

**SCOPING REPORT FOR PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL ON THE FARMS  
UMKOESBERG NO.478 HU, SITUATED UNDER THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF ZULULAND  
IN KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.**

**PREPARED FOR:**



**COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

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**DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/11160 PR**

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**mineral resources**

Department:  
Mineral Resources  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **SCOPING REPORT**

# **FOR LISTED ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH MINING RIGHT AND/OR BULK SAMPLING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING TRENCHING IN CASES OF ALLUVIAL DIAMOND PROSPECTING.**

SUBMITTED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, 2008 IN RESPECT OF LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (MPRDA) (AS AMENDED).

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**FILE REFERENCE NUMBER SAMRAD:** KZN 30/5/1/1/11160 PR

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 as amended), the Minister must grant a prospecting or mining right if among others the mining “will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment”.

Unless an Environmental Authorisation can be granted following the evaluation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Management Programme report in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), it cannot be concluded that the said activities will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment.

In terms of section 16(3)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, any report submitted as part of an application must be prepared in a format that may be determined by the Competent Authority and in terms of section 17 (1) (c) the competent Authority must check whether the application has taken into account any minimum requirements applicable, or instructions or guidance provided by the competent authority to the submission of applications.

**It is therefore an instruction that** the prescribed reports required in respect of applications for an environmental authorisation for listed activities triggered by an application for a right or permit are submitted in the exact format of, and provide all the information required in terms of, this template. Furthermore, please be advised that failure to submit the information required in the format provided in this template will be regarded as a failure to meet the requirements of the Regulation and will lead to the Environmental Authorisation being refused.

**It is furthermore an instruction that** the Environmental Assessment Practitioner must process and interpret his/her research and analysis and use the findings thereof to compile the information required herein. (Unprocessed supporting information may be attached as appendices). The EAP must ensure that the information required is placed correctly in the relevant sections of the Report, in the order, and under the provided headings as set out below, and ensure that the report is not cluttered with un-interpreted information and that it unambiguously represents the interpretation of the applicant.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

- 1) The objective of the scoping process is to, through a consultative process—
  - (a) identify the relevant policies and legislation relevant to the activity;
  - (b) motivate the need and desirability of the proposed activity, including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location;
  - (c) identify and confirm the preferred activity and technology alternative through an impact and risk assessment and ranking process;
  - (d) identify and confirm the preferred site, through a detailed site selection process, which includes an impact and risk assessment process inclusive of cumulative impacts and a ranking process of all the identified alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, and cultural aspects of the environment;
  - (e) identify the key issues to be addressed in the assessment phase;
  - (f) agree on the level of assessment to be undertaken, including the methodology to be applied, the expertise required as well as the extent of further consultation to be undertaken to determine the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site through the life of the activity, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts to inform the location of the development footprint within the preferred site; and
  - (g) identify suitable measures to avoid, manage, or mitigate identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

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## SCOPING REPORT

### 1) Contact Person and correspondence address

#### a) Details of:

##### i) The EAP who prepared the report

<b>Name of practitioner:</b>	Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd
<b>Tel No:</b>	+27 81 388 1187
<b>Fax No.:</b>	086 270 7202
<b>E-mail address:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@moepathutsiges.co.za">admin@moepathutsiges.co.za</a>

##### ii) Expertise of the EAP.

#### (1) The qualifications of the EAP

(With evidence attached as **Appendix 1**).

National Diploma: Geology (Geology, Geotechniques, Geophysics & Hydrology)	Tshwane University of Technology
Bachelor of Technology: Geology (Engineering Geology, Applied Hydrology, Mining & Exploration)	Tshwane University of Technology

#### (2) Summary of the EAP's past experience.

(Attach the EAP's curriculum vitae as Appendix 2)

Miss Boipelo Motlhatlhedhi is an Environmental Assessment Practitioner with extensive experience in a wide range of environmental related projects, processes and applications. She holds a BTech in Geology with over 3 years in the industry. She has undertaken environmental compliance (including basic assessments, mining permit applications, Water Use License applications, prospecting right applications) and public participation processes. Please refer to APPENDIX 2 for Boipelo's CV which illustrates her competence in carrying out the EIA process.

#### b) Description of the property.

<b>Farm Name:</b>	Portions 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7 of Umkoesberg No.478 HU
<b>Application area (Ha)</b>	Approximately 1144.13 Ha
<b>Magisterial district:</b>	Zululand District Municipality
<b>Distance and direction from nearest town</b>	The proposed prospecting area is located approximately 29 km east of Vryheid along R618 towards Hlobane.
<b>21-digit Surveyor General Code for each farm portion</b>	

### c) Locality map

(Show nearest town, scale not smaller than 1:250000 attached as **Appendix 3**).

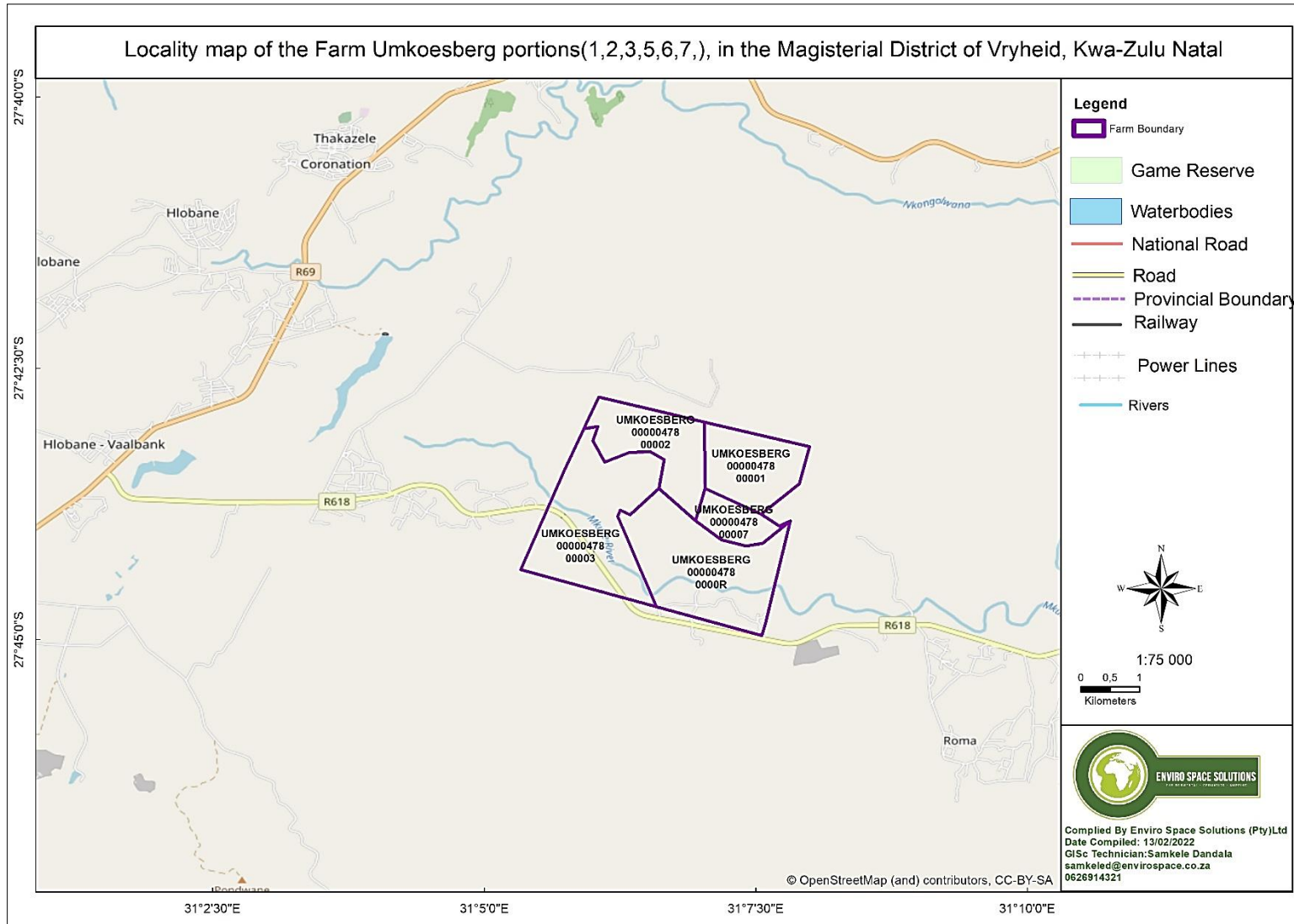


Figure 1: Locality map for the proposed project area.

Umkoesberg project area is located within the AbaQulusi Local Municipality, under Zululand District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal province. The proposed project area is located approximately 10 km east of Hlobane, 54 km north-west of Nongoma and 29 km east of Vryheid along R618 towards Nongoma.

The Zululand District Municipality (ZDM) is one of the ten district municipalities in the KwaZuluNatal. It is located to the north-west of the province approximately 250 kilometres north of the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality along the border with the Kingdom of Eswatini. The District has six major urban areas, with Vryheid and Ulundi being the largest, and approximately 866 rural settlements dispersed throughout the district. At least half of the district municipality is under the jurisdiction of the traditional authorities, within the remainder of the area divided between commercially owned farms and conservation areas.

Numerous opportunities exist for the economic development of the area. Zululand District is home to a rich cultural diversity and numerous sites of historical significance, specifically relating to the Zulu nation. Furthermore, the high agricultural potential of the land is considered to be the key to the future development of the region.

The AbaQulusi Local Municipality is located in the Northern part of KwaZulu-Natal Province and forms part of the Zululand District Municipality. Abaqulusi Municipality comprises of many settlements, both rural and urban, with Vryheid being its main urban settlement/town.

d) Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity.

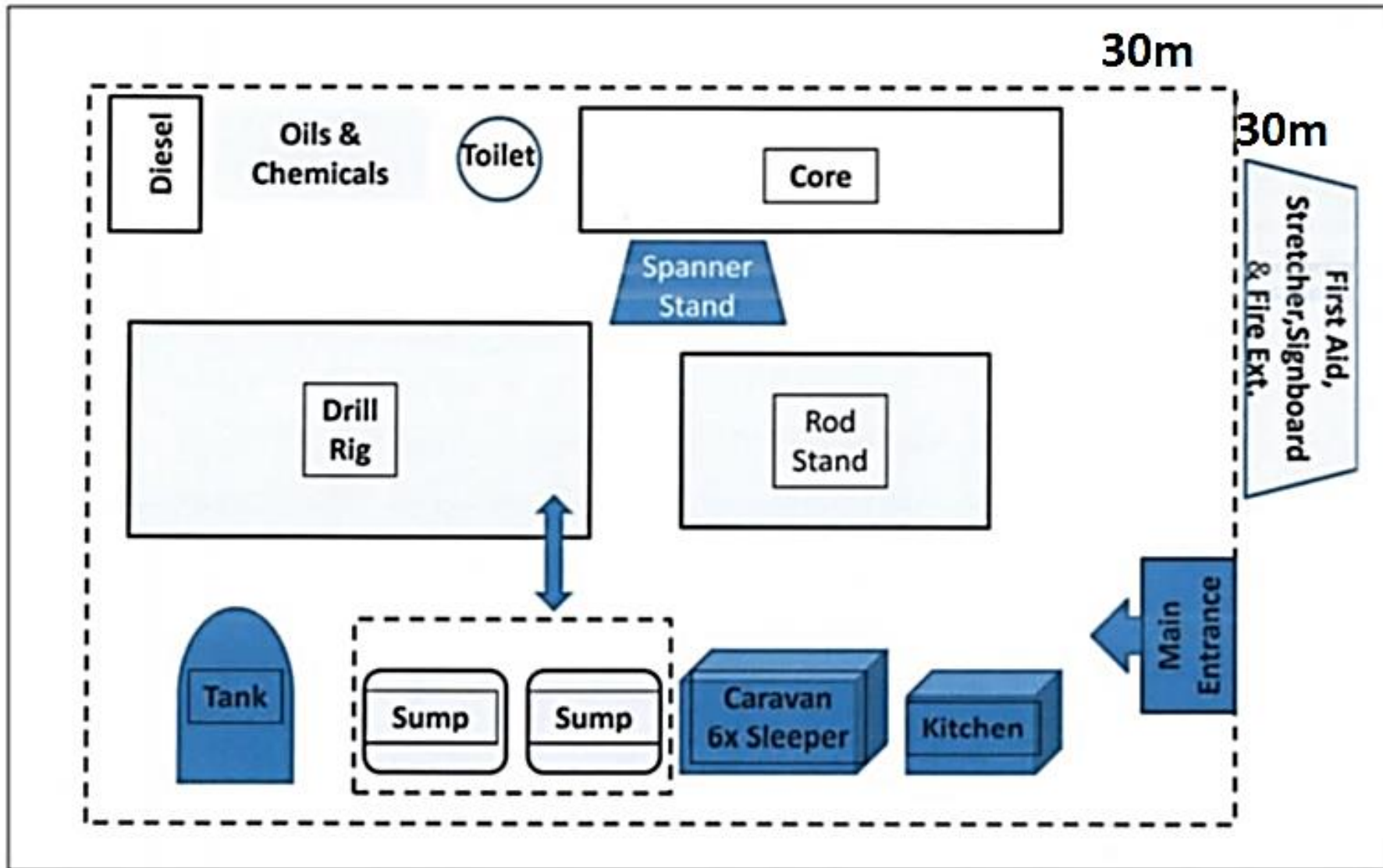


Figure 2: Figure 3: Drill site lay-out (not drawn to scale)

## i. Listed and specified activities

Provide a plan drawn to a scale acceptable to the competent authority but not less than 1: 10 000 that shows the location, and area (hectares) of all the aforesaid main and listed activities, and infrastructure to be placed on site and attach as **Appendix**

<b>NAME OF ACTIVITY</b>  (E.g. For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablation 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, ablation, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.)	<b>Aerial extent of the Activity</b> <b>Ha or m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>LISTED ACTIVITY</b> <b>Mark with an X where applicable or affected.</b>	<b>APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE</b> <b>(GNR 324, GNR 325 or GNR 327)</b>	<b>Waste Management Authorization</b> (Indicate whether an authorization is required in terms of the Waste Management Act) <b>(Mark with an X)</b>
Project Area	1144.13 Ha	X	GNR 327, April 2017 (Listing Notice 1)	Not required
Vegetation Clearing	30m x 30m =900m <sup>2</sup> Area to be disturbed= 900m <sup>2</sup> x 10 boreholes= 9 000m <sup>2</sup> (0.9 Ha)  Therefore, the area to be disturbed is 0.9 Ha/1144.13 Ha	Not listed		
Drilling	0.9 Ha	X	GNR 327, April 2017 (Listing Notice 1)	Not required
Site camp	600 m <sup>2</sup>	Not listed		
Ablution facilities	30 m <sup>2</sup>	Not Listed		
Accommodation		Not Listed		
Sample storage		X	GNR 327, April 2017 (Listing Notice 1)	
Equipment storage	0.05 Ha	X	GNR 327, April 2017 (Listing Notice 1)	
Temporal site offices	40 m <sup>2</sup>	X	GNR 327, April 2017 (Listing Notice 1)	
Access roads	300 m <sup>2</sup>	X	GNR 327, April 2017 (Listing Notice 1)	

## ii. Description of the activities to be undertaken

*(Describe Methodology or technology to be employed, and for a linear activity, a description of the route of the activity)*

Coal is the commodity that will be prospected. Prospecting activities are expected to last for five years, with just two of those years involving on-site drilling. These prospecting operations will be carried out in stages, with the results and success of each phase influencing the next. The intended phases in sequence are indicated below:

- ❖ **Phase 1: Desktop studies:** All previous exploration records in the area will be re-examined, and the following studies will be conducted:

Literature Review: A literature survey is a thorough examination of previously published and unpublished research based on secondary data sources. Time will be spent reading and reviewing books, journals, and government papers, among other things. The literature review is expected to take two months.

Geological Mapping: Mapping will be done in such a way that accurate and useful structural and geological data can be generated from it, and information gathered from the desktop study may be communicated with mapping results. For geological modeling and exploration scheduling analysis, these records will need to be collected in a GIS format. This work will serve as the basis for a first desktop and surface fieldwork research, which will be continued while the prospecting permit application is evaluated and, presumably, granted. This is predicted to take two months.

- ❖ **Phase 2: Invasive Prospecting (Drilling):** Prospecting work will include diamond drilling and drilling operations will be conducted in order to obtain core samples. To determine the material's consistency, laboratory tests will be performed

Drilling and sampling: Borehole planning will entail the creation of a drilling program as well as execution processes to guarantee that drilling is carried out in the safest and most cost-effective manner possible. The drilling contractor, service contractors, geologists, and other technical specialists will collaborate throughout this phase. The planning process will also ensure that everyone working on the drilling sites is safe, as well as the environment. For suggested borehole locations, 16 core boreholes will be drilled at an average depth of 500 meters. Additionally, core sampling will be place concurrently with drilling, with selected samples being analyzed.

Diamond drilling with standard equipment and a TNW (60 mm) core size will be used for all drilling. Industrial diamonds are embedded in a soft metallic matrix to create the diamond drill. The diamonds are strewn over the matrix, and the action relies on the matrix gradually wearing away during drilling to reveal more diamonds. The drill bit is attached to a drill stem that is attached to a rotary drill. To wash off the rock cuttings created by the drill bit, water is fed into the drill pipe. A diamond bit is a complicated device that is usually built for a certain rock type

and has numerous cleaning channels. The drill drills into the rock with a diamond-encrusted drill bit. A larger diameter core is desirable, but it is also the most expensive. The drilling and sampling phase is expected to take 24 months.

Sample Analysis: All core samples collected during drilling will be sent to a SANAS-accredited laboratory for extensive analysis and metallurgical recovery testing in order to determine the quality of the coal. Moisture, ash, volatile matter, fixed carbon, calorific value, and sulphur will be measured in coal samples. The sample analysis is expected to take three months.



Figure 4: Typical example of exploration drilling (diamond core) and sampling (core logging).

- ❖ **Phase 3: Modelling and resource estimation:** Drilling will be used to determine the extent and development of the coal seams, and the data will then be modelled using geological modelling software. The integration of various types of observations into 3D geo-models using geological mapping data, borehole data and interpretations, and any other field data is referred to as geological 3D modelling. A geological 3-D modelling phase is expected to take three months.
  
- ❖ **Phase 4: Pre-feasibility studies:** If data from prior prospecting efforts in the area is available, prospecting will entail acquiring and compiling it. The data will be analysed and modelled, and the results will be utilized to plan and sight more boreholes if needed. After drilling to investigate the underlying geological units, the data will be entered into a database and modelled using geological modelling software (Datamine). If the initiative is successful, a feasibility study will be done to establish the viability of a mining operation before submitting an application for a mining right. It is estimated that a pre-feasibility study will take 12 months.
  
- ❖ **Phase 5: Mining Right application:** Depending on the results of Phase 1 and Phase 4, the applicant will prepare all necessary papers for the application of a mining right. An application for a mining right will take 13 months to prepare.

## e) Policy and Legislative Context

<b>APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES USED TO COMPILE THE REPORT</b> (a description of the policy and legislative context within which the development is proposed including an identification of all legislation, policies, plans, guidelines, spatial tools, municipal development planning frameworks and instruments that are applicable to this activity and are to be considered in the assessment process)	<b>REFERENCE WHERE APPLIED</b>	<b>HOW DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT COMPLY WITH AND RESPOND TO THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT.</b>  (E.g. In terms of the National Water Act a Water Use License has/ has not been applied for)
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (107 of 1998)	The entire report was written as part of the NEMA's Application for Environmental Authorization.	In terms of the National Environmental Management Act an Application for Environmental Authorisation subject to a Basic Assessment Process has been applied for.
Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002)	This entire report is prepared as part of the Prospecting Right Application under the MPRDA.	A Prospecting Right Application has been applied for in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act.
National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)	Since no Section 21 water uses will be activated as a result of the proposed prospecting activities, there is no need to apply for a Water Use Authorization under the NWA.	In terms of the National Water Act, no Water Use License has been applied for.
National Environmental Management Act: Air Quality Act, 2004 (39 Of 2004)	Basic Assessment Report & Environmental Management Plan.	Dust suppression techniques must be used to reduce dust emissions from site clearing, soil stripping, and building activities (including vehicle entrained dust).
National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)	If and when they are discovered, all cultural and heritage resources should be protected.	If identified cultural/heritage sites on the planned site will be disturbed or destroyed as a result of prospecting activities, a permission may be required.

## f) Need and desirability of the proposed activities.

*(Motivate the need and desirability of the proposed development including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location).*

South Africa's mining industry is vital to the country's economy. South Africa has one of the largest coal reserves in the world. Eskom currently generates approximately 95% of the electricity in South Africa from coal-fired power plants, and before alternative energy production solutions can be introduced on a large enough scale, Eskom is fully reliant on coal mining. The demand for coal products is increasingly characterized by widely recognized local and international standard quality products, which can be traded on both physical and financial markets. The definition of prospecting in terms of the MPRDA states: "intentionally searching for any minerals by means of any method which disturbs the surface or sub-surface of the earth, including any portion of the earth that is under the sea or under other water."



Prospecting is the physical quest for minerals, fossils, precious metals, or mineral specimens that enables a company to survey or examine a piece of land in order to locate a real or possible mineral deposit before investing in mining operations.

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 reports to be submitted during the environmental authorisation application phases must include the need and desirability. Based on the available geological data, it appears that the proposed project area could have coal reserves. Prospecting will be required to ascertain the foregoing and to determine the type, position, and extent of the coal reserves within the proposed prospecting region. Prospecting would also assess whether there are any characteristics that may affect the coal's economic extraction. Should coal be discovered, the information obtained from the prospecting will be used to decide how and where the coal will be extracted, as well as how much commercially viable coal reserves are available within the proposed prospecting region.

Should prospecting prove successful and a resource is quantified, it would indicate a potential viable economic activity in the form of mining. Mining will contribute greatly to local economic growth through direct employment, future business opportunities, royalties and tax revenues.

In South Africa, the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is sluggish; as a result, there is still a large demand for coal in the country, as well as worldwide. The lack of coal at ESKOM power plants around the country demonstrates this demand. South Africa is reliant on coal for electricity generation, with coal-fired power plants providing around 75% of the country's energy. The following are some of the potential benefits of the proposed project:

- The long-term national benefits of a reliable electricity supply, as well as the socioeconomic gains that follow.
- Ensure Eskom has a reliable and long-term supply of coal.
- Needed job creation and other local, provincial and national socio-economic benefits.
- Local economic growth in the surrounding areas, as well as for local enterprises.
- Contractors and other suppliers of products and services will benefit financially.

#### **g) Period for which the environmental authorisation is required**

The Applicant requires the prospecting right to be valid for a period of five years.

#### **h) Description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred site.**

NB!! – This section is not about the impact assessment itself; It is about the determination of the specific site layout having taken into consideration (1) the comparison of the originally proposed site plan, the comparison of that plan with the plan of environmental features and current land uses, the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and the consideration of alternatives to the initially proposed site layout as a result.

## **(i) Details of all alternatives considered.**

With reference to the site plan provided as Appendix and the location of the individual activities on site, provide details of the alternatives considered with respect to:

- (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.

### **(a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity.**

Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd applied for prospecting right on portions 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7 of the farm Umkoesberg No.478 HU to determine the presence of coal, and whether further application for a mining right would be feasible. The location alternative considered for the proposed project include the prospecting sites and associated campsite location and access routes. The location alternatives were selected based on several criteria, which include the environmental considerations (how sensitive is the area in terms of soils, groundwater etc.) and the dependency of the project to the required infrastructure.

### **(b) the type of activity to be undertaken.**

#### Description of planned Non-invasive activities

Desktop investigations will be conducted over the area, which will involve the examination of all accessible geological maps/plans, aerial images, topographical maps, and any other relevant geological information. Following the conclusion of the desktop research, field geological mapping of the area will be carried out, as well as, if necessary, a ground magnetic geophysical survey to find any dolerite sills/dykes that may be present.

Drilling will be used to determine the extent and development of the coal seams, and the data will then be modelled using geological modelling software. The integration of various types of observations into 3D geo-models using geological mapping data, borehole data and interpretations, and any other field data is referred to as geological 3D modelling. A geological 3-D modelling phase is expected to take three months.

#### Description of planned invasive activities.

This Prospecting Work Program is intended to determine the size of the coal deposit's area, and all relevant geological data will be used to compute the in-situ Coal Resource and the Project's economic viability.

Borehole planning will entail the creation of a drilling program as well as implementation procedures to ensure that drilling is carried out in the safest and most cost-effective manner possible. The drilling contractor, service contractors, geologists, and other technical specialists will collaborate during this phase. The planning process will also ensure that everyone working on the drilling sites is safe, as well as the environment. It is planned that 10 core boreholes will be drilled at a maximum depth of

500 meters. Additionally, core sampling will be place concurrently with drilling, with selected samples being analysed.

Diamond drilling with standard equipment and a TNW (60 mm) core size will be used for all drilling. Industrial diamonds are embedded in a soft metallic matrix to create the diamond drill. The diamonds are strewn over the matrix, and the action relies on the matrix gradually wearing away during drilling to reveal more diamonds. The drill bit is attached to a drill stem that is attached to a rotary drill. To wash off the rock cuttings created by the drill bit, water is fed into the drill pipe. A diamond bit is a complicated device that is usually built for a certain rock type and has numerous cleaning channels. The drill drills into the rock with a diamond-encrusted drill bit. A larger diameter core is desirable, but it is also the most expensive. The drilling and sampling phase is expected to take 24 months.

❖ Sample analysis

All core samples collected during drilling will be sent to a SANAS-accredited laboratory for extensive analysis and metallurgical recovery testing in order to determine the quality of the coal. The coal samples will be examined for moisture, ash, volatile matter, fixed carbon, calorific value and sulphur. The sample analysis is expected to take three months.

❖ Geophysical Wireline Logging

On specific boreholes, down hole geophysics will be performed to enable for stratigraphic correlation, core recovery calculations, and to aid in the interpretation and sampling of the various coal seams. Wireline logging entails inserting a logging tool at the end of a wireline into a borehole and documenting physical parameters with a variety of sensors. Geophysical wireline logging is expected to take a month.

**(c) the design or layout of the activity.**

Because exploration is a temporary activity, only a few permanent structures will be built. Negotiations and agreements will be made with the farm owners to use any existing infrastructure, such as explorer accommodations, access roads, and other things like workshops.

Several designs and layouts for prospecting operations were evaluated, and the layout was changed to avoid potentially high-impact sensitivity zones.

To guarantee that less agricultural land is lost, and sensitive regions are not impacted, the infrastructure/processing area will be positioned in already affected areas.

**(d) the technology to be used in the activity.**

The diamond drilling technique is the only primary method for prospecting for these types of deposits, as well as defining and evaluating resources. These are the chosen activities because the technology to be employed cannot be replaced by any other approach.

**(e) the operational aspects of the activity.**

Diamond drilling is the only possible means of recovering probable coal samples due to the expected depth of the coal. Trenching is an alternative form of exploration where the proposed mineral is closer to the surface and bulk samples are required to thoroughly analyze the proposed

mineral's existence and economic potential. The trenching approach causes severe environmental harm and can be quite costly. For the intended coal prospecting, diamond drilling is the chosen operational activity.

**(f) the option of not implementing the activity.**

The option of not conducting prospecting activities on the project site is the 'no-go' option. The no-go option presumes that the site will remain in the same state as it is now. Drilling is needed to determine the potential and feasibility of the minerals on the property. Without confirmation of the mineral resources available, which can only be gained through drilling activities, there is no future investment in a mine. If the prospecting right is not granted, the minerals that are being sought will not benefit the local community. If prospecting activities are not performed in order to establish the viability of any deposits that may occur within the area, the socio-economic gain, most notably future employment and mine development potential, will be lost.

The mining industry is an important aspect of the South African economy. Because the Kwazulu Natal Province is one of the largest contributors to the provincial GDP, opting out of prospecting activities would eliminate future mining opportunities, lowering the province's GDP contribution. Jobs that were supposed to be produced during the prospecting phase will be missed; these work chances will be diminished, putting a financial strain on the government because those who rely on social assistance will not be reduced.

The state of the natural environment will stay unchanged; nonetheless, the following benefits will be realized:

- ❖ There will be no geological or soil disturbances that could lead to contamination of ground water;
- ❖ There will be no excessive waste generation as a result of the proposed operations;
- ❖ The growth pattern of grasses and the movement of micro creatures are not affected by route compaction;
- ❖ There will be no disturbance of wild life in the nearby game farms; and
- ❖ Because no plants will be removed or induced noise from exploration activities, biodiversity will not be harmed.

## **(ii) Details of the Public Participation Process Followed**

*Describe the process undertaken to consult interested and affected parties including public meetings and one on one consultation. NB the affected parties must be specifically consulted regardless of whether or not they attended public meetings. (Information to be provided to affected parties must include sufficient detail of the intended operation to enable them to assess what impact the activities will have on them or on the use of their land.*

This section of the report gives a summary of the tasks that have been completed so far as part of the Public Participation Process (PPP). The PPP was carried out in accordance with NEMA Chapter 6 and includes the following:

- a) Identifying major Interested and Affected Parties (affected and neighbouring landowners) as well as other stakeholders (state agencies and other parties);
- b) Placement of site notices on farms, and other accessible public areas;
- c) Notification of the application to key Interested and Affected Parties as well as other stakeholders in a formal manner;
- d) Consultation with I&APs and Stakeholders, as well as correspondence and response to their concerns. This appendix will be included in the Final Basic Assessment; and
- e) Newspaper Advertisements.

The objectives of PPP include:

- ❖ Allows interested and affected parties (I&APs) to express their support, express their concerns, and ask questions about the project, application, or decision;
- ❖ Provides a chance for I&APs, Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs), and the Competent Authority (CA) to gather clear, accurate, and intelligible information regarding the proposed activity's or decision's environmental, social, and economic impacts;
- ❖ Allows I&APs to make suggestions for lowering or neutralizing negative effects of an activity, as well as promoting favourable effects; and
- ❖ Allows the applicant to include the needs, preferences, and values of those who will be affected in the application.

The PPP must adhere to a number of essential pieces of legislation that demand public input as part of a request for authorization or permission, including:

- ❖ The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002 - MPRDA);  
and
- ❖ The National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998 - NEMA).

Following the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts will enable an Integrated PPP to be implemented, hence satisfying the Acts' requirement for public engagement.

During the process, the following procedures are utilized to create a stakeholder database that will be used to ensure that all stakeholders interested in or affected by the proposed Project are properly represented. The following were included:

- ❖ To verify land ownership and gather contact information, search works and desktop searches are undertaken in and around the project area;

- ❖ Responses to adverts in newspapers, public announcements, and site notifications;
- ❖ Responses to the Background Information Document (BID) that was distributed;
- ❖ Identification and consultation with stakeholders, such as commenting authorities (municipalities at the local and district levels);
- ❖ Organs of state, other than the competent authority, with jurisdiction over any aspect of the proposed project and affected authorities, such as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Kwazulu Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- ❖ Consultations with affected landowners.

The PPP began on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, with a site inspection that involved posting site notifications in and around the different farms' fences.

An advertisement was placed and published in the "The Vryheid Herald" newspaper for the week of 21 January 2022;

- ❖ Site Notices: erected at prominent points on 19 January 2022; and
- ❖ Public Notices were distributed to identified stakeholders, landowners and residence (where possible) from the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 and throughout the registration period.

No public meetings were held at this stage. Arrangements will be made with registered interested and affected parties who will register as stakeholders in due course.

# Vryheid Herald Classifieds

To advertise here contact Christel on 034 981 3930 | eMail: classifiedvhd@caxton.co.za

## Legal Notices

**Deadline:  
Tuesday 12:00**

**0000 NOTICES**  
**0060 PERSONAL**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 12 STEP RECOVERY MEETINGS**  
We throw life-lines for those still adrift cos we can best understand being ever-board ourselves  
Thursday @ 18:30 - 19:30 @ Arukah Baptist Church 571 Mark and Landrost (opp the KFC Drive Through). Contact Gally 071 575 7049 / 082 044 9758.

**CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE Crisis Line** - A child or parent in need, phone 034 9821197. Email: whdchildwelfare@telkomsa.net

**MR MCHUNU JECONIA** ID 521224 5474 08 1 is looking for the biological parents of Mchunu Sindiswa Kwanele born 2005-02-04 and Mchunu Ayabonga born on 2008-02-06. The biological mother of the children concerned was Mchunu Hlangwe. The biological father's details are unknown to the maternal family. If you have any information kindly contact the Social Worker Miss NR Mchunu 034 933 1126.

**CAUTION**  
Readers should carefully examine all services offered, quotes and deposits requested before accepting any of them. It remains the consumer's responsibility to check the credentials of all advertisers with whom they are doing business. As Caxton offers a service to advertisers to market their products or services, it cannot be held responsible for any damages or misleading claims.

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**0381 SECURITY**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROL**  
**NOODNOMMER 087 808 3508**  
**EMERGENCY NUMBER**  
**BUURTWAG PATROLIE**

**VRYHEID-NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PATROL**  
Need number: **081 462 3221**

**Please note:**  
All adverts faxed or e-mailed must be confirmed, as the Vryheid Herald cannot be held responsible for adverts not received.  
Contact person: Christel 034 981 3930

# Legal Notice

**SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT 16 OF 2013) AND ITS REGULATIONS READ WITH THE ABUQULUSI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW: INVITATION TO COMMENT**

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013) and its Regulations read with the Abaqulusi Local Municipality Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-law, that an application has been lodged with the Abaqulusi Municipal Council, for-  
**THE PROPOSED SPECIAL CONSENT ON THE REMAINDER OF ERF 709 VRYHEID FROM "RESIDENTIAL 1" TO "MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING" FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING MEDIUM DENSITY UNITS.**  
The property is situated at **112 BREE STREET, VRYHEID.**

Copies of the application documents are available for inspection by interested members of the public during office hours at the office of the Abaqulusi Municipality, Town Planning, corner of Mark & Mason Streets, Vryheid. Any person having an interest in the above matter must lodge written comments within **30 days from the date of this notice**, to the Manager Town Planning, Mrs S. Vandayar-Dookhilal, P.O. Box 57 Vryheid, 3100 or by email at svdookhilal@abaqulusi.gov.za. Persons or parties failing to adhere within the said time will be excluded from further participating in the application process. Enquiries relating to this publication can be directed to Mrs S. Vandayar-Dookhilal at 034-9822133 x 2259, during normal office hours, Mon - Thurs (07h30 - 16h30) and Fri (07h30 - 13h30).

<p><b>NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3 (6) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO 107 OF 1998); ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS 2014 (AS AMENDED), TOGETHER WITH SECTION 12 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2008 (ACT NO 49 OF 2008) AS AMENDED</b></p>	<p><b>KUNIKWA ISAZISO SOKULINDELA IZICELO EZILUNGILE NGOKOMTHETHO WOMTHETHO 3 (6) WOMTHETHO KAZWELONKE WOKUPHATHWA KWEZEMVELO (UMTHETHO NO. UMTHETHO, 2008 (UMTHETHO NO 49 KA-2008) NJENGOBA uchibiyelwe</b></p>												
<p><b>NATURE OF ACTIVITY, LOCATION AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:</b> Application for Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorization in terms of the MPRDA and NEMA Act &amp; Regulations, in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province.</p>	<p><b>UHLORO LOMSEBENZI, INDAWO NENCAZELO YEPROPATI:</b> Isicelo Selungelo Lokuhlola Nokugunyazwa Kwezemvelo ngokoMthetho we-MPRDA kanye ne-NEMA kanye neMithethonqubo, esiFundeni sikaMantshi saseVryheid, esifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali.</p>												
<p><b>The Prospecting Right</b> area is located on the farm <b>Umkoesberg 478 HU</b>, situated in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province. The proposed prospecting area is located approximately 30 km north-east of Vryheid, along R618 towards Hlobane.</p>	<p><b>Indawo yeProspecting Right</b> itholakala epulazini <b>umkoesberg 478 HU</b>, eiseSiFundeni sikaMantshi saseVryheid, esifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali. Indawo ehlongozwayo yokuhlola imvelo itholakala cishe ku-30 km enyakatho-mpumalanga ye-Vryheid, eduze kuka-R618 ukuya eHlobane.</p>												
<p><b>MINERALS APPLIED FOR: COAL</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>APPLICANT</th> <th>DMRE REF NO:</th> <th>PROPERTY DETAILS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd</td> <td>KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR</td> <td>Umkoesberg 478 HU</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	APPLICANT	DMRE REF NO:	PROPERTY DETAILS	Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd	KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR	Umkoesberg 478 HU	<p><b>IZIMinerali ESIFAKELWE ISICELO: AMALAHLE</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UMFAKISICELO</th> <th>DMRE REF NO:</th> <th>IMINININGWANE YEMPAHLA</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd</td> <td>KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR</td> <td>Umkoesberg 478 HU</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	UMFAKISICELO	DMRE REF NO:	IMINININGWANE YEMPAHLA	Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd	KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR	Umkoesberg 478 HU
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Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd	KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR	Umkoesberg 478 HU											
<p><b>REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES</b> In terms of Regulations 42 &amp; 43 of the EIA Regulation published in Government Notice No. 983 of 08 December 2014 the public is invited to register as interested and affected parties (I&amp;APs) to express interest, comment and participate in the Public Participation Process (PPP). Draft Basic Assessment Reports will be available for review for a period of 30 days and will be placed at the local library and Municipality as well as electronically upon request.</p>	<p><b>UKUBHALISWA KWAMAQEMBU ANESITHAKAZELO NAYE ATHINTEKILE</b> NgokweMithethonqubo yama-42 &amp; 43 yoMithethonqubo we-EIA owashicilelwa kuSaziso sikaHulumeni esinguNombolo 983 somhlaka 08 Disemba 2014 umphakathi uyamenywa ukuba ubhalise njengamaqembu anentshisekelo nathintekayo (I &amp; APs) ukuzavakalisa intsishisekelo, ukuphawula nokubamba iqhaza kwiNqubo Yokuzibandakanya Komphakathi (PPP). Imibiko Yohlaqa Lokuhlola Oluyisisekelo izotholakala ukuze ibuyekwezwe isikhathi esiyizinsuku ezingama-30 futhi izobekwa ematsheni wezinwadi wasekhaya nakuMasipala kanjalo nangekhompuyutha lapho icellwe.</p>												
<p><b>PROJECT TIMEFRAMES:</b> <b>Project Announcement:</b> December 2021 <b>Consultation:</b> 13 January 2022 to 11 February 2022 <b>Draft Basic Assessment Report Review:</b> 11 February 2022 to 14 March 2022 (Electronically upon request via the EAP's contacts below). <b>Final Submission:</b> 12 May 2022.</p>	<p><b>ISIKHATHI SEZIMISEBENZI:</b> <b>Isimemezelo sephrojekthi:</b> Disemba 2021 <b>Ukubonisana:</b> 13 Januwari 2022 kuya ku-11 February 2022 <b>Ukubuyekwa Okusalungiswa Kombiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo:</b> 11 February 2022 kuya ku-14 March 2022 (Ngokwe-elektronikhi uma ucelwa ngoxhumana nabo be-EAP ngezansi). <b>Ukuthunyelwa kokugcina:</b> 12 May 2022.</p>												
<p><b>REGISTRATION, QUERIES AND WRITTEN COMMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:</b></p> <p><b>MOEPATHUTSI</b> Geo-Environmental Solutions Contact Person: Boipelo Mollthalhed E-mail: <a href="mailto:boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za">boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za</a> Cellphone No: 081 388 1187</p>	<p><b>UKUBHALISA, IMIBUZO NEZIMPENDULO EZIBHALIWE KUFANELE ZINIKEZWE KU:</b></p> <p><b>MOEPATHUTSI</b> Geo-Environmental Solutions Umuntu Ongathintwa Naye: Boipelo Mollthalhed E-mail: <a href="mailto:boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za">boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za</a> or Cellphone No: 081 388 1187</p>												


Figure 5: Proof of newspaper advertisement (red rectangle).

**(iii) Summary of issues raised by I&As**


*(Complete the table summarising comments and issues raised, and reaction to those responses)*

Interested and Affected Parties  List the names of persons consulted in this column, and  Mark with an <b>X</b> where those who must be consulted were in fact consulted.	Date  Comments  Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant	Section and paragraph reference in this report where the issues and or response were incorporated.
<b>AFFECTED PARTIES</b>				
<b>Landowner/s</b>				
Shama Truck Services CC (Portions 2&3)	<b>X</b>		No issues have been raised to date.	
Nkwanyana Olga Rose (Portion 4)	<b>X</b>		No issues have been raised to date.	
Labuschange Max (Portion 5)			No issues have been raised to date.	
Noord Vrystaat Graan en Vee EDMS BPK (Portion 6)				
<b>Welgevonden Trust (Portion 7)</b> Mr Tommie Bouwer Cell: 083 721 0085	<b>X</b>	23/02/2022	A phone call was made to Welgevonden Trust to notify them about the prospecting right application and to request them to register and comment as landowners. Mr Tommie Bouwer (representative) answered the call and he told us that they sold the farm a long time ago and unfortunately the buyer did not finish paying. The whole matter is in the hands of their lawyers and therefore, they cannot assist us in commenting on the proposed project or granting s access to the farm for prospecting activities.	Noted. Thank you for your time.
<b>Lawful occupier/s of the land</b>				
None				
<b>Landowners or lawful occupiers on adjacent properties</b>				
None				
<b>Municipality</b>				



<p><b>AbaQulusi Local Municipality</b></p>  <p>Tel: 034 982 2133 Email: <a href="mailto:svdookhilal@abaqulusi.gov.za">svdookhilal@abaqulusi.gov.za</a></p>		13/01/2022	No response has been received from the municipality.	A consultation email together with the BID attached was sent to the AbaQulusi Local Municipality stakeholders to inform them about the proposed prospecting right application.	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<p><b>Zululand District Municipality</b></p>  <p>Tel: 035 874 5591 Email: <a href="mailto:mbukhosini@zululand.org.za">mbukhosini@zululand.org.za</a></p>	X	16/03/2022	<p>A consultation email together with BID attached was sent to Zululand District Municipality and the following comments were received:</p> <p>Good day Boipelo</p> <p>I would like to request that if the mentioned assessment below is completed and submitted for approval please furnish us with the document.</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I trust you're well.</p> <p>The draft report will be sent to you as soon as it is ready.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<b>Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected Roads Department, Eskom, Telkom, DWA etc.)</b>					
<p>KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Environmental Affairs.</p>	X	13/01/2022	No response has been received from the department.	A consultation email together with the BID attached was sent to the KZN EDTEA stakeholders to inform them about the proposed prospecting right application.	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<p>KwaZulu-Natal Department of Water and Sanitation.</p> 	X	13/01/2022	No response has been received from the department.	A consultation email together with the BID attached was sent to the DWS stakeholders to inform them about the proposed prospecting right application	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<p>KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.</p>	X	13/01/2022	No response has been received from the department.	A consultation email together with the BID attached was sent to the DAFF stakeholders to inform them about the proposed prospecting right application	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<p>KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport and Roads.</p>	X	13/01/2022	No response has been received from the department.	A consultation email together with the BID attached was sent to the Department of Transport & Roads stakeholders to inform them about the proposed prospecting right application	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.

Scoping Report: Prospecting Right for coal on Umkoesberg No.478 HU

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works.	X	13/01/2022	No response has been received from the department.	A consultation email together with the BID attached was sent to the Department of Public Works stakeholders to inform them about the proposed prospecting right application	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<b>Dept. Land Affairs</b>					
<b>Commission on Restitution of Land Rights</b>  Mrs Lynn Boucher Tel: 033 341 2600 Email: <a href="mailto:Lynn.Boucher@dalrrd.gov.za">Lynn.Boucher@dalrrd.gov.za</a>	X	17/01/2022	A consultation email was sent to Mrs Boucher requesting for any land claims on the proposed prospecting area. The following response was received:  Good day  Please find attached letter in response to your enquiry. In future could you kindly address your enquiries on your official company letterhead.	Good morning Lynn.  Thank you very much for your assistance. Your request has been noted.  Kind regards,	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<b>Traditional Leaders</b>					
Khambi Tribal Authority Chief Mandlakayise Zulu Cell: 073 933 5103 Email: <a href="mailto:mandakayisezulu@gmail.com">mandakayisezulu@gmail.com</a>	X	04/05/2022	A meeting was held with the Khambi Traditional Authority.	It was a successful meeting. The tribal authority does not have any objections against the proposed project.	Please refer to APPENDIX 7 for proof of consultation.
<b>Other Competent Authorities affected</b>					
N/A					
<b><u>OTHER AFFECTED PARTIES</u></b>					
N/A					
<b><u>INTERESTED PARTIES</u></b>					
N/A					

#### **(iv)The Environmental attributes associated with the sites**

##### **1) Baseline Environment**

This section describes the baseline receiving environment of the proposed prospecting area. The information in this section is based on EAP's desktop research, a site visit, and public feedback via the I&AP consultation. As a result, the environmental feature descriptions below are a compilation of pertinent information for the application area.

##### **a) Type of environment affected by the proposed activity.**

*(its current geographical, physical, biological, socio- economic, and cultural character).*

##### **Climate**

Climate statistics are weather statistics over lengthy periods of time. It's calculated by looking at patterns of temperature, humidity, air pressure, wind, precipitation, atmospheric particle counts, and other meteorological factors in a given area over time. Weather defines the short-term conditions of these variables in a given region; climate explains the long-term conditions of these variables in a certain region.

The average annual rainfall in the area is 723 mm, with the most of it falling during the summer. July has the lowest rainfall (3mm) while December has the greatest (119mm). The average midday temperatures for the project area range from 20.4°C in June to 27°C in January. The month of June is the coolest in the region, with average night-time temperatures of 6°C.

##### **Topography**

The general topography of the area can be characterized as a mountainous landscapes with elevation ranging between 1000 to 1360 m.am.s across the different farm portions. The terrain is undulating towards the north and flat towards the south of the proposed prospecting right area.

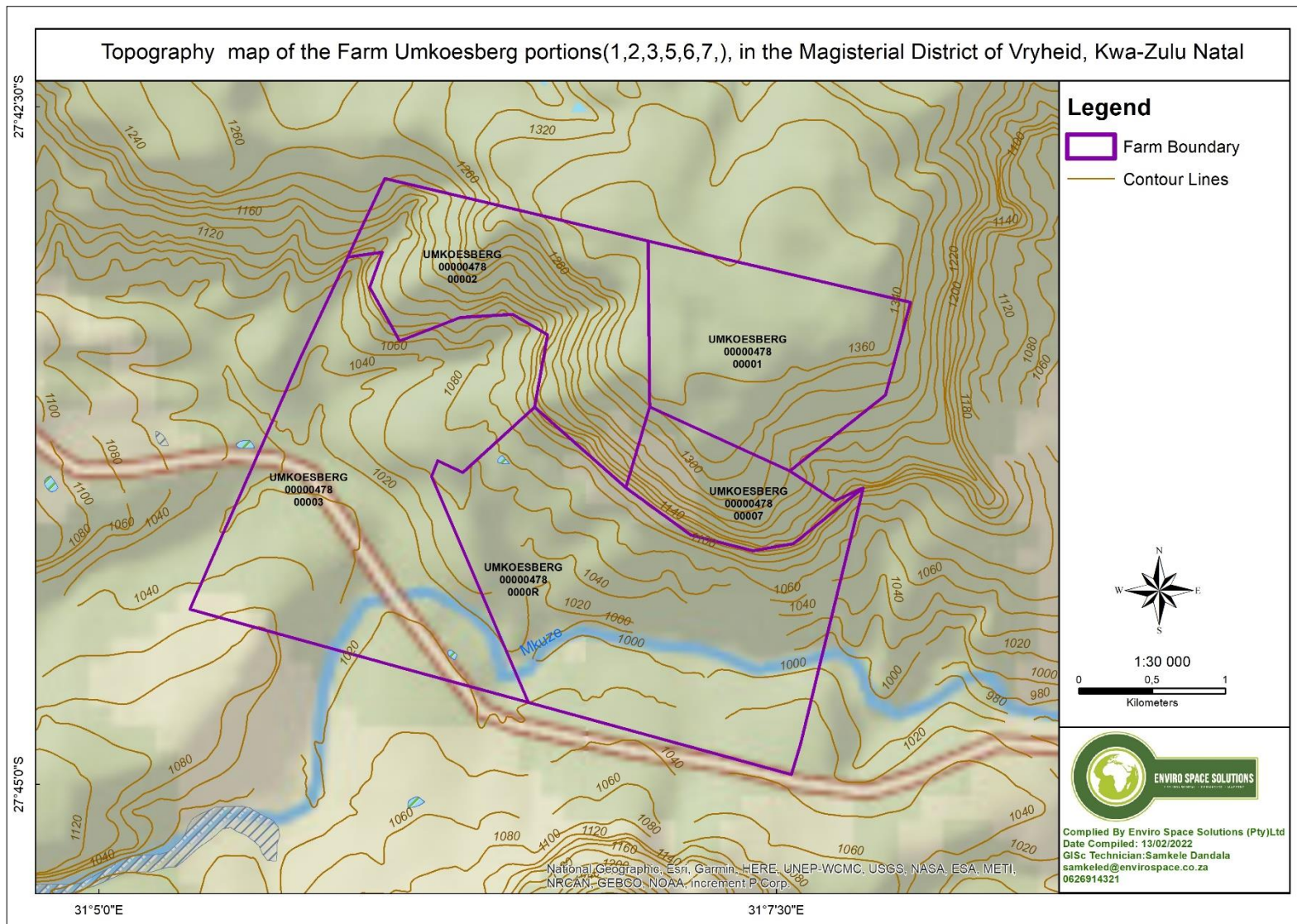


Figure 6: Topography map for the proposed project area.

## Geology

The proposed project area is underlain by the Vryheid formation of the Karoo Supergroup, with some parts underlain by the Dwyka group as well as the Karoo Dolerite suite.

The sedimentary part of the Karoo Supergroup is subdivided into four main lithostratigraphic units, which from the base up are the Dwyka, Eccca, Beaufort and Stormberg (Molteno, Elliot and Clarens formations) groups (SACS, 1980; Johnson et al., 1996). These are capped by some 1.4 km of basaltic lavas of the Drakensberg Group (Veevers et al., 1994; Johnson et al., 1996), the extrusion of which is related to the break-up of Gondwana (Cox, 1992).

The basement to the Karoo Supergroup fills in both the Main Karoo Basin (MKB) and in the northern basins is heterogeneous (Hancox, 1998; Bordy et al., 2004a; Rutherford, 2009) and this heterogeneity plays a significant control on the nature of the fill, particularly during the early phases of the deposition of the Karoo Supergroup. The main crustal scale blocks for the MKB are shown below in Figure 7.

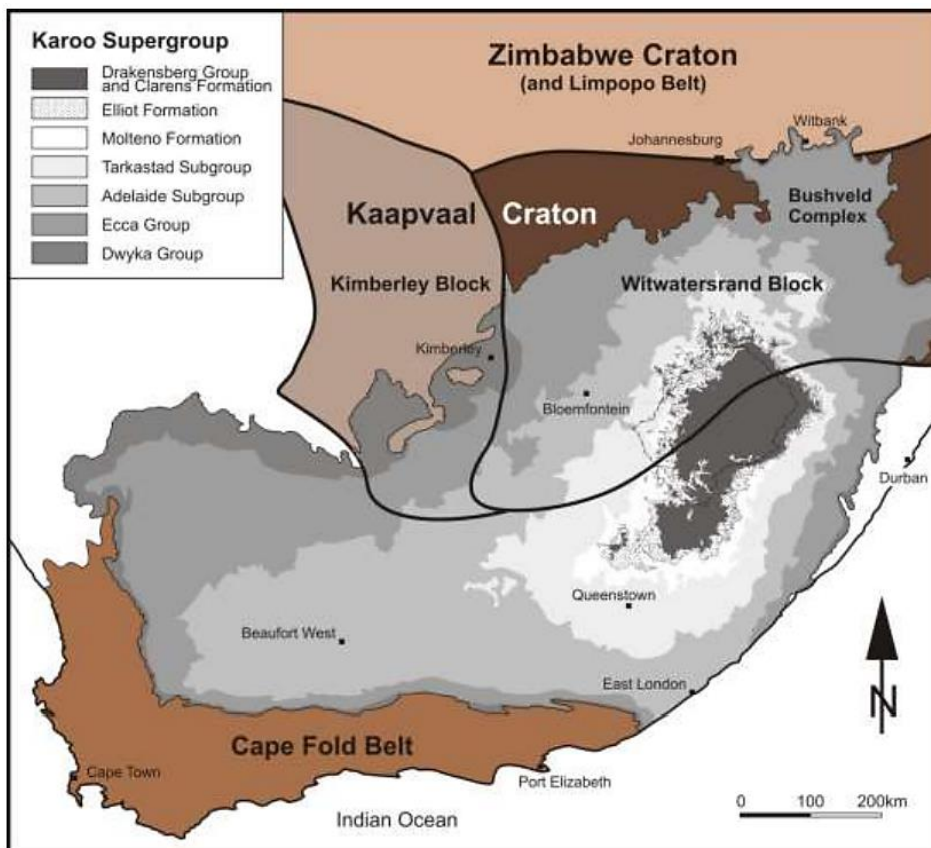


Figure 7: Geological map of the Main Karoo Basin (after Catuneanu et al., 1998) showing the position of the Kaapvaal Craton boundaries as proposed by Skinner et al. (1992); modified from Bordy et al. (2004a).

Rocks of the **Dwyka Group** in South Africa are among the most important glaciogenic deposits from Gondwana. The Dwyka Group is named for exposures along the Dwyka River east of Laingsburg and forms the basal succession of the Karoo Supergroup. Sutherland (1870) is credited with ascertaining its glacial origin and Dunn (1875) introduced the term "Dwyka Conglomerate" in the second edition of his "Geological

Sketch Map of South Africa". Anderson (1901, 1904, 1907) documents various aspects of the Dwyka Group in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and felt it was an important marker horizon in the metalliferous deposits that occurred below it, and coal above it. Dwyka Group lithologies are also well documented by Du Toit (1921) and it was his studies on the Dwyka which led to his thoughts on the wandering of continents, and his documentation of the supercontinent Gondwana (Du Toit, 1937). An excellent review of the state of knowledge of the Dwyka Group in South Africa prior to 1970 is given in Haughton (1969).

The **Karoo Dolerite Suite** represents a network of dykes and sills which occur as feeders or tongues to the flood basalt province (Walker and Poldervaart, 1949) and are best developed in the Main Karoo Basin. The rocks of the Karoo Supergroup were pervasively intruded by these dolerite sills and dykes, central ring complexes (Eales et al., 1984; Galerne et al., 2008) and saucer-shaped sheets (Duncan and Marsh, 2006), contemporaneous with and immediately followed the eruption of the Drakensberg lavas, as determined by cross-cutting relations (Mountain, 1968; Walker and Poldevaart, 1949). Multiple dolerite intrusion events occurred in the Karoo, both predating and postdating the flood basalts (Erlank, 1984; Mountain, 1968; Walker and Poldevaart, 1949), therefore making it nearly impossible to associate them with any single intrusive or tectonic event (Chevallier and Woodford, 1999; Duncan and Marsh, 2006; van Zijl, 2006a).

The majority of the economically extracted coal in South Africa occurs in rocks of the **Vryheid Formation**, which ranges in thickness in the MKB from less than 70.0 m to over 500.0 m (Figure 8). It is thickest to the south of the towns of Newcastle and Vryheid, where maximum subsidence took place (Du Toit, 1918; Cadle, 1975; Whateley, 1980a; Stavrakis, 1989; Cadle et al., 1982) and where the basin was the deepest.

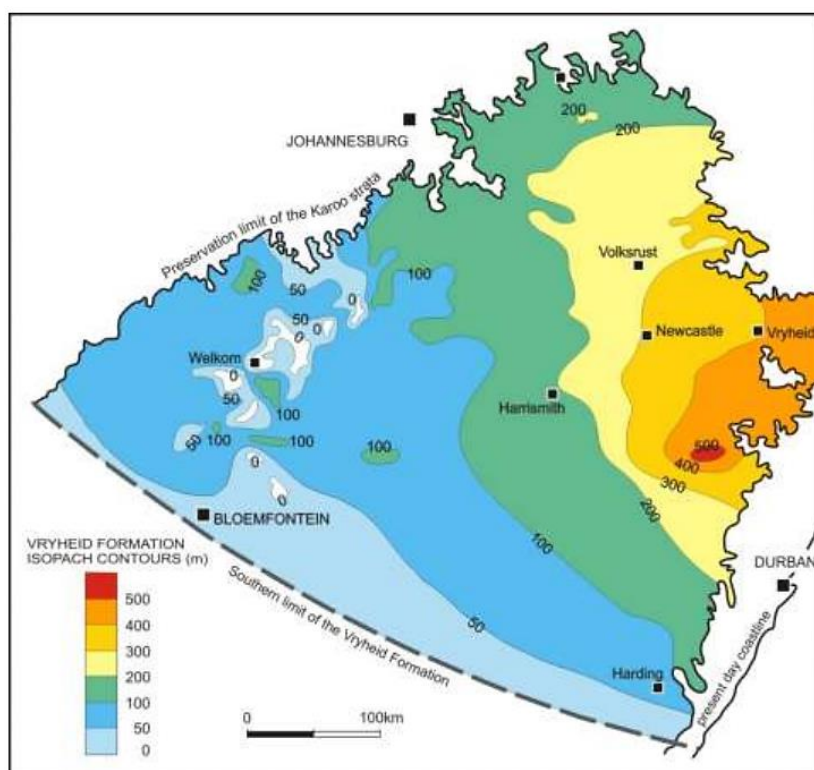


Figure 8: Isopach map of the Vryheid Formation showing the increase in thickness towards the east (from Cadle, 1982).

The stratigraphy of the Vryheid Formation is now described as a succession of five coarsening upward sequences which display a remarkable lateral continuity across the entire distal region of the Karoo Basin (Cadle et al., 1982). In a complete succession each of the five coarsening-upward sequences starts with fine-grained marine facies, which grade upwards into coarser delta front and delta plain-fluvial facies. Several coal seams occur in the Vryheid Formation, and these are associated predominantly with the coarser-grained fluvial facies at the top of each sequence. These coal seams can be traced laterally across the entire area of occurrence of the Vryheid Formation in the MKB; however, some disagreement exists as to the exact correlation in the various coalfields. Regional differences allow for the considerable diversity of coal types (organic content), mineral matter composition, and rank (maturity) that is found within the coalfields of South Africa (Falcon, 1986b).

The project area falls within the **Vryheid coalfield**. Historically the Vryheid Coalfield was an important producer of high-quality coking coal and anthracite, producing the highest quality anthracite in South Africa. It has however been extensively mined and in mid-2014 only one significant mine was producing, as well as some ongoing small scale topographic mining and dump reclamation.

The Vryheid Coalfield is separated from the Utrecht Coalfield by an area that does not preserve coal due to Cenozoic to Recent erosion. The coalfield is oval in shape with an east-west long axis. The potential coal-bearing area extends from the town of Kingsley in the west to Louwsburg in the east and from Nkambule in the north to Gluckstadt in the south. The total area of the coalfield is some 2500,000 ha, of which approximately 15% is considered to be coal bearing (Bell and Spurr, 1986b).

The general stratigraphy of the Vryheid Coalfield is very similar to that of the Utrecht Coalfield. The basement to the Vryheid Coalfield is varied, being composed of metasedimentary rocks of the Archean Swaziland Supergroup, metaquartzites and lavas of the Mesoarchaeon Pongola Supergroup, and post-Pongola aged granitic and diabase intrusions.

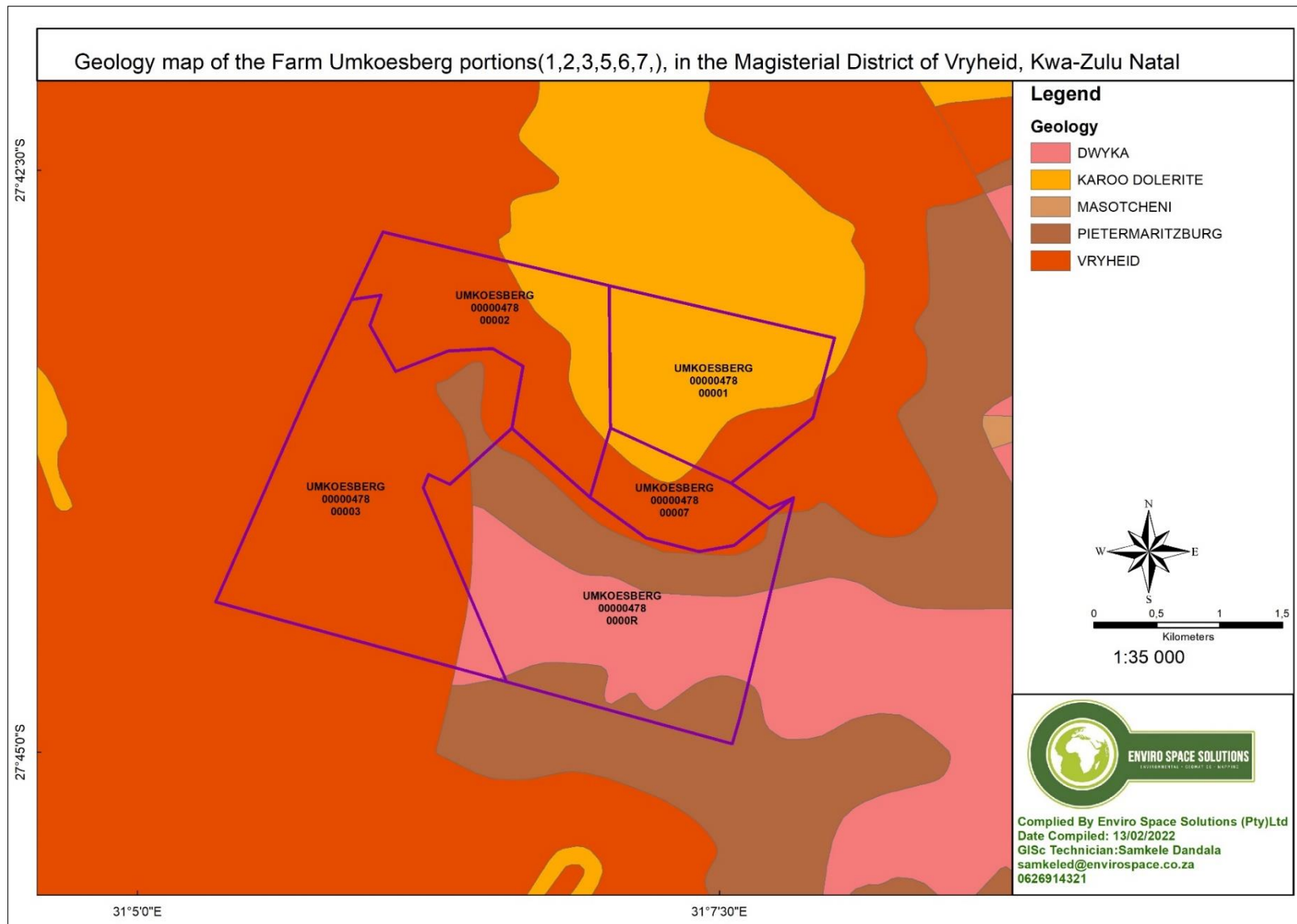


Figure 9: Geological map for the project area



## Soil

Soil is not only a support for growth, but also the pedosphere, or center of many interactions between climate (water, air, temperature), soil life (microorganisms, plants, animals) and its wastes, the mineral substance of the original and added rock, and its location in the landscape. The soil profile gradually deepens and develops unique strata, known as horizons, as it approaches a steady-state balance during its creation and genesis.

The desktop information on soils and agricultural potential has been obtained from the AGIS online database, produced by the institute of Soil, Climate and Water.

**Table 1: Generalised soil patterns which occur within the project area**

Code	Group	Description	Agricultural potential
AC: Acrisols	Red-yellow well drained soils generally lacking a strong texture contrast.	Red and yellow, massive or weakly structured soils with low to medium base status	High
LP1: Leptosols 1	Soils with limited pedological development.	Soils with minimal development, usually shallow on hard or weathering rock, with or without intermittent diverse soils. Lime rare or absent in the landscape.	Low
LP2: Leptosols 2		Soils with minimal development, usually shallow on hard or weathering rock, with or without intermittent diverse soils. Lime generally present in part or most of the landscape	
PT1: Plinthosols 1	Soils with a plinthic horizon.	Red, yellow and greyish soils with low to medium base status	Moderate
PT2: Plinthosols 2		Red, yellow and greyish soils with high base status.	

Agricultural potential relates solely to soil features and ignores current local climatic circumstances and limits. Soils are classed as having a high, moderate, or low potential, and they have the following characteristics:

- ❖ “High” potential soils refer to those soils generally more than 900-1200 mm deep, with medium texture, lacking significant structure and without any drainage restrictions.
- ❖ “Moderate” potential soils refer to those soils either between approximately 500 mm and 900 mm deep, or with significant restrictions such as soil structure, lack of fertility caused by sandy texture or the like.

- ❖ “Low” potential soils are generally shallow to very shallow, often with rock, or have severely restricting soil structure or occur in wetland areas.

None of the project area occurs within the nationally demarcated arable agricultural land according to Section 70 of the Agricultural Act.

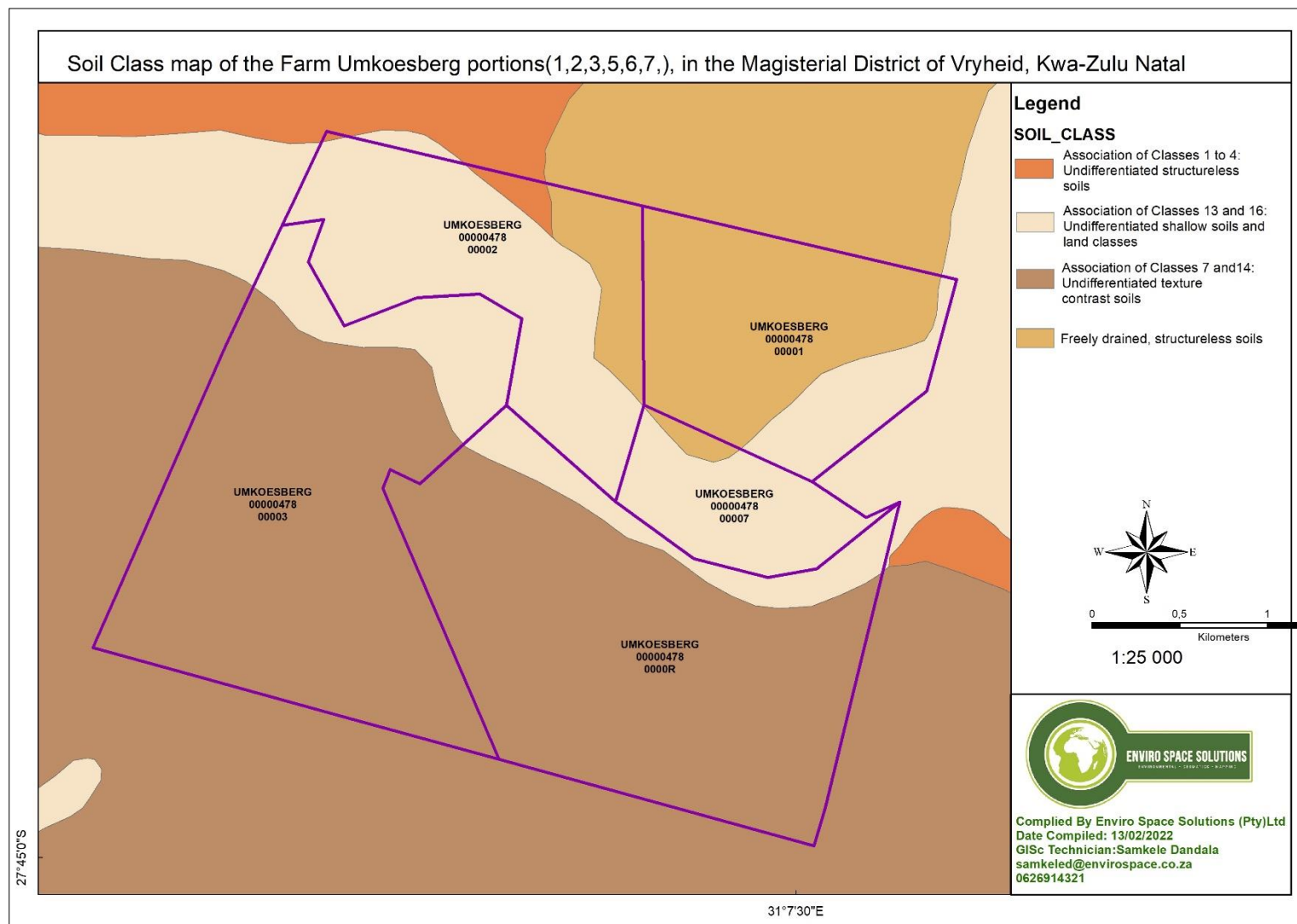


Figure 10: Soil class map for the project area.

## Flora

The proposed project area falls within the Natal Central Bushveld and Natal Lowveld Bushveld (figure) The Umkoesberg moist grassland vegetation is primarily undulating, with somewhat steep slopes, while valley basins are large and flat, and hilly areas are mostly found around the northern and eastern borders. *Tristachya leucothrix*, *Themeda triandra*, and *Hyparrhenia hirta* dominate the tall-closed grassland, which is rich in forbs. On rocky outcrops, evergreen woody vegetation is common.

Floral species which are protected under the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Amendment Act, 1999, Act No 5 of 1999 include: *Eucomis autumnalis*, *Gladiolus* sp., like *Gladiolus dalenii*, *Gladiolus crassifolius* and *Gladiolus ecklonii*, *Habenaria filicornis*, *Eulophia* sp, *Cyathea dregei*, *Satyrium longicauda*, *S. cristatum*, *Corycium nigrescens*, *Disa versicolor*, *D. brevicornis*, *Scilla nervosa* and *Watsonia confusa*. Some of these species (like *Ilex mitis*, *Cyathea dregei* and *Podocarpus henkelii* and *P. falcatius*) are limited to wetland areas and Afromontane forest in ravines. *Ilex mitis*, *Podocarpus henkelii* and *P. falcatius* are also protected under the National Forest Act (1998).



**Figure 11: Vegetation on site.**

The vegetation observed on the project site (as classified by Mucina and Rutherford (2006)) is located on flat to slightly undulating landscapes that support various bushveld units ranging from dense thickets of *Dichrostachys cinerea* and *Acacia* species, through park-like savanna with flat-topped *A. tortilis* to treedominated woodland with broad leaved open bushveld with *Sclerocarya birrea subsp. caffra* and *A. nigrescens*. Tall grassveld types with sparsely scattered solitary trees and shrubs form a mosaic with the typical savannah thornveld, bushveld and thicket patches (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006).

## Critical Biodiversity Areas

### ***Kwazulu-Natal Systematic Conservation Plan (KZNSCP)***

Systematic conservation assessment is the technical, often computer-based, identification of priority areas for conservation. This assessment informs conservation planning and decision-making. Two fundamental inputs for the KZNSCP are landcover and vegetation type. The KwaZulu-Natal Systematic Conservation Plan (KZNSCP) addresses:

- ❖ Land cover.
- ❖ The need to identify and map Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs).
- ❖ Priorities for conservation in KwaZulu-Natal.

The KZNSCP identifies Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) according to irreplaceability criteria and describes three area classifications:

- ❖ CBA 1 has an irreplaceability value of 1, indicating that no other locations have been identified as potential replacements for satisfying the conservation goals for one or more biodiversity features. To protect this trait, special mitigating actions would have to be considered. Following the implementation of these steps, development in the region may be permitted.
- ❖ CBA 2 regions support high biodiversity, with irreplaceability ratings ranging from 0.1 to 0.8, indicating that other locations have been found as potential alternatives for attaining conservation aims for one or more biodiversity features, but not many.
- ❖ CBA 3 denotes one or more characteristics having a high irreplaceability value of 2. As a result, there are more alternative locations within which conservation goals might be realized.

Biodiversity Areas, which have not been categorised according to the analysis, are not available for wholesale development because valuable species are still there and should be accounted for in the EIA process.

As shown in Figure 13, the proposed project area lies in an area categorised as least threatened according to the threatened ecosystems. There are no protected areas in the proposed prospecting area.

## **Fauna**

A number of protected bird species are predicted to be found in and around the project area, however none were found during site assessment. These include:

- Grey Crowned Cranes (*Balearica regulorum*) and Blue Cranes (*Anthropoides paradiseus*): These species are considered Vulnerable as the population trend is decreasing due to threats like habitat loss and illegal removal of birds and eggs. The wetland habitat found near the project area is highly suitable for breeding and foraging for these species.
- Secretary bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) and Southern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus calvus*): These species are classified as Vulnerable as recent evidence suggests the population is experiencing a rapid decline due to habitat degradation, disturbance, hunting and capture for trade. Both the grasslands and wetlands found in/near the project area are suitable habitats for these species.
- African Grass Owls (*Tyto capensis*) and White-Winged Flufftails (*Sarothrura ayresii*): These species are likely to occur in the surrounding area and may occur on site. The White-Winged Flufftail species is classified as Critically Endangered as the population is thought to be very small and is believed to be undergoing a rapid continuing decline in extent, area and habitat quality owing to the high rate of habitat loss and degradation. Protected mammal species like Serval (*Felis serval*) and other small mammals are highly likely to occur in the project area and surrounds. Forest areas and wetlands provide important migratory corridors for faunal species. All flora and fauna species will be conserved, and all potential impacts will be managed using the management framework stipulated in the NEM:BA.

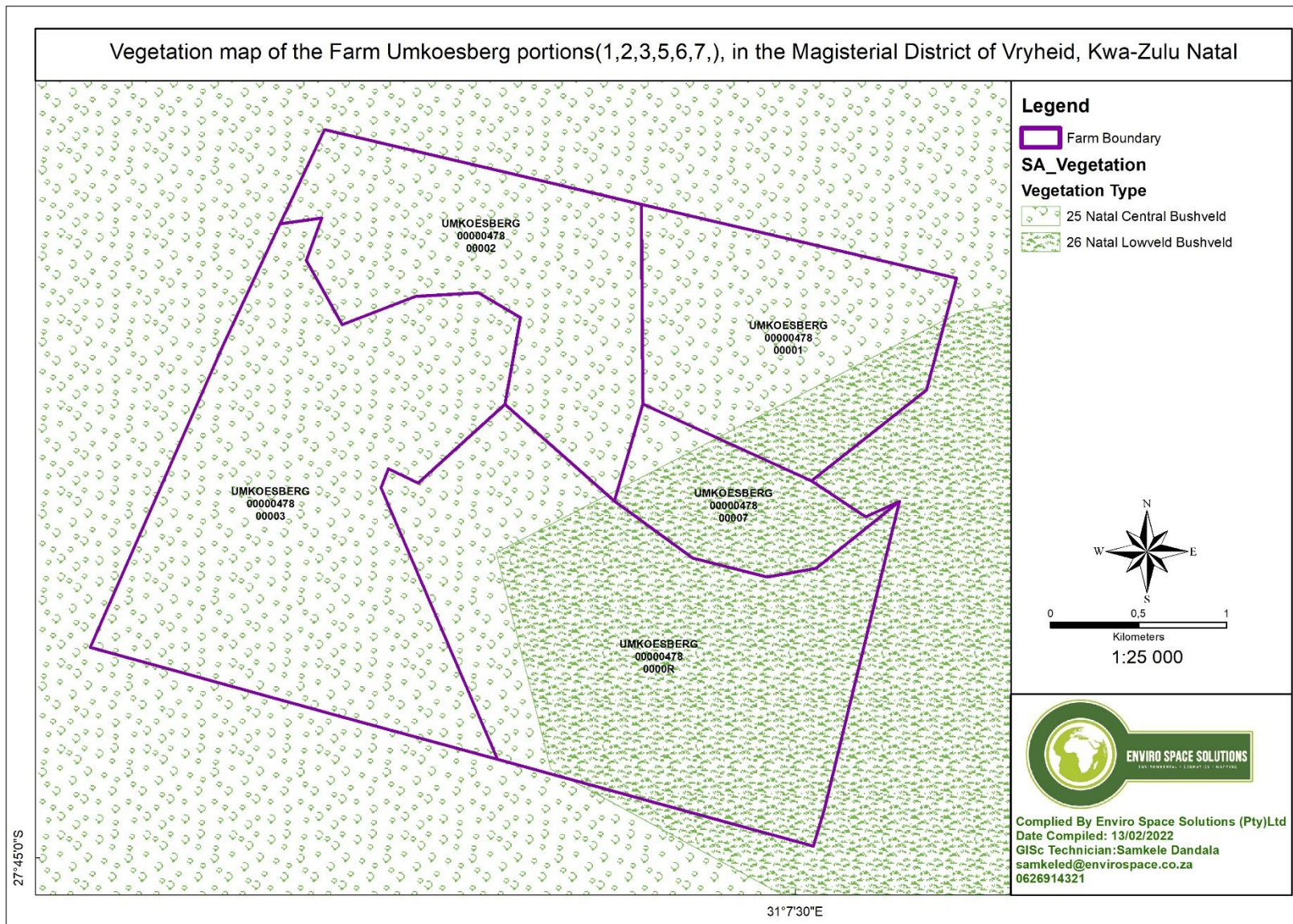


Figure 12: Vegetation map for the proposed project area.

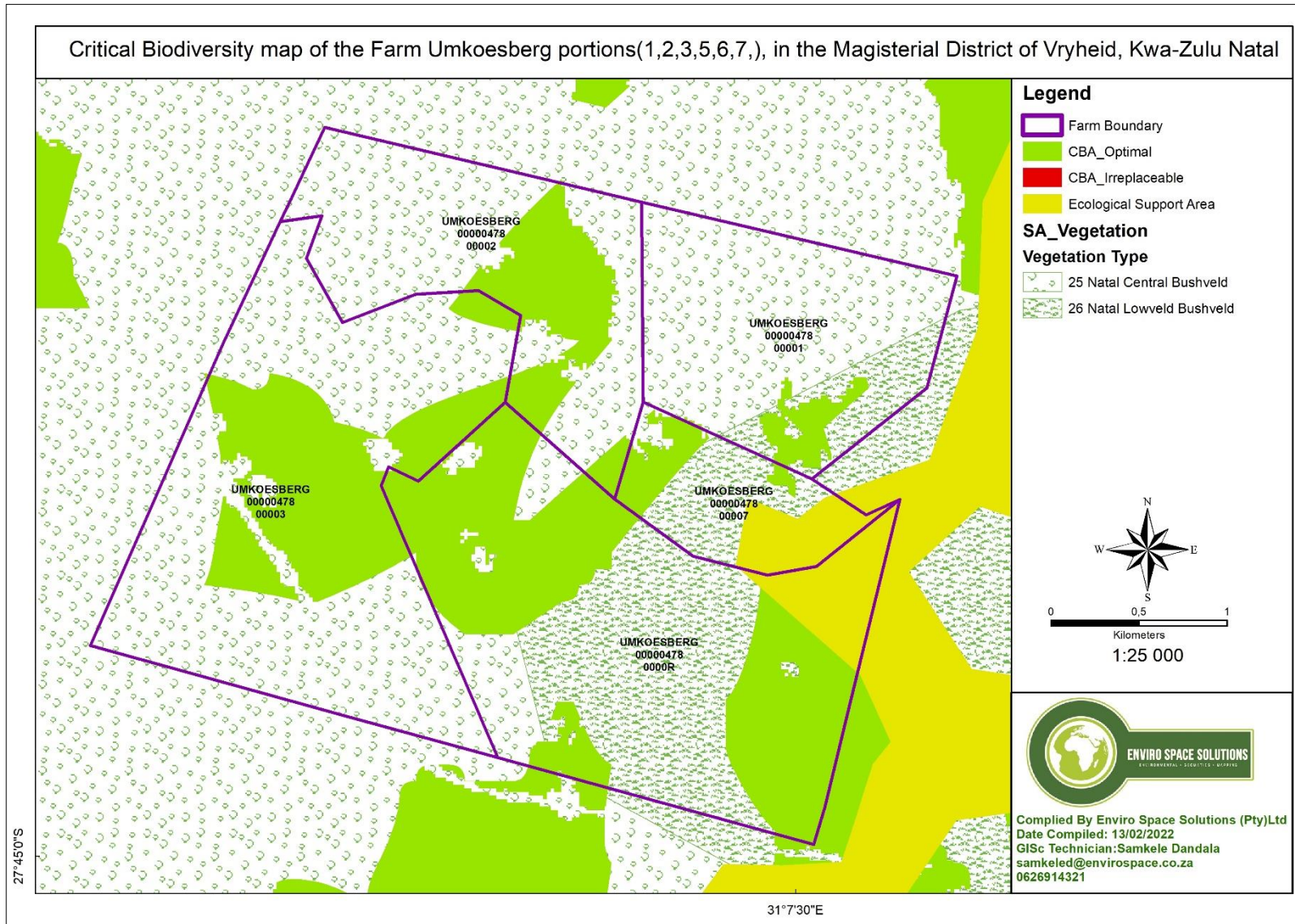


Figure 13: Critical Biodiversity Area map for the project area.

## Hydrology

The project area falls within the W31A catchment area of the Mkuze catchments. The Mkuze catchments consist mostly of commercial cattle or game farming, with a small area of Traditional Authority land located in the southeast. There is a significant amount of afforestation, estimated to be nearly 114 km<sup>2</sup> (or 4% of the land cover), and an estimated 49 km<sup>2</sup> of alien vegetation (or 2% of the land cover). Irrigation of sugarcane is another significant land use covering area of approximately 68 km<sup>2</sup> (2,6% of the land cover). The only significant town in the area is Hlobane that is situated river's headwaters (Zululand District Municipality Water Services Development Plan, 2004).

The source of the Mkuze River is east of Vryheid with the catchments covering approximately 2,600 km<sup>2</sup> of the ZDM and experiencing unusual rainfall distribution. Mean Annual Precipitation is high at the coast (about 1,000 mm/annum), over 900 mm/annum in the high lying western area of the catchments, but only 600 mm/annum in certain other areas as a result of the rain shadow of the Lebombo Mountains. The MAR is 147 million m<sup>3</sup>/annum (catchments W31A to W31G), ranging from 132 mm in W31C near Hlobane to 20 mm in W31G. The total surface water resources of the Mkuze system are estimated at 37 million m<sup>3</sup>/annum, including an adjustment for stream flow reduction activities. However, return flows are limited and are estimated to be 7.5 million m<sup>3</sup>/annum. The water resources are mostly undeveloped, with only a number of farm dams for irrigation purposes (Zululand District Municipality Water Services Development Plan, 2004).

The major water users in these catchments are irrigation and commercial forestry. Irrigators abstract water from run-of-river flows or from farm dams, with the exception of Senekal Estates who receive water from the Pongolapoort Dam.

The impact of the ecological Reserve on the yield of these catchments is uncertain. However, the winter and summer low flow ecological reserve based on the desk top method is 2 million m<sup>3</sup> for the four driest months and 11 million m<sup>3</sup> for the eight wettest months. This is a very low-confidence estimate that needs refining (Zululand District Municipality Water Services Development Plan, 2004).



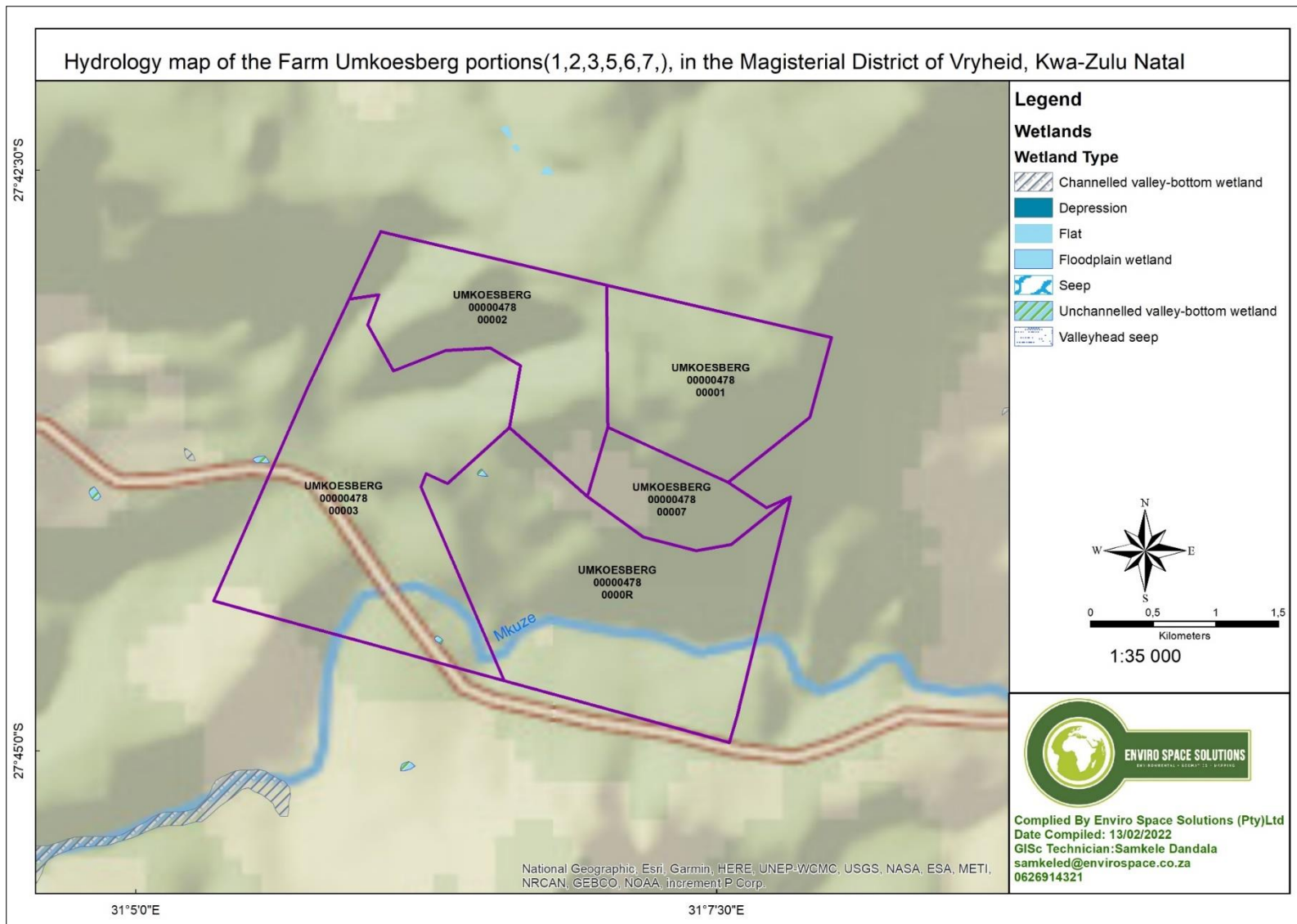


Figure 14: Hydrological map for the project area.

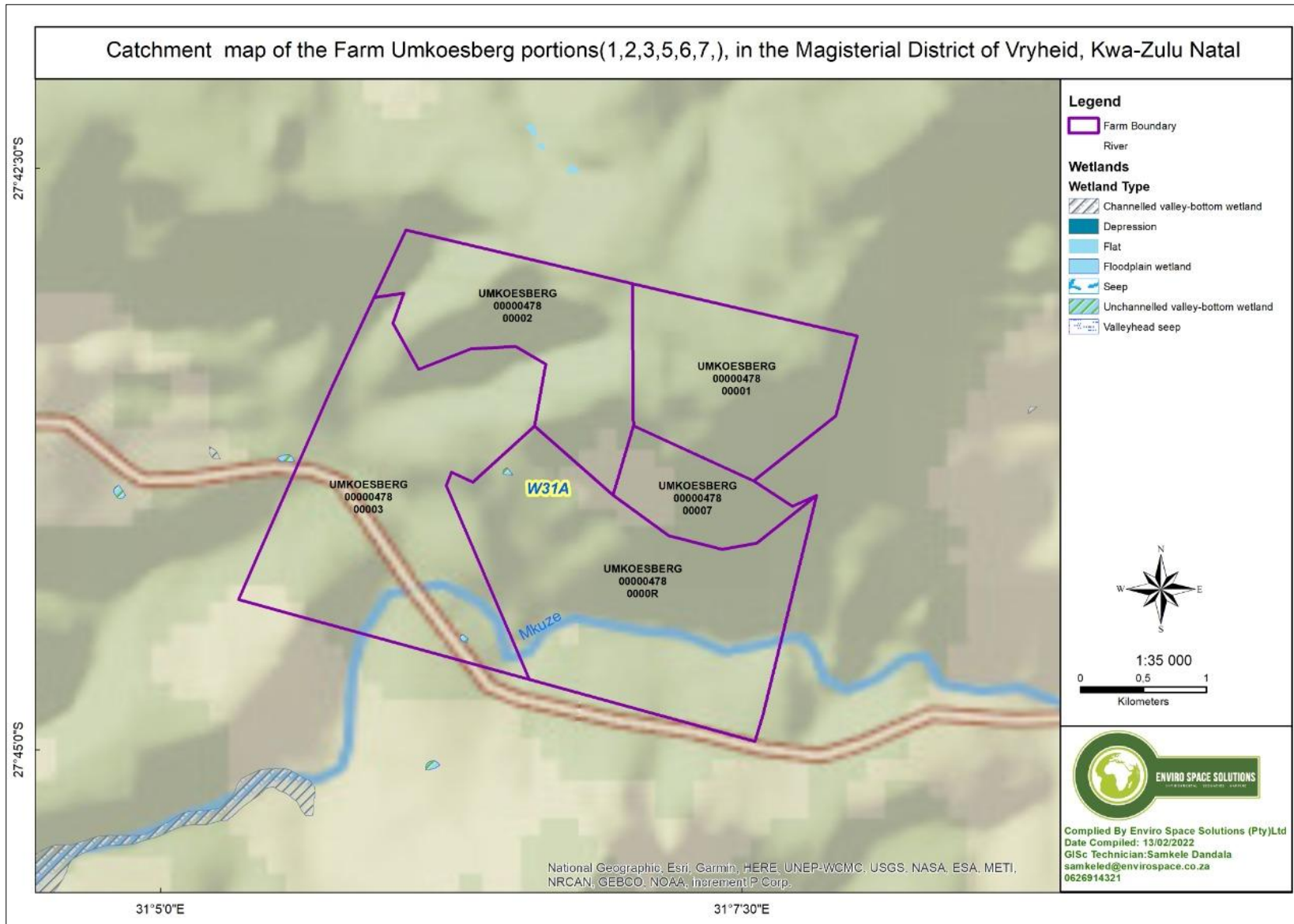


Figure 15: Quaternary Catchment map for the proposed project area.

## Noise

Existing on-site noise sources and surroundings include:

- ❖ Agricultural activities nearby; and
- ❖ Traffic noise on R618.
- ❖ Other land uses.

The impact of noise levels can at the high end of the spectrum be physical as well as physiological, but they can more often affect communications.

Noise levels will not be affected from what they are at present. The noise from the prospecting activities will only last for the duration of the drilling activities. Drilling activities will take place during the day and therefore the impact will be insignificant and for a short period during drilling.

## Air Quality

Pollutant dispersion and deposition over the region are aided by moist, unstable conditions and rainfall, which occur nearly entirely during the summer. Power plants, smaller businesses, home combustion, motor vehicles, smouldering coal-discard dumps, and veld burning are the main sources of pollutants in the KwaZulu-Natal region. Particulates, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and carbon dioxides are among the pollutants emitted by these sources.

Site assessment of the proposed project area has determined that air pollution sources around the area are expected to be of low significance within the application area.

## Heritage Resources

Heritage resources like Stone Age sites, rock paintings and engravings; stone tools; small, inconspicuous stone walled sites from the Late Iron Age farming communities; formal and informal graveyards, etc. may occur in the study area.

No heritage resources were observed during site assessment. Should any heritage resources of significance be exposed during the construction or operational phase of the project, the SAHRA will be notified immediately, all development activities will be stopped, and an archaeologist accredited with the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) will be notified to determine appropriate mitigation measures for the finds. This may include obtaining the necessary authorisation (permits) from SAHRA to conduct the required mitigation measures.

## Socio-Economic profile

The prospecting area is located within AbaQulusi Local Municipality, which falls under the Zululand District Municipality in Kwa-Zulu Natal province. The following information was obtained from Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2022/2023-2026/2027) of AbaQulusi Local Municipality.

## Locality

The AbaQulusi Local Municipality is located in the Northern part of KwaZulu-Natal Province and forms part of the Zululand District Municipality. It is named after the AbaQulusi, a Zulu clan whose descendants live in the

vicinities of Vryheid, Utrecht, eDumbe and eNgoje. Abaqulusi Municipality comprises of many settlements, both rural and urban, with Vryheid being its main urban settlement/town. Other areas of interest that fall within the boundaries of Abaqulusi also include Louwsburg, eMondlo, Hlobane, Corronation and Bhekuzulu. The municipality is split into 23 Wards and its geographical cover is estimated at 4185km<sup>2</sup> in extent making it one of the spatially largest municipalities in the province, occupied by a population of approximately 243 795 people, according to the Community Survey 2016. The population of Abaqulusi has been growing steadily since 2011, from 211 060 to 243 795 people, recording an increase of 32 735 people over a 5-year period. At present, Abaqulusi Municipality constitutes approximately 27% of the Zululand District Municipality making it the largest populated local municipality compared to the other local municipalities within the district. The 4 other local municipalities that make up the Zululand Family include eDumbe, uPhongolo, Nongoma and Ulundi. The municipality is also characterised as the main hub for the district and is also very strategically positioned, sharing its border with all 4 local municipalities within the district, as well as with Amajuba and Umzinyathi District families. The Locality Maps below spatially depicts the Abaqulusi Municipality's location within the Zululand District Municipality and the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

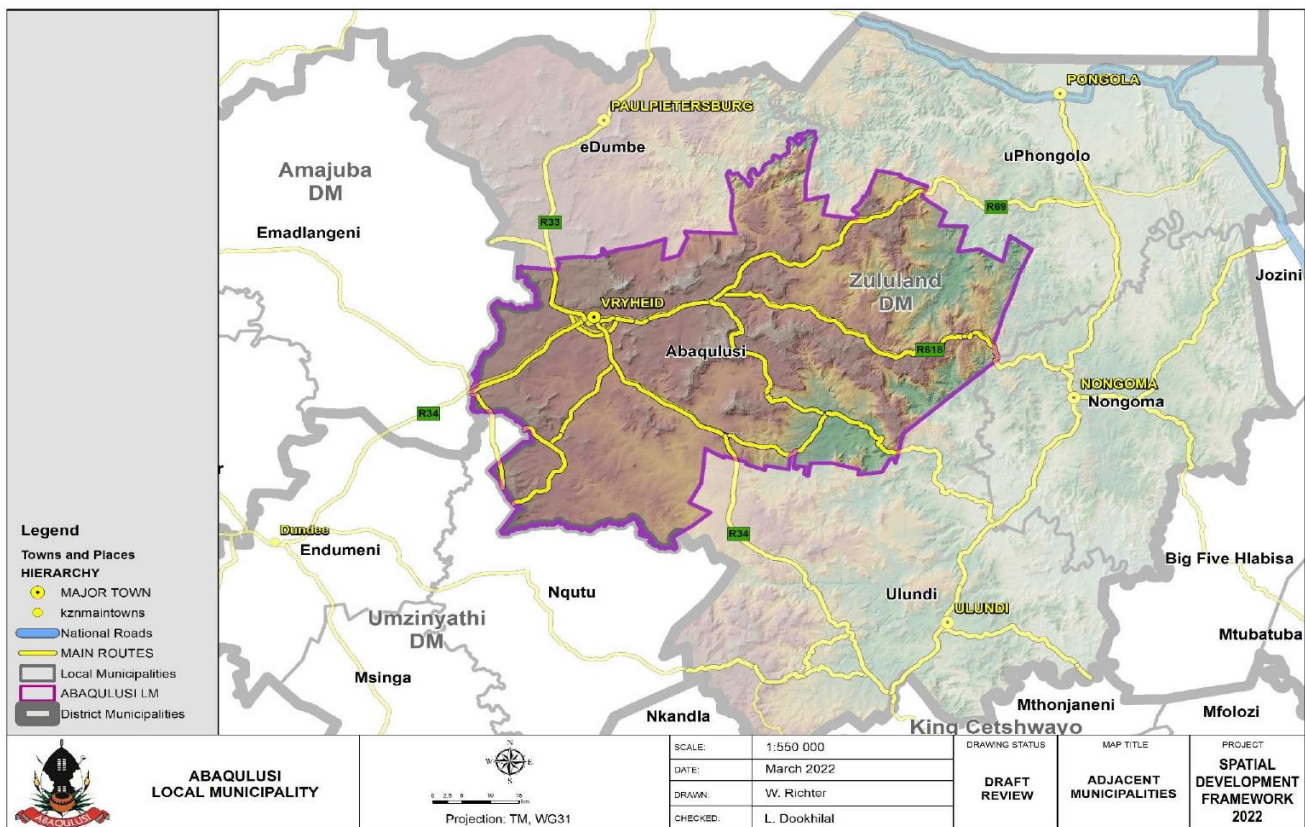


Figure 16: District locality map.

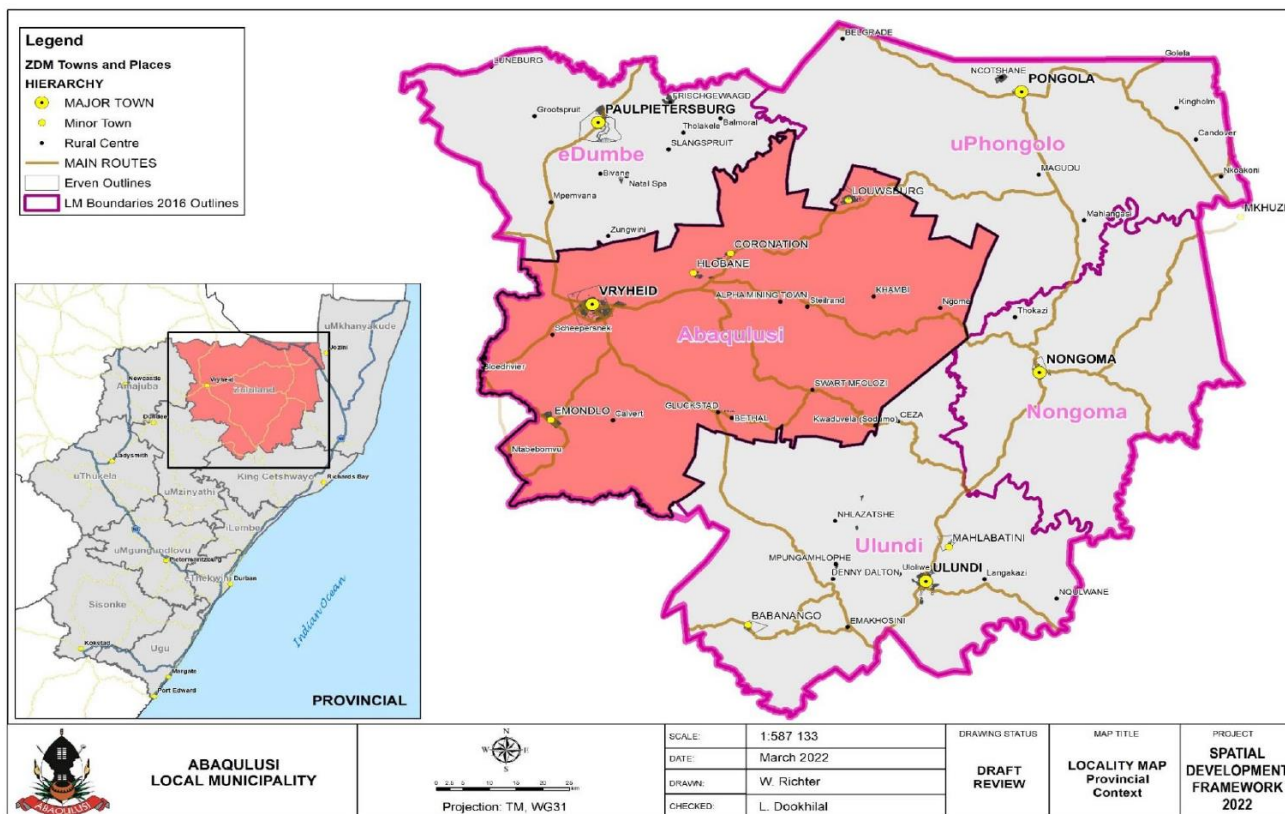


Figure 17: Regional locality map.

### Demographic profile

The importance of demography lies in its contribution to helping government and society better prepare to deal with the issues and demands of population growth, aging and migration. The statistics and predictions resulting from demographic studies can, for example, aid in the development of adequate school systems, estimate the required funding for senior services and develop workable healthcare systems. A wide variety of social outcomes are impacted by demographic processes and distributions. The demographics within Abaqulusi Municipality as per STATS SA Community Survey 2016 is as follows:

Table 2: Population sizes.

Persons	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
<b>Total population</b>	<b>211 060</b>	<b>243 795</b>
<b>Growth rates</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>Change (%)</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>
<b>Population density</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>58</b>

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 3: Population distribution.

Settlements	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
<b>Urban formal</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>
<b>Traditional/Rural</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>35.6%</b>
<b>Farms</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>25.7%</b>

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 4: Population composition.

Persons proportion	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
Young (0-14 years)	36.7%	37.9%
Youth (15-34 years)	36.5%	39.8%
Working age (15-64 years)	58.6%	57.8%
Elderly (65 years or older)	4.7%	4.3%
Sex ratio (men/100 women)	91	93
Dependency ratio	70.5	70.8

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 5: Population groups

Race	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
Black African	95.4%	96.9%
Coloured	0.5%	0.7%
White	3.5%	2.3%
Indian/Asian	0.4%	0.2%

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

### Socio-Economic profile

A socio-economic profile of the municipality is very critical in assisting a municipality with how to plan and properly utilise its resources. It is an important exercise that provides data on three primary areas of concern, ie. Social Services, Economic Services and Spatial/Developmental Services. The Socio-Economic profile of Abaqulusi Municipality is as follows:

Table 6: Household and services.

Households/Services	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
Total households	43 299	51 910
Average household size	4.9	4.7
Female headed household	50.0%	50.2%
Child headed households	1.7%	2.0%
Access to piped water	83.5%	72.7%
Access to electricity	72.1%	79.7%
Access to sanitation	40.9%	87.8%
Tenure status (% owned)	66.6%	63.3%

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 7: Household goods.

Type of Goods	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
Radio	74.9%	69.6%
Television	63.8%	74.4%
Cellular phone	89.4%	93.1%
Refrigerator	56.8%	68.0%

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 8: Poverty

Category	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
Poverty head count	11.2%	11.4%
Intensity of poverty	41.9%	43.3%

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 9: Educational status.

Highest Level of Education	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
No schooling (aged 20+)	16.9%	8.1%
% completed matric (aged 20+)	28.1%	33.4%
% completed higher education	6.6%	6.2%

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 10: Employment.

Employment Status	Census 2001	Census 2011
Labour absorption rate	19.4%	22.3%
Unemployment rate	59.4%	35.4%
<i>Unemployment by sex</i>		
Male	53.8%	32.0%
Female	65.2%	38.8%
Youth unemployment	69.2%	45.1%
Labour participation rate	47.8%	34.5%

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 11: Refusal removal.

Category of Refuse Removal	Census 2011		Community Survey 2016	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Removed by local authority	17985	42%	22 022	42.4
Own refuse dump	20764	48%	21 774	41.9
Communal refuse dump	511	1%	889	1.7
Dump or leave rubbish anywhere	2728	6%	7 225	13.9

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

Table 12: Housing

Category of Dwelling	Census 2011		Community Survey 2016	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Formal dwelling	34 134	78.8	37 746	72.7
Traditional dwelling	7 863	18.1	9 407	18.1
Informal dwelling	929	0.2	4 675	9.0
Other	374	0.08	82	0.2

Source: STATS SA CS 2016

## b) Description of the current land uses.

Land cover information is a crucial reference dataset that informs a wide variety of activities ranging from environmental planning and protection, development planning, economic development, compliance monitoring, enforcement and strategic decision making.

Mountainous terrain with open grassland and scant vegetation characterizes the project area. The majority of the project area and the surrounding is used for agriculture as a mixture of subsistence, commercial, and livestock.

Land uses within and around the project area include:

- ❖ Provincial road R618 crossing through the project area.
- ❖ Mining (Uitkomst Colliery, located approximately 10 km south-west of the project area).
- ❖ Residential area just outside the prospecting area.

Residential area, wetlands and mining, particularly the degraded areas, are sensitive land uses in this area.

## c) Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site.

The project area comprises of the following environmental features and infrastructure:

- ❖ Mkuze river and other wetlands or waterbodies.
- ❖ Homesteads
- ❖ Provincial road (R618).
- ❖ Natural grassland.
- ❖ Open bush.





Mkuze River crossing through the project area.



Open bush



Provincial road (R618)



Natural grassland

**d) Environmental and current land use map.**

*(Show all environmental, and current land use features)*

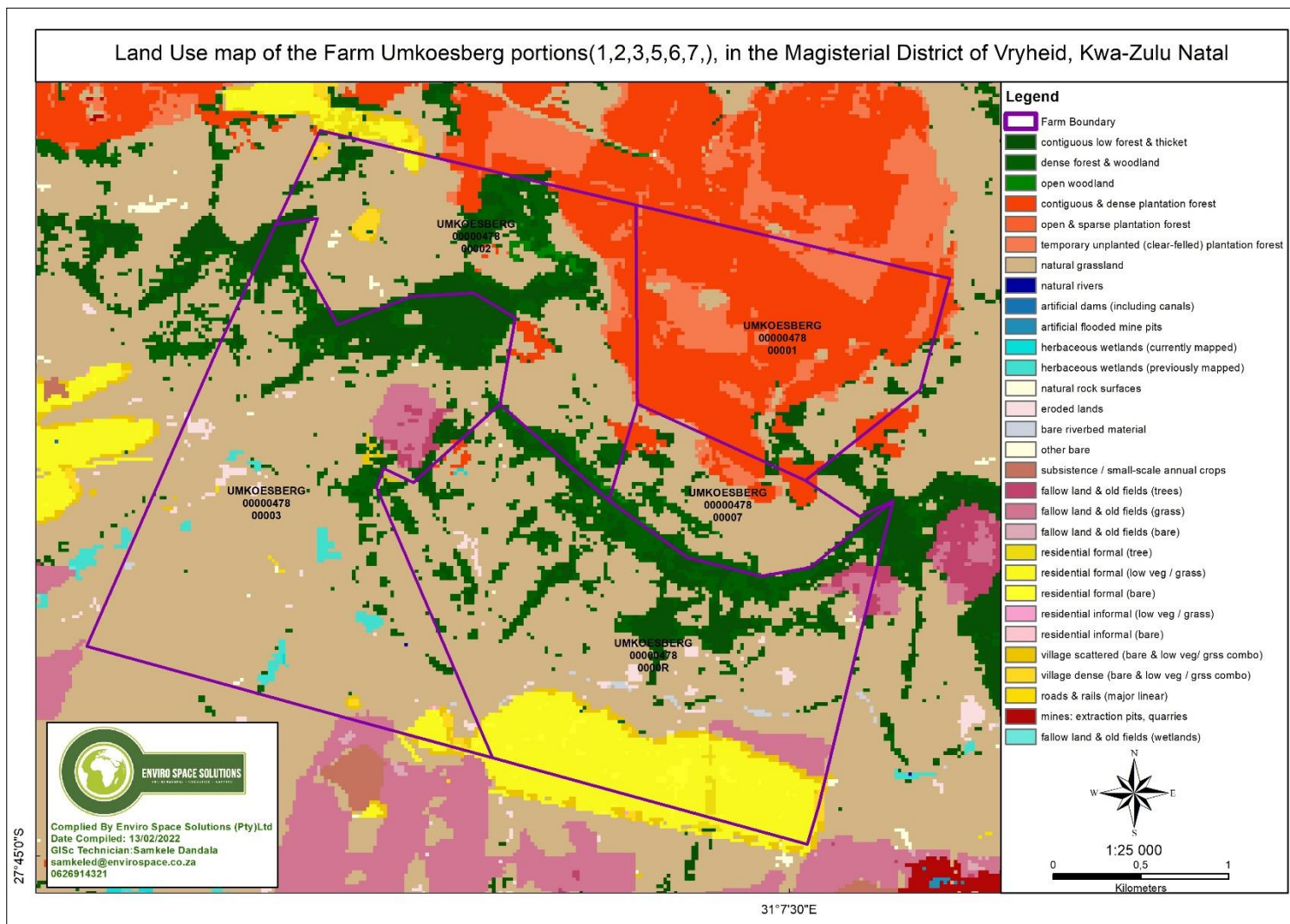


Figure 18: Environmental Land use map for the proposed project area and surroundings.

**i) Impacts identified**

*(Provide a list of the potential impacts identified of the activities described in the initial site layout that will be undertaken, as informed by both the typical known impacts of such activities, and as informed by the consultations with affected parties together with the significance, probability and duration of the impacts*

<b>OPERATION PHASE/CONSTRUCTION</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	Safety & security risks to landowners and/ or lawful occupiers	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	2	2
Duration of Impact	2	1
Magnitude of Impact	2	2
Reversibility of Impact	3	2
Probability	3	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant must enter into specific written agreements with the affected landowner/s before accessing any portion of the land. This formal agreement could also include the landowner's special conditions, which would make the agreement legally binding.</li> <li>Upon entering or leaving the homestead, all gates must be locked immediately.</li> <li>The vehicles used must be in good working order. All state, regional, and national legislation pertaining to road safety and transportation must be followed.</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	Vegetation Clearing	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	1	1
Duration of Impact	2	2
Magnitude of Impact	3	2
Reversibility of Impact	3	3
Probability	5	4
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearing should be limited to areas where invasive work is needed. To minimize soil disturbance, cut vegetation rather than clearing it.</li> <li>To reduce the amount of vegetation disturbance caused by temporary access roads, locate drill sites as near to existing access roads as possible.</li> <li>Following invasive prospecting practices, rehabilitate all disturbed areas to their pre-prospecting state.</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	Soil Compaction	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	2	2
Duration of Impact	2	2
Magnitude of Impact	3	2
Reversibility of Impact	3	2
Probability	4	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ECO must evaluate all areas that have become compacted as a result of prospecting activities, and scarifying may be needed to loosen the soil.</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	Damage/disturbance of gravesites	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	2	2
Duration of Impact	2	2
Magnitude of Impact	2	2
Reversibility of Impact	3	3
Probability	2	1
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that a 50-meter buffer should be maintained around cemeteries, and no building materials should be put near them. The construction camp should be built away from the cemeteries as well.</li> </ul>		

Impact		Dust/Air Quality	
Environmental Risk Scoring	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Nature of Impact	-1	-1	
Extent of Impact	3	3	
Duration of Impact	2	1	
Magnitude of Impact	3	2	
Reversibility of Impact	2	2	
Probability	3	3	
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	12	10	
Mitigation Measures			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravel roads require all vehicles to adhere to speed limits.</li> <li>The potential for dusty conditions would be reduced by limiting the removal of vegetation and topsoil in affected areas.</li> <li>Farm dwellings must be 100 meters away from prospecting operations (including drill sites).</li> </ul>			
Impact		Noise	
Environmental Risk Scoring	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Nature of Impact		-1	-1
Extent of Impact		3	1
Duration of Impact		2	2
Magnitude of Impact		3	2
Reversibility of Impact		1	1
Probability		3	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation		11	7
Mitigation Measures			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction equipment and machinery must be kept in good working order at all times.</li> <li>There should be no excessive hooting or disturbance while operating or traveling near noise sensitive receptors.</li> </ul>			
Impact		Sedimentation & increased runoff	
Environmental Risk Scoring	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Nature of Impact		-1	-1
Extent of Impact		3	2
Duration of Impact		3	2
Magnitude of Impact		4	2
Reversibility of Impact		4	2
Probability		4	4
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation		17	11
Mitigation Measures			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because of the sensitivity of the soil layer, the steep topography, and the high risk of erosion, the access road should be built during the dry season, and all prospecting should preferably take place during this season to avoid run-off and erosion.</li> <li>To delay (or stop) run-off from the proposed access route, all appropriate road mitigation measures must be implemented. This is a critical erosion-prevention measure.</li> <li>To slow the flow of water run-off from the road surface, sufficient speed humps and mitre drains must be built along the road for every three metres of elevation. All strategies for slowing the flow of water off the road surface must be used, and the feasibility of constructing an attenuation device to retain surface water and release it slowly into the atmosphere must be investigated.</li> </ul>			
Impact		Spillage of oils, fuels & chemicals	
Environmental Risk Scoring	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Nature of Impact		-1	-1
Extent of Impact		2	2
Duration of Impact		2	2
Magnitude of Impact		3	3
Reversibility of Impact		4	3
Probability		4	3
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation		14	12
Mitigation Measures			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under vehicles, drip trays must be mounted.</li> <li>Any spills or leaks must be washed up right away, and the polluted soil must be properly disposed of.</li> <li>Clean-up equipment for spills must be on hand at all times.</li> <li>Big spills must be reported to the authorities, and a professional spill contractor must be hired right away to help with the clean-up.</li> </ul>			
Impact		Soil contamination	
Environmental Risk Scoring	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Nature of Impact		-1	-1
Extent of Impact		2	2

Duration of Impact	2	2
Magnitude of Impact	3	3
Reversibility of Impact	4	3
Probability	4	3
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	14	12
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The machinery that will be used in the process will be in good working order.</li> <li>Any hydrocarbon spilled during the construction of the site will be cleaned up as soon as possible.</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	Introduction of alien invasive species.	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	2	2
Duration of Impact	2	1
Magnitude of Impact	4	2
Reversibility of Impact	4	2
Probability	3	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	14	8
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out operations in areas that have been historically disturbed.</li> <li>Identify events that are on the outskirts of an ongoing disturbance.</li> <li>As soon as possible, rehabilitate the areas that have been disturbed.</li> <li>Keep alien plants out of the way of prospecting operations.</li> </ul>		
<b>DECOMMISSIONING PHASE</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	Spillage of oils, fuels & chemicals	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	3	3
Duration of Impact	2	2
Magnitude of Impact	3	2
Reversibility of Impact	4	3
Probability	4	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	15	11
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under vehicles, drip trays must be mounted.</li> <li>Any spills or leaks must be washed up right away, and the polluted soil must be properly disposed of.</li> <li>Drip trays must be used when refuelling vehicles or machinery to avoid spills or leaks.</li> <li>Clean-up equipment for spills must be on hand at all times.</li> <li>Big spills must be reported to the authorities, and a professional spill contractor must be hired right away to help with the clean-up.</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	Noise	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	2	1
Duration of Impact	2	2
Magnitude of Impact	3	2
Reversibility of Impact	3	1
Probability	3	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	12	7
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction equipment and machinery must be kept in good working order at all times.</li> <li>There should be no excessive hooting or disturbance while operating or traveling near noise sensitive receptors.</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	Dust/Air Quality	
<b>Environmental Risk Scoring</b>	<b>Pre-mitigation</b>	<b>Post-mitigation</b>
Nature of Impact	-1	-1
Extent of Impact	1	1
Duration of Impact	1	2
Magnitude of Impact	3	2
Reversibility of Impact	3	2
Probability	3	2
Environmental Risk Pre-mitigation	10	8
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravel roads require all vehicles to adhere to speed limits.</li> <li>The potential for dusty conditions would be reduced by limiting the removal of vegetation and topsoil in affected areas.</li> </ul>		

- Farm dwellings must be 100 meters away from prospecting operations (including drill sites).

**(i) Methodology used in determining the significance of environmental impacts**

*(Describe how the significance, probability, and duration of the aforesaid identified impacts that were identified through the consultation process was determined in order to decide the extent to which the initial site layout needs revision).*

Aspect	Score	Definition
<b>Nature</b>	-1	Likely to result in negative impact
	+1	Likely to result in positive/beneficial impact
<b>Extent</b>	1	Activity (i.e., limited to the area applicable to the specific activity).
	2	Site (i.e., within the development property boundary).
	3	Local (i.e., the area within 5 km of the site)
	4	Regional (i.e., extends between 5 to 50 km from the site)
	5	Provincial/ National (i.e., extends 50 km beyond from the site)
<b>Duration</b>	1	Intermediate (<1 year)
	2	Short term (1-5 years)
	3	Medium term (6-15 years)
	4	Long term (the impact will cease after the operational life span of the project)
	5	Permanent term (no mitigation measure of natural process will reduce the impact after.
<b>Magnitude</b>	1	Minor (where the impact effects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural & social functions & processes are not affected).
	2	Low (where the impact effects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural & social functions & processes are slightly affected).
	3	Moderate (where the impact effects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural & social functions & processes continue albeit in a modified way).
	4	High (where natural, cultural & social functions & processes are altered to the extent where it will temporarily cease) or
	5	Very High (where natural, cultural & social functions & processes are altered to the extent where it will permanently cease).
<b>Reversibility</b>	1	Impact is reversible without any time and cost.
	2	Impact is reversible without incurring significant time and cost.
	3	Impact is reversible only by incurring significant time and cost.
	4	Impact is reversible only by incurring prohibitively high time and cost.
	5	Irreversible impact.
<b>Probability</b>	1	Improbable (the possibility of the impact materialising is very low).
	2	Low probability (there is a possibility that the impact will occur; >25% and <50%).
	3	Medium probability (the impact may occur; >50% and <75%).
	4	High probability (it is most likely that the impact will occur; >75% probability).
	5	Definite (the impact will occur).

SIGNIFICANCE AND RISK CATEGORY	DEFINITION
<-10	Low negative (i.e., where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area).
>-10<-20	Medium negative (i.e., where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area).
>-20	High negative (i.e., where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop the area).

**(ii) The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity (in terms of the initial site layout) and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected.**

*(Provide a discussion in terms of advantages and disadvantages of the initial site layout compared to alternative layout options to accommodate concerns raised by affected parties)*

**Table 13: Positive and negative impacts.**

Impacted Environment	Impact	Status of Impact
<b>ESTABLISHMENT PHASE</b>		
Flora & Fauna	During site preparation, native natural vegetation and plant species are destroyed or lost.	Negative
	Impact on animal species.	Negative
	The establishment and spread of weeds and alien invader plants that have been classified noxious weeds.	Negative
Ground water	Groundwater contamination/damage, resulting in hydrological impacts.	Negative
Surface water	Deterioration of surface water from contaminated topsoil run-off.	Negative
Air quality	Dust emissions.	Negative
Soils	Soils are physically disturbed during land clearing.	Negative
Noise	Nuisance to the surrounding landowners and communities.	Negative
	Animal disturbances in the vicinity of wildlife lodges.	Negative
Cultural/Heritage resources	Possible impact on historic and archaeological resources.	Undetermined at this stage.
Waste generation	Solid waste production (e.g., littering)	Negative
Traffic	As vehicles reach the sites, there is an increase in traffic in the region.	Negative
<b>OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>		
Soils	Soils are physically disturbed during land clearing.	Negative
Social	Disturbance of surrounding landowners and local communities.	Negative
	Direct employment and development of skills	Positive
Water resources	Hydrological impacts are caused by damage to groundwater and surface water.	Negative
Geology	During the drilling phase, rock material is physically removed for logging and sample purposes.	Negative
Noise	Nuisance to surrounding landowners and local communities.	Negative
Cultural/Heritage resources	Possible impact on historic and archaeological resources.	Undetermined at this stage.
<b>DECOMMISSIONING PHASE</b>		
Soil	Soil degradation	Negative
Noise	Nuisance to surrounding landowners and local communities.	Negative
Air quality	Dust emissions	Negative
Traffic	As vehicles reach the sites, there is an increase in traffic in the region.	Negative

### **(iii)The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk.**

*(With regard to the issues and concerns raised by affected parties provide a list of the issues raised and an assessment/ discussion of the mitigations or site layout alternatives available to accommodate or address their concerns, together with an assessment of the impacts or risks associated with the mitigation or alternatives considered).*

For each environmental component analysed, the following proposed mitigation measures and residual hazards have been offered. This report will be made available to I&APs for review and discussion, and their suggestions and concerns will be incorporated in the final report, which will be submitted to the DMRE for adjudication.

#### **Disturbance of surrounding landowners and local communities.**

- Ascertain that the construction meets all occupational health and safety criteria.
- The Applicant must enter into formal written arrangements with the affected landowner before accessing any piece of the land. This written agreement should also include the landowner's unique requirements, resulting in a legally binding agreement.
- Upon entering or leaving the homestead, all gates must be closed immediately.
- All construction and vehicles that use public roads must be in good working order, with their load secured. All local, provincial, and national legislation pertaining to road safety and transportation must be followed.

#### **Flora and Fauna**

- Clearing should be limited to regions where invasive work is required. To minimize soil disturbance, trim plants rather than remove it.
- To reduce the amount of vegetation disturbance caused by temporary access roads, put drill sites and trenches as close to existing access roads as possible.
- Following invasive prospecting efforts, restore any damaged areas to their pre-prospecting state.

#### **Water Resources**

- A sufficiently qualified specialist must ensure that no drilling or trenching is carried out within 100 meters of a watercourse or within the floodline's 1:100 year.
- To restrict the flow of water run-off from the road surface, appropriate speed humps and mitre drains must be built along the road for every three metres of elevation.
- All techniques for slowing the flow of water off the road surface must be used, and the feasibility of constructing an attenuation system to store surface water and release it slowly into the environment must be examined.

#### **Noise**

- Construction trucks and machinery must be kept in good operating order at all times.
- There should be no unnecessary hooting or noise when working or traveling near noise sensitive sensors.

#### **Air Quality**



- The possibility for dusty conditions will be reduced by limiting the clearance of plants and soils in the affected region.
- Prospecting activities (including drill and trench sites) should be kept as far away from homes as practicable.
- Speed limitations must be followed by all vehicles using public gravel roads.
- Dust suppression will also be implemented on gravel roads.

#### **Soil Contamination/pollution**

- The machinery that will be employed in the operation will be in good functioning order.
- Any hydrocarbon spilled during the construction of the site shall be cleaned up as quickly as possible.
- Drilling fluids (mud) must be confined in steel sumps, with any spills or leaks cleaned up.

#### **Waste Generation**

- Any excess or waste material or chemicals, such as drilling muds, must be removed from the site and recycled if possible (e.g., oil and other hydrocarbon waste products).
- Any non-recyclable waste materials or chemicals must be disposed of at a properly licensed disposal facility.
- When the site is closed, all permanent structures must be removed. This will comprise all of the site's associated equipment, materials, and garbage.
- Any type of waste should not be disposed of on site under any circumstances.

#### **Traffic**

- All vehicles must adhere to the speed limit on site to reduce traffic.

**Table 14: Significant impact and risk.**

<b>NAME OF ACTIVITY</b> (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>POTENTIAL IMPACT</b> (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)  (e.g., dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc.... etc...)	<b>ASPECTS AFFECTED</b>	<b>PHASE</b> In which impact is anticipated  (e.g., Construction, commissioning, operational Decommissioning, closure, post-closure)	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b> if not mitigated	<b>MITIGATION TYPE</b>  (modify, remedy, control, or stop) through (e.g. noise control measures, storm-water control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc. etc)  E.g. Modify through alternative method. Control through noise control Control through management and monitoring through rehabilitation.	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b> if mitigated
Site establishment and drilling.	Environmental life cycles are disrupted or altered as a result of noise, dust, and lighting.	Flora and Fauna	Construction	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to use equipment with low noise emissions.</li> <li>Reduce the amount of exterior lighting needed for safe operation and incorporate operating strategies to reduce spill light.</li> <li>Maintain low noise levels in accordance with local or national regulations.</li> <li>A dust monitoring system should be implemented.</li> </ul>	Low
Drill site	Loss of natural habitat/sensitivity	Flora and Fauna	Construction	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core drilling clearings can take place in as limited a footprint as possible.</li> </ul>	Low

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surrounding natural environment will not be disrupted or harmed if it is not part of the layout design.</li> <li>• The site camps and laydown areas should be demarcated and situated in low-sensitivity areas.</li> <li>• Within disturbed areas or areas marked as low sensitivity, core drilling should take place.</li> <li>• Within 30 meters of a watercourse or wetland, drilling is prohibited.</li> <li>• Re-vegetation should begin as soon as possible after clearance, if necessary.</li> <li>• All employees must go through an environmental induction.</li> </ul>	
Prospecting operational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust</li> <li>• Noise to local owners</li> <li>• Fly rock</li> </ul>	Fauna and Flora	Operational	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All employees must go through an environmental induction.</li> <li>• During the execution of this project, no animals may be injured or killed.</li> <li>• To safely extract snakes from designated areas, some members of staff can take a snake handling course. Because of the possibility of envenomation, snakes can only be treated after they have been inducted.</li> </ul>	Low

Access roads and site establishment.	Fauna mortality due to collisions with site vehicles.	Fauna and flora	Construction	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All project-related vehicle speeds should be tracked and held to a maximum of 40 km/h (maximum).</li> <li>The ECO should keep track of live animal observations in order to track changes in animal populations and, as a result, incorporate constructive, adaptable vehicle movement mitigation.</li> <li>All employees must go through an environmental induction.</li> </ul>	Low
Drilling	Flora disturbance due to vegetation and ground clearing	Fauna and flora	Operational	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If holes or burrows are discovered at the drilling sites, it is recommended that you either avoid them or, if that is not possible, contact a zoological expert to investigate and probably eliminate any organisms that might be present.</li> <li>Natural areas, especially breeding habitat, should be excluded from the layout design.</li> <li>All employees must go through an environmental induction.</li> </ul>	Low
	Disruption/alteration of ecological life cycles) due to noise, dust and lighting	Fauna and flora	Operational	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to use equipment with low noise emissions.</li> <li>A dust monitoring system should be implemented.</li> <li>Reduce the amount of exterior lighting needed for safe operation and incorporate operating strategies to reduce spill light.</li> </ul>	Low

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain low noise levels in accordance with local or national regulations.</li> </ul>	
	Alien Invasive species management	Fauna and flora	Operational	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All employees must go through an environmental induction.</li> <li>• Both phases of the planned operation should include alien vegetation monitoring.</li> <li>• The spread of alien flora into natural areas should be managed and disturbance of natural areas should be avoided.</li> <li>• Continuous monitoring of alien and invasive flora growth and spread, combined with an adaptive management approach to identify appropriate control mechanisms (e.g. mechanical, chemical or biological control). For this project, mechanical control is favoured.</li> <li>• Before accessing natural areas, vehicles and machinery should be cleaned to clear significant deposits of foreign soils and plant material brought in from abroad.</li> </ul>	Low
	Loss of wetland habitat.	Aquatic and wetlands	Operational	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A water use licence may be issued if prospecting activities are carried out within a watercourse or buffer area as defined by a wetland specialist.</li> <li>• When traveling to drilling sites, it is important to avoid driving through wetland areas.</li> <li>• All wetlands and associated 30 m buffer areas should be avoided.</li> </ul>	Low

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If at all practicable, soil disruption and vegetation clearing at drill pad areas should be kept to a bare minimum.</li> </ul>	
	Hydrocarbon spillage	Aquatic and wetlands	Operational	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicles and facilities must be serviced and repaired on a regular basis.</li> <li>To avoid spills, refueling vehicles and equipment should be conducted with caution.</li> <li>Each site where prospecting activities are taking place must have a spill kit on hand.</li> <li>To avoid further contamination, any spills must be washed up right away.</li> </ul>	Low
	Destruction of graves/graveyards	Heritage/cultural resources.	Construction/operational	Medium	During prospecting activities, avoid destroying or damaging any graves or graveyards. In situ protection is required for all graves/graveyards.	Low
Social	Temporary job creation	Socio-economic	Operational	Positive		Positive
	Determining viability of economic resources.	Socio-economic	Operational	Positive		Positive
	Growth and investment in the local economy.	Socio-economic	Operational	Positive	Drilling contractors must rely on local businesses to meet their needs (such as lodging and food) while drilling.	Positive
Drilling and decommissioning	Disturbance of local owner's daily activities.	Socio-economic	Operational/decommissioning	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personnel are not allowed on other premises unless they have been granted permission.</li> <li>There will be no disruption to normal farm operations.</li> <li>If required, compensate the landowner.</li> </ul>	Low

Drilling	Local communities	Socio-economic	Operational/decommissioning	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personnel are not allowed on other premises unless they have been granted permission.</li> <li>Avoid conflict with surrounding landowners</li> </ul>	Low
Drilling	Hydrocarbon and other chemical spillage	Groundwater	Operational/decommissioning	Medium/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicles/machinery should not be stored or serviced near wetlands/watercourses.</li> <li>Vehicles and equipment should be serviced on a regular basis.</li> <li>Groundwater monitoring to be carried out during the drilling process.</li> </ul>	Low
Drilling	Vehicle movements & drilling activities.	Dust emissions	Operational	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mitigate the impact of dust emissions, vegetation will be removed as little as possible during stripping.</li> <li>If the amount of dust released exceeds the ambient level, dust monitoring is required.</li> </ul>	Low
Drilling	Removal of possible ore material and geological formations on a permanent basis	Geology	Operational	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cores that were drilled as material for drill hole rehabilitation should be returned.</li> </ul>	Medium
Decommissioning	Loss of temporary employment.	Socio-economic	Decommissioning/closure	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary staff should be trained in management skills that can be applied to other employers.</li> </ul>	Medium
	Rehabilitation of drill sites	Fauna and flora	Decommissioning/closure	Medium/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site must be rehabilitated to as close to its pre-drilling state as possible.</li> </ul>	Low

**(iv)The outcome of the site selection Matrix. Final Site Layout Plan**

*(Provide a final site layout plan as informed by the process of consultation with interested and affected parties)*

Final site layout will be provided during EIA phase.

**(v) Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.**

Based on historical data and accessible information, the application region has been chosen as the preferable location, indicating the potential for economically valuable minerals to develop. Mining activities have been carried out in close proximity to the application area, according to the locality map supplied in this report. However, additional specific information about the mineral mined earlier, as well as the duration and termination of mining, is not accessible for inclusion in this report.

**(vi)Statement motivating the preferred site.**

*(Provide a statement motivation the final site layout that is proposed)*

Prospecting sites, as well as accompanying campground locations and access roads, are among the locations evaluated for the planned project. The site was chosen based on a number of factors, including environmental concerns (how sensitive is the area in terms of soils, wetlands, and groundwater, for example) and the project's reliance on the essential infrastructure.

**1. Plan of study for the Environmental Impact Assessment process**

During the scoping phase, potential environmental implications were identified, and alternatives were discussed. The following section explains the proposed study strategy for the many environmental elements that will be conducted during the EIA phase. It's worth noting that the study's strategy will be influenced by feedback received from I&APs and other stakeholders throughout the PPP of the Scoping Phase.

**i. Description of alternatives to be considered including the option of not going ahead with the activity.**

During the scoping and impact assessment phase of the project, suitable alternatives must be evaluated and assessed, according to MPRDA and NEMA standards. Engineering designs, specialized contributions, and I&AP comments must all be evaluated throughout the scoping phase, based on the EAP's professional judgment. The identified alternatives must meet the triple bottom line of sustainability, i.e., they must meet the public's social, economic, and ecological needs. The options must strive to address the proposed project's major significant impacts by maximizing benefits while avoiding or minimizing negative consequences. Rather than minimizing negative consequences, the primary goal must be to eliminate them entirely. Alternatives' "feasibility" and "reasonability," as well as the need for them, must be decided by taking into account:

- The general purpose and requirements of the activity
- Need and desirability



- Opportunity costs
- The need to avoid negative impact altogether
- The need to maximise benefits
- The need to minimise unavoidable negative impacts
- The need for equitable distributional consequence

As part of the impact assessment, a comparative assessment (of all alternatives identified) will be done in compliance with the aforementioned criteria.

## ii. Description of aspects to be assessed by specialists

Table 15 below lists the features of the selected choice that will be evaluated by the various professionals. The following steps will be followed by each specialty study:

- Identify specific areas of concern based on a thorough understanding of the project and the sensitivity of the affected environment, as well as a thorough examination of all issues presented by stakeholders;
- Interact with other specialists as needed to ensure that problems of concern are integrated, and an appropriate evaluation is made;
- Define the applicable laws and regulations for the specific specialist study;
- Define the baseline environment by reviewing available data from previous studies and, if necessary, conducting further field studies;
- Examine the direct, indirect, and cumulative consequences;
- Provide mitigation methods to decrease residual consequences to an acceptable level. Provide recommendations to address residual consequences, such as biodiversity offsets, if necessary, and;
- Provide detailed monitoring plans where required.

**Table 15: Plan of study of aspects to be assessed by specialists.**

<b>Specialist study</b>	<b>Plan of study</b>
Soil, Land Use, Land Capability and Land Potential Assessment	<p>The study will be conducted by Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions and will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To define wide baseline conditions and areas of environmental sensitivity and sensitive agricultural areas, a desktop evaluation of current soil and climatic databases was conducted;</li> <li>• Examine the spatial distribution of different soil types in the target areas;</li> <li>• Determine the impact of limiting soil features on land capabilities under current conditions;</li> <li>• Based on a desktop analysis of current data, compile multiple maps displaying on-site circumstances, soil types, and land capabilities;</li> <li>• A soil classification survey within the focus regions and zones of influence to categorize soil into soil forms;</li> <li>• A manual bucket hand auger will be used to conduct subsurface soil inspections and sample;</li> <li>• Using the South African Soil Classification System (Soil Classification Working Group, 2018), classify the major soil types.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile a report that includes the results of the desktop study as well as a description of the field assessment's findings; and</li> <li>• Provide mitigation measures and management procedures that should be implemented in order to comply with applicable laws.</li> </ul>
Surface Water Assessment	<p>Surface water assessment will be conducted by Tale Enviro Consulting and will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a baseline and situational analysis, which should include the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Characterisation of rainfall, evaporation data and design storm intensities;</li> <li>○ Characterization of the site's baseline hydrology;</li> <li>○ a review of the data on water quality that is currently available; and</li> <li>○ Review of topographical and geotechnical conditions, as well as present and future layout, based on client input and conclusions during the site visit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Creating a conceptual stormwater management strategy, which includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Classification of clean and filthy water, catchment delineation, and stormwater routing;</li> <li>○ Hydraulic calculations for conveyance infrastructure, including peak flow estimation and hydraulic sizing of channels, kerbs, culverts, and silt traps;</li> <li>○ Pollution Control Dams (PCDs) sizing using a daily time step approach;</li> <li>○ Stormwater infrastructure conceptual designs, such as channels, culverts, kerbing, silt traps, PCDs, and spillways.</li> <li>○ Recommendations for more effort to build precise stormwater infrastructure designs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Present a qualitative assessment of the project's impact on the baseline surface water environment, a set of mitigation actions to mitigate these impacts, and monitoring recommendations.</li> <li>• Compile a specialist report that includes management and mitigation strategies.</li> </ul>
Ground water	<p>Groundwater specialist study will be conducted by Tale Enviro Solutions and will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine all available hydrogeological data including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring data and baseline hydrogeology (water levels and quality);</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Numerical modelling of groundwater:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The present groundwater numerical model will be revised based on the source term acquired from the geochemical investigation.</li> <li>○ The EIA and WULA will use the model results to determine whether or not there is a risk of groundwater pollution.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The groundwater research will involve a geochemical and waste assessment to determine the potential for contamination from any project residues or waste. The trash</li> </ul>

	<p>evaluation shall be carried out in accordance with the National Norms and Standards (Regulation 635 and 656 of 2013).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates to the existing monitoring program and identification of mitigation/management measures (where required).</li> <li>• Compile a specialist hydrogeological report.</li> </ul>
Heritage and Palaeontology	<p>The heritage impact assessment will be conducted by Heritage Consultants and will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A quick desktop analysis and a field survey will be used to assess the anticipated development footprint in order to better understand the project area's heritage character.</li> <li>• Assessment of the proposed project's impact on non-renewable heritage resources and</li> <li>• Compile a specialist report that includes management and mitigation strategies.</li> </ul>
Closure study and Financial Provision	<p>The Closure and Financial Provision Study will be conducted by Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions and will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update of the closure plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update the closure strategy, objectives, and methods, as well as design principles and reasons, in order to meet the closure goal.</li> <li>○ To incorporate risks, update the environmental risk assessment.</li> <li>○ Evaluate any long-term latent consequences and mitigation methods (with the help of experts).</li> <li>○ Future monitoring, auditing, and reporting methods should be updated.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Update of the closure liability calculations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ According to the Financial Provisioning Regulations (GNR1147 of 2015) as amended, updates quantities and cost estimates related with closure activities (based on the most recent mine plan).</li> <li>○ Identify any knowledge gaps (which will be followed up with future updates to the closure plan and closure liability).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Update of preliminary annual rehabilitation plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As part of the anticipated Financial Provisioning Regulations, the preliminary yearly rehabilitation plan will be updated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**iii. Proposed method of assessing the environmental aspects including the proposed method of assessing alternatives**

Please refer to section (vi) and section 1(ii)

**iv. The proposed method of assessing duration significance**

Please refer to section (vi)

**v. The stages at which the competent authority will be consulted**

The EIA report will be created and submitted to the KZN DMRE for assessment and decision-making, including comments obtained throughout the I&AP review process. If requested, a site visit and meeting will be scheduled.

**vi. Particulars of the public participation process with regard to the Impact Assessment process that will be conducted**

**1. Steps to be taken to notify interested and affected parties.**

*(These steps must include the steps that will be taken to ensure consultation with the affected parties identified in (h) (ii) herein).*

- Identifying major Interested and Affected Parties (affected and neighbouring landowners) as well as other stakeholders (state agencies and other parties);
- Placement of site notices on farms, and other accessible public areas;
- Notification of the application to key Interested and Affected Parties as well as other stakeholders in a formal manner;
- Consultation with I&APs and Stakeholders, as well as correspondence and response to their concerns. This appendix will be included in the Final Basic Assessment; and
- Newspaper Advertisements.

**2. Details of the engagement process to be followed.**

*(Describe the process to be undertaken to consult interested and affected parties including public meetings and one on one consultation. NB the affected parties must be specifically consulted regardless of whether or not they attended public meetings and records of such consultation will be required in the EIA at a later stage).*

The objectives of PPP include:

- Allowing interested and affected parties (I&APs) to express their support, express their concerns, and ask questions about the project, application, or decision;
- Providing a chance for I&APs, Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs), and the Competent Authority (CA) to gather clear, accurate, and intelligible information regarding the proposed activity's or decision's environmental, social, and economic impacts;
- Allowing I&APs to make suggestions for lowering or neutralizing negative effects of an activity, as well as promoting favourable effects; and
- Allowing the applicant to include the needs, preferences, and values of those who will be affected in the application.

The PPP must adhere to a number of essential pieces of legislation that demand public input as part of a request for authorization or permission, including:

- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002 - MPRDA); and
- The National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998 - NEMA).

Following the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts will enable an Integrated PPP to be implemented, hence satisfying the Acts' requirement for public engagement.

During the process, the following procedures are utilized to create a stakeholder database that will be used to ensure that all stakeholders interested in or affected by the proposed Project are properly represented. The following were included:

- To verify land ownership and gather contact information, search works and desktop searches are undertaken in and around the project area;
- Responses to adverts in newspapers, public announcements, and site notifications;
- Responses to the Background Information Document (BID) that was distributed;
- Identification and consultation with stakeholders, such as commenting authorities (municipalities at the local and district levels);
- Organs of state, other than the competent authority, with jurisdiction over any aspect of the proposed project and affected authorities, such as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Kwazulu Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- Consultations with affected landowners.

### **3. Description of the information to be provided to Interested and Affected Parties.**

*(Information to be provided must include the initial site plan and sufficient detail of the intended operation and the typical impacts of each activity, to enable them to assess what impact the activities will have on them or on the use of their land).*

The PPP began on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, with a site inspection that involved posting site notifications in and around the different farms' fences.

An advertisement was placed and published in the "The Vryheid Herald" newspaper for the week of 21 January 2022;

- ❖ Site Notices: erected at prominent points on 19 January 2022; and
- ❖ Public Notices were distributed to identified stakeholders, landowners and residence (where possible) from the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 and throughout the registration period.

No public meetings were held at this stage. Arrangements will be made with registered interested and affected parties who will register as stakeholders in due course.

#### **vii) Description of the tasks that will be undertaken during the environmental impact assessment process**

The following tasks will be undertaken during the Environmental Impact Assessment process:

- **Specialist assessment and input.**
  - EAP will be in charge of managing specialist activities and receiving input for the EIA report. Throughout the EIA process, specialists should be kept informed of any difficulties that arise.

- **Environmental Impact Assessment phase.**
    - Assess environmental impacts and compile EIA report.
    - Interested and Affected parties' consultation.
    - Meetings with authorities and affected parties if required.
    - Public meetings if required.
    - Provide EIA report to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and authorities to review.
    - Review of EIA report (30 days) by I&APs and authorities.
    - Collate and respond to comments and finalize the EIA report.
    - Submission of the EIA report to DMRE.
  - **Authority review and Authorization phase**
    - Review of the EIA report by Competent Authority.
    - Environmental Authorization to be granted or refused.
  - **Decision**
    - Notifications to I&AP's regarding environmental authorisation (granted or refused).
  - **Appeal phase**
    - As needed, the EAP will provide information on the appeals procedure.
    - Consultation during processing of appeal if relevant.
    - Submit an appeal in accordance with the National Appeal Regulations of 2014.
- viii) Measures to avoid, reverse, mitigate, or manage identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.**

Please refer to Table 14: Significant impact and risk.

**j) Other Information required by the competent Authority**

No other information was requested or required from the Competent Authority.

- i) Compliance with the provisions of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) read with section 24 (3) (a) and (7) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). the EIA report must include the:-

**(1) Impact on the socio-economic conditions of any directly affected person.**

*(Provide the results of Investigation, assessment, and evaluation of the impact of the mining, bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting on any directly affected person including the landowner, lawful occupier, or, where applicable, potential beneficiaries of any land restitution claim, attach the investigation report as **Appendix 2.19.1** and confirm that the applicable mitigation is reflected in 2.5.3; 2.11.6.and 2.12.herein).*

Directly affected parties will be able to express their concerns during the consultation process. It's also worth noting that I&APs, including directly affected parties like landowners, have the option to examine

and comment on this report. The outcomes of the public consultation will be included in the final report that will be sent to the department for review.

## 2) Impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act.

*(Provide the results of Investigation, assessment, and evaluation of the impact of the mining, bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) with the exception of the national estate contemplated in section 3(2)(i)(vi) and (vii) of that Act, attach the investigation report as **Appendix 2.19.2** and confirm that the applicable mitigation is reflected in 2.5.3; 2.11.6.and 2.12.herein).*

Based on the desktop work completed, mitigation measures advocated in this report include no drill site being located within 100 meters of any designated heritage site (which may occur during the prospecting phase). If any paleontological or cultural artefacts are discovered, work must cease immediately, the site must be clearly marked, and SAHRA and LIHRA must be alerted promptly. Only SAHRA's permission is required to resume work at the discovery site.

### k) Other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.

*(the EAP managing the application must provide the competent authority with detailed, written proof of an investigation as required by section 24(4)(b)(i) of the Act and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives, as contemplated in sub-regulation 22(2)(h), exist. The EAP must attach such motivation as **Appendix** ).*

According to Section 24(4)(b)(i) of the NEMA (as modified), an investigation must be conducted to evaluate the probable environmental consequences or impacts of the alternatives and to assess the significance of these consequences or impacts, including the option of not carrying out the activity. Alternatives are discussed in detail in Section (viii) of this report and will be addressed in depth during the EIA phase after all expert assessments and comments from I&APs, stakeholders, and competent authorities have been received.

## I) UNDERTAKING REGARDING CORRECTNESS OF INFORMATION

I Boipelo Motlhalhedi herewith undertake that the information provided in the foregoing report is correct, and that the comments and inputs from stakeholders and Interested and Affected parties has been correctly recorded in the report.



Signature of the EAP

DATE:11/05/2022

**m) UNDERTAKING REGARDING LEVEL OF AGREEMENT**

I Boipelo Motlathedi herewith undertake that the information provided in the foregoing report is correct, and that the level of agreement with interested and Affected Parties and stakeholders has been correctly recorded and reported herein.



**Signature of the EAP**

**DATE: 11/05/2022**

**-END-**



**APPENDIX 1: EAP QUALIFICATIONS**



**Tshwane University  
of Technology**

*We empower people*

**BACCALAUREUS  
TECHNOLOGIAE**

**GEOLOGY**

Awarded to

**BOIPELO MOTLHATHEDI**


213487647

1994-11-04

Having complied with the  
Requirements of the Act and Statute

2019-12-13

BT54138

  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
On behalf of Council and Senate

  
Registrar



Tshwane University of Technology, formerly known as Technikon North-West, Technikon Northern Gauteng or Technikon Pretoria.



**Tshwane University  
of Technology**

*We empower people*

# **NATIONAL DIPLOMA**

**GEOLOGY**

**Awarded to**

**BOIPELO MOTLHATLHEDI**

**213487647**

**1994-11-04**

**Having complied with the  
Requirements of the Act and Statute**

**2016-07-01**

**ND79548**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Steiner'.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
On behalf of Council and Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boipelo Motlhatlhedu'.

Registrar



## APPENDIX 2: EAP CV

### Boipelo Motlathedi

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

**Address** Pretoria, GP, 0184

**Phone** 083 473 8300

**E-mail** motlathedib04@gmail.com

Environmental Assessment Practitioner with over 3 years of successful experience in Environmental Impact Assessments and Project Management. Recognized consistently for performance excellence and contributions to success in the environmental industry. Strengths in communication, report writing, and presentation backed by Geological skills.

### Skills

Environmental Impact Assessments	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Environmental Management and Monitoring	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Organizational and Project Management skills	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Communication and Report writing skills	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Work History

**2018-05 - 2021-01**

#### Environmental Assessment Practitioner

*Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Witbank, Mpumalanga*

- Effectively managing projects and administrating the environmental legislative processes (e.g. Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No. 28 of 2002).
- Actively involved in project management and Environmental Authorization processes.
- Basic Assessment and Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment processes according to the EIA legislation.
- Environmental site assessment & exploration drilling.
- Public, authority and stakeholder consultation.
- Public Participation Processes.
- Compiling Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Reports.
- Mining Permit and Prospecting Right Applications.
- Quickly learned new skills and applied them to daily tasks, improving efficiency and productivity.

**2016-02 - 2016-07**

#### Geophysicist Intern

*Open Grounds Resources (Pty) Ltd, Pretoria, Gauteng*

- Assisting with conducting gravity, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Resistivity surveys for clients.

- Compiling, interpreting and integrating geophysical data for regional scale interpretations.
- Interpreting data using Surfer Software.
- Compiling reports for clients

## Education

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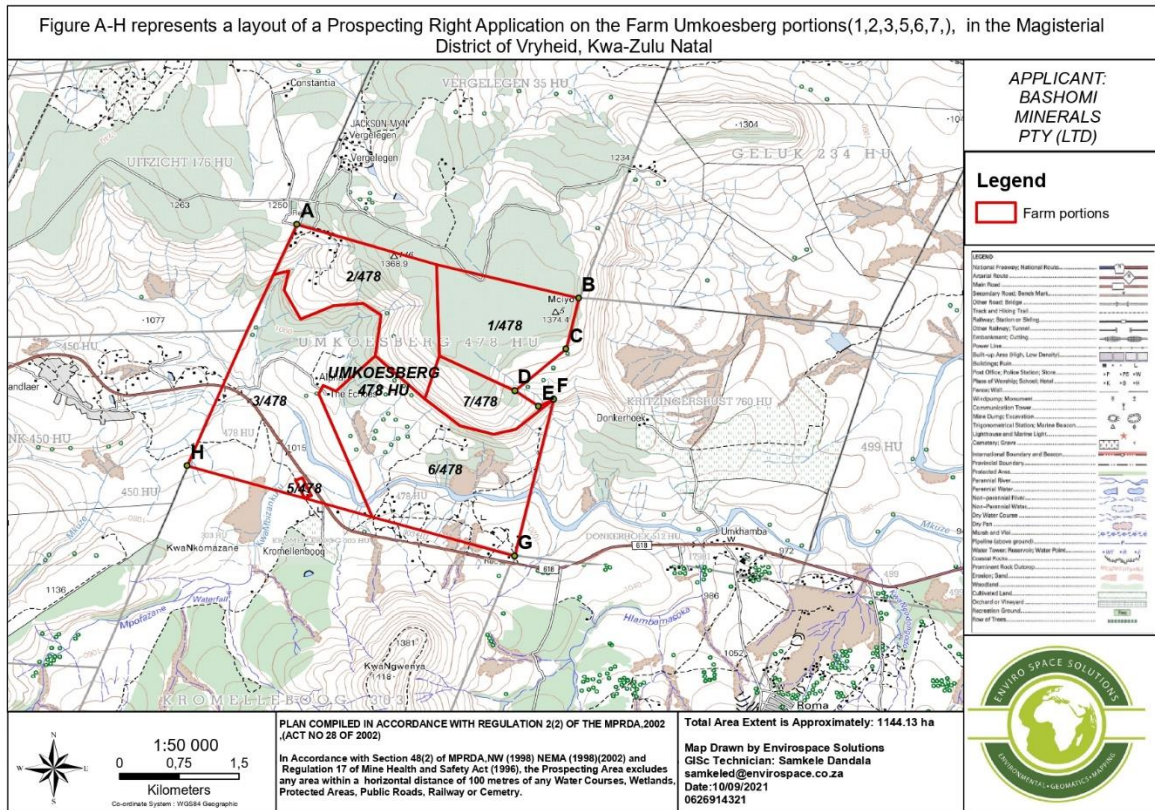
<b>2017-01 - 2019-12</b>	<b>Bachelor of Technology: Geology</b> <i>Tshwane University of Technology – Pretoria</i>
<b>2013-01 - 2016-12</b>	<b>National Diploma: Geology</b> <i>Tshwane University of Technology – Pretoria</i>
<b>2010-01 - 2012-12</b>	<b>High School Diploma</b> <i>Mmamethake High School - Mmamethake, Mpumalanga</i>

## References

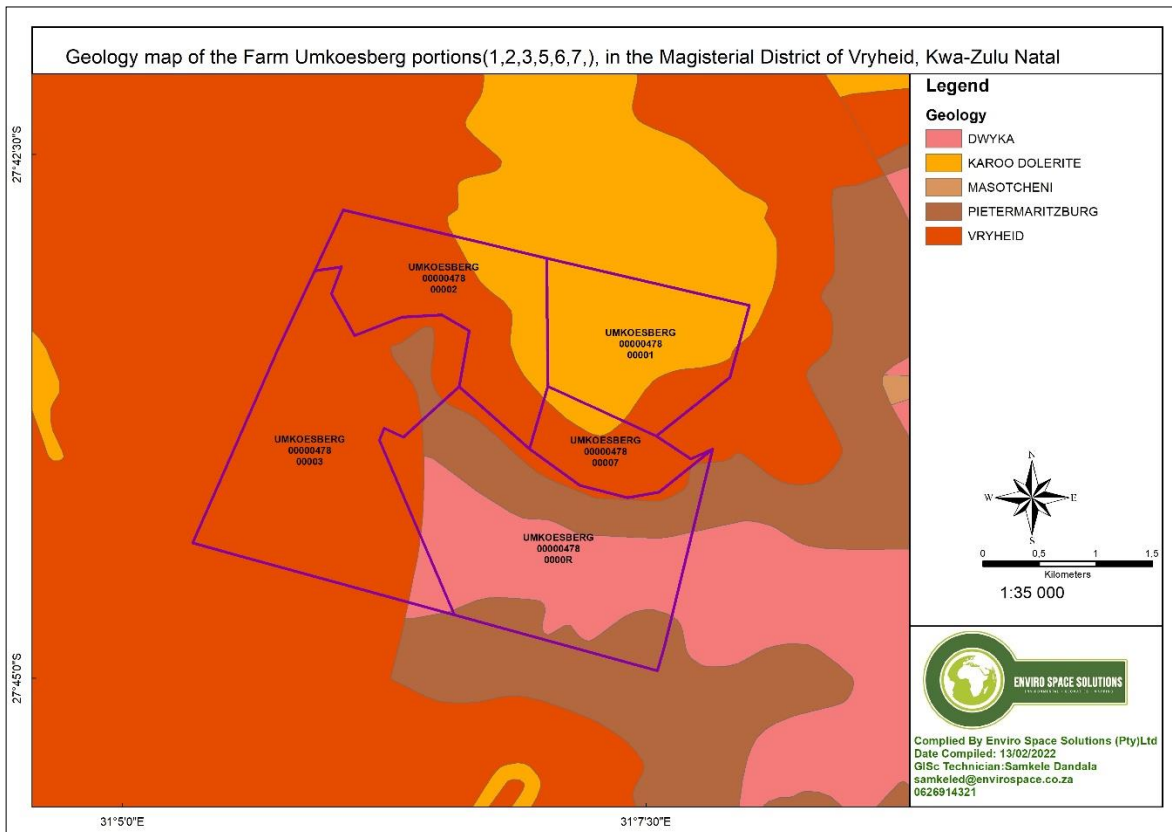
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- Mr Alten Du Plessis (Professional)  
**Open Grounds Resources**  
Tel: 012 996 3003  
Cell: 082 450 5077  
Email: [alten@openground.co.za](mailto:alten@openground.co.za)
- Dr Kenneth Singo (Professional)  
**Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd**  
Tel: 013 692 0041  
Cell: 078 272 7839  
Email: [kenneth@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:kenneth@singoconsulting.co.za)

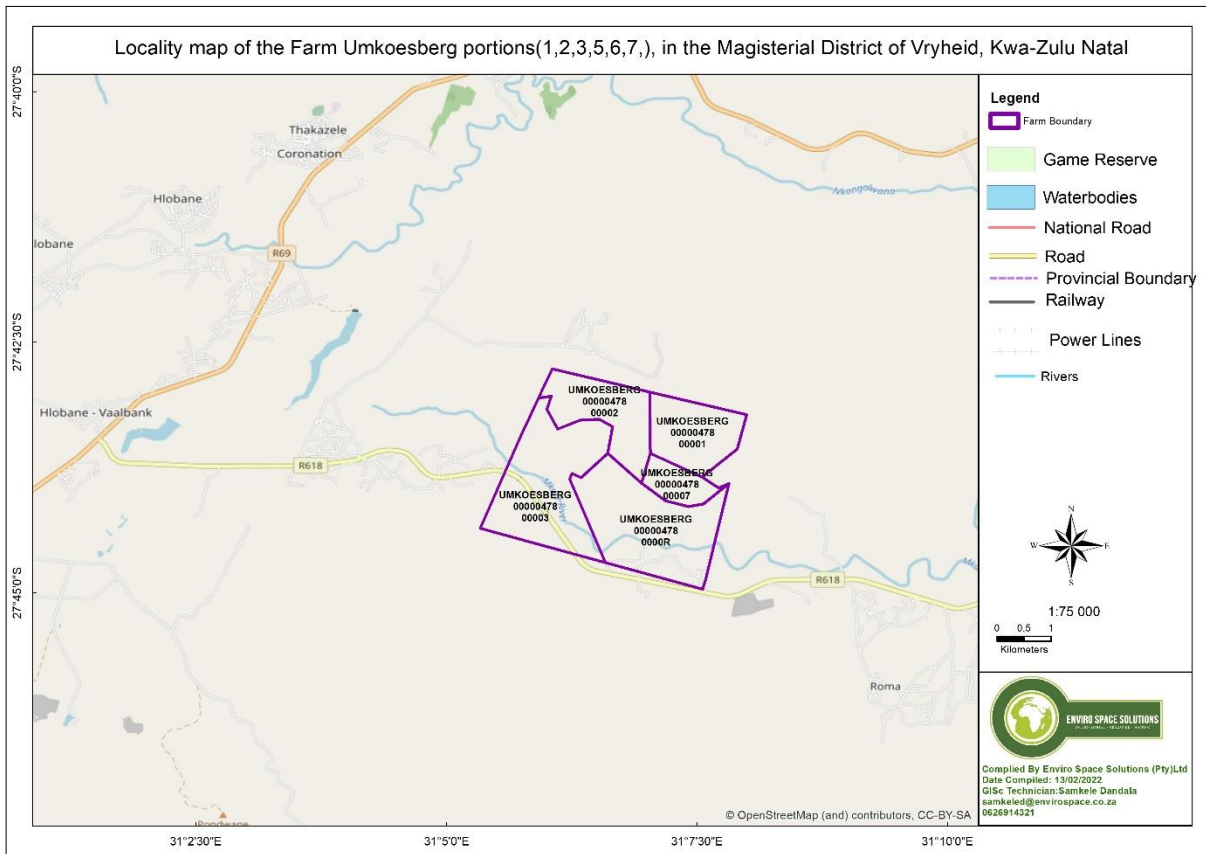
**APPENDIX 3: PROJECT MAPS**



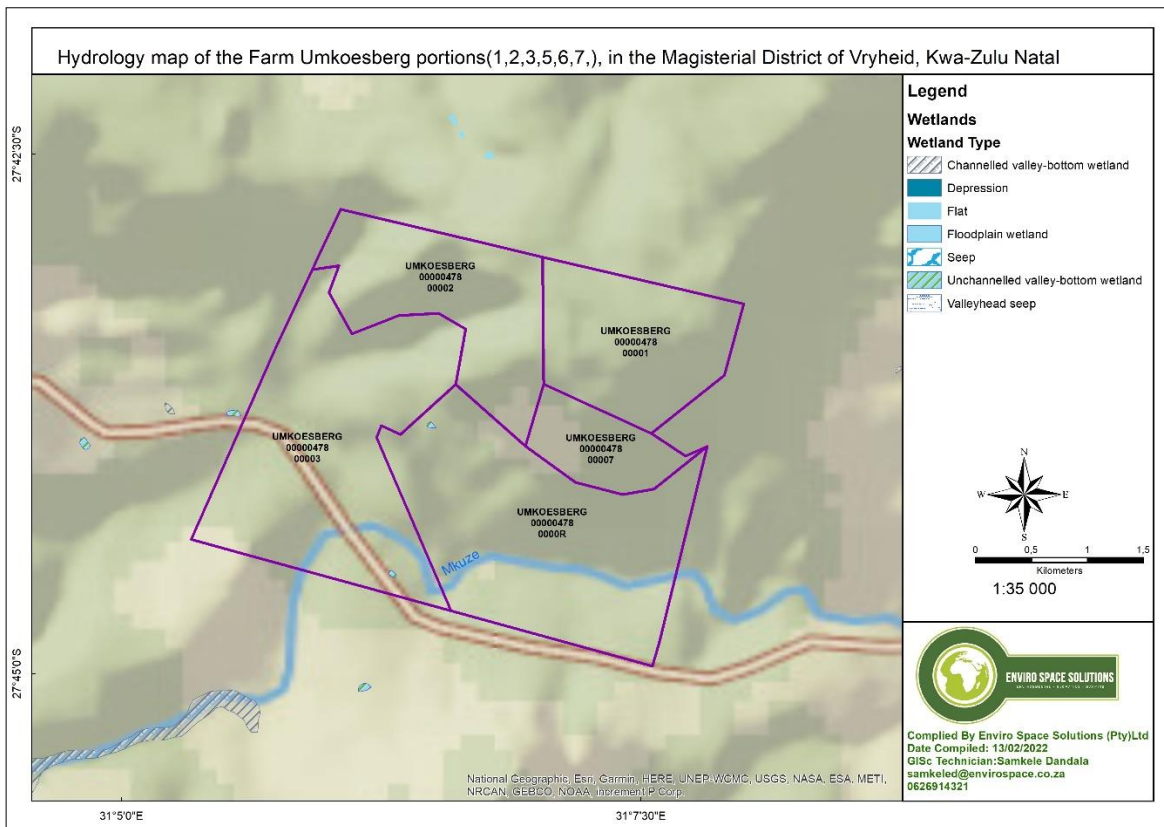
**REGULATION MAP**



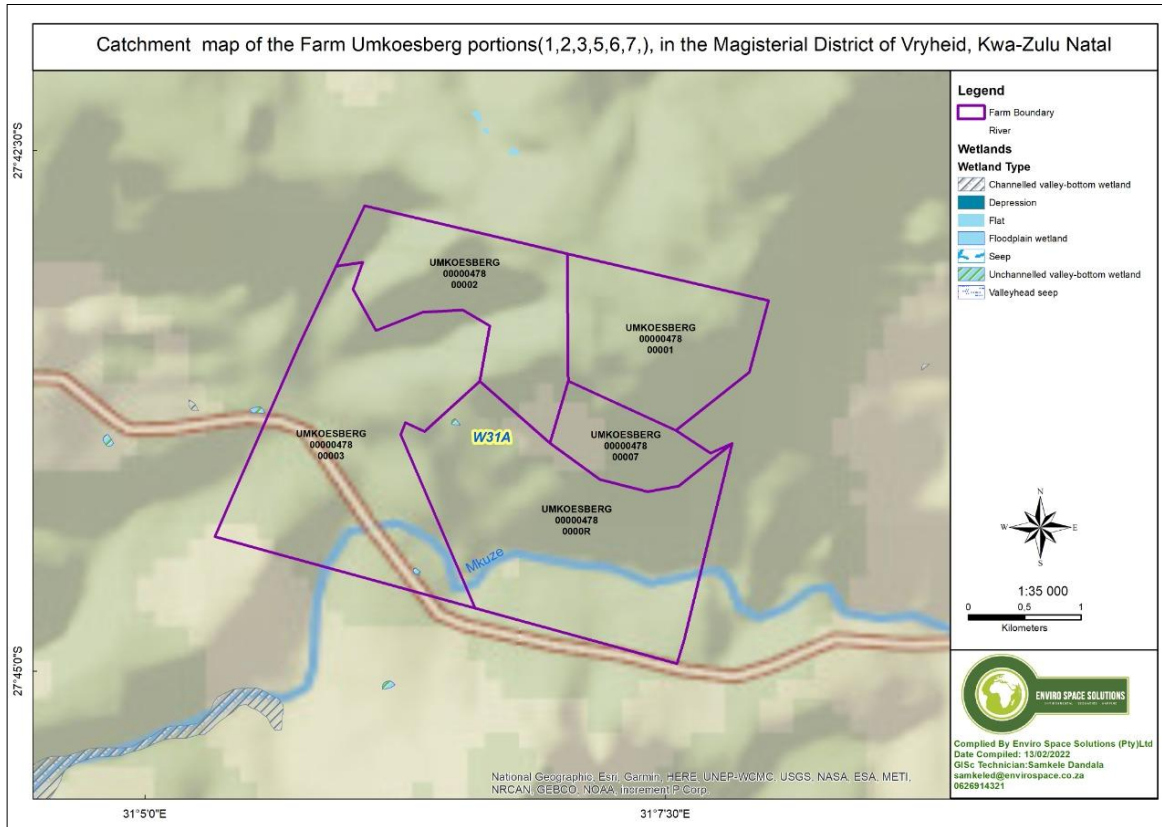
**GEOLOGY MAP**



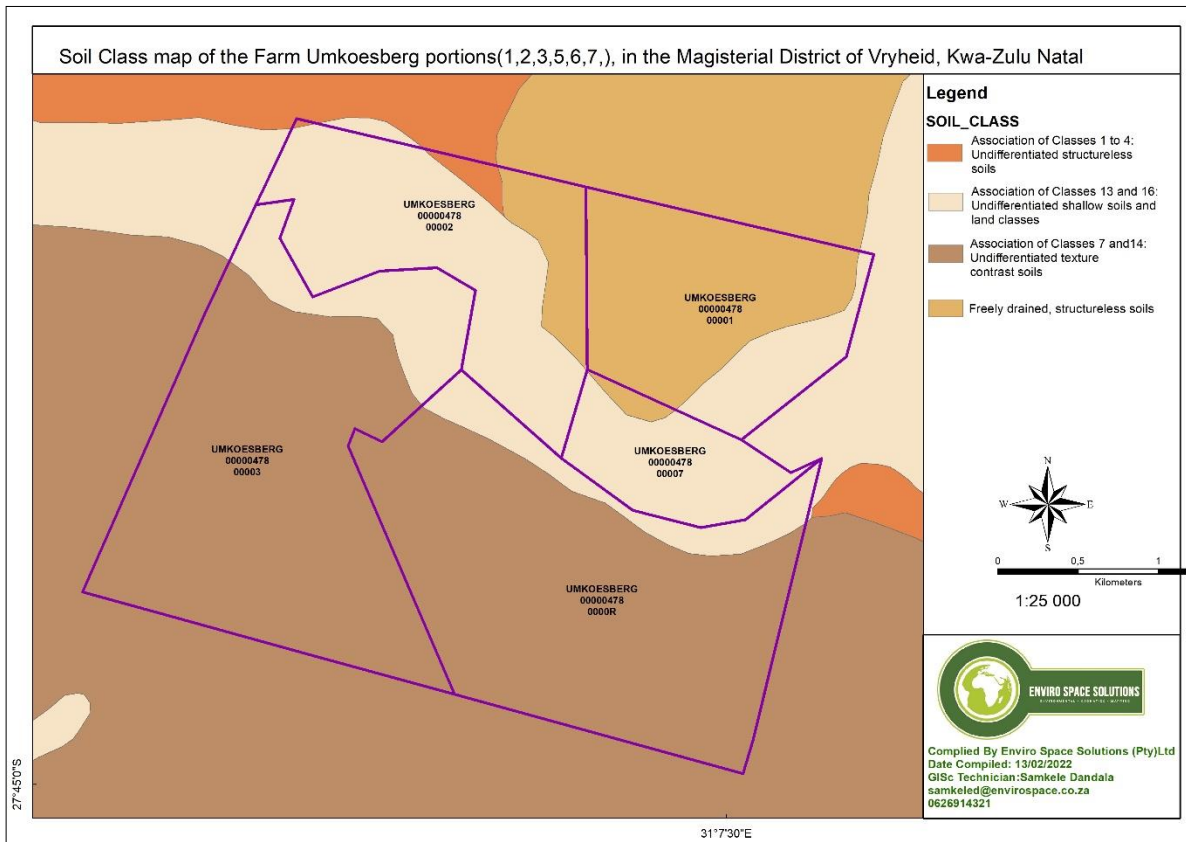
LOCALITY MAP



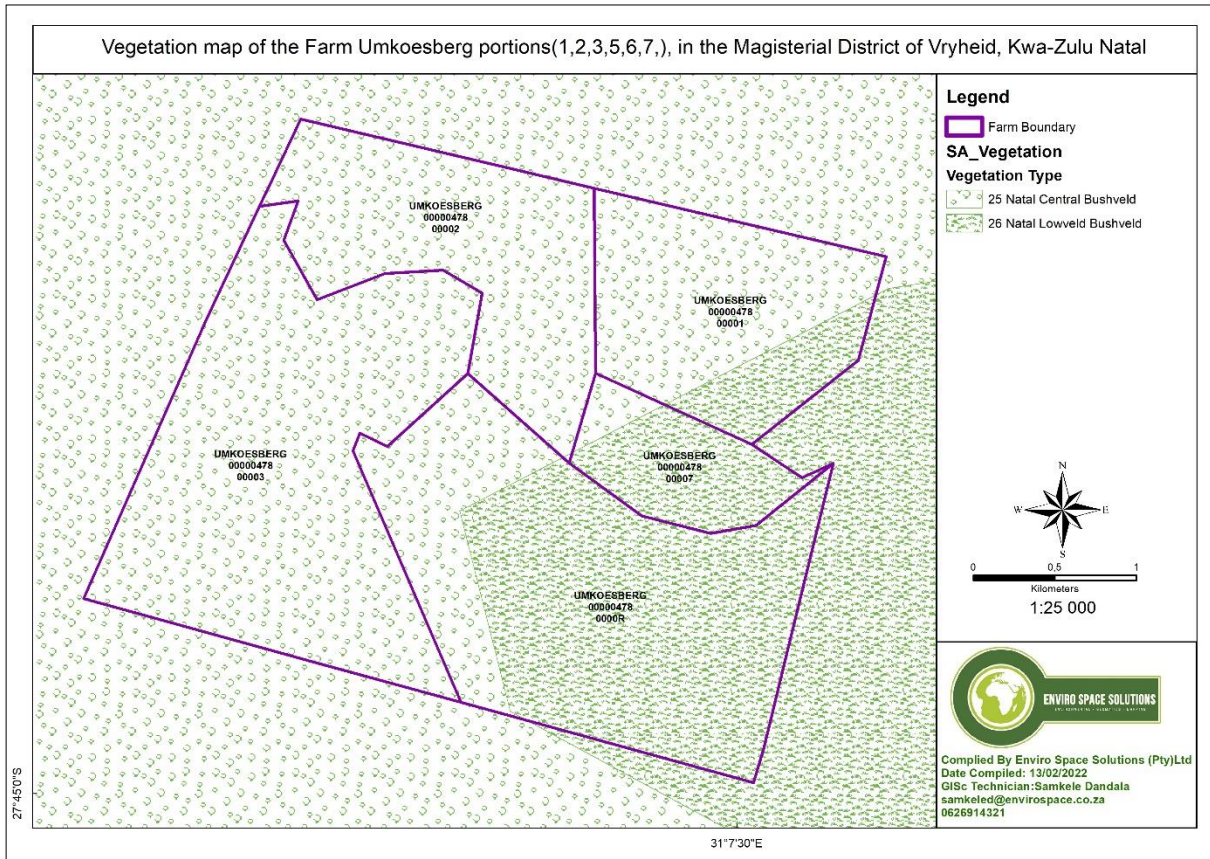
HYDROLOGY MAP



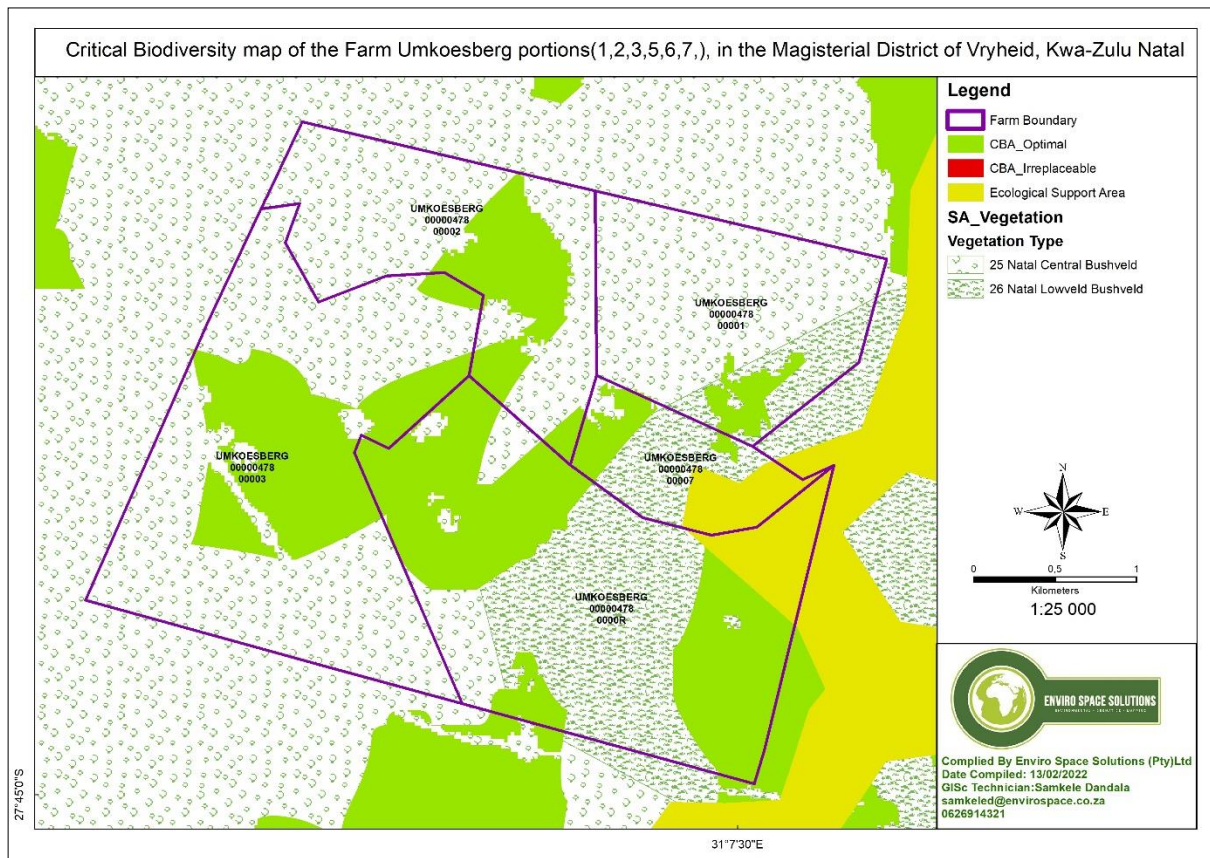
QUATERNARY CATCHMENT MAP



SOIL CLASSIFICATION MAP

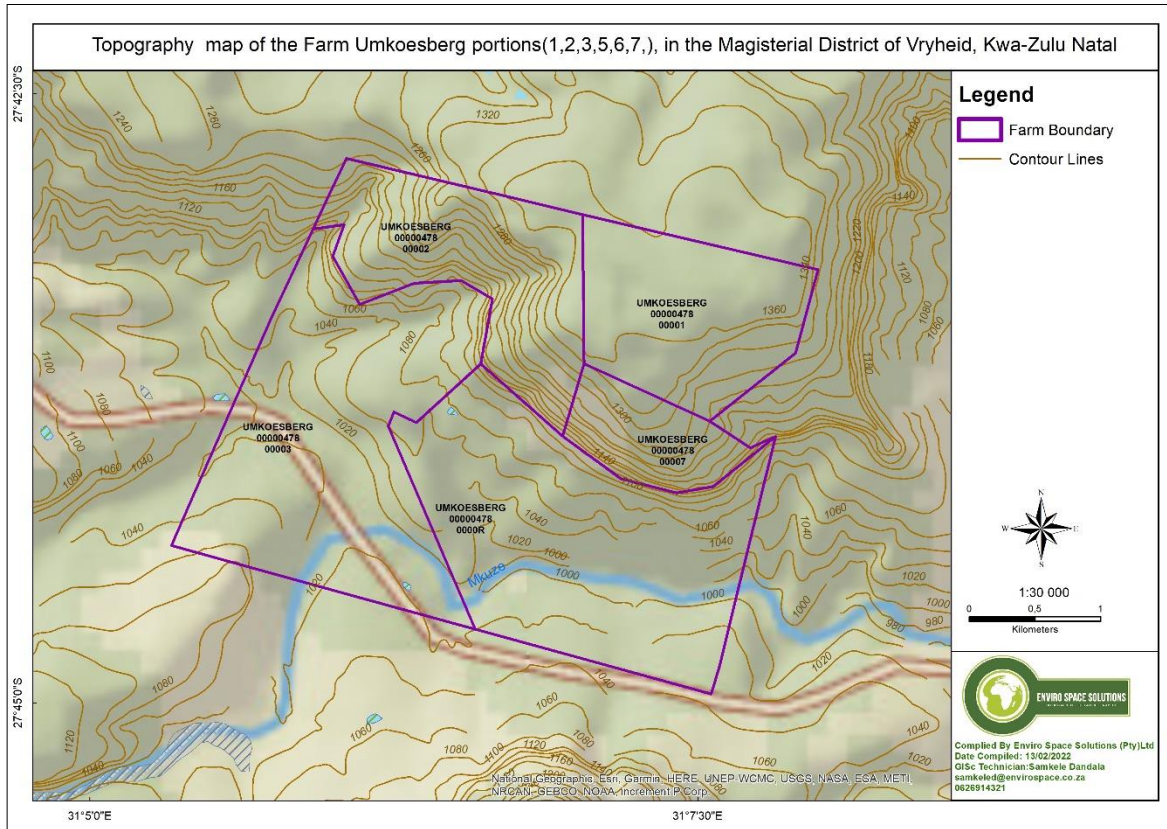


**VEGETATION MAP**

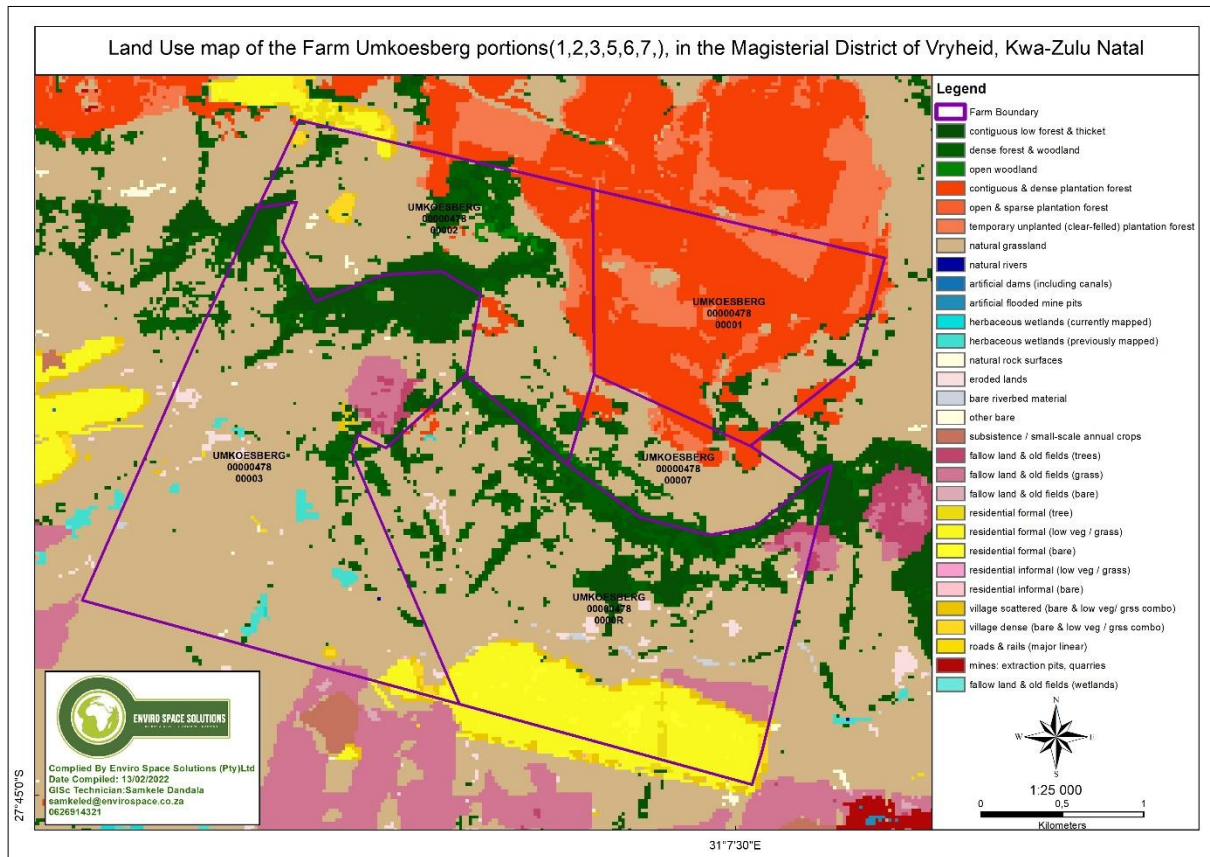


**CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS MAP**





TOPOGRAPHY MAP



LAND USE MAP

## APPENDIX 4: COMPETENT AUTHORITY



Private Bag X 54307, DURBAN, 4000, 333 Anton Lembede Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Durban Bay House, DURBAN  
Tel (031) 335 9600, Fax (031) 305 5801 Enquiries: Mr. K.G Moodley Email: karoon.moodley@dmre.gov.za  
Reference: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160PR

THE MANAGER  
BASHOMI MINERALS (PTY) LTD  
**P.O BOX 557**  
**ROSSLYN**  
**0200**

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION LODGED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) READ WITH REGULATION 21 AND 23 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) - PROSPECTING RIGHT (WITH BULK SAMPLING) AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES. LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED BY APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MPRDA, 2002 (AS AMENDED) ON UMKOESBERG NO.478HU.**

1. The application for an environmental authorisation lodged on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 is acknowledged.
2. In terms of Regulation 15 of the 2014 NEMA Regulations, an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must identify whether a basic assessment or scoping & environmental impact reporting process must be applied to the application taking into account any notices published in terms of section 24D of the Act.

KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR – BASHOMI MINERALS (PTY) LTD

3. The investigation, assessment and communication of the potential impact of activities must follow the procedure as prescribed in regulations 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, in line with the listed activities identified by your EAP.
4. Your attention is drawn to paragraph 4 of the EA application form which states, *“The Regional Manager will respond to the application and provide the reference and correspondence details of the Competent Authority, and in the event that the application for a right or permit is accepted, together with the date by which the relevant environmental reports must be submitted. Notwithstanding anything that may appear to be stated to the contrary in the acceptance letter, the timeframes are in fact aligned and the prescribed timeframes for the submission of documents as regulated by the NEMA regulations must be strictly adhered to”*
5. If the prospecting right application is rejected, this office will discontinue with the processing of the environmental authorisation application.
6. It must be noted that acknowledgement of your application does not grant you permission to commence with PROSPECTING activities. Commencement of a listed activity without an environmental authorisation constitutes an offence in terms of Section 49A (1) (a) of NEMA, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended and upon conviction for such an offence, a person is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.
7. **The scoping report required in terms of Regulation 21 and in line with Appendix 2 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 must be subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days, which reflects the incorporation of comments received (including other organs of state), including any comments of the competent authority.**

8. Your attention is drawn to Point 3 on page 1 of the EA application form read with Section 8 in respect of the need to lodge proof of an application for a water use licence upon acceptance of the application for permit or right in terms of the MPRDA, 2002 (as amended).
9. Kindly note that Regulation 45 of 2014 EIA Regulations stipulates that “an application in terms of these Regulations lapses and a competent authority will deem the application as having lapsed, if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless extension has been granted in terms of regulation 3(7).”
10. The Public Participation Process must comply with regulation 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
11. You are advised that in terms of Regulation 40 (2) (b) & (c) of the NEMA EIA Regulations “The public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision with regard to an application unless access to that information is protected by law and must include consultation with - (b) every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation, (c) all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates”. This must include but not be limited to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, National Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform.
12. Kindly note that you will be required to upload a copy of the final scoping report and its supporting documentation online and must lodge 2 hard copies at the Regional Office.

Please feel free to contact this office should you have any queries.

***Issued electronically on behalf of the Regional Manager: Mineral and Petroleum Regulation (KZN) on 22/09/2021.***



## mineral resources & energy

Department:  
Minerals Resources and Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 54307, Durban, 4000, 333 Anton Lembede Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Durban Bay House, Durban, Tel (031) 335 9600, Fax (031) 305 5801  
Reference: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR Enquiries: Mr. Sandile. Njapha Email address: [Sandile.njapha@dmre.gov.za](mailto:Sandile.njapha@dmre.gov.za),

### **REGISTERED MAIL**

#### **THE MANAGER**

**BASHOMI MINERALS (PTY) LTD**

**P.O BOX 557**

**TSHWANE**

**PRETORIA**

**0182**

Dear Sir/Madam

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHT IN TERMS OF SECTION 16(4) OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT 28 OF 2002)**

1. Please be informed that your application for Prospecting of Coal on Portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 of the Farm Umkoesberg No. 478-HU situated in the Magisterial District of Zululand:, is hereby accepted on the above-mentioned properties, in terms of section 16 (2) of the Act
2. Take note that in light of the minimum requirements as stipulated on regulation 16 (1) and 16 (2) of the EIA Regulations, your application for an Environmental Authorisation was deemed incomplete as it was not accompanied by this acceptance letter as per Regulation 16 (1) (ix) and considering that it is now completed by this acceptance letter, you are hereby required to submit the documents as stipulated on Regulation 19 (1) to 19 (8) of the EIA Regulation (only in cases where Basic Assessment Report is applicable or Regulation 21 (Scoping Report and Regulation 23 (Environmental Impact Report) (only in cases where applicable). All submission timeframes are effective from the dates of this acceptance letter.

: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR

Acceptance of an Application for Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 Of 2002) To Prospect for Coal on Portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 of the Farm Umkoesberg No. 478-HU situated in the Magisterial District of Zululand:  
Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd S.N

3. Please take further note that in terms of section 16 (4) of the Act, you are required to: -

3.1 Upload unto the SAMRAD system one copy and submit three (03) hard copies of the requisite environmental reports as required by section 16 of the MPRDA within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter. **(12<sup>th</sup> May 2022).**

3.2 To consult in the prescribed manner with the landowner, lawful occupier and any interested and affected party including the Land Restitution Commission and include the result of such consultation in the relevant environmental reports to be submitted and uploaded on the SAMRAD system on or before **11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (within 30 days from the date of this letter)**

*Please note that the consultation process referred to in paragraph 2.2 above does not imply issuing letters and requesting the affected parties to indicate whether they support your proposed project or not.*

*It includes among others an extensive process of giving and discussing the specific details of the proposed project, giving the I & A Parties an opportunity to table their comments, objection and support, it also involves **your written responses and specific commitments made** in dealing with the issues raised during the consultation.*

*Note that it is important to ensure that your consultation process is comprehensive so that your Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan can be informed by all potential impacts that your project may have.*

4. Should the land be owned by the communities or a Trust on behalf of the community, a proper and thorough consultation process must be engaged upon and a legitimate Tribal Resolution or consent must be obtained from the Traditional Authority / Council or Trust and be submitted with the results of consultation. *Should you need any assistance or guidance relating to the required consultation process & procedure in traditional institutions, please contact the District office of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in **Zululand District Municipality.***

: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR

Acceptance of an Application for Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 Of 2002) To Prospect for Coal on Portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 of the Farm Umkoesberg No. 478-HU situated in the Magisterial District of Zululand:

Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd S.N

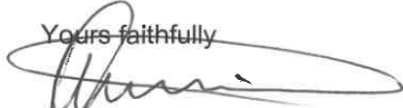
5. Further note that the acceptance of your application does not grant you the right to commence with **prospecting activities**. It only signifies that your application will be processed and evaluated. The Minister or his delegate will make a decision once the process of the evaluation and appeal on the Environmental Authorization application has been finalized.
  
6. You are in terms of Section 17(1) of the Act required to give effect to the objects referred to in Section 2 (d) of the Act. Therefore please submit on or before **25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (within 60 days from the date of this letter)** to this office for the attention of Regional Manager any documentation proving such including but not limited to:-
  - 6.1 Duly signed shareholders agreements with your empowerment partner in which provision **shall** be made for entrepreneurs, local community and employees,
  - 6.2 Share certificates,
  - 6.3 Details relating to the equity by the BEE shareholders, Any other agreement relating to the BEE shareholding including the voting pool agreement where applicable,
  - 6.4 Articles and memorandum of association of the company.
  - 6.5 Any other information that may be necessary to explain and serve as evidence that the applicant meets the appropriate HDSA ownership and/or compliance requirements of the aforesaid Act and Mining Charter.
  
7. Please submit within 60 days (**25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**) from date of this letter for the attention of Regional Manager a complete prospecting work programme prepared in terms of Regulation 7 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act no 28 of 2002): Mineral and Petroleum Development Regulation.
  
8. You are also required to adhere with the requirements of Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate and upload on system the required information and details on or before **11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (within 30 days from the date of this letter)**
  
9. Please be advised that your application might be processed in terms of section 9 (1) (b) of the Act. If this office discovers that there is an existing or pending application on the same properties and for the same mineral, this application shall discontinue.

: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR

Acceptance of an Application for Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 Of 2002) To Prospect for Coal on Portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 of the Farm Umkoesberg No. 478-HU situated in the Magisterial District of Zululand:  
Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd S.N

10. Please take note that failure to adhere to the timeframe stipulated above and to submit any documentation required in terms of this notice will result into non-compliance with the provision of the Act and the Amendment Act and will result in the refusal of your application.

Yours faithfully



**ACTING REGIONAL MANAGER**

**KWAZULU NATAL REGION**

**DATE: 22/12/2021**

: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR

Acceptance of an Application for Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 Of 2002) To Prospect for Coal on Portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 of the Farm Umkoesberg No. 478-HU situated in the Magisterial District of Zululand:  
Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd S.N



## APPENDIX 5: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION APPLICATION ON THE FARM UMKOESBERG 478 HU, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF VRYHEID, KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE.**

#### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information about the proposed prospecting right application and introduce the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed. It also aims to inform I&APs on how to fully participate in the EIA and encourages response to documents distributed for review and active attendance meetings.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd** applied for Prospecting Right (DMRE Ref: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR) and Environmental Authorization in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), Act No 28 of 2002, for **coal** on **portions 1,2,3,5 & 7** of the farm **Umkoesberg 478 HU**.

Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd appointed Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed project.

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002) and EIA regulations 2014, published under Government Notice No.982 in Gazette No. 3822 of 4 December 2014, amended on 7 April 2017, that Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Prospecting Right.

#### PROJECT LOCATION

The Prospecting Right area is located on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU, situated under the Magisterial District of Vryheid in Kwa-Zulu Natal province. The proposed prospecting area is located approximately 30 km north-east of Vryheid, 10 km south-east of Hlobane and approximately 54 km north-west of Nongoma respectively.

Please refer to **Figure 2** for locality map.

#### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and its promulgated EIA Regulations of 2017 (GNR 982, 983, 984 and 985) the prospecting activities require an Environmental Authorisation.

An Environmental Authorisation in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) read with Regulation 19 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and Section 16 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as amended by Section 12 of the MPRDA, 2008 (Act No. 49 of 2008) is required for a Prospecting Right.

#### WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the environmental consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place. The purpose of the EIA is to describe the potential consequences of the proposed development in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be recorded and responded to in the EIA. All comments received in writing are included in the submission to the competent authority for their consideration.

The EIA process consists of two stages. The first stage is a Scoping Study, which identifies potential issues requiring more detailed investigation via specialist studies. A complete list of specialist studies and the issues they should address will be detailed in the Draft Scoping Report, which will be made available for public and authority review.

The second stage is the Impact Assessment phase, during which detailed investigations of the issues identified during scoping, will be undertaken.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS.**

The flow diagram below provides an overview of the EIA process according to the 2014 EIA Regulations:

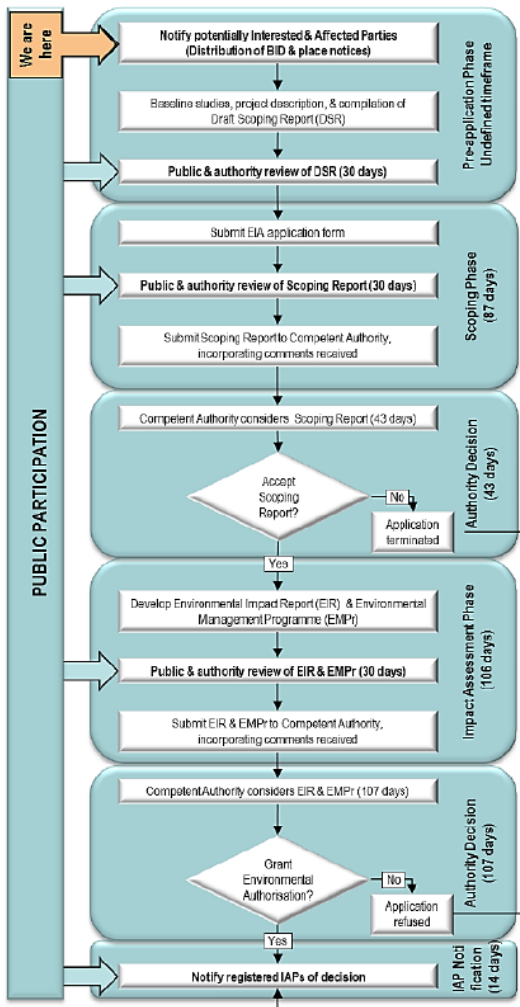


Figure 1: A typical Environmental Impact Assessment process and stages where public comment will be invited.

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

A number of potential impacts have been identified which will be considered further in the process as required. Typical impacts that may be investigated as part of this EIA include:

- Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology).
- Impacts on fauna and flora.
- Agricultural impacts.
- Air quality and noise impacts.
- Terrestrial and aquatic ecology and wetlands.
- Visual impacts

Additional impacts can be added based on the findings of the desktop and site inspection as well as input from the public during Public Participation Process.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern most aspects of Environmental Impact Assessments, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the applicant, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process. IAPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of both the Scoping and EIA Reports, and findings of the Specialist studies during the specified comment periods. IAPs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

**HOW TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY.**

To receive further communications regarding this development, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet on the last page of this document by **11 February 2022**, to:

Miss Boipelo Motlathedi  
 Tel: 081 388 1187  
 Email: [boipelo@moepathutsiqes.co.za](mailto:boipelo@moepathutsiqes.co.za)



Figure 2: Locality map of the proposed project area.



**Address:** 100 Booted Eagle Street  
 Elandsport, Pretoria  
 0184  
**Tel:** +27 (0) 81 388 1187  
**Email:** [boipelo@moepathutsisges.co.za](mailto:boipelo@moepathutsisges.co.za)

## REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

**PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL THE FARM UMKOESBERG 478 HU (DMRE REF: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR), KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE.**

**Attention:** Boipelo Motlathledi

I wish to register an Interested and Affected Party and/or bring to the attention of Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions the following comments:

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Title:	Name:
Organization:	Nature of interest:
Postal Address:	Telephone:
	Mobile:
	Email:

\* The NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, require that an IAP discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application.

\*\*Preferred method of communication. The absence of email / facsimile facilities may result in a delay in receipt of IAP notifications. Please write clearly.

**COMMENTS (Please use additional sheets of paper if required)**


## APPENDIX 6: PROOF OF LANDOWNER CONSULTATION



**MOEPATHUTSI**  
Geo-Environmental  
Solutions

081 388 1187   
info@moepathutsiges.co.za   
www.moepathutsiges.co.za 

**PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL ON THE FARM UMKOESBERG 478 HU, IN THE  
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF VRYHEID, KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE.**

Dear Landowner

**Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd** wishes to inform you about the Prospecting Right application of **Coal** on your property (Umkoesberg 478 HU). **Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd** has applied for Prospecting Right together with Environmental Authorization (EA) in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No.28 of 2002) (MPRDA), on **portions 1,2,3,5,6 & 7 of the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU** (DMRE Ref: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR), situated under the Magisterial District of Vryheid in Kwa-Zulu Natal province.

Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP). We are currently conducting a Basic Assessment process, and if you have any comments, concerns or terms and conditions you would like to lay down with the regards to the proposed project, kindly fill in the form below and register your comments.

Kindly note that as a landowner, your comments are critical in decision making at Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE). Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely,

**Boipelo Motlhatlhedhi**

081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za





**MOEPATHUTSI**  
Geo-Environmental  
Solutions

081 388 1187   
info@moepathutsiges.co.za   
www.moepathutsiges.co.za

**REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET**

**PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL ON THE FARM UMKOESBERG 478 HU (DMRE REF: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR), MPUMAMALANGA PROVINCE.**

**Attention:** Boipelo Motlathledi

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CONTACT INFORMATION	
Title:	Name:
Organization:	Nature of interest:
Postal Address:	Telephone:
	Mobile:
	Email:


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


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**COMMENTS (Please use additional sheets of paper if required)**


## APPENDIX 7: PROOF OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'svdookhilad@abaqulsi.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Thu 2022/01/13 11:30

 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
407 KB

Good day,

I trust this email finds you well.

**Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd** hereby informs you that **Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd** has submitted an application for Prospecting Right together with Environmental Authorization to the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE), for the purpose of prospecting **Coal**. The proposed project is situated on **portions 1,2,3,5,6 & 7** of the farm **Umkoesberg 478 HU** situated under the Magisterial District of Zululand, in Kwa-Zulu Natal province (DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR).

Notice is given in compliance with the terms of: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No.28 of 2002) (MPRDA), National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), and EIA Regulations (as amended, 07 April 2017) which requires that stakeholders must be notified of Bashomi Mineral's intention to obtain a Prospecting Right for Coal.

The purpose of this notification is to make sure that your department is notified about the proposed project, and you are given the opportunity to:

- Register as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs);
- Raise issues and/or concerns and provide suggestions for enhanced benefits;
- Contribute to local knowledge;
- Comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and Environmental Management Plan report (EMPr); and
- Inform any other person/organization

Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake and manage the environmental authorization process, by conducting Public Participation Process (PPP), Environmental Impact Assessment and compile Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan report for the proposed project.

**Please find the attached Background Information Document (BID) for detailed description of the project and timelines.** A draft BAR & EMPr will be made available to you through email, hand delivery or courier once it is ready, to address your issues, concerns, comments or questions you might have during the review period (**11 February 2022-14 March 2022**)

Should you need any clarity on the attached document or have any queries with regards to the proposed project, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below.

Kind Regards,


**Boipelo Motlathledi**






081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za

 **MOEPATHUTSI**  
Geo-Environmental  
Solutions



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'records@abaqulusi.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Thu 2022/01/13 11:30

 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
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**Boipelo Motlathledi**

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boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za

 **MOEPATHUTSI**  
Geo-Environmental  
Solutions





Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'amafaddps@amafapmb.co.za'  
Cc 'amafahq@mweb.co.za'



Thu 2022/01/13 11:30



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Kind Regards,

**Boipelo Motlhatlhedhi**

081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'municipalmanager@abaqulusi.gov.za'

👍 Reply Reply All Forward ...  
Thu 2022/01/13 11:28



Good day,

I trust this email finds you well.

**Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd** hereby informs you that **Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd** has submitted an application for Prospecting Right together with Environmental Authorization to the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE), for the purpose of prospecting **Coal**. The proposed project is situated on **portions 1,2,3,5,6 & 7** of the farm **Umkoesberg 478 HU** situated under the Magisterial District of Zululand, in Kwa-Zulu Natal province (DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR).

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**Boipelo Motlathledi**

081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'info@zululand.org.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward    
Thu 2022/01/13 11:47

 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
407 KB

Good day,

I trust this email finds you well.

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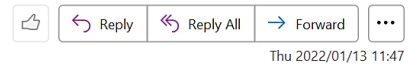
081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To: 'Rengasamy@kznedtea.gov.za'  
Cc: 'siza.sibande@kznedtea.gov.za'



Thu 2022/01/13 11:47



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

**Boipelo Motlathledi**

081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

**B** boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To: 'Mzi.dlamini@kzndard.gov.za'; 'Njabulo.ntshangase@kzndard.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward  Thu 2022/01/13 11:47

 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
407 KB

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



**Boipelo Motlathledi**

081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To: 'bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Thu 2022/01/13 11:46

 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
407 KB

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



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 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'nokuthula.nxumalo@kznedtea.gov.za'

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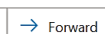

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


081 388 1187  
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www.moepathutsiges.co.za






Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'ThembalakeS@daff.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

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 **MOEPATHUTSI**  
Geo-Environmental  
Solutions



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'govenders2@dws.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

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081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za

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Geo-Environmental  
Solutions



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'edlamini@abaqulusi.gov.za'

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www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
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boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To: 'nelisiwe.magubane@drdlr.gov.za'



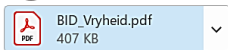
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To 'info@heritagekzn.co.za'



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Kind Regards,

**Boipelo Motlathledi**






081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za





Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'info@amafainstitute.org.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Thu 2022/01/13 12:18

 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
407 KB

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



081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za

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Solutions



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'ndludla@zululand.org.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

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Solutions



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'tmasango@zulunland.org.za'



Reply



Reply All



Forward



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boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'sbusiso.ndwandwe@kzndtea.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Thu 2022/01/13 12:32

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Solutions



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'siza.sibande@kznedtea.gov.za'



Reply

Reply All

Forward



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boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To: 'Kacy.Rengasamy@kznedtea.gov.za'

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

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 BID\_Vryheid.pdf  
407 KB

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081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za

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Geo-Environmental  
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Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za'

Reply Reply All Forward Thu 2022/01/13 12:32



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Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'nerissa.pillay@kznwildlife.com'



Reply

Reply All

Forward



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


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Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'jenny.longmore@kznwildlife.com'

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
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boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR

 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To PMBResourceCentre@Dalrrd.gov.za

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Should you need any clarity on the attached document or have any queries with regards to the proposed project, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below.

Kind Regards,

### Boipelo Motlathledi

081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



#### Land Restitution



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'Lynn Boucher'



👍 Reply Reply All Forward ...  
Thu 2022/01/13 12:36

Good day,

I trust this email finds you well.

You are kindly receiving this email as an enquiry for any possible land claims on **portions 1,2,3,5,6 & 7** of the farm **Umkoesberg 478 HU** situated in the Magisterial District of Zululand in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province (DMRE REF: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR). Kindly review the attached BID for detailed description of the project.

The purpose of this enquiry is to ensure that the claimants are notified about the proposed project and are given the opportunity to: -

- o Register as I&APs and respond to the environmental compliance process;
- o Raise issues of concern and provide suggestions for enhanced benefits;
- o Contribute to local Knowledge;
- o Comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and Environmental Management Program (EMP), and;
- o Inform any other person/organization that they may feel should be informed about the proposed project.

Thank you for taking your time to read this email, your assistance will be highly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

**Boipelo Motlathledi**

081 388 1187  
 boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
 www.moepathutsiges.co.za



RE: Land Restitution

**LB** Lynn Boucher <Lynn.Boucher@dalrrd.gov.za>  
 To boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za

Mon 2022/01/17 09:59

moepathutsi scan 2.pdf  
 172 KB

Good day  
 Please find attached letter in response to your enquiry. In future could you kindly address your enquiries on your official company letterhead.

Regards 



**Mrs Lynn Boucher**  
 Senior Admin Officer: Information Management & Lodgement  
 139 Langalibalele Street | Pietermaritzburg | 3201  
 Private Bag X9120 | Pietermaritzburg | 3200  
 +27 33 341 2600  
 lynn.boucher@dalrrd.gov.za

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*



**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL LAND CLAIMS COMMISSIONER: KWAZULU-NATAL**

139 Langalibalele Street, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200, Private Bag X 9120, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200  
Tel: (033) 341 2600 | Fax: (033) 342 2881

Your Ref:

Enquiries: Lynn Boucher

Moepathuutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions  
100 Booted Eagle Street  
Elandspoort  
**PRETORIA**  
0184

Dear Sir/Madam

**REQUEST INFORMATION ON PROPERTY: LAND CLAIM**

We acknowledge receipt of your enquiry received on 13 January 2022 and advise that our records indicate that no claims for restitution in terms of the provisions of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 22 of 1994 (as amended) have been lodged in respect of the properties described as **Portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the farm Umkoesberg No. 478.**

Whilst great care is taken to verify the accuracy of the information regarding all claims, the Regional Land Claims Commission will not be held responsible for any damage or loss suffered as a result of information furnished in this regard as there are claims lodged with the Commission which are not yet captured in our database as they are not yet published in the relevant government gazette.

Regards

*pp LMJ Boucher*

---

**MR N. P. MDLULI**  
**MANAGER: INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT**  
**DATE: 17 January 2022**

RE: Land Restitution



boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
To 'Lynn Boucher'

👍 Reply Reply All Forward ...  
Thu 2022/02/10 10:27

Good morning Lynn.

Thank you very much for your assistance. Your request has been noted.

Kind regards,

**Boipelo Motlathledi**  
081 388 1187  
boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za  
www.moepathutsiges.co.za



FW: Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



Govender Strinivasen <GovenderS2@dws.gov.za>  
To Mdlletshe Halalisiwe (DBN)  
Cc Dladla Lindiwe (DBN); Gwele Yolanda Uyabulelwa (DBN); boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za

👍 Reply Reply All Forward ...  
Thu 2022/01/13 13:18

**i** This message was sent with High importance.



Good day Dear Ms Mdlletshe

Please see attached and below for your attention and action

Thanking you

Best regards

FW: Prospecting Right application on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU\_DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR



Thobile Masango <tmassage@zululand.org.za>  
To Mfaniseni Bukhosini  
Cc boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za

👍 Reply Reply All Forward ...  
Fri 2022/01/14 11:23



Good morning

Kindly receive the attached documents from Boipelo and assist

Thank you

**KHAMBI TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Venue** : Khambi Traditional Authority, Khambi Area, Abaqulusini.

**Date** : 04.05.2022

**AGENDA**

**Opening and Welcome** : Bongani Nxumalo

**Rollcall and Apologies** : Apologies Induna Dlamini, Induna Mthethwa

**Business of the day** : Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions

**Other business** : Nxumalo (Chairperson)

**Closing** : Bongani Nxumalo

**Opening and Welcome:** Bongani Nxumalo opened the meeting with a prayer. He further extended vote of thanks to the company for recognising the Traditional Council as part of the stakeholders in the area.

**Roll call and Apologies:** Register was circulated for roll call. Induna Dlamini and Induna Mthethwa sent in apologies.

**Business of the Day:** A representative from Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions, Mr Given Mothoa briefed the council on the purpose of the meeting. Background Information Documents were distributed for ease of reference.

Moepathutsi is an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) appointed by Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment process on the Prospecting Right application on portions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 of farm Umkoesberg 487HU situated under the Magisterial District of Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal.

The application to prospect for coal has been accepted by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No.28 of 2002) all relevant stakeholders must be consulted and be registered as Interested and Affected Party.

Effective Communication in the form of meetings and submission of comments from all interested and Affected parties is required to ensure that all issues pertaining to the application are attended to, with specific attention to environmental degradation.

The current prospecting process have minimal damage on the environment as it constitutes a number of non-invasive activities amongst others and not limited to geological mapping, pit trenching, diamond core drilling to confirm and estimate coal resource.

Moepathutsi requested the Traditional Council to fully support the application as this will bring about positive developments in the area.

Floor was opened for questions and discussion

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Inkosi Zulu thanked the company for showing interest for investment in the area and commended the route we took to consult them accordingly since many companies do not conduct public consultation. He further welcomed the proposed application and requested the council to rally behind the project to ensure its smooth sailing.</p> <p>Inkosi Zulu lambasted on the standard of living and the level of poverty the community is subjected to due to unemployment and lack of opportunities. He said that this project could be the beginning of the new era in the area.</p> <p>Chief Zulu asked how long the application process will take before the actual work could begin.</p>	<p>Once the Basic Assessment Report is completed and all relevant stakeholders duly consulted, a decision will be made by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy of whether of grant or reject the application based on the comments made by all stakeholders. This process could take up to 120 days.</p> <p>We shall keep the Council updated on developments of the processes.</p> <p>Yes the project has a potential of creating employment opportunities. Local residents will be prioritized when coming to job opportunities.</p>
<p>Bongani Nxumalo also appreciated the company was acknowledging the Khambi Tribal Authority. He wanted to understand the environmental impacts the application will have on the area.</p> <p>He further mentioned that the area is currently used for cattle grazing.</p>	<p>Moepathutsi is appointed to ensure that all environmental regulations are adhered to. The Prospecting Right application have minimal non-invasive activities at will have less impact on the land. The company will use existing roads to access the project area. All drilling area will be rehabilitated accordingly.</p> <p>During drilling, only a small portion of land will be utilized, and will be properly rehabilitated.</p> <p>Should the community or council feel like we are not adhering to the regulations, the Department of Mineral Resources &amp; Energy could intervene.</p>
<p>Induna Wiseman Zulu also welcomed the company and wished them well on the application process. He complained about the rate of unemployment in the area and that graduate are roaming around.</p>	<p>The project will cater for both skilled and non-skilled workers. There will be tasks/duties which will require tertiary qualifications and opportunities for non-skilled labours. We shall</p>



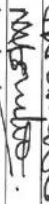






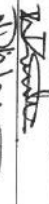
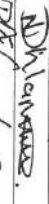


	<p>only outsource a particular skill only when could not be found locally</p>
<p>Induna Bongani Buthelezi complained about corruption which some mining companies has shown in past in the area.</p> <p>How will the company mitigate corruption?</p>	<p>To ensure transparency and integrity, a structure will be formed representing all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>This will ensure that all parties are well represented in the project. This steering committee will be responsible for employment processes, procurement and any other arising issues pertaining to the development of the project.</p>
<p>Induna Baba Elvis Ncube revealed that many companies come and lodge prospecting right application and disappear into thin air until they're licence expires.</p> <p>He asked if Bashomi Minerals have the capacity to invest in the project.</p>	<p>Yes, Bashomi Minerals have the full capacity to execute the project.</p> <p>Bashomi Minerals has an in-house seed fund, with the effective exploration and mining equipment and full-time professional geologists who will work on the development of the project.</p>

Closing Remarks: Chief Zulu, thanked the company for clarity on matters relating to the mining sector as there is little knowledge in the rural area. He further commended the council for participation and showing positive interest. He wished the company well with all the statutory requirements. Induna Nxumalo closed the meeting with prayer.



**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

MEETING VENUE: KHAMBBI TRIBAL AUTHORITY  
 DATE: 04/05/2022  
 TIME: 10H00

NAME	SURNAME	COMPANY/OCCUPATION	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
GIVEN	MO THOA	MOEPATUTSI-GES	072 8330416	myo@moepatutsiges.co.za	
BONGANI	NXUMALO	Khambbi Tribal Authority	0799 715 7844		
MPHUMZE NI	MTSHALI	CLL Kwaqulusi	073 619 2074		
VEL.	Mkhlongo	Khambbi Tribal Authority	079 44887 007		
Somiso	Mkhlongo	Khambbi Tribal Authority	072 66 813 65		
Jakosi	Zulu	Khambbi Tribal Authority	072 933 5103		
Bongani	Butholezi	Khambbi Tribal Authority	071 218 36 06		
Millicent	Ncube	Khambbi Tribal Auth.	071 218 04440		
Zazi MSEMPEH	Zulu	Khambbi Tribal Authority	072 317 42444		
Nkhanhla	Dhlamini	Khambbi Tribal Authority	060 753 75443		
Phiso E. Lvis	Ncube	Khambbi Tribal Authority	079 852 3703		
Door	Miskali	Khambbi Tribal Authority	071 258 4065		
KHANYISILE CYNTHIA	Xulu	Khambbi Tribal	076 618 4903		



Address: 100 Booted Eagle Street  
Elandsport, Pretoria  
0184  
Tel: +27 (0) 81 388 1187  
Email: boipelo@moepathutsiges.co.za

### REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL THE FARM UMKOESBERG 478 HU (DMRE REF: KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160 PR), KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE.

Attention: Boipelo Motlhatlhedhi

I wish to register an Interested and Affected Party and/or bring to the attention of Moepathutsi Geo-Environmental Solutions the following comments:

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Title: CHIEF / Mr	Name: MANDLAKAYISE ZULU
Organization: KHAMBI TRIBAL AUTHORITY	Nature of interest: TRIBAL AUTHORITY / CHIEF
Postal Address: P.O BOX 544 LANGKRAANS 0300	Telephone:
	Mobile: 072 933 5103
	Email: mandlakayisezulu@gmail.com

\* The NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, require that an IAP discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application.  
\*\*Preferred method of communication. The absence of email / facsimile facilities may result in a delay in receipt of IAP notifications. Please write clearly.

#### COMMENTS (Please use additional sheets of paper if required)

The Khambi Tribal Authority hereby wishes that Bashomi Minerals be granted a prospecting right by the department. The project will bring economic development, job opportunities in the area. The council hereby endorses the application

APPENDIX 8: PROOF OF NEWSPAPER

Friday January 21, 2022

CLASSIFIEDS | Vryheid Herald | 5

Vryheid Herald  
**Classifieds**  
 To advertise here contact Christel on 034 981 3930 | eMail: classifiedvhd@caxton.co.za

**Legal Notices**  
**Deadline:**  
**Tuesday 12:00**

<b>0000 NOTICES</b>		<b>0300 SERVICES</b>	<b>0300 SERVICES</b>	<b>0400 FOR SALE</b>	<b>0381 SECURITY</b>
<b>0060 PERSONAL</b>		<b>0369 PETS CORNER</b>	<b>0369 PETS CORNER</b>	<b>0460 MISCELLANEOUS</b>	

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 12 STEP RECOVERY MEETINGS**  
 We throw life-lines for those still adrift cos we can best understand being over-board ourselves  
 Thursday @ 18:30 - 19:30 @ Arukah Baptist Church off Mark and Landroost opp the KFC Drive Through. Contact Cally 071 575 7049 / 082 044 9758. CK039372

**CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE Crisis Line** - A child or parent in need, phone 034 9821197. Email: vhdchildwelfare@telkomsa.net CK039373

**MR MCHUNU JECONIA** ID 521224 5474 08 1 is looking for the biological parents of Mchunu Sindiswa Kwanele born 2005-02-04 and Mchunu Ayalobonga born on 2008-02-06. The biological mother of the children concerned was Mchunu Hlengiwe. The biological father's details are unknown to the maternal family. If you have any information kindly contact the Social Worker Miss NR Mchunu 034 933 1126. CK039366

**Please note:**  
 All adverts faxed or e-mailed must be confirmed, as the Vryheid Herald cannot be held responsible for adverts not received.  
 Contact person: Christel 034 981 3930

**Legal Notice**

**SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT 16 OF 2013) AND ITS REGULATIONS READ WITH THE ABAQULUSI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW: INVITATION TO COMMENT**

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013) and its Regulations read with The Abaqulusi Local Municipality Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-law, that an application has been lodged with the Abaqulusi Municipal Council, for:

**THE PROPOSED SPECIAL CONSENT ON THE REMAINDER OF ERF 709 VRYHEID FROM "RESIDENTIAL 1" TO "MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING" FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING MEDIUM DENSITY UNITS.**

The property is situated at 112 BREE STREET, VRYHEID.

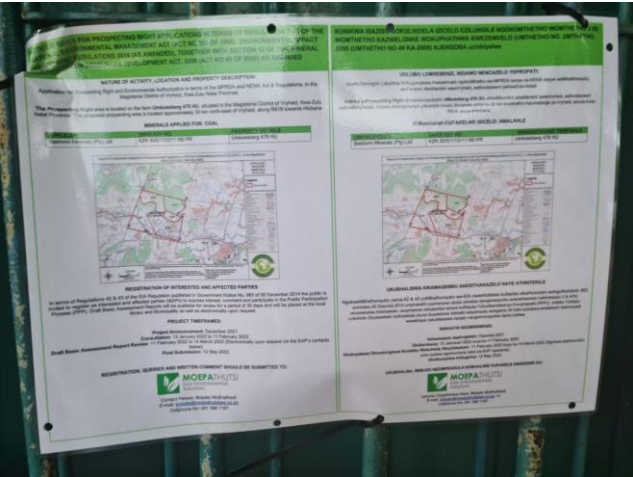
Copies of the application documents are available for inspection by interested members of the public during office hours at the office of the Abaqulusi Municipality: Town Planning, corner of Mark & Mason Streets, Vryheid.

Any person having an interest in the above matter must lodge written comments within 30 days from the date of this notice, to the Manager Town Planning, Mrs S. Vandayar-Dookhial, P.O. Box 57 Vryheid, 3100 or by email at svdookhial@abaqulusi.gov.za. Persons or parties failing to adhere within the said time will be excluded from further participating in the application process. Enquiries relating to this publication can be directed to Mrs S. Vandayar-Dookhial at 034-9822133 x 2259, during normal office hours, Mon - Thurs (07h30 - 16h30) and Fri (07h30 - 13h30).

<p><b>NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3 (6) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO 107 OF 1998): ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS 2014 (AS AMENDED), TOGETHER WITH SECTION 12 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2008 (ACT NO 49 OF 2008) AS AMENDED</b></p> <p><b>NATURE OF ACTIVITY, LOCATION AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:</b>                  Application for Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorization in terms of the MPRDA and NEMA Act &amp; Regulations, in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province.</p> <p><b>The Prospecting Right area is located on the farm Umkoesberg 478 HU, situated in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province. The proposed prospecting area is located approximately 30 km north-east of Vryheid, along R618 towards Hloboane.</b></p> <p><b>MINERALS APPLIED FOR: COAL</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>APPLICANT</th> <th>DMRE REF NO:</th> <th>PROPERTY DETAILS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd</td> <td>KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR</td> <td>Umkoesberg 478 HU</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES</b>                  In terms of Regulations 42 &amp; 43 of the EIA Regulation published in Government Notice No. 983 of 08 December 2014 the public is invited to register as interested and affected parties (I&amp;APs) to express interest, comment and participate in the Public Participation Process (PPP). Draft Basic Assessment Reports will be available for review for a period of 30 days and will be placed at the local library and Municipality as well as electronically upon request.</p> <p><b>PROJECT TIMEFRAMES:</b>  <b>Project Announcement:</b> December 2021  <b>Consultation:</b> 13 January 2022 to 11 February 2022  <b>Draft Basic Assessment Report Review:</b> 11 February 2022 to 14 March 2022 (Electronically upon request via the EAP's contacts below).  <b>Final Submission:</b> 12 May 2022.</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION, QUERIES AND WRITTEN COMMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:</b></p> <p> <b>MOEPATHUTSI</b>                  Geo-Environmental Solutions                  Contact Person: Boipelo Motlathedi                  E-mail: boipelo@moepathutsisges.co.za                  Cellphone No: 081 388 1187</p>	APPLICANT	DMRE REF NO:	PROPERTY DETAILS	Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd	KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR	Umkoesberg 478 HU	<p><b>KUNIKWA ISAZISO SOKULINDELA IZICELO EZILUNGILE NGOKOMTHETHO WOMTHETHO 3 (6) WOMTHETHO KAZWELONKE WOKUPHATHWA KWEZEMVELO (UMTHETHO NO. UMTHETHO, 2008 (UMTHETHO NO 49 KA-2008) NJENGOBA uchibiyelwe</b></p> <p><b>UHLOBO LOMSEBENZI, INDAWO NENCAZELO YEPROPATI:</b>                  Isicelo Selungelo Lokuhlola Ilokgunyazwa Kwezemvelo ngokoMthetho we-MPRDA kanye ne-NEMA kanye neMithethonqubo, esiFundeni sikaMantshi saseVryheid, esifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali.</p> <p><b>Indawo yeProspecting Right</b> itholakala e-pulazini u<b>Umkoesberg 478 HU</b>, eliseSifundeni sikaMantshi saseVryheid, esifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali. Indawo ehlonozwayo yokuhlola imvelo itholakala cishe ku-30 km enyakatho-mpumalanga ye-Vryheid, eduze kuka-R618 ukuya eHloboane.</p> <p><b>IZIMininerali ESIFAKELWE ISICELO: AMALAHLE</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UMFAKISICELO</th> <th>DMRE REF NO:</th> <th>IMINININGWANE YEMPAHLA</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd</td> <td>KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR</td> <td>Umkoesberg 478 HU</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>UKUBHALISWA KWAMAQEMBU ANESITHAKAZELO NAYE ATHINKEKILE</b>                  NgokweMithethonqubo yama-42 &amp; 43 yoMthethonqubo we-EIA owashicilelwa kuSaziso sikaHulumeni esinguNombolo 983 somhlaka 08 Disemba 2014 umphakathi uyamenywa ukuba ubhalise njengamaqembu anentshisekelo nalintekayo (I &amp; APs) ukuzwakalisa intshisekelo, ukuphawula nokubamba iqhaza kwiNqubo Yokuzibandakanya Komphakathi (PPP). Imibiko Yohiaka Lokuhlola Oluyisisekelo izotholakala ukuze ibuyekwezwe isikhathi esiyizinsuku ezingama-30 futshi izobekwa ematsheni wezinwadi wasekhaya nakuMasipala kanjalo nangekhompuyutha lapho icelwe.</p> <p><b>ISIKHATHI SEZIMISEBENZI:</b>  <b>Isimemezelo sephrojekthi:</b> Disemba 2021  <b>Ukubonisa:</b> 13 Januwari 2022 kuya ku-11 February 2022  <b>Ukubuyekwe Okusalungiswa Kombiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo:</b> 11 February 2022 kuya ku-14 March 2022 (Ngokwe-elektronikhi uma ucelwa ngoxhumana nabo be-EAP ngezansi).  <b>Ukuthunyelwa kokugcina:</b> 12 May 2022.</p> <p><b>UKUBHALISA, IMIBUZO NEZIMPENDULO EZIBHALIWE KUFANELE ZINKEZWE KU:</b></p> <p> <b>MOEPATHUTSI</b>                  Geo-Environmental Solutions                  Umuntu Ongathintwa Naye: Boipelo Motlathedi                  E-mail: boipelo@moepathutsisges.co.za or Cellphone No: 081 388 1187</p>	UMFAKISICELO	DMRE REF NO:	IMINININGWANE YEMPAHLA	Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd	KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR	Umkoesberg 478 HU
APPLICANT	DMRE REF NO:	PROPERTY DETAILS											
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Bashomi Minerals (Pty) Ltd	KZN30/5/1/1/2/11160PR	Umkoesberg 478 HU											

**APPENDIX 9: PROOF OF PLACING SITE NOTICES**







**APPENDIX 10: PROOF OF SITE ASSESSMENT**

