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Mining Permit Application to undertake Sand Mining at the New Vaal Colliery, Free State Province

Notification of Intent to Develop

Prepared for:

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd

Project Number:

COP6147



March 2020



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This document has been prepared by Digby Wells Environmental.

Report Type:	Notification of Intent to Develop
Project Name:	Mining Permit Application to undertake Sand Mining at the New Vaal Colliery, Free State Province
Project Code:	COP6147

Name	Responsibility	Signature	Date
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Justin du Piesanie Divisional Manager: Social and Heritage Services ASAPA Member 270	Technical Review		March 2020

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1 Introduction

Copper Sunset (Pty) Ltd (hereinafter Copper Sunset) intend to apply for a Mining Permit for the mining of sand within the New Vaal Colliery Mining Right Area (MRA) near Vereeniging in the Free State Province (the Project). Copper Sunset have divided the resource into two potential sand mining areas – one of which will require a Mining Permit Application and the other of which will require a Mining Right Application. This document is applicable to the Mining Permit Application which is subject to a Basic Assessment (BA) process.

Copper Sunset appointed Digby Wells Environmental (hereinafter Digby Wells) to undertake the BA process in compliance with:

- The Minerals and Petroleum Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA);
- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (GN R 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended by GN R326 of 7 April 2017) (EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended); and
- The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).

Digby Wells will complete a Heritage Resources Management (HRM) process in support of the BA processes in compliance with the aforementioned legislation and the National Heritage Resources Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA). This Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) serves to meet the regulatory requirements of the aforementioned legislation with specific reference to Section 38(1) of the NHRA.

2 Project Details

Seriti Resources (hereinafter Seriti) holds a Mining Right for the New Vaal Colliery. The Colliery is located immediately south of Vereeniging and approximately 18 km northeast of Sasolburg. Table 1 presents a summary of the details of the Project location, which is illustrated in Plan 1. Table 2 summarises the land ownership details relevant to the Project.

Table 1: Project Location Details

Name of property/ies	New Vaal Colliery
Street address or location (e.g.: Off R44)	1955 Problem Road (R82), Richmond, 1939
Erf or farm number/s	Remaining Extent (RE) of the farm Maccaw Vlei No. 121
Coordinates of approximate centre of project area	26°40'59.57"S
	27°57'1.54"E
Town or District	Vereeniging (immediately to the north), Sasolburg (18 km to the southwest).
	The Project falls within the Sasolburg Magisterial District

Responsible Municipality	Metsimahalo Local Municipality (MLM) Fezile Dabi District Municipality (FDDM)
Extent of property	The New Vaal Colliery is approximately 3 600 ha in extent. The extent of the proposed sand mining is 14.2 ha (combined).
Maximum extent of proposed development	5 ha
Current use	Coal Mining and oak plantation (non-operational)
Predominant land use/s of surrounding properties	Mining, agriculture and urban.

Table 2: Landowner Details

Name	Property	Notified
Seriti	RE of the farm Maccaw Vlei No. 121	Yes

Seriti are presently extending the New Vaal operation (“the New Vaal Life Extension Project”). The sand resource is located in the Extension Project area, overlying the coal resource. Copper Sunset and Seriti have come to an agreement allowing Copper Sunset to mine the sand prior to Seriti mining the coal resource. To minimise potential delays to the New Vaal mining plan, Copper Sunset have divided the sand resource into two parts. Table 3 presents a summary of the breakdown of the sand mining operation.

Table 3: Breakdown of the proposed Sand Mining Operation

Mining Area	Application	Assessment Process
5 ha	Mining Permit	BA
9.2 ha	Mining Right	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The proposed Project area is presently characterised by the presence of many oak trees which have remained from the old oak plantation established in the New Vaal Colliery. This plantation was established in 1948 but has not been operational since the New Vaal Colliery was established. Copper Sunset will need to clear the remaining trees and the surrounding shrubbery. Other Project activities will include:

- Stripping the topsoil, which will be stockpiled separately for use in rehabilitation activities;
- Strip-mining the sand. Sand will be stockpiled before it is loaded into customers’ vehicles and removed; and

- Concurrent rehabilitation as the sand is extracted. The area will be sloped and allowed to revegetate naturally.
















The Project will not require any permanent infrastructure and there will not be any changes to New Vaal's existing or future planned infrastructure. All machinery brought in by Copper Sunset will be mobile. The Project will, however, require the construction of an access road to gain access to the sand resource without disturbing the coal-mining process.

3 Illustrative Material

Plan 1 presents the regional setting within which the Project is located. Plan 2 presents the proposed sand mining area and the proposed access road.

Copper Sunset Regional Setting

Legend

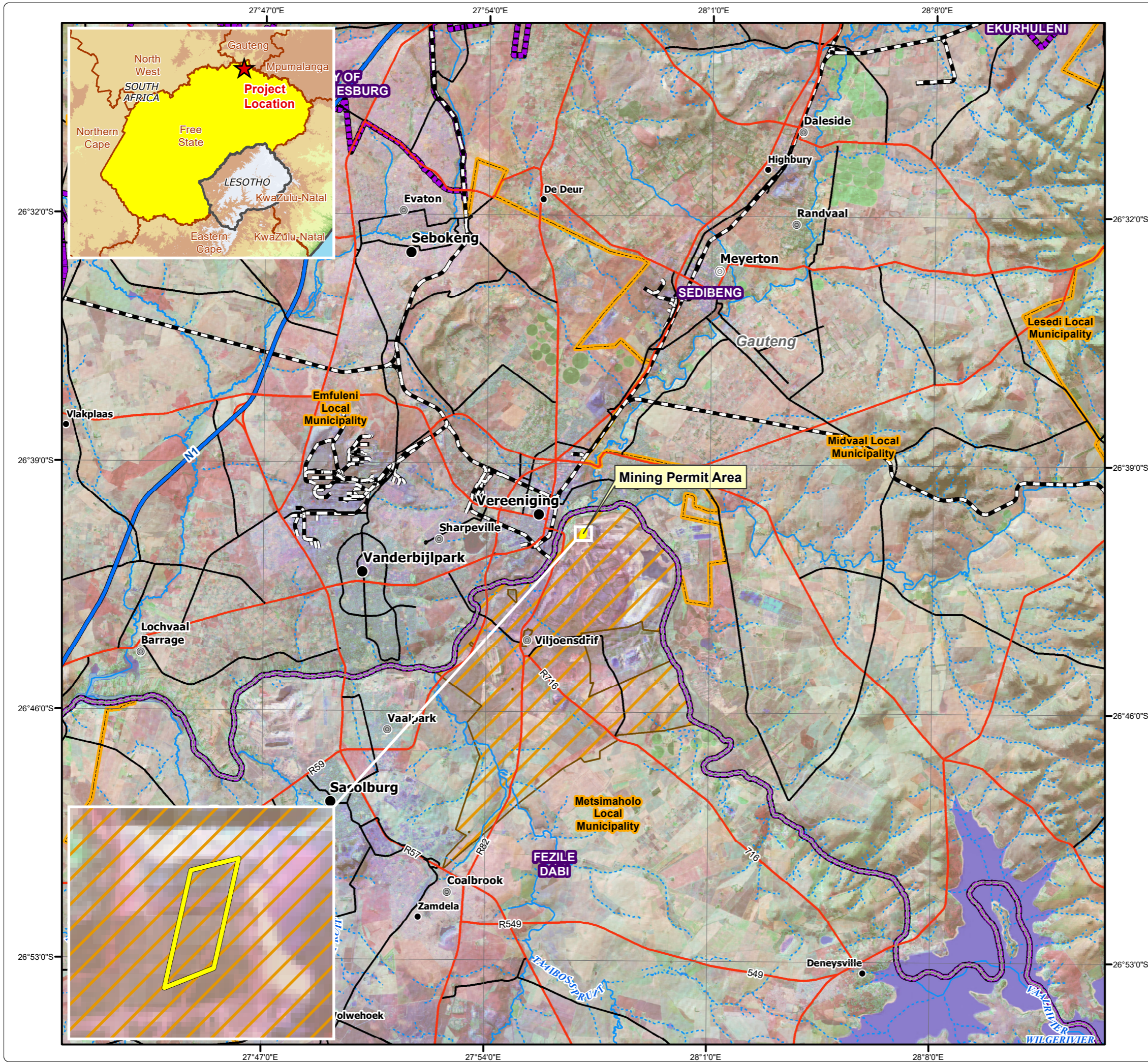
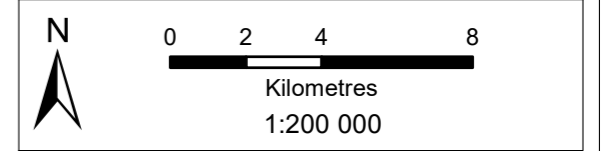
-  Mining Permit Area (5ha)
-  Seriti Mining Right Area
-  Major Town
-  Secondary Town
-  Other Town
-  Settlement
-  National Route
-  Main Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Railway Line
-  Non-Perennial River/Stream
-  Perennial River/Stream
-  Provincial Boundary
-  District Municipalities (2016)
-  Local Municipalities Boundary (2016)



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


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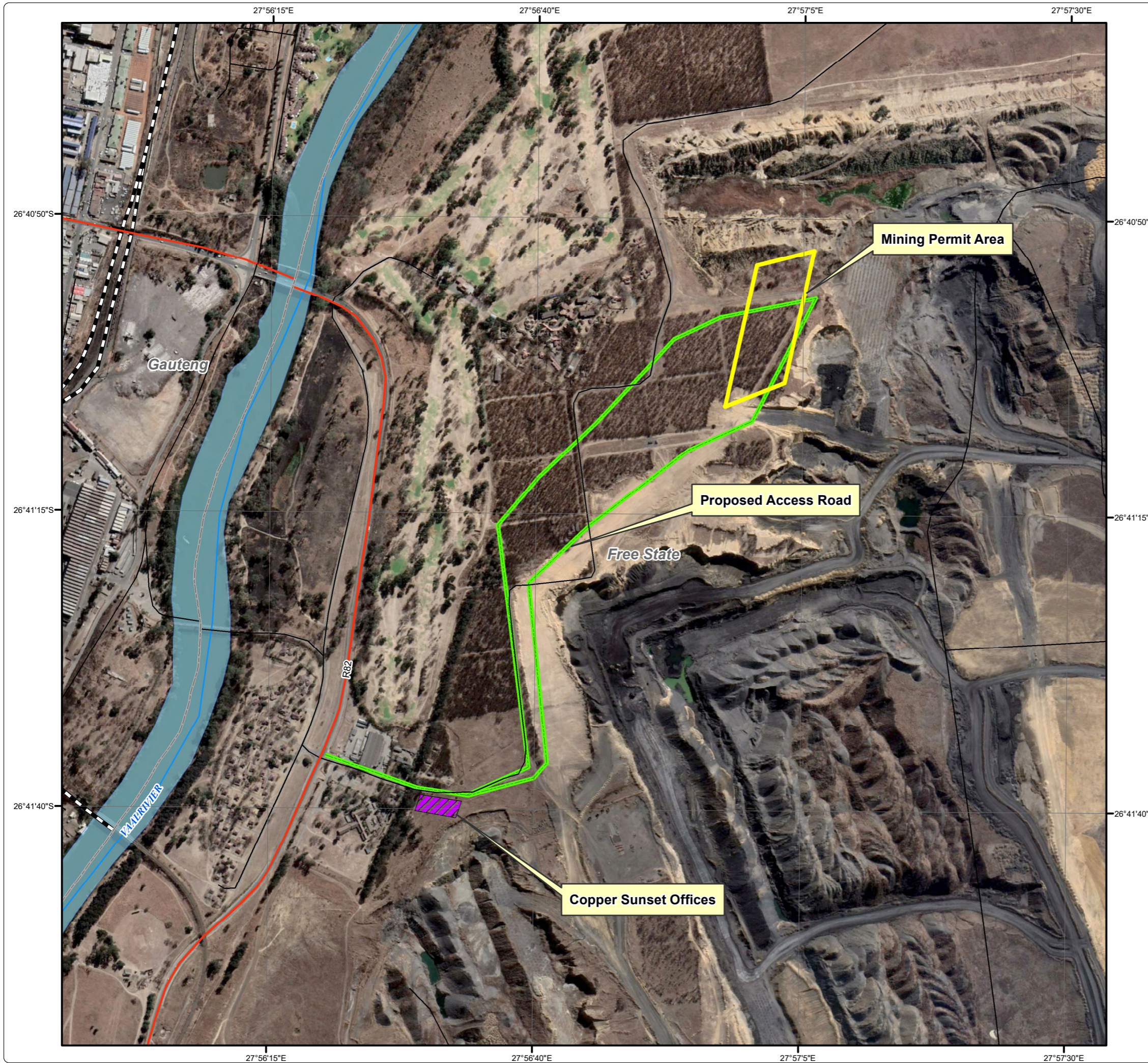
Projection: Transverse Mercator Ref #: amt.COP6147.H.01
 Datum: WGS 1994 Revision Number: 1
 Central Meridian: 27°E Date: 06/02/2020



Copper Sunset Infrastructure Layout

Legend

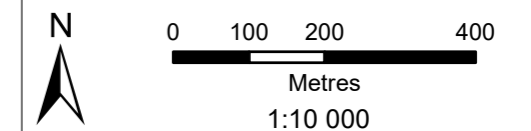
-  Mining Permit Area (5ha)
-  Main Road
-  Street
-  Railway Line
-  Perennial River/Stream
-  Proposed Access Road
-  Copper Sunset Offices
-  Provincial Boundary



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Projection: Transverse Mercator	Ref #: amt.COP6147.H.02
Datum: WGS 1994	Revision Number: 1
Central Meridian: 27°E	Date: 06/02/2020



4 Assessment Process

Table 4 summarises the impact assessment processes that are currently being conducted for the proposed project.

Table 4: Current Assessment Processes

Legislation	Current phase of assessment process	Authorities who has / will receive information	Capacity of Authorities
MPRDA	BA	Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)	Licensing
NEMA	BA		Licensing
NHRA	BA	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Commenting
		Heritage Free State (HFS)	Noting ¹

These assessments are required in terms of legislated and / or regulated activities outlined in Sections 4.1 to 4.3 below.

4.1 NHRA Section 38(1) Activities

The proposed development will include the following activities listed in Section 38(1) of the NHRA, which generally require heritage assessments be undertaken.

Table 5: NHRA Section 38 Triggers

NHRA Section 38 (1) Activities / Triggers		Summary description (e.g. 500 m conveyor belt, open cast pit, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a Any linear development or barrier >300 m	Construction of a haul road measuring approximately 4 km
<input type="checkbox"/>	b Any bridge or similar structure >50 m	
<input type="checkbox"/>	c Any development or activity that will change the character of a site:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	i $\geq 5\ 000\text{m}^2$ in extent	Sand mining over an area of 5 ha that will change the character of the development footprint from XXXX to XXXX.

¹ HFS are responsible for decisions with reference to structures afforded general protection under Section 34 of the NHRA only. No such heritage resources occur within the Project footprint and this report is therefore submitted to HFS for noting.

NHRA Section 38 (1) Activities / Triggers			Summary description (e.g. 500 m conveyor belt, open cast pit, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	ii	Involving ≥3 existing erven/ subdivisions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	iii	Involving ≥3 or more erven/ divisions consolidated within past 5 years.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	d	Rezoning of a site ≥10 000m ² in extent.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	e	Other triggers, e.g.: in terms of other legislation, (i.e.: National Environment Management Act, etc.)	NEMA and MPRDA

4.2 EIA Regulations Listed Activities

The proposed development will include the following activities listed in the EIA Regulations, which generally require impact assessments:

Table 6: Identified Listed Activities

NEMA Activity No.	NHRA Trigger	Description	Expected duration
Listing Notice 1 Activity 21	38(1)(e)	<p>Sand Mining of a 5 ha area</p> <p><i>“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 associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)”.</i></p> <p>The Project will include the mining of sand across a 5 ha area. This will require a Mining Permit issued by the DMR and is subject to the MPRDA.</p>	Construction Phase
Listing Notice 1 Activity 24	38(1)(a)	<p>Construction of the haul roads</p> <p><i>The development of a road— (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p> <p>The Project will include the construction of a haul road that is 20 m wide and approximately 4 km in length.</p>	Construction Phase

4.3 Identified and Known Heritage Resources and Potential Impacts

Certain categories of heritage resource, if existing and identified, generally require heritage assessments to be completed before any development may take place. These categories may be formally or generally protected in terms of the NHRA. Table 7 presents an overview of such heritage resources identified within the Project area.

Table 7: Identified Heritage Resources in terms of Section 3 of the NHRA

	Section	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(a)	<p>Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance</p> <p>Description of resource: None identified. However, given the presence of the old oak plantation, there is potential for historical structures to be present in the Project area. The historical built environment is a significant component of the regional cultural heritage landscape within the FDDM.</p> <p>Potential impact: No impact is presently foreseen.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(b)	<p>Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage</p> <p>Description of resource: None identified</p> <p>Potential impact: None</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(c)	<p>Historical settlements and townscapes</p> <p>Description of resource: None identified</p> <p>Potential impact: None</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(d)	<p>Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance</p> <p>Description of resource: None identified</p> <p>Potential impact: None</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(e)	<p>Geological resources of scientific or cultural importance</p> <p>Description of resource: The Project is underlain by geological strata of very-high palaeontological sensitivity.</p> <p>Potential impact: The Project may potentially impact fossil heritage where outcrops of fossil-bearing rocks occur. This must be assessed in a specialist Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA)</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(f)	<p>Archaeology and/or palaeontology (Including archaeological sites and material, fossils, rock art, battlefields & wrecks)</p> <p>Description of resource: None identified, however, archaeological resources are present in the regional cultural landscape within the FDDM, although they constitute a minor component. There is potential for these resources to occur within the Project area.</p> <p>Potential impact: No impact is foreseen at present</p>

	Section	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(g)	Graves and burial grounds (e.g. ancestral graves, graves of victims of conflict, historical graves & cemeteries)
		Description of resource: None identified. Burial grounds and graves are a significant component of the regional cultural heritage landscape within the FDDM and there is potential for these resources to occur within the Project area.
		Potential impact: No impact is foreseen but may require further investigation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(h)	Other human remains
		Description of resource: None identified
		Potential impact: None
<input type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(i)	Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
		Description of resource: None identified
		Potential impact: None
<input type="checkbox"/>	3(2)(j)	Movable objects
		Description of resource: None identified
		Potential impact: None

5 Recommendation

Table 8 presents a summary and motivation of the specialist recommendations.

Table 8: Specialist Heritage Recommendations

Is a Heritage Impact Assessment required?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If NO, provide motivation: Not applicable.			
If YES, provide suggested components that may be required or undertaken during HIA.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Built Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial Grounds and Graves
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Palaeontology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Participation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Townscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Impact
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		
Recommendation made by:			
Name: Shannon Hardwick		Name: Justin du Piesanie	
Capacity: Heritage Resources Management Consultant		Capacity: Divisional Manager: Social and Heritage Services	