changes.

Heritage/cultural resources: The proposed project has the potential to damage heritage resources should any heritage/cultural resources be identified.

Land use: The proposed project has the potential to impact on surrounding land uses such as livestock grazing, surrounding mines and infrastructure (powerlines, railway and roads).

Socio-economic: The proposed project has the potential to contribute towards positive and negative socio-economic impacts. Positive impacts include job creation and stimulation of local and regional economy. Negative socio-economic impacts such as the influx of job seekers are linked to social pathologies.

ENVIRO-LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

An initial legal review has indicated that the changes to the Bakubung Platinum Mine will likely require multiple authorisations under various environmental legislation and administered by different competent authorities.

Notice is hereby given in terms of the following legislation, that applications for required authorisations will be submitted to the relevant government authorities listed below:

Legislation	**Listed Activities (preliminary list of potential activities)**	**Process Required**	**Competent Authority**
National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998	GNR 983 (2), (9), (10), (12), (14), (19), (25), (27), (28). GNR 984 (2), (4), (6), (15), (17), (21), (25). GNR 985 (4), (10), (12).	Submission of application, Scoping & EIA Reports	North West Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)
National Environ-mental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004	N/A	Submission of application form (if required and if protected species are found on site).	North West Department: Rural, Environment & Agricultural Development/ Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
National Water Act 36 of 1998	Water uses: S21(a), (b), (c), (g), (i) and (j).	Integrated water use licence amendment	Department of Water and Sanitation
National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999	N/A	Notify South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).	SAHRA

Legislation	Listed Activities (preliminary list of potential activities)	Process Required	Competent Authority
National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008	GNR 921 Category B (7)	Submission of application, Scoping & EIA Reports	DMR
Mineral & Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002	N/A	Section 102 Amendment - submission of Scoping & EIA Reports (including EMPr).	North West DMR – as part of the NEMA authorisation

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

The environmental process provides information on the project and environment in which it is being undertaken. It identifies, in consultation with interested and/or affected parties (IAPs), the potential negative as well as positive impacts of the project, and reports on management measures required to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level.

Prior to the commencement of the proposed project, an environmental assessment process is required, which includes an application, a scoping report, an EIA and an EMP.

Scoping

Scoping involves the identification of environmental issues and concerns. Public input is a key component of the scoping phase of the assessment. The methods to be used in conducting the EIA study are planned, to ensure that the identified issues will be adequately addressed.

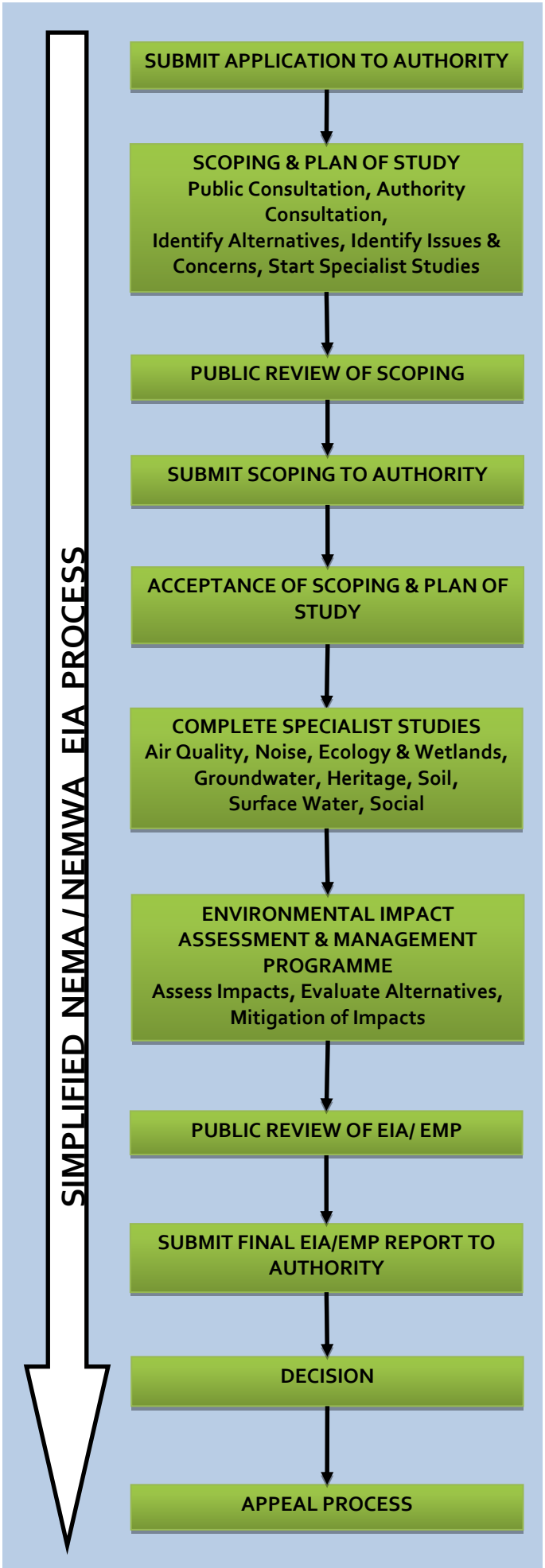
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

This involves the review of available project and environmental information to identify potential environmental impacts and to assess the level of significance of these impacts. Specialists are involved to provide expert opinion on the impacts and often use computer modelling to assist with their studies.

Environmental Management Programme (EMP)

An EMP will be developed, aimed at addressing impacts identified and developing mitigation measures to reduce risks to acceptable levels. Recommendations of the specialists are used to assist in developing the EMP.

The likely process steps are provided below. IAPs and other stakeholders registered on the project's database will receive notification of information-sharing open days and report review periods in advance.



PUBLIC INPUT SHEET FOR CHANGES TO BAKUBUNG PLATINUM MINE, LEDIG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

All initial comments must reach us by 24 August 2015. Please attach additional pages if required.

DATE		**NAME**	
POSTAL ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
STREET ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
WORK/ DAY TEL NUMBER		**WORK/ DAY FAX NUMBER**	
CELL NUMBER		**E-MAIL ADDRESS**	

IF YOU KNOW OF OTHERS WHO SHOULD BE INFORMED, PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH THEIR CONTACT DETAILS

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS HERE (use extra pages if needed)

PLEASE PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW (IF POSSIBLE)

1. Please provide information as to how your interests (socio-economic, cultural, heritage or environmental, etc.) will be affected by the proposed project.
2. How do you consider that the proposed activities will impact on you or your socio-economic conditions?
3. What are your suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impacts of each activity for the project?
4. According to you, what are the current land uses and their location within the project area?
5. What are the locations of environmental features on site?
6. How can the potential environmental impacts be remedied, and to what standard?
7. How can the potential impacts on your socio economic conditions be mitigated (reduced)?
8. How can the potential impacts on your infrastructure be managed, avoided or remedied?

Please return completed forms to:

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