

**Application for a Prospecting Right and Associated Environmental Authorisation for the proposed prospecting of Iron ore located on the Remaining Extent, Portions 1, 2 and 4 of the farm Rooipoort 473, in the Hay Magisterial District, Northern Cape Province**

**Draft Basic Assessment Report**

**DMR REFERENCE NUMBER: NC13162PR**

Report Prepared for

**NC Mining Resources (Pty) Ltd**



Report Prepared by



**05 September 2022**

Title:

*Draft Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Programme (BAR/EMPr) Report for the proposed*

*prospecting of Iron Ore located on the Remaining extent, Portions 1, 2 and 4 of the farm Rooipoort 473 in the Hay Administrative District, Northern Cape Province.*

*Status of report:*

*Draft Report*

*First Issue:*

*September 2022*

*Report By*

*Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd*



*38 Ophelia Street  
Kimberley, 8301  
Cell: 082 760 8420  
Tel: 053 842 0687  
Fax: 086 538 1069  
atshidzaho@gmail.com  
ndi@ndigeoservices.co.za*

*Environmental Assessment  
Practitioner*

*Ndivhudzannyi Mofokeng*

*Applicant*

*NC Mining Resources (Pty) Ltd  
P.O. Box 1124,  
Kuruman  
8460  
Tel: 071 888 2606  
barnardoarabile@gmail.com*



## mineral resources

Department:  
Mineral Resources  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

And

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT

#### DMR Ref: NC13162PR

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).

<b>NAME OF APPLICANT:</b>	NC Mining Resources (Pty) Ltd
<b>TEL NO:</b>	071 888 2606
<b>FAX NO:</b>	N/A
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	P.O. Box 1124, Kuruman, 8460
<b>PHYSICAL ADDRESS:</b>	N/A
<b>FILE REFERENCE NUMBER SAMRAD:</b>	NC30/5/1/1/2/13162PR

# 1 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 considered 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 a 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.

## 2 Objective of the basic assessment process

The objective of the basic assessment process is to, through a consultative process—

- a. determine the policy and legislative context within which the proposed activity is located and how the activity complies with and responds to the policy and legislative context;
- b. identify the alternatives considered, including the activity, location, and technology alternatives;
- c. describe the need and desirability of the proposed alternatives,
- d. through the undertaking of an impact and risk assessment process inclusive of cumulative impacts which focused on determining the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage, and cultural sensitivity of the sites and locations within sites and the risk of impact of the proposed activity and technology alternatives on these aspects to determine:
  - (i) the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration, and probability of the impacts occurring to; and
  - (ii) the degree to which these impacts—
    - (aa) can be reversed;
    - (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and
    - (cc) can be managed, avoided or mitigated;
- e. (e) through a ranking of the site sensitivities and possible impacts the activity and technology alternatives will impose on the sites and location identified through the life of the activity to—
  - (i) identify and motivate a preferred site, activity and technology alternative;
  - (ii) identify suitable measures to manage, avoid or mitigate identified impacts; and
  - (iii) identify residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

## General Project Overview

NC Mining Resources (Pty) Ltd (NC Mining) appointed Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to facilitate the environmental authorisation process for its proposed iron ore prospecting project located in the Magisterial District of Hay.

The proposed prospecting project will cover an area of 3417.46 hectares and located approximately 9 km east to northeast of Postmasburg and also approximately 165 km northwest of Kimberley in the Northern Cape.

NC Mining requires a prospecting right in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 22 of 2002) (MPRDA). Before the prospecting right will be granted, NC Mining must undertake an environmental authorisation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The competent authority for the environmental authorisation process is the Northern Cape Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has identified the need for the alignment of environmental authorisations and has promulgated a single environmental management system under NEMA whereby the DMR has become the competent authority for the authorisation of mining-related projects under the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. This will result in simultaneous decisions in terms of NEMA and other environmental management Acts.

Since the proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed in Listing Notice 1 of the NEMA, a Basic EIA authorisation process in terms of NEMA Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982 (as amended by GNR325 of 7 April 2017) will be required.

Before an iron ore mining process can be planned and built, a number of tests and surveys must be conducted to ensure that the project is economically viable, technically feasible, and environmentally sound. Assessment of the geological information available has determined that the area in question may have good quality iron ore reserves. To ascertain the above and determine the nature, location and extent of the reserves within the proposed prospecting area, it will be necessary that prospecting be undertaken. The prospecting will also determine if there are any features that may have an impact on the economic extraction of the iron ore.

The proposed prospecting project will consist of non-invasive and invasive (drilling sampling) activities. On surface, invasive methods include 30 Reverse Circulation (RC) and diamond core drill boreholes. Non-invasive methods will include analytical desktop studies, geological mapping and decision-making on the viability of the project.

Most of the rehabilitation will be conducted while prospecting activities are undertaken. The final rehabilitation will be done once the prospecting activities have been completed at a site and before the drilling team leaves the site.

The stakeholder engagement process, as part of the Environmental Authorisation process, is conducted in terms of NEMA (as amended) which provides clear guidelines for stakeholder engagement during an EIA. One of the general objectives of integrated environmental management set out in Section 23(2) of NEMA is to ensure the "adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment".

The stakeholder engagement process is primarily aimed at affording Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to gain an understanding of the project. In addition, the

purpose of consultation with the landowner, affected parties and communities is to provide them with the necessary information about the proposed project so that they can make informed decisions as to whether and to which degree the project will affect them. In addition, the purpose of consultation with the Stakeholders and I&APs is to provide the competent authority with the necessary information for them to make informed decisions.

Before an EAP submits a final report, they must have given registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report prior to the submission of the final report to the competent authority for approval.

Stakeholders were therefore provided with an opportunity to participate in the public review period of the Draft BAR from 09 September 2022 – 09 October 2022 to ensure that the assessment of impacts and proposed management of impacts have addressed their concerns. Comments received during the 30-day comment period (from the Draft BAR review) will be incorporated into the Final BAR/EMPr that will be submitted to the DMR for decision making.

This BAR/EMPr has been compiled in terms of the provisions of Appendix 1 and Appendix 4 of December 2014 GNR 982 of the NEMA. These requirements are cross-referenced to the various sections in this report where these requirements are addressed (Table 2-1 and Table 2-2).

**Table 2-1: Requirements of Appendix 1 of GNR 982 for a BAR**

Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports	Section
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (a)	Details of – the EAP who prepared the report; and the expertise of the EAP, including a curriculum vitae	Section 5.1
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (b)	The location of the activity, including – The 21-digit Surveyor General code of each cadastral land parcel; Where available, the physical address and farm name; Where the required information in items (i) and (ii) is not available, coordinates of the boundary of the property or properties.	Section 6
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (c)	A plan which locates the proposed activity or activities applied for at an appropriate scale, or, if it is – A linear activity, a description and coordinates of the corridor in which the proposed activity or activities is to be undertaken; or On land where the property has not been defined, the coordinates within which the activity is to be undertaken; or.	Section 6 Figure 7-1
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (d)	A description of the scope of the proposed activity, including – All listed and specified activities triggered and being applied for; A description of the activities to be undertaken, including associated structures and infrastructure.	Section 7.5 Section 7
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (e)	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	Section 8

Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports	Section
	<p>planning frameworks and instruments that are applicable to this activity and have been considered in the preparation of the report; and</p> <p>how the proposed activity complies with and responds to the legislation and policy context, plans, guidelines, tools frameworks, and instruments;</p>	
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (f)	A motivation for the need and desirability for the proposed development including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location.	Section 9
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (g)	A motivation for the preferred site, activity and technology alternative.	Section 10
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (h)	A full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred activity, site and location within the site, including-	Section 11
	Details of all alternatives considered;	Section 11.1
	Details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs;	Section 11.2
	A summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;	Section 11.5
	The environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;	Section 12
	<p>The impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration, and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which the impacts-</p> <p>(aa) can be reversed;</p> <p>(bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and</p> <p>(cc) can be avoided, managed, or mitigated.</p>	Section 13
	The methodology used in deterring and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives;	Section 14
	Positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographic, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;	Section 15
	The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk;	Table 13-1, Table 13-2 and Table 13-3
	The outcome of the site selection matrix;	N/A
	If no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such and;	Section 17



Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports	Section
	A concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity.	Section 18
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (i)	<p>a full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts the activity will impose on the preferred location through the life of the activity, including—</p> <p>a description of all environmental issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process; and</p> <p>an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk and an indication of the extent to which the issue and risk could be avoided or addressed by the adoption of mitigation measures;</p>	<p>Section 18.1</p> <p>Section 13</p>
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (j)	<p>An assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk, including—</p> <p>cumulative impacts;</p> <p>the nature, significance and consequences of the impact and risk;</p> <p>the extent and duration of the impact and risk;</p> <p>the probability of the impact and risk occurring;</p> <p>the degree to which the impact and risk can be reversed;</p> <p>the degree to which the impact and risk may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and</p> <p>the degree to which the impact and risk can be avoided, managed or mitigated;</p>	Section 13
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (k)	<p>where applicable, a summary of the findings and impact management measures identified in any specialist report complying with Appendix 6 to these Regulations and an indication as to how these findings and recommendations have been included in the final report;</p>	N/A
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (l)	<p>an environmental impact statement which contains—</p> <p>a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;</p> <p>a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and</p> <p>a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;</p>	<p>Section 21</p> <p>Figure 21-1</p>
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (m)	<p>based on the assessment, and where applicable, impact management measures from specialist reports, the recording of the proposed [impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for the development for inclusion in the EMPr;</p>	Table 13-1, Table 13-2 and Table 13-3

Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports	Section
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (n)	any aspects which were conditional to the findings of the assessment either by the EAP or specialist which are to be included as conditions of authorisation;	Section 23
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (o)	a description of any assumptions, uncertainties, and gaps in knowledge which relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed;	Section 24
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (p)	a reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be made in respect of that authorisation;	Section 25
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (q)	where the proposed activity does not include operational aspects, the period for which the environmental authorisation is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post construction monitoring requirements finalised;	Section 26
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (r)	An undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to- The correctness of the information provided in the report; The inclusion of the comments and inputs from stakeholders and interested and affected parties; The inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and Any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties.	Section 27
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (s)	where applicable, details of any financial provision for the rehabilitation, closure, and ongoing post decommissioning management of negative environmental impacts;	Section 28
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (t)	Any specific information required by the competent authority.	Section 29
Appendix 1: 3 (1) (u)	Any other matter in terms of Section 24(4)(a) and (b) of the NEMA	Section 29.3

**Table 2-2: Requirements of Appendix 4 of GNR 982 for a an EMPr**

Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for EMPr	Section where addressed in the EMPr
Appendix 4 (a)	details of i. the EAP who prepared the EMPr; and ii. the expertise of that EAP to prepare an EMPr, including a curriculum vitae;	Section 5
Appendix 4 (b)	a detailed description of the aspects of the activity that are covered by the EMPr as identified by the project description;	Section 7
Appendix 4 (c)	a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that any areas that should be avoided, including buffers	Figure 7-2

Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for EMPr	Section where addressed in the EMPr
Appendix 4 (d)	a description of the impact management objectives, including management statements, identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided, managed and mitigated as identified through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the development including- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. planning and design;</li> <li>ii. pre-construction activities;</li> <li>iii. construction activities;</li> <li>iv. rehabilitation of the environment after construction and where applicable post closure; and</li> <li>v. where relevant, operation activities;</li> </ul>	Section 31
Appendix 4 (e)	a description and identification of impact management outcomes required for the aspects contemplated in paragraph (d);	Section 31
Appendix 4 (f)	a description of proposed impact management actions, identifying the way the impact management objectives and outcomes contemplated in paragraphs (d) and (e) will be achieved, and must, where applicable, include actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. avoid, modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation;</li> <li>ii. comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices;</li> <li>iii. comply with any applicable provisions of the Act regarding closure, where applicable; and</li> <li>iv. Comply with any provisions of the Act regarding financial provisions for rehabilitation, where applicable.</li> </ul>	Section 36
Appendix 4 (g)	The method of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f).	Section 36
Appendix 4 (h)	The frequency of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f).	Section 38.2
Appendix 4 (i)	an indication of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions	Section 38.3
Appendix 4 (j)	the time periods within which the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) must be implemented;	Section 38.4
Appendix 4 (k)	the mechanism for monitoring compliance with the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f);	Section 38.5
Appendix 4 (l)	a program for reporting on compliance, considering the requirements as prescribed by the Regulations;	Section 38.5
Appendix 4 (m)	an environmental awareness plan describing the manner in which- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work; and</li> </ul>	Section 40

Section of the EIA Regulations, 2014	Description of EIA Regulations Requirements for EMPr	Section where addressed in the EMPr
	ii. risks must be dealt with to avoid pollution or the degradation of the Environment.	
Appendix 4 (n)	Any specific information that may be required by the competent authority.	None

## YOUR COMMENT ON THE BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

This Draft Basic Assessment Report (Draft BAR) will be available for comment for a period of 30 days from 09 September 2022 to 09 October 2022. Copies of the Draft BAR been made available at the following public place for review:

Public Place	Locality	Telephone
Ndi Geological website	<a href="http://www.ndigeoservices.co.za/">http://www.ndigeoservices.co.za/</a>	053 842 0687

I&APs are requested to provide comments and information on the following aspects of the proposed project:

1. Information on how I&APs consider that the proposed activities will impact on them or their socio-economic conditions;
2. Written responses stating their suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impacts of each activity;
3. Information on current land uses and their location within the area under consideration;
4. Information on the location of environmental features on site to make proposals as to how and to what standard the impacts on site can be remedied; and
5. How to mitigate the potential impacts on their socio-economic conditions and to make proposals as to how the potential impacts on their infrastructure can be managed avoided or remedied.

### DUE DATE FOR COMMENT

**09 October 2022**

**Please submit comments to the EAP:**

**Ndivhudzannyi Mofokeng**  
 Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd  
 38 Ophelia Street  
 Kimberley, 8301  
 Cell: 082 760 8420  
 Tel: 053 842 0687  
 Fax: 086 538 1069  
 atshidzaho@gmail.com  
 ndi@ndigeoservices.co.za

# Table of Contents

- 1 IMPORTANT NOTICE..... iv**
- 2 Objective of the basic assessment process ..... v**
- 3 Project background..... 1**
- 4 Purpose and context of this document ..... 3**
- 5 Contact Person and Correspondence Address ..... 5**
  - 5.1 Details of EAP who prepared the report. ....5
  - 5.2 Expertise of the EAP .....5
    - 5.2.1 Qualifications of the EAP.....5
    - 5.2.2 Summary of EAPs experience .....5
- 6 Project Location ..... 6**
  - 6.1 Property Description.....6
  - 6.2 Locality map .....7
- 7 Description of the Scope of the Proposed Overall Activity ..... 9**
  - 7.1 Overview .....9
  - 7.2 Phase 1 (Literature Review) .....9
  - 7.3 Phase 2 (Drilling).....9
  - 7.4 Phase 3: Analytical Desktop Studies and Decision Making:..... 12
  - 7.5 Listed and specified activities ..... 15
  - 7.6 Activities to be undertaken..... 17
    - 7.6.1 Prospecting ..... 17
    - 7.6.2 Establishment of Temporary Access Roads ..... 17
    - 7.6.3 Power ..... 17
    - 7.6.4 Water Supply ..... 17
    - 7.6.5 Ablution Facilities ..... 17
    - 7.6.6 Temporary Site Office Area..... 17
    - 7.6.7 Blasting..... 17
    - 7.6.8 Waste Management ..... 17
    - 7.6.9 Topsoil Stockpiling ..... 18
    - 7.6.10 Vegetation Clearance..... 18
    - 7.6.11 Ablution Facility ..... 18
    - 7.6.12 Vehicle Parking ..... 18
    - 7.6.13 Contractors Camp ..... 18
- 8 Policy and legislative context ..... 19**
- 9 Need and Desirability..... 21**
- 10 Motivation ..... 22**
  - 10.1 Preferred Site .....22
    - 10.1.1 Regional Geology.....22

10.1.2 Local Geology .....22

10.2 Technologies .....23

10.3 Design/Layout .....23

**11 Full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternatives within the site..... 24**

11.1 Details of the Development Footprint Alternative Considered .....24

    11.1.1 The type of activity to be undertaken. ....24

    11.1.2 The design or layout of the activity.....24

    11.1.3 The technology to be used in the activity. ....24

    11.1.4 The operational aspects of the activity .....24

    11.1.5 The option of not implementing the activity.....25

11.2 Details of the Public Participation Process Followed .....25

    11.2.1 Stakeholder Identification Interested and Affected Parties .....27

    11.2.2 Project Announcement .....28

11.3 Public Review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report .....28

11.4 Stakeholder Consultation Meeting .....28

11.5 Summary of Issues Raised by I&APs .....28

**12 Environmental Attributes Associated with the Alternatives..... 31**

12.1 Baseline Environment .....31

    12.1.1 Geographical .....31

    12.1.2 Topography .....31

        The topography around Postmasburg contains small variations in elevation, with a maximum elevation change of 80 metres and an average elevation above sea level of 1 327 mamsl.31

    12.1.3 Climate .....31

    12.1.4 Geology .....33

    12.1.5 Water Resources.....34

    12.1.6 Wetlands.....35

    12.1.7 Groundwater.....35

    12.1.8 Biomes.....36

    12.1.9 Bioregions .....36

    12.1.10 Vegetation Types .....37

    12.1.11 Conservation Plan.....38

    12.1.12 Heritage Resources .....39

12.2 Socio-Economic .....39

    12.2.1 Population .....40

    12.2.2 Level of Education.....41

    12.2.3 Employment Levels .....42

    12.2.4 Economic Statistics .....43

12.3 Description of the current land uses. ....43

12.4 Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site. ....43

12.5 Environmental and current land use map. ....43

**13 Impacts and Risks Identified ..... 45**

    13.1 Construction ..... 45

        13.1.1 Socio-Economic ..... 45

        13.1.2 Groundwater ..... 46

        13.1.3 Surface water ..... 46

        13.1.4 Aquatic Ecosystems ..... 46

        13.1.5 Heritage and Archaeological Resources ..... 47

        13.1.6 Palaeontology Impacts ..... 47

        13.1.7 Biodiversity ..... 47

        13.1.8 Air Quality ..... 48

        13.1.9 Visual ..... 48

        13.1.10 Ambient Noise ..... 49

        13.1.11 Soil Land Use and Land Capability ..... 49

        13.1.12 Traffic ..... 49

        13.1.13 Climate Change ..... 49

    13.2 Operational Phase ..... 58

        13.2.1 Social-Economic ..... 58

        13.2.2 Groundwater ..... 58

        13.2.3 Surface water ..... 58

        13.2.4 Aquatic Ecology ..... 58

        13.2.5 Flora ..... 59

        13.2.6 Fauna ..... 59

        13.2.7 Soils, Land Use and Land Capability ..... 59

        13.2.8 Air Quality ..... 59

        13.2.9 Visual ..... 59

        13.2.10 Heritage, Archaeological Resources ..... 59

        13.2.11 Palaeontology Impacts ..... 59

        13.2.12 Ambient Noise ..... 60

        13.2.13 Traffic ..... 60

        13.2.14 Climate ..... 60

        13.2.15 Vibrations ..... 60

    13.3 Decommissioning and Closure ..... 66

        13.3.1 Soils and Land Capability ..... 66

        13.3.2 Land Use ..... 66

        13.3.3 Soils and Vegetation ..... 66

        13.3.4 Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems ..... 66

        13.3.5 Air Quality ..... 66

        13.3.6 Noise ..... 66

**14 Impact Assessment Methodology ..... 68**

**15 Positive and Negative Impacts ..... 71**



**16 The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk..... 72**

**17 Motivation where no alternative sites were considered..... 72**

**18 Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site. (Provide a statement motivating the final site layout that is proposed)..... 72**

18.1 Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site. .... 72

**19 Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk. .... 74**

**20 Summary of specialist reports. .... 78**

**21 Environmental impact statement ..... 79**

21.1 Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment. .... 79

21.2 Final Site Map ..... 79

21.3 Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives; ..... 80

**22 Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr; ..... 81**

**23 Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Authorisation. .... 82**

**24 Description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge..... 83**

**25 Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised. .... 84**

25.1 Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not..... 84

25.2 Conditions that must be included in the authorisation. .... 84

**26 Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required..... 85**

**27 Undertaking ..... 86**

**28 Financial Provision..... 87**

28.1 Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived. .... 88

28.2 Confirm that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure..... 88

**29 Specific Information required by the competent Authority. .... 88**

29.1 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: -88

29.1.1 Impact on the socio-economic conditions of any directly affected person. .... 88

29.2 Impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act. .89

29.3 Other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act. .... 90

**30 Draft environmental management programme..... 91**

30.1 Details of the EAP ..... 91

30.2 Description of the Aspects of the Activity ..... 91

30.3 Composite Map ..... 91

**31 Description of Impact management objectives including management statements. .... 92**

31.1 Determination of closure objectives. .... 92

**32 Volumes and rate of water use required for the operation. .... 93**

**33 Has a water use licence has been applied for? ..... 94**

**34 Impacts to be mitigated in their respective phases..... 95**

**35 Impact Management Outcomes..... 105**

**36 Impact Management Actions ..... 110**

**37 Financial Provision..... 115**

    37.1 Determination of the amount of Financial Provision. .... 115

        37.1.1 Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they have been aligned to the baseline environment described under the Regulation. .... 115

        37.1.2 Confirm specifically that the environmental objectives in relation to closure have been consulted with landowner and interested and affected parties. .... 115

        37.1.3 Provide a rehabilitation plan that describes and shows the scale and aerial extent of the main mining activities, including the anticipated mining area at the time of closure. .... 115

        37.1.4 Explain why it can be confirmed that the rehabilitation plan is compatible with the closure objectives. .... 116

        37.1.5 Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline. .... 116

        37.1.6 Confirm that the financial provision will be provided as determined. .... 118

**38 Mechanisms for monitoring compliance with and performance assessment against the environmental management programme and reporting thereon, including. .... 119**

    38.1 Monitoring of Impact Management Actions ..... 119

    38.2 Monitoring and Reporting Frequency..... 119

    38.3 Responsible Persons (Roles and Responsibilities) ..... 119

        38.3.1 Project Developer ..... 119

        38.3.2 Environmental Control Officer ..... 119

        38.3.3 Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Manager ..... 120

        38.3.4 Site Manager ..... 120

    38.4 Time Period for Implementing Impact Management Actions ..... 121

    38.5 Mechanism for Monitoring Compliance..... 121

**39 Indicate the frequency of the submission of the performance assessment/ environmental audit report. .... 124**

**40 Environmental Awareness Plan ..... 125**

    40.1 Manner in which the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work. .... 125

    40.2 Manner in which risks will be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment. .... 125

    40.3 Specific information required by the Competent Authority. .... 127

**41 UNDERTAKING ..... 128**

## List of Tables

Table 2-1: Requirements of Appendix 1 of GNR 982 for a BAR ..... vii

Table 2-2: Requirements of Appendix 4 of GNR 982 for a an EMPr ..... x

Table 5-1:	EAP Contact Details.....	5
Table 5-2:	EAP Qualifications .....	5
Table 6-1:	Description of Properties affected by the Rooipoort Project.....	6
Table 7-1:	Project Phases and Requirements .....	13
Table 7-2:	Applicable Activities .....	16
Table 8-1:	Applicable legislation, policies and guidelines .....	19
Table 11-1:	List of Affected Farm and Farm Portions .....	27
Table 11-2:	List of places the Draft BAR will be place for public review. ....	28
Table 11-3:	Summary of issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties .....	29
Table 13-1:	Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Development....	45
Table 13-2:	Impact Assessment Table for the Construction Phase.....	51
Table 13-3:	Impact Assessment Table for the Operation Phase .....	61
Table 13-4:	Impact Assessment Table for the Decommissioning and Closure Phase .....	67
Table 14-1:	Criteria for Assessing Significance of Impacts.....	69
Table 19-1:	Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk. ....	74
Table 28-1:	Cost Estimate Expenditure .....	87
Table 34-1:	Environmental Management Programme for the proposed NC Mining Prospecting project....	95
Table 35-1:	Impact Management .....	105
Table 36-1:	Impact management actions.....	110
Table 37-1:	Cost Estimate Expenditure .....	117
Table 38-1:	Mechanisms for Monitoring.....	122
Table 40-1:	Environmental Training and Awareness Schedule .....	125

## List of Figures

Figure 4-1:	Overview the Basic Assessment Process.....	4
Figure 6-1:	Locality Map .....	8
Figure 7-1:	Prospecting Boreholes Location .....	11
Figure 7-2:	Layout Plan showing the location and area of the Prospecting Rights Area .....	14
Figure 10-1:	Geology of the Prospecting Area .....	23
Figure 11-1:	Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Process followed.....	26
Figure 11-2:	Affected and Adjacent Properties .....	27
Figure 12-1:	Topography .....	31
Figure 12-2:	Average monthly temperatures for Postmasburg (Source: WeatherSpark .com).....	32
Figure 12-3:	Average Monthly Rainfall for Postmasburg (Source: WeatherSpark .com).....	33
Figure 12-4:	Geology of the proposed project site .....	34
Figure 12-5:	Water Management and Catchment Area .....	35
Figure 12-6:	Biomes .....	36
Figure 12-7:	Bioregions .....	37
Figure 12-8:	Vegetation with Threatened Ecosystems.....	38
Figure 12-9:	Areas of Conservation Importance .....	39

---

Figure 12-10: Population by gender .....	40
Figure 12-11: Population pyramid .....	41
Figure 12-12: Educational levels by gender .....	42
Figure 12-13: Employment status.....	43
Figure 12-14: Current Environmental Attributes and land use Map .....	44

## List of abbreviations

BAR:	Basic Assessment Report
C Plan:	Conservation Plan
CBAs:	Critical Biodiversity Areas
CPR:	Competent Person's Report
CRR:	Comments and Responses Report
CV:	Curriculum Vitae
DEA:	Department of Environmental Affairs
DM:	District Municipality
DMR:	Department of Mineral Resources
DWS:	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA:	Environmental Authorisation
EAP:	Economic Active Population
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO:	Environmental Control Officer
EHS:	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF:	Environmental Management Framework
EMPr:	Environmental Management Programme
ESA:	Ecological Support Area
GA:	Generally Authorised
GIS:	Geographic Information Systems
GNR:	Government Notice Regulation
GNR:	Government Notice Regulation
GSSA:	Geological Society of South Africa
I&APs:	Interested and Affected Parties
IDP:	Integrated Development Plans
LM:	Local Municipality
LUDS:	Land Use Development System
MPRDA:	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002)
NEM:BA:	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004)
NEM: WA:	National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008)
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NFEPA:	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas

---

NGA:	National Groundwater Archive
NHRA:	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)
NWA:	National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)
PM:	Particulate Matter
RDP:	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRIS:	South African Heritage Resources Information System
SANBI:	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANS:	South African National Standards
SAPD:	South African Police Department
SCC:	Species of Conservation Concern
SDF:	Spatial Development Framework
SDF:	Spatial Development Framework
WMA:	Water Management Area
WUL:	Water Use Licence

### 3 Project background

NC Mining Resources (Pty) Ltd (NC Mining) appointed Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to facilitate the environmental authorisation process for its proposed iron ore project located in the Hay Magisterial District.

The proposed prospecting project will cover an area of 3417.46ha hectares and located approximately 9 km east to northeast of Postmasburg and also approximately 165 km northwest of Kimberley in the Northern Cape.

NC Mining requires a prospecting right in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 22 of 2002) (MPRDA). Before the prospecting right will be granted, NC Mining must undertake an environmental authorisation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The competent authority for the environmental authorisation process is the Northern Cape Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has identified the need for the alignment of environmental authorisations and has promulgated a single environmental management system under NEMA whereby the DMR has become the competent authority for the authorisation of mining-related projects under the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. This will result in simultaneous decisions in terms of NEMA, the National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA) and other environmental management Acts.

Since the proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed in Listing Notice 1 of the NEMA, a Basic EIA authorisation process in terms of NEMA Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982 (as amended by GNR325 of 7 April 2017) will be required.

Before an iron ore operation can be planned and built, several tests and surveys must be conducted to ensure that the project is economically viable, technically feasible, and environmentally sound. The proposed prospecting project will consist of non-invasive and invasive (drilling sampling) activities. On surface, invasive methods include drilling of 25 boreholes of Reverse Circulation (RC) and 5 diamond core drillholes. Non-invasive methods will include desktop studies, geological mapping and decision-making on the viability of the project.

Most of the rehabilitation will be conducted while prospecting activities are undertaken. The final rehabilitation will be done once the prospecting activities have been completed at a site and before the drilling team leaves the site.

The total duration of the prospecting and evaluation activities is planned for two (2) years.

Most of the rehabilitation will be conducted while prospecting activities are undertaken. The final rehabilitation will be done once the prospecting activities have been completed at a site and before the drilling team leaves the site.

The stakeholder engagement process, as part of the Environmental Authorisation process, is conducted in terms of NEMA (as amended) which provides clear guidelines for stakeholder engagement during an EIA. One of the general objectives of integrated environmental management set out in Section 23(2) of NEMA is to ensure the *“adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment”*.

The stakeholder engagement process is primarily aimed at affording Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to gain an understanding of the project. In addition, the purpose of consultation with the landowner, affected parties and communities is to provide them with the necessary information about the proposed project so that they can make informed decisions as to whether and to which degree the project will affect them. In addition, the purpose of consultation

with the Stakeholders and I&APs is to provide the competent authority with the necessary information for them to make informed decisions.

Before an EAP submits a final report, they must have given registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report prior to the submission of the final report to the competent authority for approval.

Stakeholders are therefore invited to participate in the public review period of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (Draft BAR) from 09 September 2022 to 09 October 2022 to ensure that the assessment of impacts and proposed management of impacts has addressed their concerns. After the public review period, the report will be updated with comments received from stakeholders on the Draft BAR.

The updated Final BAR will be submitted to the competent authority (DMR) and other commenting authorities for review once the comments from the stakeholders have been incorporated into the Draft BAR. The DMR will consider the findings in consultation with various authorities and decide whether environmental authorisation should be granted for the proposed prospecting project.



## 4 Purpose and context of this document

The project triggers activities listed in terms of Listing Notices 1 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) and will require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Northern Cape Province.

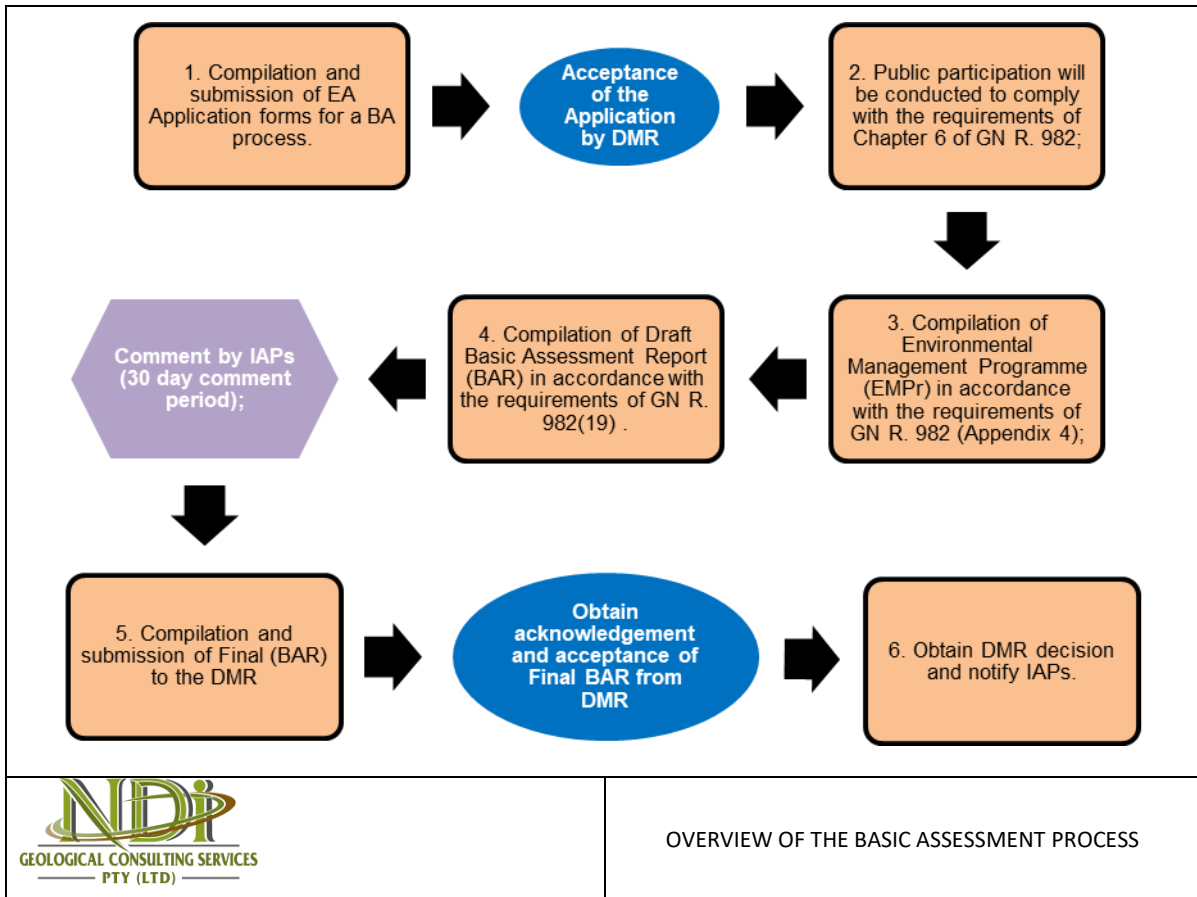
This document serves as the draft Basic Assessment Report (Draft BAR) and includes the following objectives as a minimum:

- To comply with the requirements of NEMA and associated Regulations;
- Identify and assess the environmental (biophysical, socio-economic, and cultural) impacts of activities associated with decommissioning and closure of the cement-ash mixing plant. The cumulative impacts of the proposed development will also be identified and evaluated;
- Identify and evaluate potential management and mitigation measures that will reduce the possible negative impacts of the proposed development and enhance the positive impacts;
- Compile monitoring, management, mitigation and training needs in the EMPr; and
- Provide the decision-making authorities with sufficient and accurate information in order to make a sound decision on the proposed development and set conditions that must be adhered to.

All activities that trigger activities listed in GNR 983 require that a Basic Assessment (BA) process be followed. The BA process will entail:

- Compilation of an Initial Draft BAR and draft EMPr for the public to comment on before the submission of the application to DMR.
- Submission of the EA Application to the DMR.
- Finalisation of the Draft BAR and EMPr for the official public participation comment period of 30 days.
- Incorporation of stakeholder comments into the final BAR and EMPr.
- Public Participation Process (PPP).

The BA process will follow the procedure as prescribed in Regulations 19 to 20 and is summarised in Figure 4-1.



OVERVIEW OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

**Figure 4-1: Overview the Basic Assessment Process**

## 5 Contact Person and Correspondence Address

### 5.1 Details of EAP who prepared the report.

The EAP involved in the compilation of this BAR and her contact details are provided in Table 5-1 below:

**Table 5-1: EAP Contact Details**

EAP Name	Contact Number	Fax Number	Email Address
Ndivhudzannyi Mofokeng	053 842 0687	086 538 1069	<a href="mailto:atshidzaho@gmail.com">atshidzaho@gmail.com</a>

### 5.2 Expertise of the EAP

#### 5.2.1 Qualifications of the EAP

The qualifications of the EAP are provided for in Table 5-2 below, and copies of the qualifications are provided in Appendix 1.

**Table 5-2: EAP Qualifications**

EAP Name	Qualifications	Professional registration	Years' Experience
Ndivhudzannyi Mofokeng	BSc (Hons) Earth Sciences in Mining and Environmental Geology	GSSA Prof Reg EAPASA	10

#### 5.2.2 Summary of EAPs experience

Ndivhudzannyi holds BSc (Hons) Earth Sciences in Mining and Environmental Geology. She has close to 10 years' experience in the exploration and open cast work in the mining industry. She has proven leadership skills from supervising exploration rigs (Reverse Circulation (RC) and percussion drilling). She has proven working experience in field exploration and mapping, borehole logging, borehole sampling, sample preparation for laboratory analysis, handling of GPS, supervisory duties within the field, geological report and progress report writing, including Prospecting Work Programmes and Environmental Management Plans, handling the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) documents in general. Ndivhudzannyi has as a solid technical background in GIS ArcView software, Rockworks, Turbo-Cad and Turbo-Sketch, and Global Mapper 9 Application.

A detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the EAP is provided for Appendix 2.

## 6 Project Location

### 6.1 Property Description

The description of the affected property is provided in Table 6-1 and map showing the affected property is provided in Table 6-1.

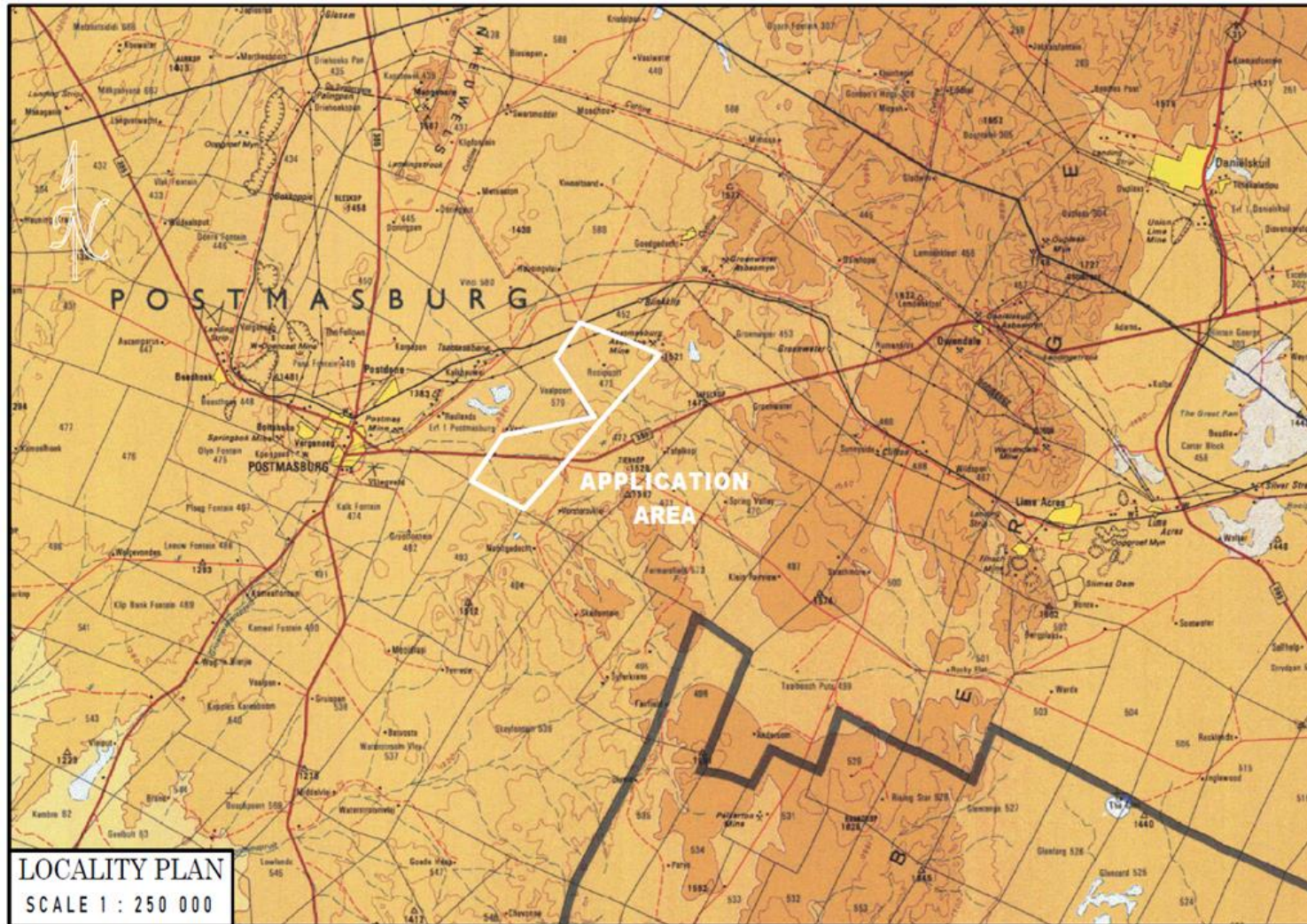
**Table 6-1: Description of Properties affected by the Rooipoort Project.**

<b>Farm Name:</b>	Remaining extent, Portions 1, 2 and 4 of the farm Rooipoort 473		
<b>Application area (Ha)</b>	3417.46 ha		
<b>Magisterial district:</b>	Hay District Municipality		
<b>Distance and direction from nearest town</b>	Approximately 9 km east to northeast of Postmasburg and also approximately 165 km northwest of Kimberley		
<b>21-digit Surveyor General Code for each farm portion</b>	<b>Farm</b>	<b>Portion</b>	<b>SG Code</b>
	Rooipoort 473	Remaining Extent	C0310000000047300000
		Portion 1	C0310000000047300001
		Portion 2	C0310000000047300002
	Portion 4	C0310000000047300004	

## 6.2 Locality map

The proposed Roopoot project is in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, approximately 9 km east to northeast of Postmasburg and also approximately 165 km northwest of Kimberley. (Figure 6-1).

A copy of the locality map is provided in Appendix 3.



LOCALITY MAP

Figure 6-1: Locality Map

## **7 Description of the Scope of the Proposed Overall Activity**

### **7.1 Overview**

Prospecting will consist of non-invasive and invasive (drilling sampling) activities. The review of available information that exists over the area of interest will be undertaken by means of conducting a literature review from satellite images and other available information.

Prospecting will be conducted over a period of two years and will be categorized into phases, wherein phase 1 will be desktop study followed by RC and diamond drilling in Phase 2. In Phase 3 there will be a completion studies and pre-feasibility. The machines and vehicles that will be used have been proven to be trusted to carry out the prospecting activities optimally. These machines and vehicles make use of hydrocarbon fuels such as diesel, petrol and oil.

### **7.2 Phase 1 (Literature Review)**

Existing data on the area of study with relation to the topography, geology, mineralogy, geophysics, hydrology etc. will be to be analysed. This data will aid in determining the amount of potential that area carries in terms of mineralisation and the factors that affect it and its extraction thereof. The report that will be produced from this study will inform the next stage which is geological mapping.

The non-invasive prospecting work will take approximately twelve (12) months and will compile the relevant data and observations from the recent and historical work done on site. The deliverables will be a detailed report and maps highlighting areas with the best potential to contain targeted minerals.

Once this information has been assessed in detail, it will be used to further develop and refine the ongoing prospecting activities. Aerial photographs and a high-resolution satellite image will be acquired for the prospecting right application so that a target identification process using both desktop study and geological mapping can be executed. Both desktop study and geological mapping interpretations will be used to focus future prospecting activities.

After the Desktop Study, a site geological mapping will be undertaken.

This is a process of physically locating the targeted ore body outcrop while obtaining detailed information about it. This information includes the strike and dip of the outcrop, the colour, the grain size and shape amongst others. The result of this stage will be a detailed geological map of the study area which will be correlated with the other maps obtained during the desktop study.

### **7.3 Phase 2 (Drilling)**

This phase of drilling will consist of RC and diamond drilling (Figure 7-1) and will consist of drilling approximately 25 RC boreholes. The prospecting drilling campaign will be aimed at defining the extent of mineralisation and will demonstrate geological continuity of the mineralized zone across the entire area under investigation (application area). Numerous samples will be collected and tested in a registered laboratory.

RC drilling involves the process of crushing the rock material into fragments. Using air pressure, the rock fragments are lifted up the hole into the cyclone where they are collected into sample bags. A rifle splitter is used to homogenize the sample and to split it into two. The weights of the samples are recorded. Part of the one sample is washed and placed into a labelled chip tray after logging by the Field Geologist. This sample is stored for future reference. The remainder of the logged sample is

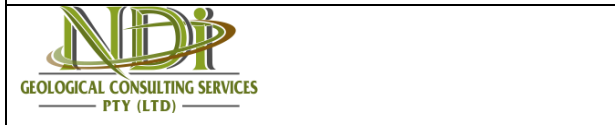
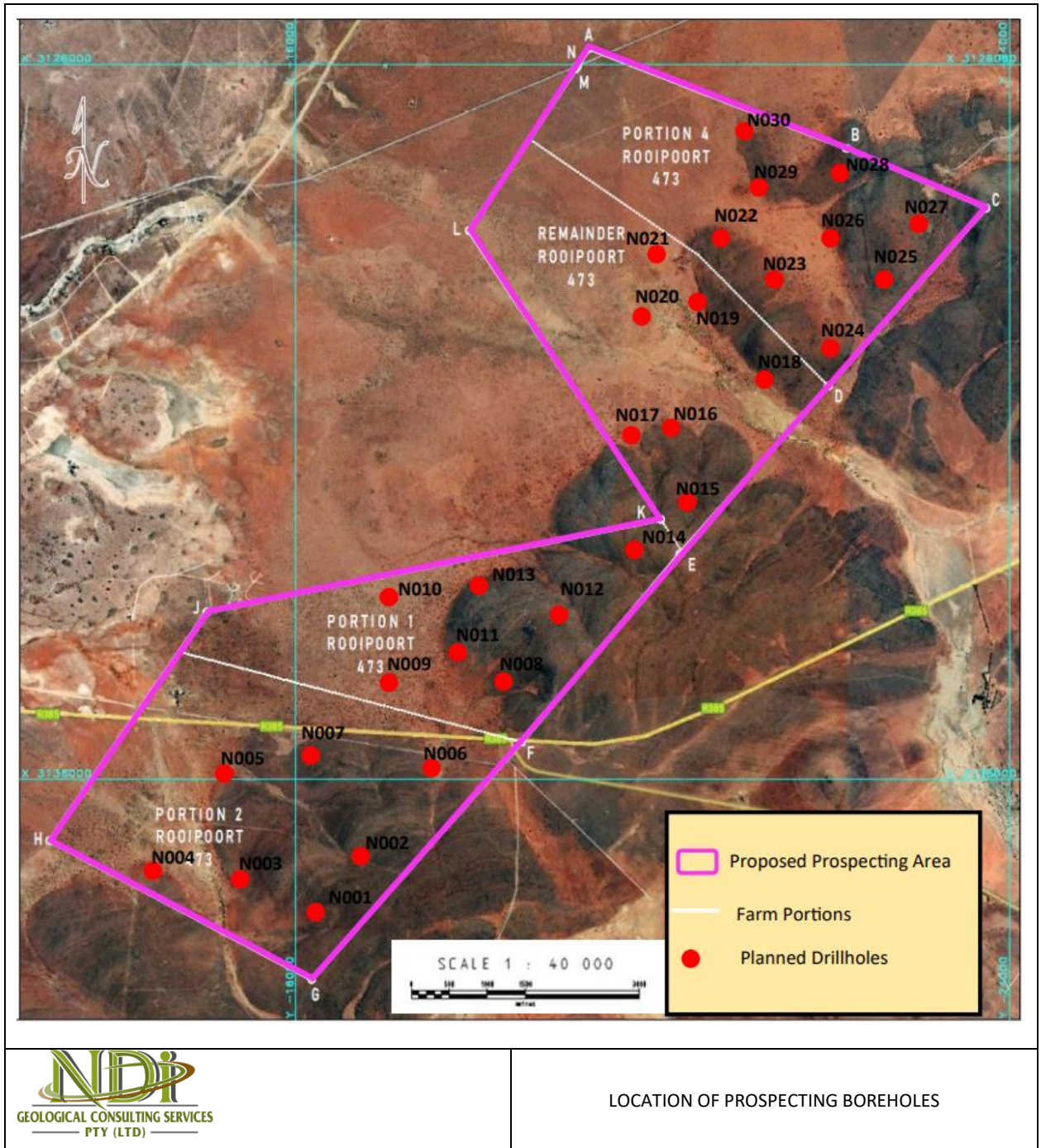
labelled while still in the sample bag and taken to an accredited laboratory for analysis. Detailed geological, grade resource models and mineral resource estimates will be the result of this phase.

It is estimated that five (5) diamond core drilling will be conducted for petrological studies. Diamond drill boreholes will be split and quartered where assaying is warranted. One quarter will be dispatched to the assay lab, one quarter kept for a permanent record, and the halves utilized for petrological studies.

Borehole collars will be covered by labelled slabs, and the position measured by GPS.

Each drill borehole and sample site will be rehabilitated as prospecting proceeds.





LOCATION OF PROSPECTING BOREHOLES

Figure 7-1: Prospecting Boreholes Location

## **7.4 Phase 3: Analytical Desktop Studies and Decision Making:**

The project geologist monitors the programme, consolidates and processes the data and amends the programme depending on the results. This is a continuous process throughout the programme and continues even when no prospecting is done on the ground.

Each physical phase of prospecting is followed by desktop studies involving interpretation and modelling of all data gathered. These studies will determine the way the work programme is to proceed in terms of activity, quantity, resources, expenditure and duration (Table 7-1).

A GIS based database will be constructed capturing all exploration data.

**Table 7-1: Project Phases and Requirements**

Phase	Activity <small>(what are the activities that are planned to achieve optimal prospecting)</small>	Skill(s) required <small>(refers to the competent personnel that will be employed to achieve the required results)</small>	Timeframe <small>(in months) for the activity)</small>	Outcome <small>(What is the expected deliverable, e.g., Geological report, analytical results, feasibility study, etc.)</small>	Timeframe for outcome <small>(deadline for the expected outcome to be delivered)</small>	What technical expert will sign off on the outcome? <small>(e.g., geologist, mining engineer, surveyor, economist, etc.)</small>
1	<b>Non-Invasive</b>	Contractors	1 month	Prospecting ready	Month 12	Mining Engineer
	Setup					
	<b>Non-Invasive</b>	Qualified geologist	5 months	Geological Report		Geologist
	Desktop Study including a Literature Survey of remotely sensed data and other available historic data					
Geological mapping	Qualified geologists	6 months	Detailed progress report and a geological map.	Geologist		
2	<b>Invasive</b>	Qualified geologists	6 months	Drill chips and core  Geological log and assay results	Month 18	Senior geologists
	Drilling					
	Logging and sampling					
3	<b>Non-Invasive</b>	Qualified geologists	6 months	Geological model and resource estimate	Month 24	Resource Geologist  Principal Geologist
	3D geological model and resource estimation					
	Feasibility study			An appraisal of the feasibility of the project		

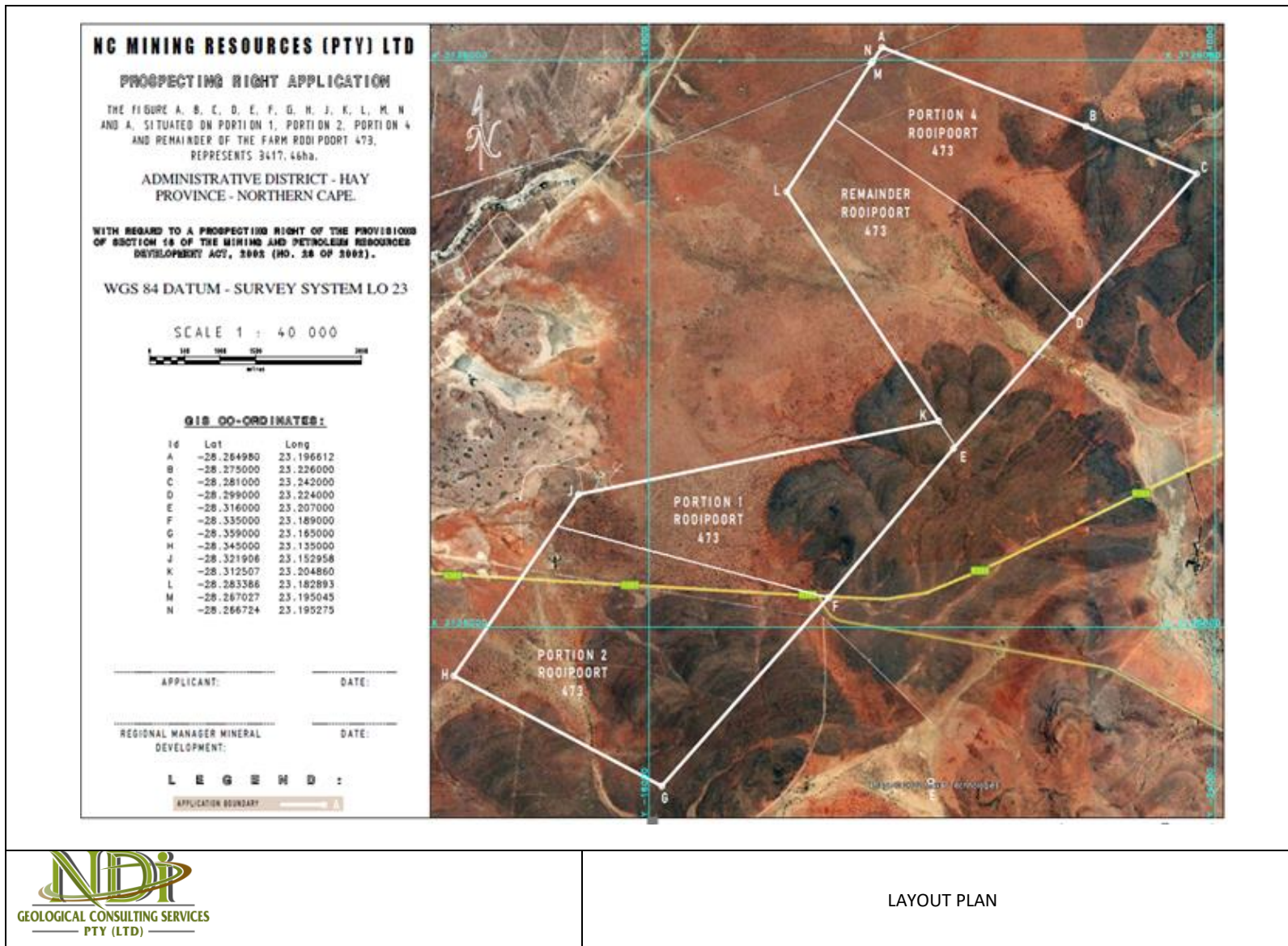


Figure 7-2: Layout Plan showing the location and area of the Prospecting Rights Area

## 7.5 Listed and specified activities

Section 16 of the MPRDA requires, upon request by the Minister that an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) be submitted, and that the applicant must notify and consult with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Section 24 of the NEMA requires that listed activities, which may potentially affect the environment negatively, must obtain an environmental authorisation from a relevant authority before the activities may commence.

Such activities are listed under the EIA Regulations (2014 which has been amended in 2017) and consist of:

- EIA Process (Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982);
- Listing Notice 1 GNR 983 – Basic Assessment process,
- Listing Notice 2 GNR 984 – Scoping and EIA process;
- Listing Notice 3 GNR 985 – Activities in specific identified geographical areas only.

GNR 982, 983, 984 and 985 have been amended in 2017 through GNR 324, 325, 326 and 327, respectively.

The purpose of these regulations is to avoid negative impacts on the environment, and where these cannot be avoided, ensure the mitigation and management of the impacts to acceptable levels, while optimising positive environmental impacts.

The proposed prospecting activity triggers activities listed in NEMA GNR 983: Listing Notice 1 as follows:

Activity 20: “Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of Section 16 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002), including associate infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to prospecting of a mineral resource...”

It is noted that no activities will be undertaken within 32 metres of a watercourse.

Table 7-2 provides a summary of the identified NEMA listed activities that will be triggered by the prospecting project.

**Table 7-2: Applicable Activities**

Name of the activity (All activities including activities not listed)	Aerial extent of the activity in Ha or m <sup>2</sup>	Listed activity mark with an x where applicable or affected	Applicable listing notice (GNR 983, GNR 984 or GNR 985 or NOT LISTED)
Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to prospecting of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002) (Act No. 28 of 2002).	3417.46 ha	X	GNR 983 as amended by GNR 327, Listing 1, Activity 20
25 RC and 5 diamond core drillholes	0.3 ha	X	
Vegetation clearance	<0.1 ha	X	GNR 983 (27) GNR 985 (12 g (ii))
Ablution facility	0.02 ha	X	GNR 983 (25) GNR 985 (12 g (ii))
Fencing (No new fencing will be erected)	-		-
Topsoil	0.01 ha	X	GNR 325, Listing 2, Activity 19
Access roads	<0.02 ha	X	GNR 983 (24, 27) GNR 985 (4 g (ii) (ee) (gg)) GNR 985 (12 g (ii))
Site Office (No site office to be established)			GNR 983 as amended by GNR 327, Listing 1, Activity 20

Name of the activity (All activities including activities not listed)	Aerial extent of the activity in Ha or m <sup>2</sup>	Listed activity mark with an x where applicable or affected	Applicable listing notice (GNR 983, GNR 984 or GNR 985 or NOT LISTED)
Vehicle parking	<0.02 ha	X	GNR 983 (27) GNR 985 (12 g (ii))
Contractors' Camp			GNR 983 (27) GNR 985 (12 g (ii))

## 7.6 Activities to be undertaken.

### 7.6.1 Prospecting

Please refer to Sections 7.1 to 7.3 for a detailed description of the prospecting activities to be undertaken.

### 7.6.2 Establishment of Temporary Access Roads

Temporary roads will be opened where necessary but will not exceed 0.02 hectares in size.

### 7.6.3 Power

Diesel powered vehicles and machinery will be used for the proposed project.

### 7.6.4 Water Supply

It is anticipated that water will be brought onto site and trucked to the identified drill sites. Water bowsers will be deployed to the sites as and when required.

RC drilling in general does not require water. Additional water requirements relate to the potable water supply for diamond drilling of 5 holes and prospecting personnel.

### 7.6.5 Ablution Facilities

Portable chemical toilets will be used for the management of sewage waste generated on site.

### 7.6.6 Temporary Site Office Area

A site office will not be necessary, equipment for logging such as chip and core, such as logging sheets, papers, pens and trays will be transported to and from site daily.

### 7.6.7 Blasting

The Prospecting Works Programme does not allow for bulk sampling therefore no blasting will take place.

### 7.6.8 Waste Management

#### Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste to be generated includes mineral residue, hydrocarbon wastes (oil and liquid fuel wastes) and sewage waste. Hydrocarbon waste will be collected in drums for storage. The removal of the drums or any other appropriate receptacle will be undertaken by a registered waste disposal company, for disposal at a registered licensed waste disposal site. The drums will be placed on protected ground.

Mineral residue will include muds and drilling chips generated during the drilling of the exploration boreholes. The mineral residue will be removed from the site and disposed of at a registered waste disposal site.

Oil waste and liquid fuel waste include used oils from mine machinery and vehicles and diesel/petrol waste.

#### **General Waste**

General waste to be generated from the proposed project area will include domestic waste which includes food containers, smoked cigarette. These will be collected daily to be disposed of at a registered domestic waste disposal site.

#### **Storage of Dangerous Goods (Hydrocarbons)**

No diesel fuel, oil and lubricants will be stored on site. These will be transported daily or when required.

### **7.6.9 Topsoil Stockpiling**

Topsoil removed during the construction phase will be stockpiled for later use in the rehabilitation process.

### **7.6.10 Vegetation Clearance**

Vegetation clearance will be necessary where prospecting and construction activities will be taking place. This will be done only in areas where it is required, unnecessary vegetation clearance will be discouraged.

### **7.6.11 Ablution Facility**

This will be necessary for the site staff and anyone who will be visiting the site.

### **7.6.12 Vehicle Parking**

Staff vehicles and other vehicles working on the project will have a demarcated parking.

### **7.6.13 Contractors Camp**

No contractors will be staying on site, they will be transported to and from site daily.



## 8 Policy and legislative context

Table 8-1 provides a summary of the applicable legislation, policies and guidelines identified as relevant to the proposed project. In addition, a description of how the proposed activity complies with and responds to the legislation and policy context, is provided. This list is not exhaustive but rather represents an indication of the most applicable pieces of legislation relevant to the project.

**Table 8-1: Applicable legislation, policies and guidelines**

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES USED TO COMPILE THE REPORT	REFERENCE WHERE APPLIED	HOW DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT COMPLY WITH AND RESPOND TO THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT
Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) (As amended)	Application for Prospecting in terms of Section 16	A prospecting right application was submitted and accepted by DMR.
National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA)	The project may trigger the requirements under Section 38 of the NHRA. However, the requirements for the permits have not yet been established.	<p>The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will regulate the applicant to apply for tree removal permits from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) prior to removal or relocation of any heritage resources.</p> <p>The BAR and EMPr will also be submitted to the SAHRA through the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) to determine whether any permits will be required.</p>
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA)	This Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	An application for an Environmental Authorisation was submitted to the DMR. The BAR and EMPr will be submitted to the DMR once finalised and have been subjected to a public participation process as required by Chapter 6 of the NEMA.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA)	The possibility of the presence of protected flora	The EMPr will regulate the applicant to apply for tree removal permits prior to removal of any sensitive and/or protected species.
National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA)	Drilling site establishment within 100 m of a watercourse or 500m of a wetland	<p>The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) National Wetlands database shows that there are no wetlands in the prospecting area. There are also watercourses and drainage lines that may be affected by the project. In terms of the NWA, any activities undertaken within 500 m of a wetland or within 100 m of a watercourse require a Section 21 (c) and (i) Water Use Licence (WUL). Should the impacts of the activities be of low significance, the activities may also be Generally Authorised (GA).</p> <p>Clarification is required from the DWS on whether a WUL or GA will be required.</p>
Municipal Integrated Development	Land Claims	One of the key issues identified by the

<b>APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES USED TO COMPILE THE REPORT</b>	<b>REFERENCE WHERE APPLIED</b>	<b>HOW DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT COMPLY WITH AND RESPOND TO THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT</b>
Plans (IDPs)		IDPs is to facilitate the land claims.
ZF Mgcawu Spatial Development Framework (SDF)	Alternatives	There are no identified land claims in the proposed prospecting area.

## 9 Need and Desirability.

Iron ore is the most used metal followed by aluminium, copper and manganese. South Africa is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest iron ore producer in the world. This has positive effects on the economy. These metals are clearly in demand and mining of such minerals is essential in balancing the supply and demand. Demand for iron ore in South Africa and around the world is driven by steel production at the most and.

The mining industry is still one of the major contributors to the South African economy. More resources need to be identified to keep up with the demand for iron ore. For that reason, prospecting for this mineral is the first step to identifying these resources.

There would be no minerals without mining and manufacturing. This suggests the importance of all mining operations in fuelling the million-dollar industry.

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 search for minerals, fossils, precious metals or mineral specimens, which allows a company to survey or investigate an area of land for the purpose of identifying an actual or probable mineral deposit, before investments are made into the mining activities.

Evaluation of the geological information available has determined that the area in question may have good quality iron ore resources. To ascertain the above and determine the nature, location and extent of the reserves within the proposed prospecting area, it will be necessary that prospecting be undertaken. The prospecting will also determine if there are any features that may have an impact on the economic extraction of the iron ore.

Data to be obtained from the prospecting to be undertaken will be necessary to determine, should iron ore be found, how and where the minerals will be extracted and how much economically viable reserves are available within the proposed prospecting area.

Should good quality iron ore be found in the project area, NC Mining will be able to mine the available reserves. This will result in job creation and boost to local businesses is continued.

NC Mining expects that substantial benefits from the project will accrue to the immediate project area, the sub-region and the province of the Northern Cape. This project has a potential to decrease unemployment rates in proposed areas and surroundings. This prospecting project will also bring revenue into the city and the province which will in turn boost the economy of the country and contribute to the supply of iron ore required by mainly the steel production industry in South Africa and other countries.

These benefits must be offset against the costs of the project, including the impacts to landowners. Further to the above, it has been determined that the prospecting project activities will not have a conflict with the spatial development plans for the ZF Mgcau DM, the Integrated Development Plans and the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) for the affected municipalities.

A process that ensures consultation with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for the project is being undertaken. The stakeholder engagement process is being conducted is a way to provide all interested and affected parties with an opportunity to comment on the project, with several platforms that allow public commenting opportunities to be offered to the I&APs. All issues raised by the interested and affected parties will be recorded and addressed in the BAR and EMPr.

## **10 Motivation**

### **10.1 Preferred Site**

The farm is underlain by a band consisting of banded ironstone with bands of amphibolite and lenses of flat pebble conglomerate; crocidolite and tuff of the Kuruman Member of the Asbesberge Formation in the Griekwastad of the Griqualand West Sequence. Desktop studies which took into consideration the existing historical data of proposed project location, has indicated the potential for iron ore on the application area.

#### **10.1.1 Regional Geology**

The Project area is situated within the Postmasburg Manganese Field (PMF) between Sishen and Postmasburg. The manganese and iron ore deposits of the Postmasburg area occur because of the thrusting between the Campbell Rand Subgroup and the Gamagara Formation of the Olifantshoek Supergroup has caused an erosional unconformity, which locally overlies it, at the base of the Gamagara Formation. This unconformity is marked by a very distinct and unique succession of sedimentary rocks, including the Wolhaarkop Breccia, lateritic paleosols and hematite pebble conglomerates of the Doornfontein Member of the Gamagara Formation.

Erosional periods resulted in the development of a karst terrain with palaeo sinkholes. Iron formations of the Asbestos Hills Subgroup and chert from within the carbonate lithologies slumped into these sinkholes to form the manganese iron formation and the Wolhaarkop breccias. Manganese rich fluids also accumulated in solution cavities. Through subsequent burial and low to medium grade metamorphism the material was transformed into massive ore. Through its hardness and toughness, the manganese ore of the PMF withstands the production of fines during transportation very well.

#### **10.1.2 Local Geology**

The property is mostly dominated by red coloured windblown sand followed by surface limestone. A northeast-southwest trending belt can be observed along the eastern boundary of the application area. This band consists of banded ironstone with bands of amphibolite and lenses of flat pebble conglomerate; crocidolite and tuff of the Kuruman Member of the Asbesberge Formation in the Griekwastad of the Griqualand West Sequence. Small portions of brown jaspilite and crocidolite with alternating layers of shale and limestone layers on top also show along the eastern part of the property. The geology of the application area is shown in Figure 10-1.

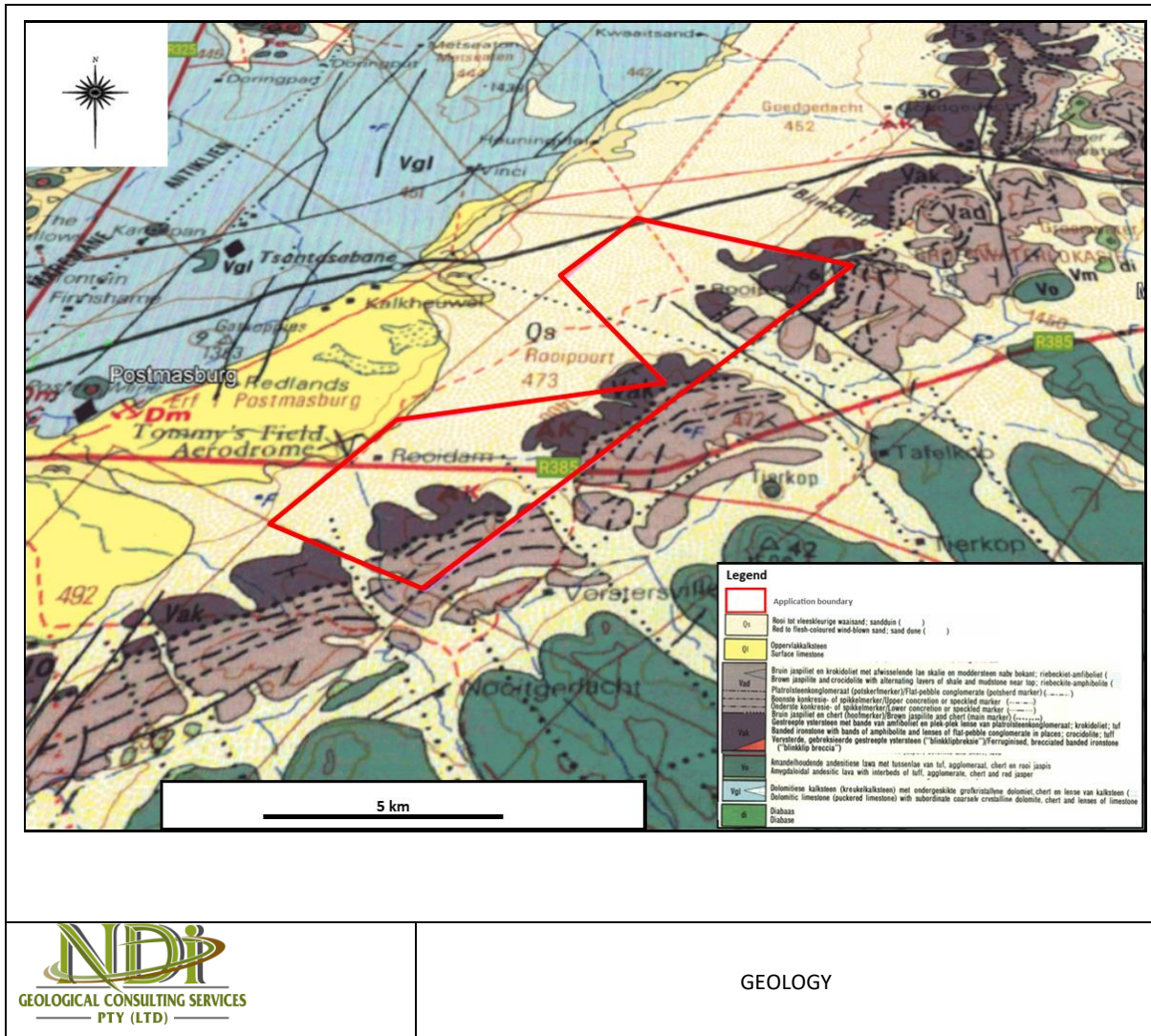


Figure 10-1: Geology of the Prospecting Area

## 10.2 Technologies

Due to the nature of the proposed prospecting activities, future land use alternatives will not be compromised. Once the viable reserve has been confirmed, a comprehensive social and environmental impact assessment will be required (according to legislation), during which alternative land use to mining of iron ore will be investigated.

In terms of the proposed technologies, these have been chosen based on long term proven success in prospecting. The prospecting activities proposed in the Prospecting Works Programme are dependent on the preceding phase (desktop studies), therefore no alternatives have been indicated. The location of the intrusive drilling activities has been determined as provided in Figure 7-1. All infrastructure will be mobile.

## 10.3 Design/Layout

Since no complicated surface infrastructure will be required for this project no design and layout alternatives for the proposed project were determined.

## **11 Full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternatives within the site.**

The invasive prospecting phase will be dependent of the results of the preceding phase. The location and extent of the drilling sites cannot be determined at this stage, therefore comprehensive mapping of the specific prospecting activity site could not be undertaken at this stage. For the purposes of this report, the overall prospecting site is presented in Figure 7-2 and location of the drilling boreholes presented in Figure 7-1.

The stakeholder consultation process has not been finalised at this stage, and therefore the comments raised by the I&APs have not been incorporated in this section. This will be updated as part of the final report.

### **11.1 Details of the Development Footprint Alternative Considered**

The property to which the application relates has potential for iron due to the nature of the geology in the area.

The proposed area is underlain by banded ironstone with bands of amphibolite and lenses of flat pebble conglomerate; crocidolite and tuff of the Kuruman Member of the Asbesberge Formation in the Griekwastad of the Griqualand West Sequence. Small portions of brown jaspilite and crocidolite with alternating layers of shale and limestone layers on top also show along the eastern part of the property. The site is therefore regarded as the preferred site and alternatives are not considered.

#### **11.1.1 The type of activity to be undertaken.**

The application is for prospecting rights and no alternatives were considered. The activity will be conducted in phases. The physical phase of the Prospecting Works Programme will be dependent on the findings of Phase 1 of the process. Phase I will entail a desktop study and geological mapping. Phase 2 will consist of drilling of both RC and diamond core, metallurgical sampling. The last phase will be a pre-feasibility study.

#### **11.1.2 The design or layout of the activity**

The location of the infrastructure will be determined based on the location of the prospecting activities, which will only be determined during Phase 1 of the Prospecting Works Programme, as well as the presence of sensitive environmental attributes such as wetlands, watercourses, protected flora and graves. All infrastructure will be mobile (Refer to Section 7.6 of this report).

#### **11.1.3 The technology to be used in the activity.**

The proposed technologies have been chosen based on long term proven success in prospecting. This technology will be in the form of drilling machines and vehicles transporting staff and general equipment required in the drilling process.

#### **11.1.4 The operational aspects of the activity**

There is no plant to install permanent services in terms of water supply, electricity, access routes and or sewage facilities. The activities will commence with Phase 1, during which desktop studies will be conducted. After the desktop studies, geological mapping will be undertaken. This phase will also include planning for the drilling survey.

Phase 2 will entail the invasive prospecting drilling campaign where the extent of mineralisation will be defined, and the geological continuity of the mineralised zone will be determined. Numerous samples will be collected and tested in a registered laboratory.

Phase 3 of the process will entail desktop studies involving interpretation and modelling of all data gathered. These studies will determine the way the work programme is to proceed in terms of activity, quantity, resources, expenditure and duration.

### **11.1.5 The option of not implementing the activity.**

The option of not implementing the activity will result in a loss of valuable information regarding the mineral status of the iron ore present on the affected properties. In addition to this, should economical reserves be present, and the applicant does not have the opportunity to prospect, the opportunity to utilise the reserves will be lost.

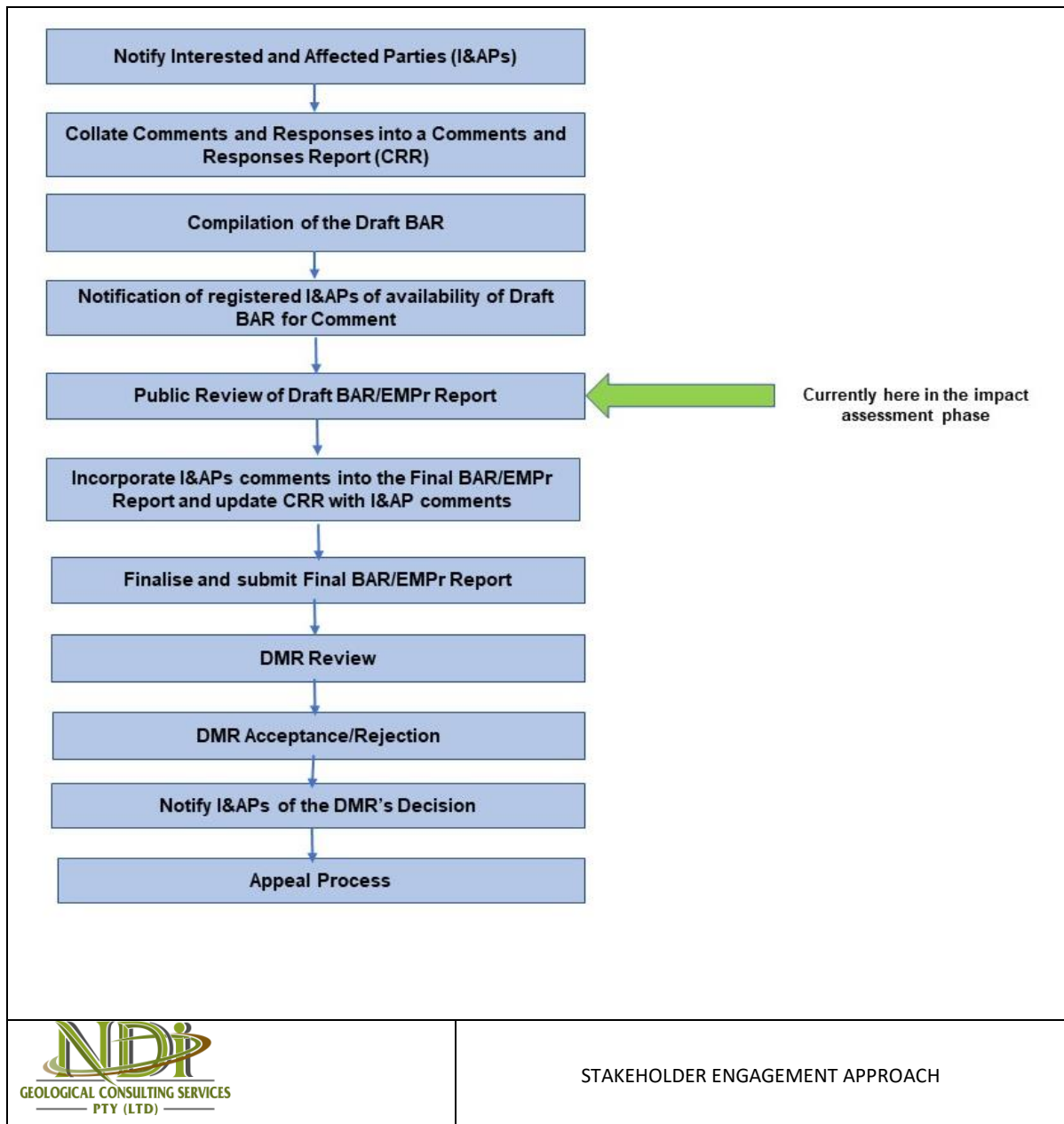
## **11.2 Details of the Public Participation Process Followed**

The Public Participation Process (PPP) was conducted in terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

The stakeholder engagement process forms an important part of the impact assessment process. The stakeholder engagement process is primarily aimed at affording I&AP's the opportunity to gain an understanding of the proposed project. In addition, the purpose of consultation with the landowners, key stakeholders, and I&AP's is to provide them with the necessary information about the proposed project so that they can make informed decisions as to whether the project will affect them and provide the EIA team with local knowledge of the area and raise concerns relating to the biophysical, socio-economic and cultural impacts that may arise.

The stakeholder engagement process is conducted in terms of NEMA, which provides clear guidelines for stakeholder engagement during an EIA. Chapter 1 of the NEMA outlines the principles of environmental management, several pertaining to public consultation (e.g., Chapter 1, subsections (2), (3), (4) (f), (g), (h), (k), (q) and (r). Chapter 6, Regulations 39 – 44 of the amended EIA Regulations (GNR) 982, promulgated on 8 December 2014, specify the minimum requirements for stakeholder engagement in an EIA process conducted under the NEMA. In 2017, the Minister of Environmental Affairs published, in terms of Section 24J of the NEMA, Public Participation Guidelines which guide the Public Participation Process (PPP) to give effect to Section (2)(4)(f), (o) and 24 (1A) (C) of the NEMA.

Figure 11-1 provides a summary of the stakeholder engagement process followed for the proposed project.



**Figure 11-1: Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Process followed**

All the above guidelines have been incorporated into this stakeholder engagement process. This application will be submitted to the DMR for authorisation as the competent authority. Identified commenting authorities on this application include:

- DWS – Regional Office;
- SAHRA – Provincial;
- Tsantsabane Local Municipality;
- ZF Magcawu District Municipality; and
- Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation (DENC)).

All stakeholder engagement documents have been included in Appendix 4.



### 11.2.1 Stakeholder Identification Interested and Affected Parties

Using the information from the surveyor general's office and stakeholder's data (from those that responded to the project announcement that was conducted through placement of newspaper advertisements), on-site notices and notification letters sent to the adjacent and affected landowners, an I&APs register was developed.

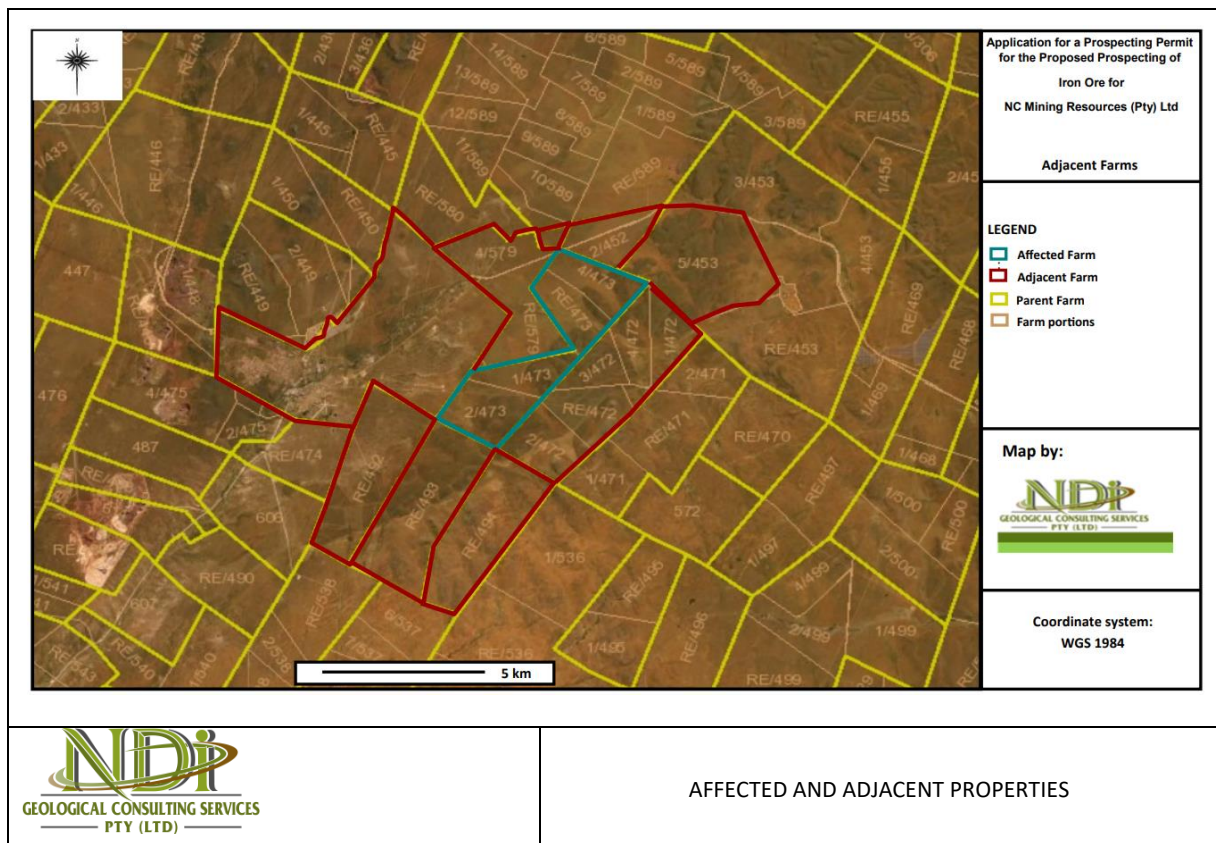
The I&APs register will be maintained for the duration of the study where the details of stakeholders are captured and automatically updated upon communication to the EAP. The identification, registration, and comments from I&APs will be an on-going activity.

The affected properties are provided in Table 11-1.

**Table 11-1: List of Affected Farm and Farm Portions**

Farm	Portions	21 Digit Survey General Code
	Remaining Extent	C0310000000047300000
Roopoot 473	Portion 1	C0310000000047300001
	Portion 2	C0310000000047300002
	Portion 4	C0310000000047300004

Affected and adjacent farms and farm portions are illustrated in Figure 11-2.



**Figure 11-2: Affected and Adjacent Properties**

### 11.2.2 Project Announcement

Various methods were used to inform stakeholders of the proposed prospecting project as well as NC Mining's intention to undertake the required and environmental processes and EA application. Stakeholders were provided with the opportunity to participate and register as I&APs during the announcement phase of the project.

- Distribution of Notification Letters: Notification letters were sent to identified I&APs on 09 September 2022, informing them of the proposed project.
- Site Notice Placements: Sites notice boards (Size A2: 600 mm X 420 mm) notifying stakeholders and I&APs of the proposed prospecting were placed at conspicuous places in the project area. Newspaper advertisements notifying stakeholders about the proposed project and the opportunity to participate in the EIA process were placed in the Kathu Gazette and DFA newspapers on 09 September 2022.

### 11.3 Public Review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report

The Draft BAR was compiled in terms of the requirements of GNR 326. All comments received during the announcement phase of the stakeholder engagement process will be incorporated into Draft BAR and collated into a Comments and Responses Report (CRR) which will form an appendix to the draft BAR.

The availability of the Draft BAR was announced by means of SMSes, letters and emails and newspaper advertisement to registered I&APs.

Copies of the draft BAR will be made available at the venues listed in Table 11-2.

**Table 11-2: List of places the Draft BAR will be place for public review.**

Public Place	Locality	Telephone
Ndi Geological Services Website	<a href="http://www.ndigeoservices.co.za/">http://www.ndigeoservices.co.za/</a>	053 842 0687

The draft BAR will also made available to the competent and commenting authorities during the 30-day review and comment period.

### 11.4 Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

Due to the Covid-19 EIA Regulations (GNR 650) that were promulgated on 5 June 2020, no face-to-face meetings will be conducted with stakeholders. Stakeholders are however welcome to call or email the EAP on the contact details above to discuss the findings of the impact assessment process.

### 11.5 Summary of Issues Raised by I&APs

Table 11-3 provides a summary of the comments received to date following the newspaper adverts, site notices, written notification of the project and the Draft BAR review period.

Table 11-3: Summary of issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties

Interested and Affected Parties  List the names of persons consulted in this column, and Mark with an X 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.
AFFECTED PARTIES				
Landowner/s				

**TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE DRAFT BAR COMMENT PERIOD**

Interested and Affected Parties <small>List the names of persons consulted in this column, and Mark with an X where those who must be consulted were in fact consulted.</small>	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.
Municipal councillor	X			
<b>Municipality</b>				
No comments received to date.				
<b>Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected Roads Department, Eskom, Telkom, DWS)</b>				
TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE DRAFT BAR COMMENT PERIOD				
<b>Communities</b>				
<b>Dept. Land Affairs</b>				
No comments received to date.				
<b>Traditional Leaders</b>				
No comments received to date.				
<b>Dept. Environmental Affairs</b>				
No comments received to date.				
<b>Other Competent Authorities affected</b>				
No comments received to date.				
<b>OTHER AFFECTED PARTIES</b>				

# 12 Environmental Attributes Associated with the Alternatives

## 12.1 Baseline Environment

### 12.1.1 Geographical

The proposed project area is situated in the Tsantsabane Local Municipality’s area of authority, within the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The affected property is located approximately 9 km east to northeast of Postmasburg and approximately 165 km northwest of Kimberley in the Northern Cape.

### 12.1.2 Topography

The topography around Postmasburg contains small variations in elevation, with a maximum elevation change of 80 metres and an average elevation above sea level of 1 327 mamsl.

The topography map of the proposed prospecting area shows that the altitude of the site varies from approximately 1 453 mamsl to 1 440 mamsl (Figure 12-1).

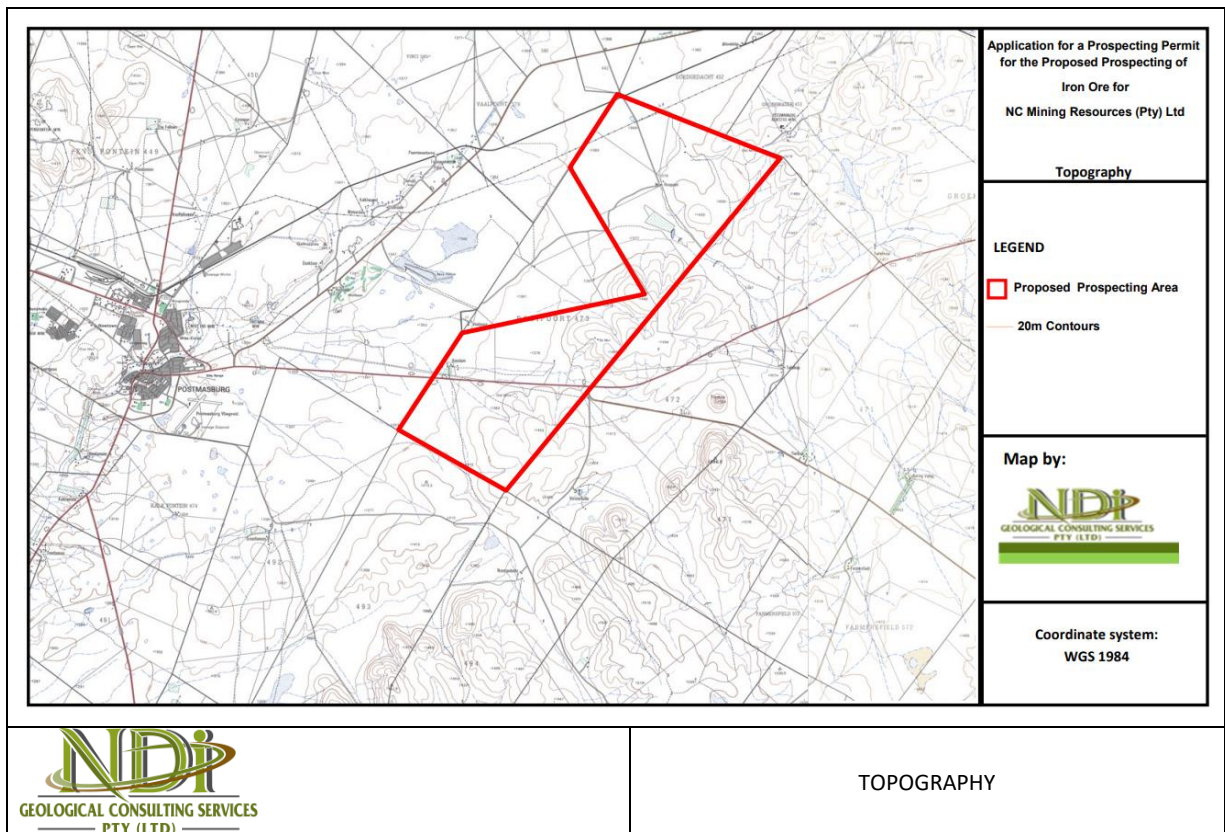


Figure 12-1: Topography

### 12.1.3 Climate

Postmasburg has a Subtropical desert climate (Classification: BWh). The summers are long and hot whereas the winters are short, cold, dry, and windy. It is mostly clear throughout the year and the temperature typically varies from 3°C to 32°C and is rarely below -1°C or above 36°C.

**Temperature**

Figure 12-2 indicates the average monthly temperature for Postmasburg.

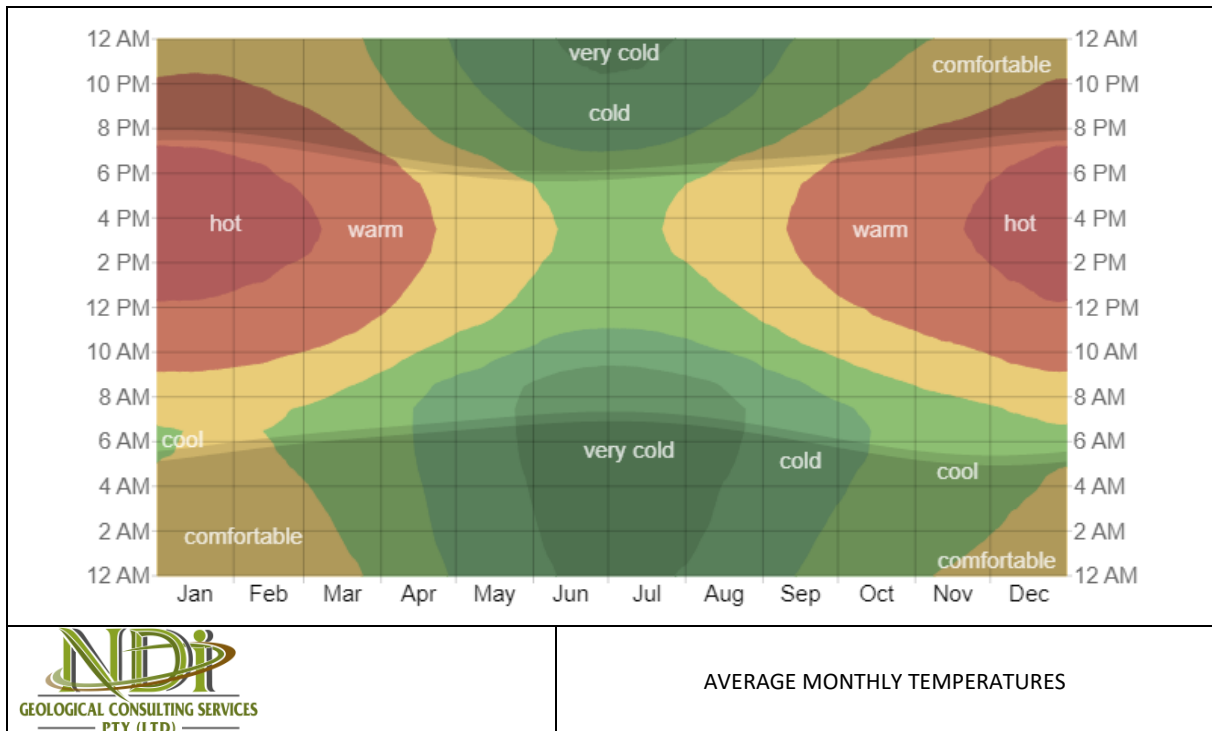
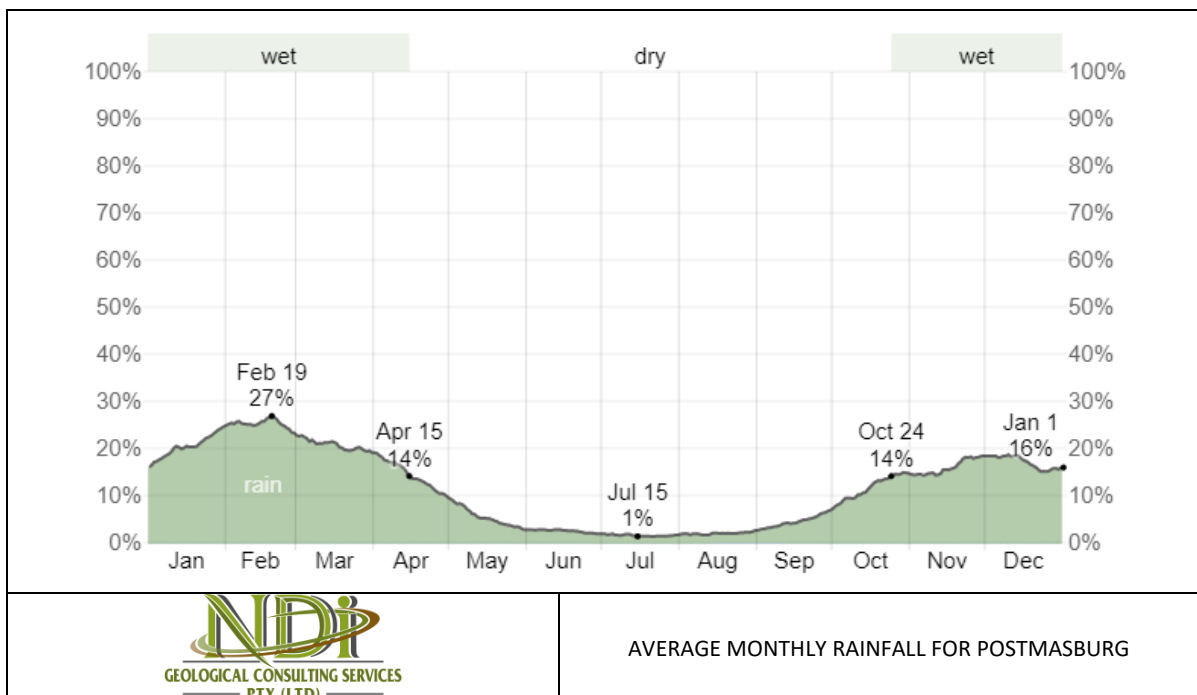


Figure 12-2: Average monthly temperatures for Postmasbug (Source: WeatherSpark .com)

**Rainfall**

The highest rainfall season lasts for 5.7 months, from October 24 to April 15, with a greater than 14% chance of a given day being a rainy day. February has the highest rainfall with an average of 7 days with at least 1 mm of precipitation and a peak probability of 27%.

The dry season lasts up to 6.3 months, from April 15 to October 24. July is the driest month with an average of 0.5 days with at least 1mm of precipitation (Figure 11-3).



**Figure 12-3: Average Monthly Rainfall for Postmasburg (Source: WeatherSpark .com)****Wind direction**

The average hourly wind speed in Postmasburg experiences mild seasonal variation over the course of the year from June 7 to January 2, with average wind speeds of more than 15 kilometres per hour. October is the windiest month of the year in Postmasburg rate of with an average hourly wind speed of 17.2 km/h.

The calmest time of the year lasts for 5.1 months, that is from January 2 to June 7. The calmest month of the year in Postmasburg is March, with an average hourly wind speed of 13 kilometres per hour.

**12.1.4 Geology**

The Project area is situated within the Postmasburg Manganese Field (PMF) between Sishen and Postmasburg. The manganese and iron ore deposits of the Postmasburg area occur because of the thrusting between the Campbell Rand Subgroup and the Gamagara Formation of the Olifantshoek Supergroup has caused an erosional unconformity, which locally overlies it, at the base of the Gamagara Formation. This unconformity is marked by a very distinct and unique succession of sedimentary rocks, including the Wolhaarkop Breccia, lateritic paleosols and hematite pebble conglomerates of the Doornfontein Member of the Gamagara Formation.

Erosional periods resulted in the development of a karst terrain with palaeo sinkholes. Iron formations of the Asbestos Hills Subgroup and chert from within the carbonate lithologies slumped into these sinkholes to form the Manganese iron formation and the Wolhaarkop breccias. Manganese rich fluids also accumulated in solution cavities. Through subsequent burial and low to medium grade metamorphism the material was transformed into massive ore. Through its hardness and toughness, the manganese ore of the PMF withstands the production of fines during transportation very well. The grade of the ore varies between 25% and 50% Mn content while the iron in the Western belts is much higher.

The property is mostly dominated by red coloured windblown sand followed by surface limestone. A northeast-southwest trending belt can be observed along the eastern boundary of the application area. This band consists of banded ironstone with bands of amphibolite and lenses of flat pebble conglomerate; crocidolite and tuff of the Kuruman Member of the Asbesberge Formation in the Griekwastad of the Griqualand West Sequence. Small portions of brown jaspilite and crocidolite with alternating layers of shale and limestone layers on top also show along the eastern part of the property (Figure 12-4).

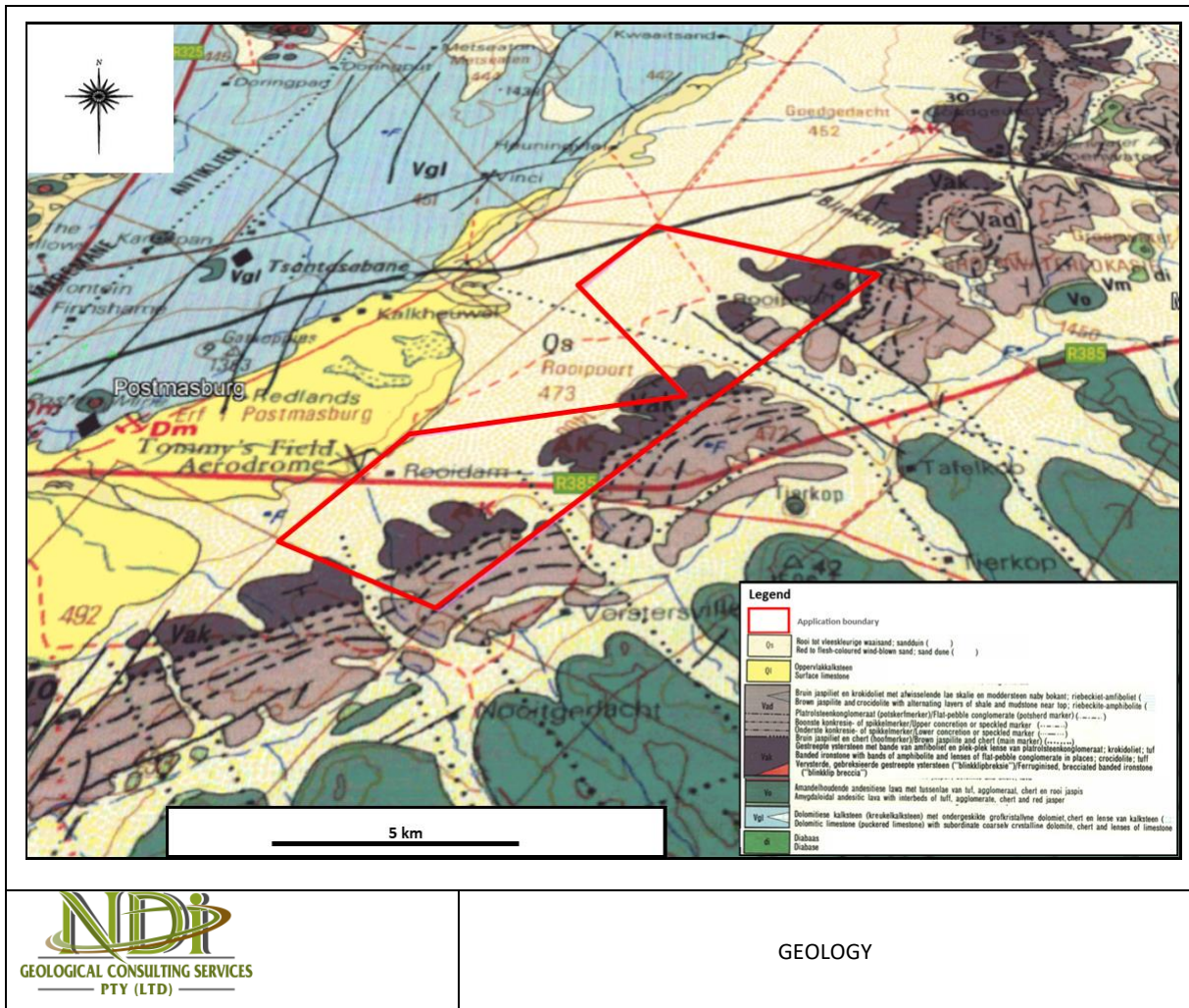


Figure 12-4: Geology of the proposed project site

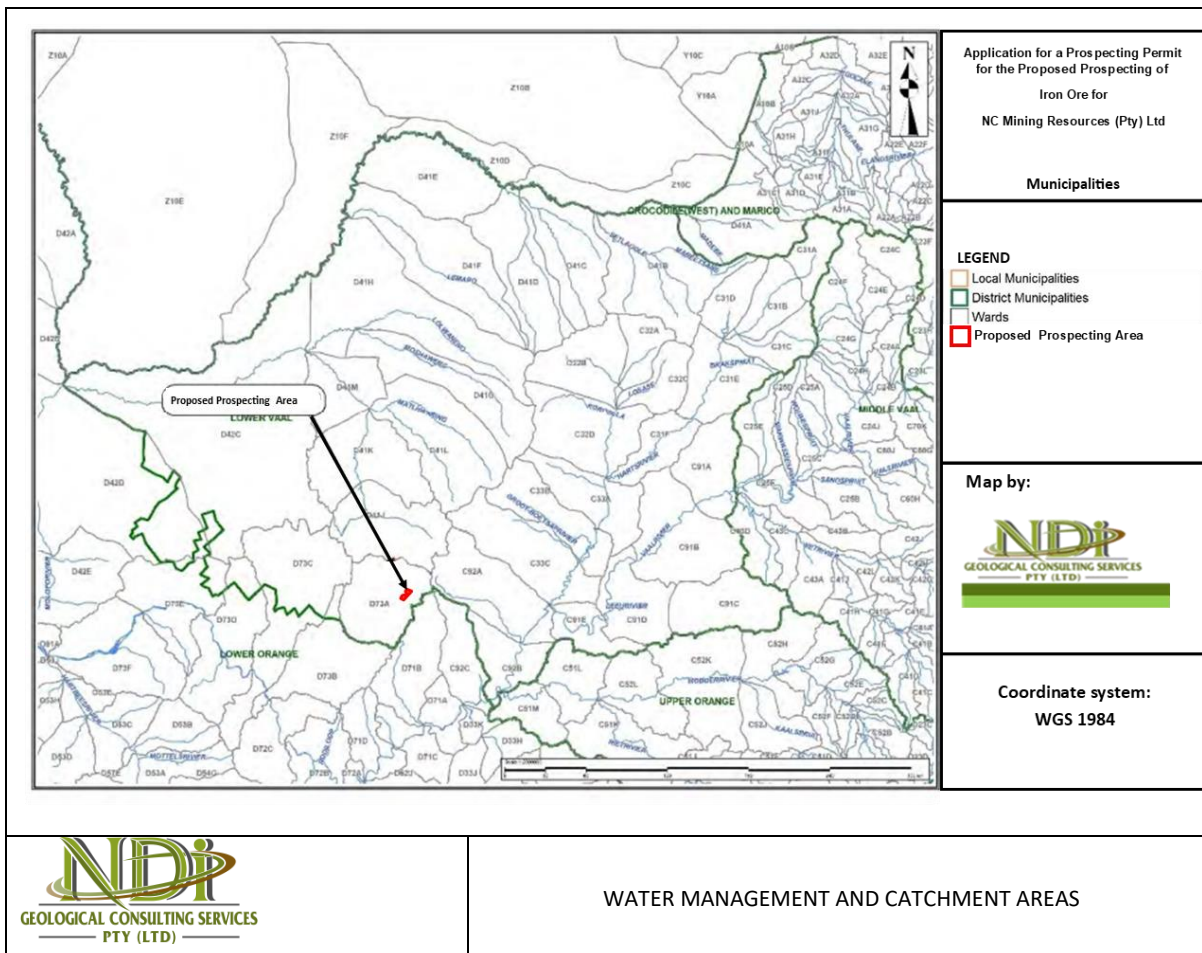
### 12.1.5 Water Resources

#### Catchment Areas and Rivers

The three main rivers are the Orange, Hartebees and Molopo Rivers. The Orange River is under severe pressure from agriculture and the encroachment of alien vegetation. The other main rivers in the study area include: Kaboep; Tuins; Gamagara rivers. All rivers in the ZFMD, except the Orange River, are non-perennial rivers. There are no significant dams on the Orange River in the ZFMD. Several containment dams such as Boegoeborg (Groblershoop), Neusberg (Kakamas) and Rooiberg (Kenhardt) help to serve the agricultural areas. Water Management Areas and Quaternary Catchment Area covering the proposed project area (Figure 12-5).

The project is located within quaternary catchment D73A which is located within the Lower Vaal Water Management Area (WMA)





**Figure 12-5: Water Management and Catchment Area**

**12.1.6 Wetlands**

According to the SANBI data, there are no wetlands occurring within the study area,

**12.1.7 Groundwater**

The DWS launched the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) in South Africa, which highlighted the importance of groundwater resources in the country as well as the role they will play in satisfying the targets of the RDP. According to the DWS aquifer classification the following applies for the prospecting area:

- The aquifer is classified as a Minor aquifer;
- Aquifer Vulnerability is classified as Moderate; and
- Aquifer Susceptibility is classified as Medium 4.

The Postmasburg area is characterised by static groundwater levels which vary from a minimum of 0m (springs flowing out at the surface), generally in the topographical lower lying areas, to a maximum of about 75m below the surface to the northeast of Postmasburg. Apart from a possible distinction of deeper groundwater level towards the east and northeast of Postmasburg on the banded iron formation lithology with shallower groundwater levels to the southeast on the Ghaap Plateau dolomites, there are no definite groundwater level trends.

In this area groundwater is primarily used for domestic supply, livestock watering of gardens. Groundwater cannot be pumped in sufficient quantities for extensive crop irrigation purposed because the borehole yields from the upper calcrete aquifer are relatively low.

Groundwater vulnerability for most of the area is considered high.

Groundwater quality is considered good in that all field EC measurements taken were less than 150 Ms/M, this makes it Class 1 water, suitable for long term human consumption

### 12.1.8 Biomes

The proposed prospecting area is located in the Savanna Biome (Figure 12-6). The Savanna Biome is the largest Biome in southern Africa, occupying 46% of its area, and over one-third the area of South Africa. It is well developed over the lowveld and Kalahari region of South Africa. It is characterized by a grassy ground layer and a distinct upper layer of woody plants. Where this upper layer is near the ground the vegetation may be referred to as Shrubveld, where it is dense as Woodland, and the intermediate stages are locally known as Bushveld.

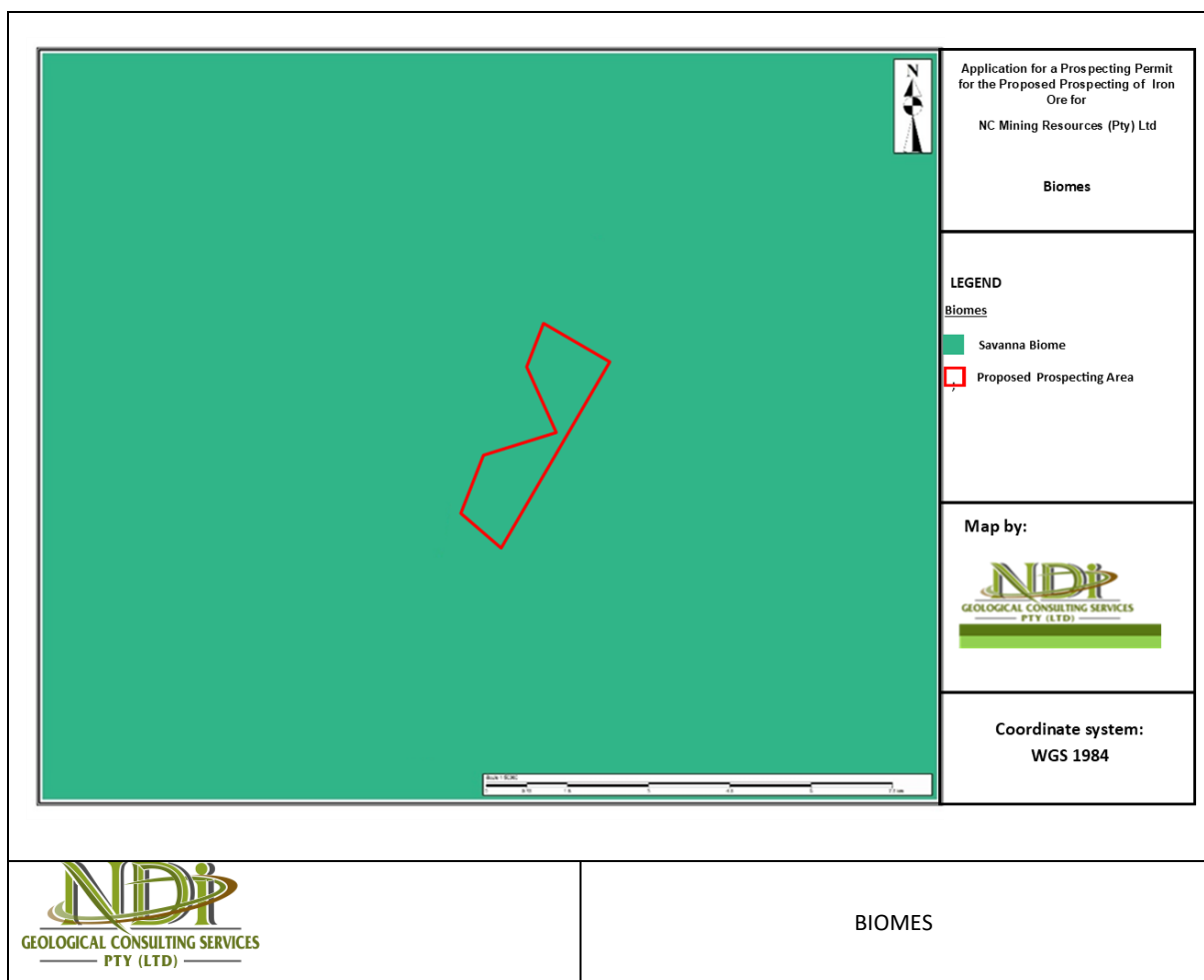
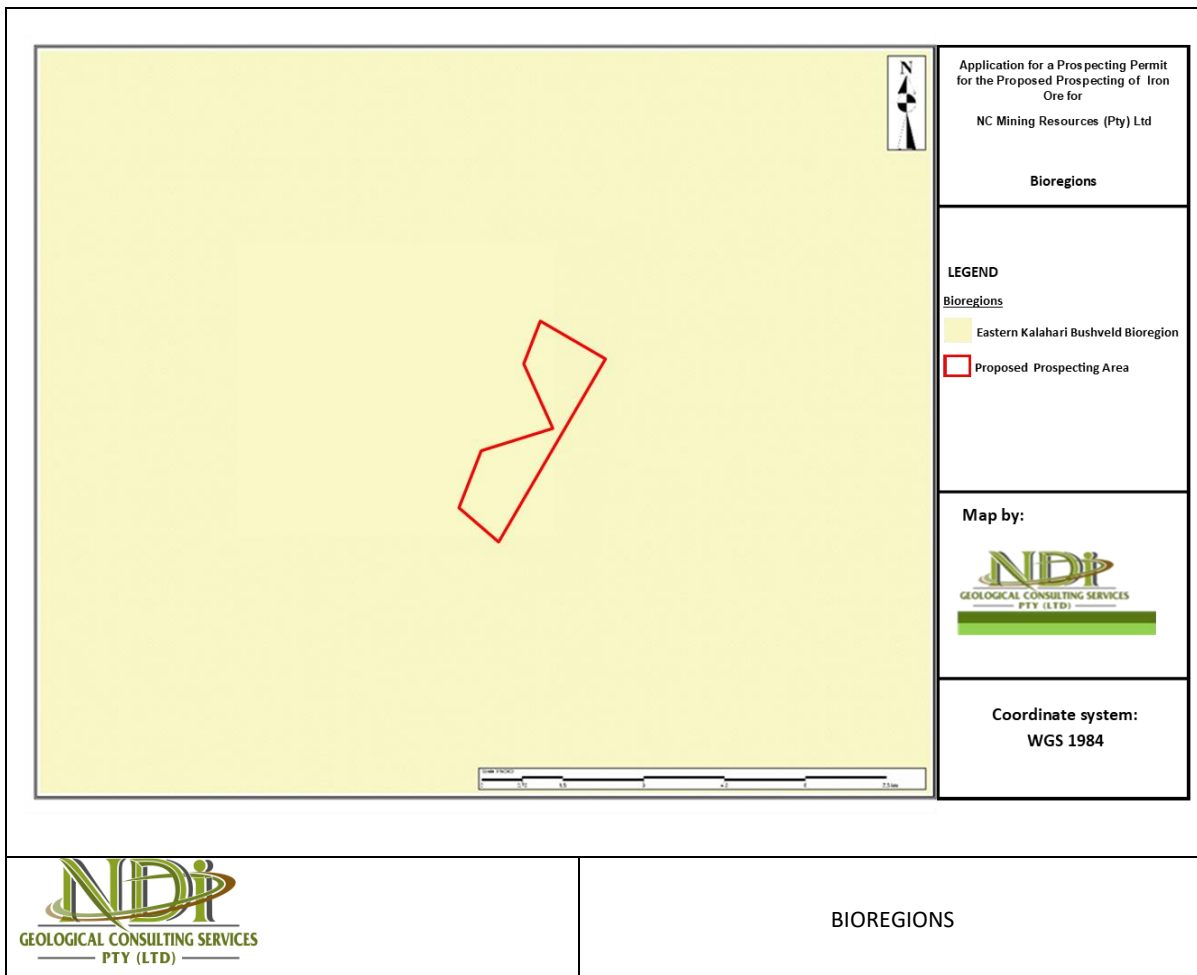


Figure 12-6: Biomes

### 12.1.9 Bioregions

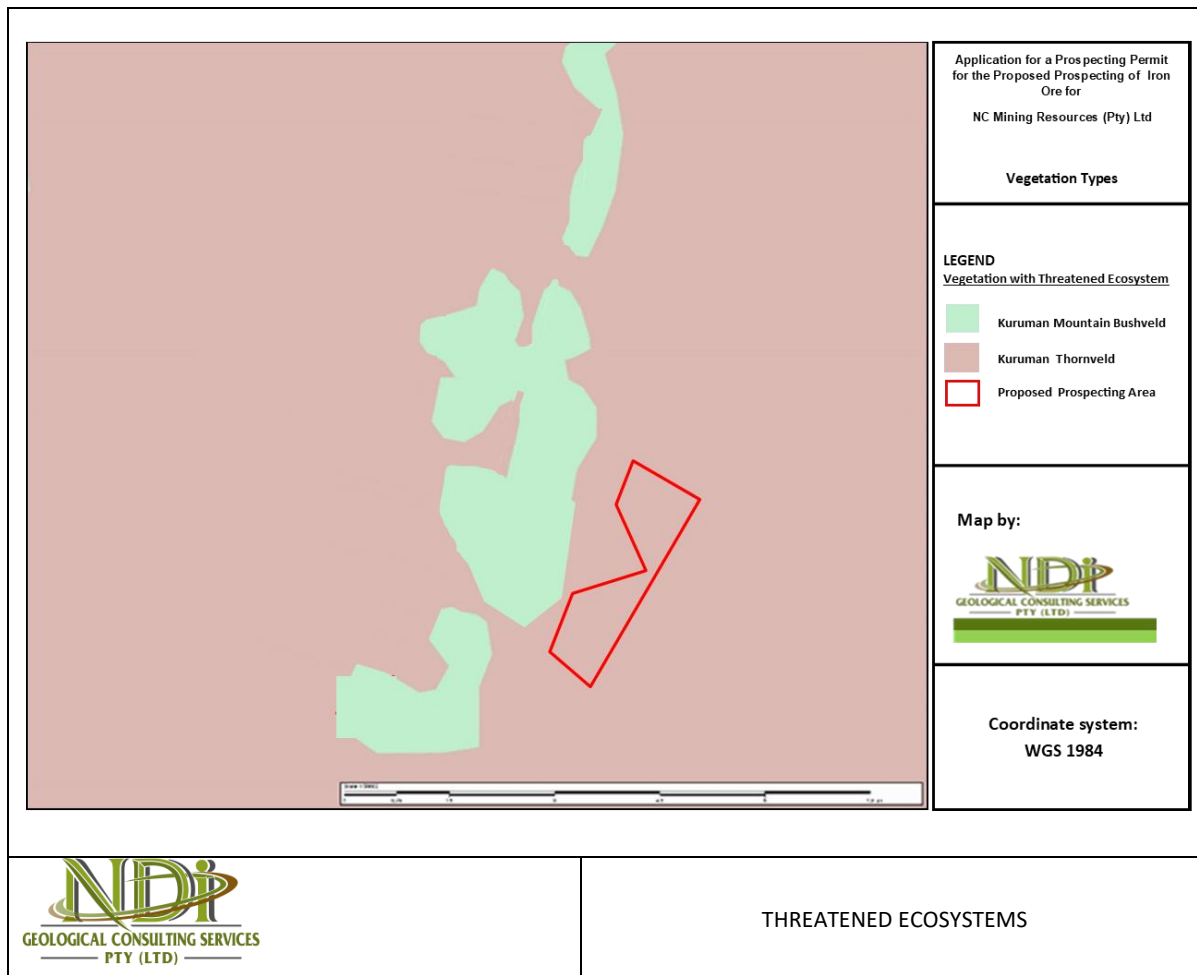
The proposed prospecting area is located in the Eastern Kalahari Bushveld Bioregion as shown in Figure 12-7. The Eastern Kalahari Bushveld Bioregion is the largest savanna bioregion and is on average at the highest altitude. It is roughly bounded by Mafikeng, Bloemhof, Kimberley, Groblershoop and Van Zylsrus.



**Figure 12-7: Bioregions**

**12.1.10 Vegetation Types**

According to the SANBI remaining vegetation types database, there is no remaining natural vegetation on the affected area. The proposed prospecting area is associated with ecosystems that are considered to be threatened. The threatened ecosystems associated with the site are the Kuruman Mountain Bushveld and the Kuruman Thornveld. According to SANBI, the ecosystem is classified at Least Threatened (Figure12-8).



**Figure 12-8: Vegetation with Threatened Ecosystems**

**12.1.11 Conservation Plan**

According to the Northern Cape Provincial Biodiversity Conservation Plan (C Plan), the affected property falls within an Ecological Support Area (ESA). ESAs are not essential for meeting biodiversity targets but play an important role in supporting the ecological functioning of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and/or in delivering ecosystem services. The Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas map is to guide decision making about the best place to locate development. The map should inform land use planning, environmental assessment and authorisations, and natural resource management by a variety of sectors whose policies and decisions impact biodiversity.

Figure 12-9 provides a map showing areas of conservation importance that may be affected by the prospecting activities.

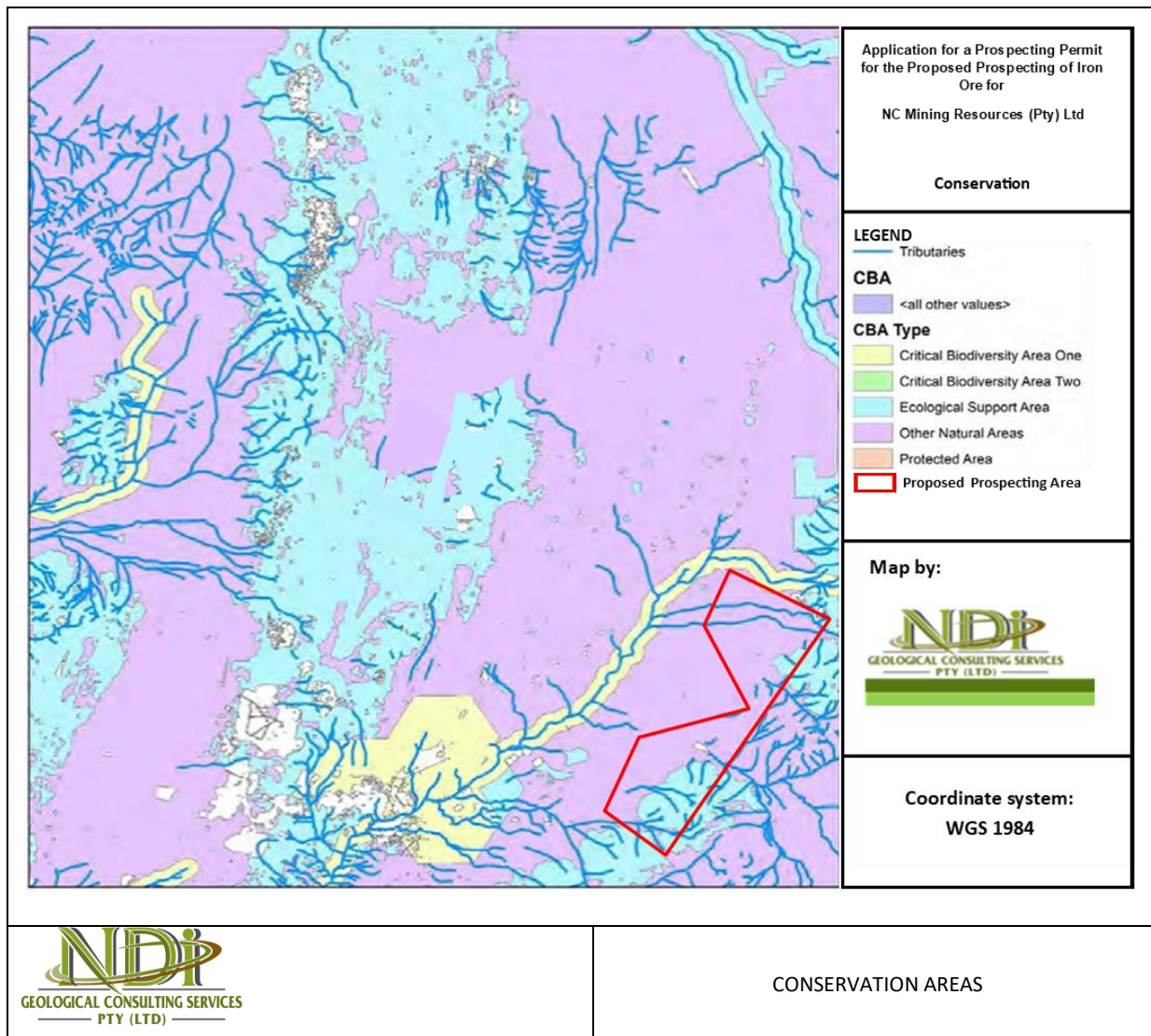


Figure 12-9: Areas of Conservation Importance

### 12.1.12 Heritage Resources

Heritage resources may be tangible, such as buildings and archaeological artefacts or intangible such as landscapes and living heritage. Their significance is based upon their aesthetic, architectural, historical scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic economic or technological values; their representation of a particular period; their rarity and their sphere of influence. There are several heritage and cultural resources in the Northern Cape Province. However, there are no major heritage resources sites that are associated with the affected properties. It is however expected that there may be graves and burial sites that may be affected by the proposed prospecting activities.

Should there be any heritage sites (graves) within the prospecting area, they will be identified and fenced before any prospecting activities take place.

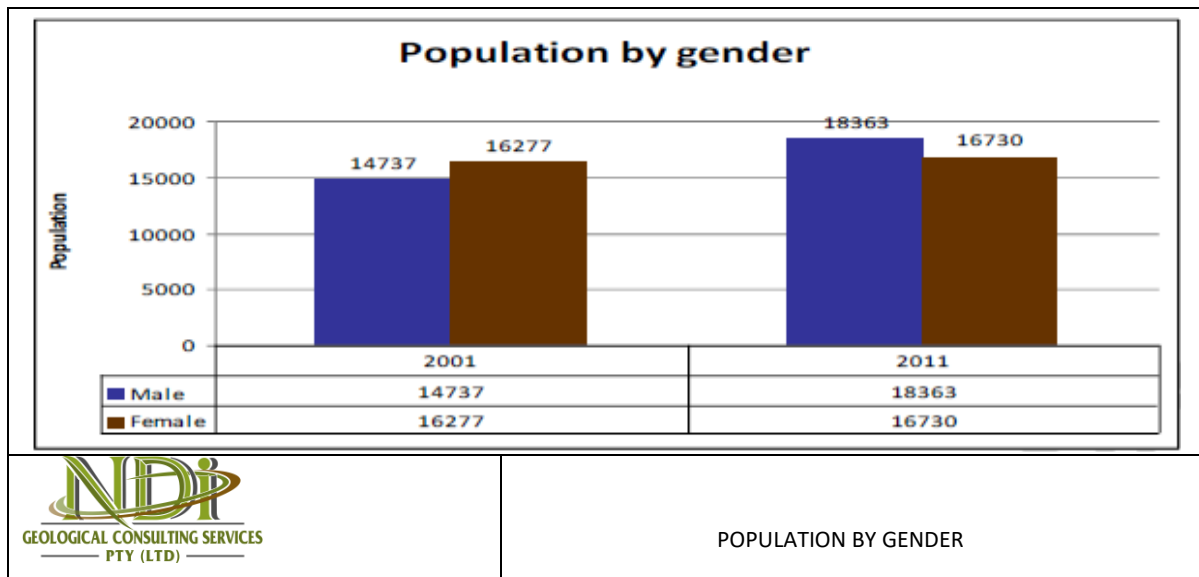
## 12.2 Socio-Economic

The proposed prospecting project will be located within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality which is situated in the ZF Mgqawu District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.

### 12.2.1 Population

Census 2011 the population figures for Tsantsabane Local Municipality is 35 093, this indicates a population growth of 4 079, from population size of 31 014 (Census 2001). The municipality has a total of 9 839 households. According to the IDP, the population increase is due to immigration of people coming to the municipal area in search for better living conditions or jobs in the mining and solar industrial sectors.

The male population has increased by 24% while the female population has increased with only 2.7% since 2001. The municipality has more males than females and the reason could be derived from the male dominated employment industry as there are a lot of mines in the area. Out of the whole population 54% are black male followed by 36% coloured males then 8% white and lastly 1% Indians. For females there are 51% black Africans followed by 40% coloured females then lastly 9% of whites in the municipal area (Figure 12-10).



**Figure 12-10: Population by gender**

The age pyramid indicates that the population of Tsantsabane is predominantly young people. There is a small percentage of people older than 60 years. The age pyramid further indicates that approximately 31% of the population is under 14 years and approximately 33% is between 15 and 34 years (Figure 12-11).

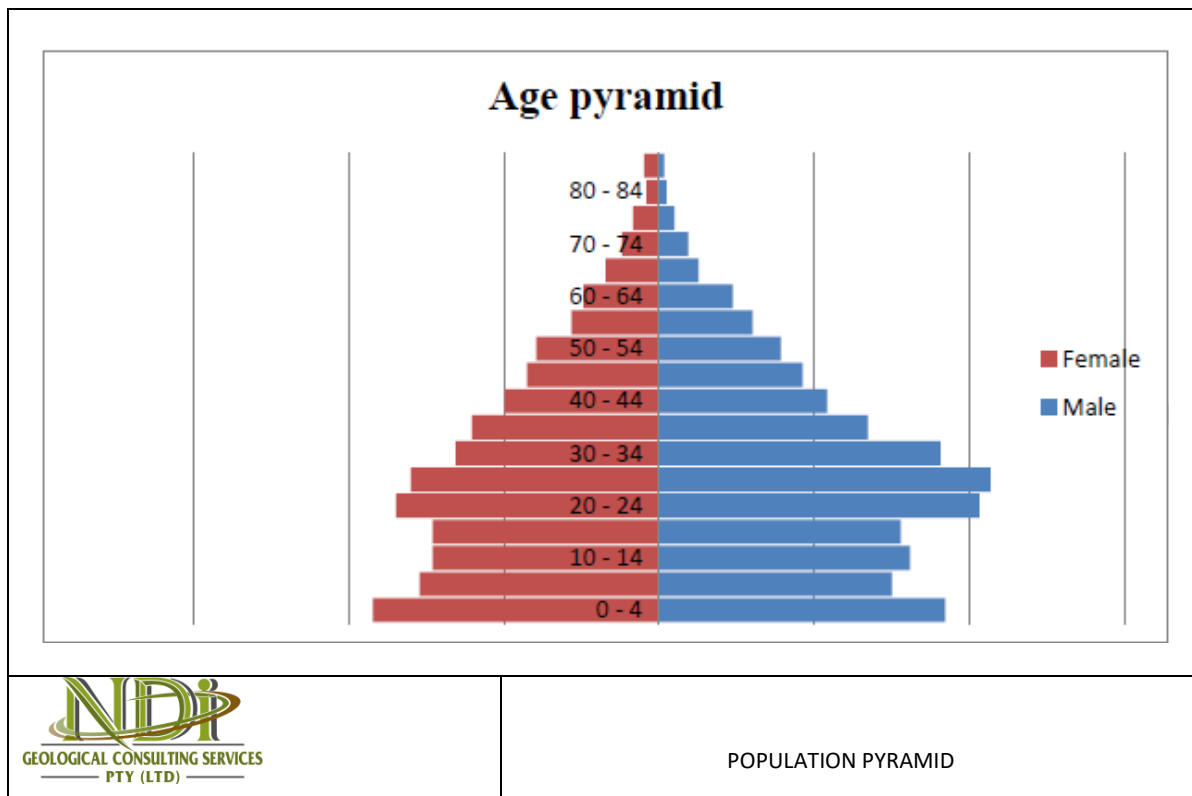


Figure 12-11: Population pyramid

### 12.2.2 Level of Education

From a statistical analysis it is clear that there has been an increase of people obtaining Matric since 2001. There has also been an increase in the number of people with higher education.

The statistics indicate that although a high number of students enrolling for primary school a very low number of students complete grade 12. This has resulted in a very low probability for employment. Only 5% of those who enrolled for grade 1 make it into tertiary. Less than 15% of the population has a tertiary qualification or have completed Grade 12. It must, however, be mentioned that the education level is affected negatively by the urbanization process, in the past since it mostly involves matriculates and those with a better qualification, due to the local lack of job opportunities. This can also be attributed to the fact that the nearest University of Technology (Central University of Technology, in Bloemfontein) is almost 400km away and the Sol Plaatjie University has recently started a limited offering of some courses.

Males seems to be doing much better when it comes to education levels, as more men have some secondary education, grade 12 and higher education than their female counterparts (Figure 12-12).

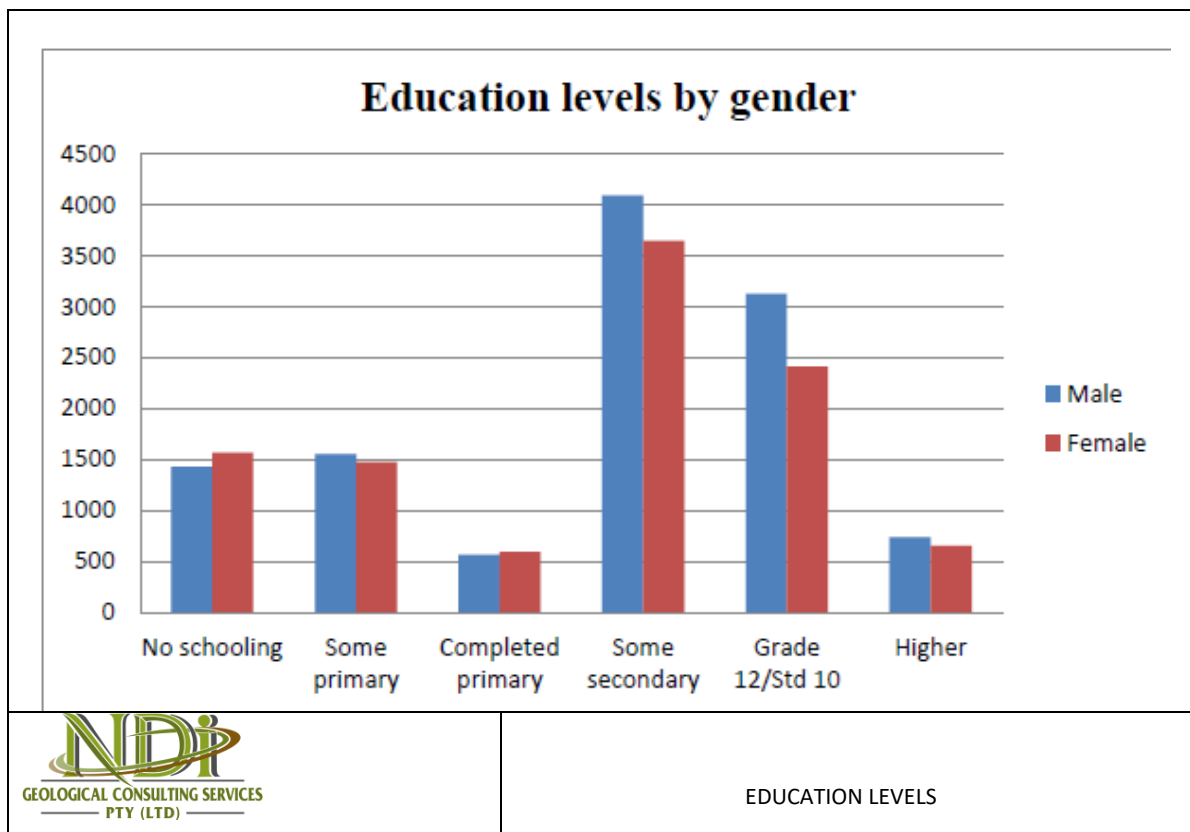


Figure 12-12: Educational levels by gender

### 12.2.3 Employment Levels

According to the STATSA unemployment figure has drastically reduced from 4 466 in 2001 to 3 795 in 2011 this shows a decrease of 15%. Employment has increased by 69% in 2011, this clearly indicates that there are more people working in 2011 than in 2001.

Although there were more employed people in 2011 than in 2001, there is a very high level of economically inactive members in 2011 than it was in 2001 (Figure 12-13). The high number of economically inactive could indicate a high level of dependency on those who are employed



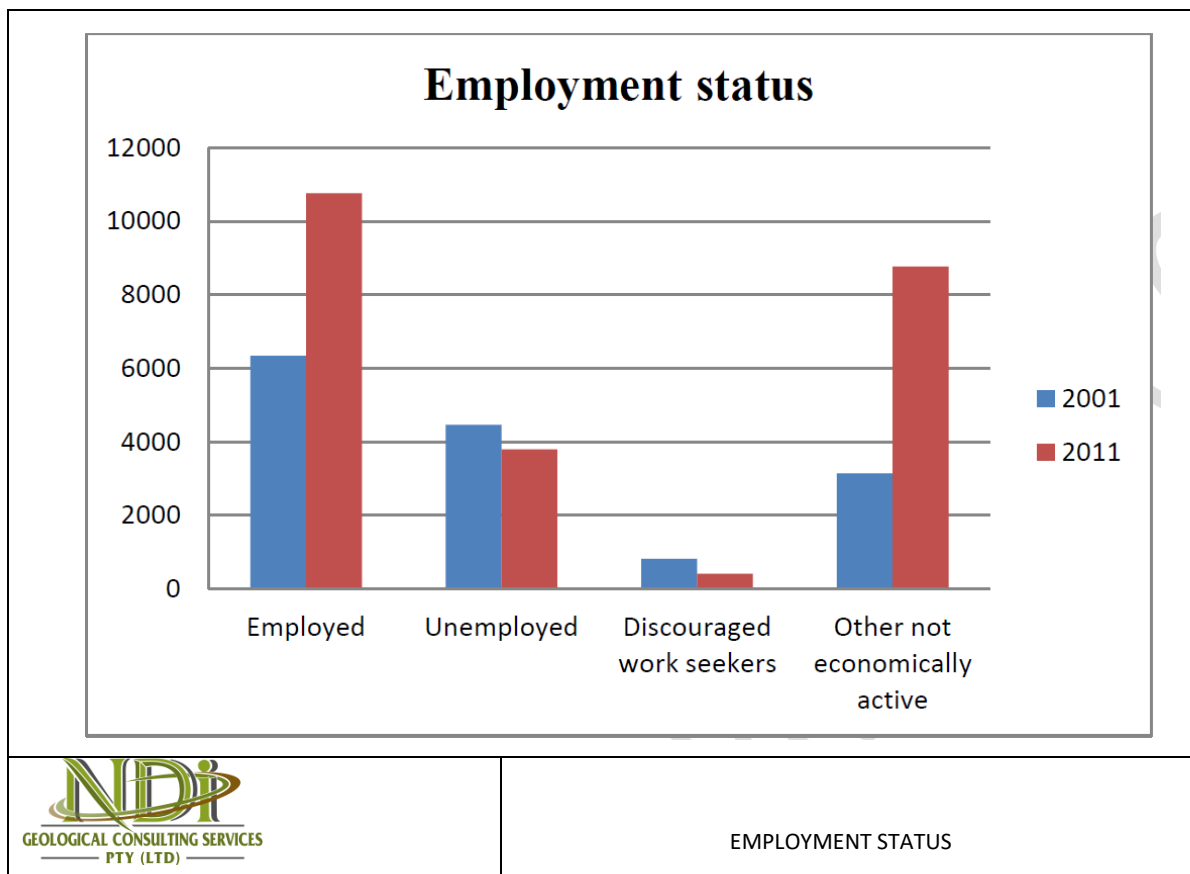


Figure 12-13: Employment status

### 12.2.4 Economic Statistics

The Draft Spatial Development Framework (SDF) indicates that “during 2012 the primary sector contributed 76% of all the sectors’ contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Tsantsabane LM. Mining is the single biggest contributor of all industries to the GDP, contributing 74% (R 3.9 billion), and the secondary and tertiary sectors contributed 4% and 20% respectively”.

### 12.3 Description of the current land uses.

The current land use associated with the project site is mining related (prospecting activities) and agricultural activities. The Postmasburg area consists of the mining sectors in the area such as the iron ore, manganese and other quarry mining for aggregates, well supported by the presence of a local shopping centre in the centre of Postmasburg to support the local economy. Agricultural practices on the project site include the farming of goat, cow and sheep.

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

Please refer to Section 12.1.

### 12.5 Environmental and current land use map.

Tsantsabane Local Municipality is located within the Northern Cape Province and falls within the boundaries of the ZF Mgcawu District. The nearest business centre is Postmasburg, which is about 9 km away. Agriculture and mining activities seem to be dominant in and around the proposed project location. Figure 12-14 shows the current environmental attributes and land use. Map also attached as Appendix 6.

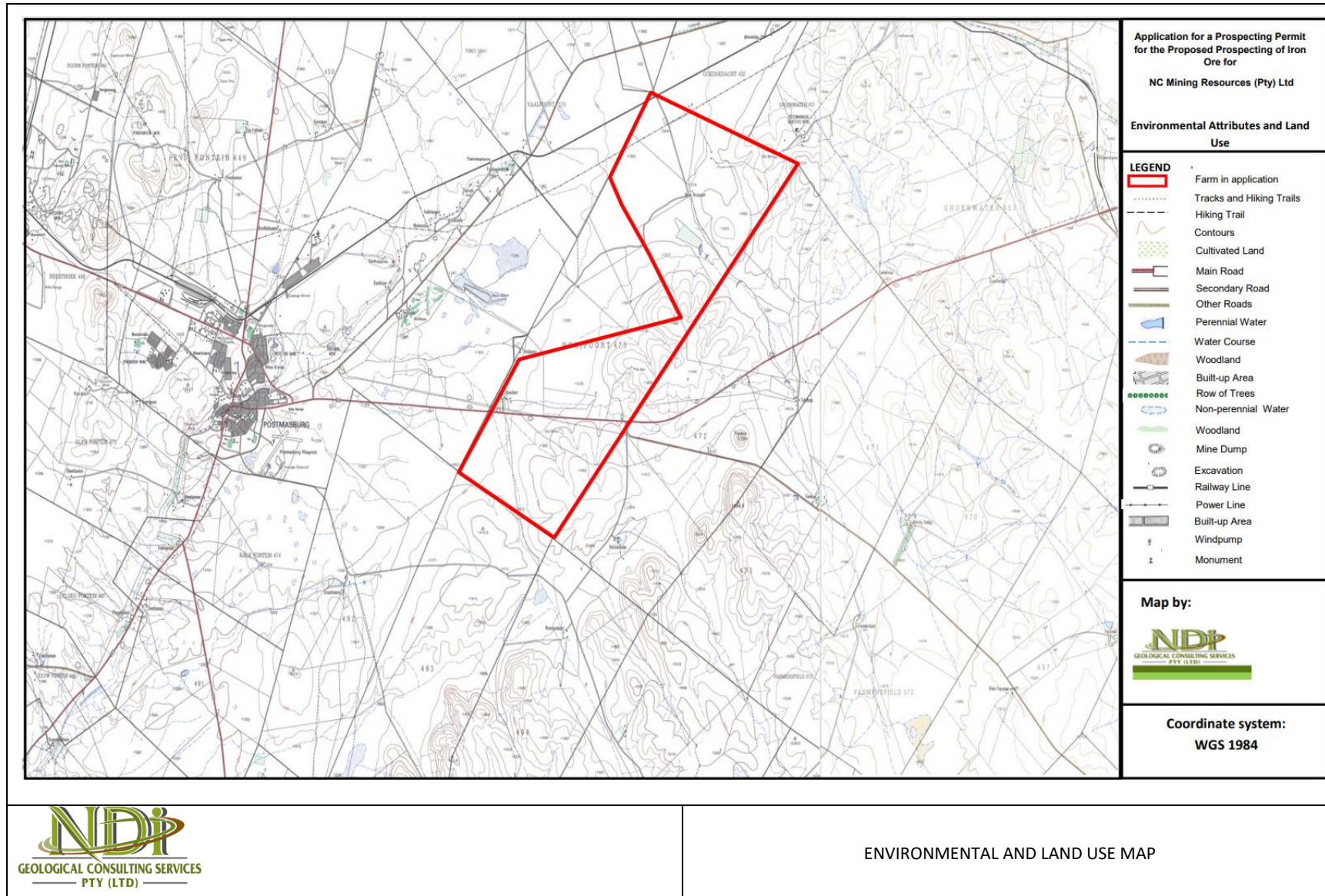


Figure 12-14: Current Environmental Attributes and land use Map

# 13 Impacts and Risks Identified

Table 13-1 provide a high-level assessment of the potential impacts and associated mitigation measures which could result from the proposed mine during construction, operation and decommissioning/closure. These impacts will be further refined and assessed according to the impact assessment methodology in Section 14.

**Table 13-1: Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Development**

Element of Environment	Potential Impact Descriptions
Socio-Economic	Possible job opportunities during the construction and operation.
Hydrogeology	Possible groundwater contamination.
Surface water	Possible surface water contamination.
Air Quality	Possible impact on Air Quality in the area.
Climate Change	Possible contribution to climate change through emission of Green House Gases
Blasting and Vibrations	Possible impacts on private properties and fauna due to blasting and vibrations
Noise	Possible generation of noise during construction and operation.
Soils/Land Use/Land Capability	Loss of soil resource and change in land capability and land use.
Biodiversity	Disturbance and loss of biodiversity, especially SCC.
Aquatic ecology	Possible loss, sedimentation and contamination of aquatic resources
Heritage	Possible impact on heritage and cultural resources (including graves) in the area.
Traffic	Potential safety issues due to the increased traffic.
Cumulative Impacts	Cumulative Impacts

## 13.1 Construction

During the construction phase of the project, site establishment for surveying and pegging sites will be the main activities. Environmental impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment which are anticipated to occur throughout the construction were identified as follows:

### 13.1.1 Socio-Economic

There will be benefits emanating from the prospecting activities. The main positive impacts of the prospecting activities will be the temporary creation of jobs during the construction phase of the project. The project may also result in a temporary boost in small local businesses in the area.

Activities relating to site establishment may result in grievance as a result of possible grave relocation. It is expected that the final site layout will consider all the sensitive environment in the area and will avoid graves and other heritage and cultural resources in the area. Movement of construction vehicles on the roads (R380 and other farm roads) may increase the risks accidents on the roads. Other health and safety risks may be as a result on construction workers lighting fires on site, littering and lack of housekeeping. Potential increase in social pathologies and negative health impacts due to potential squatting of job seekers and increase in nuisance dust may also occur.

### 13.1.2 Groundwater

Groundwater resources are vulnerable to prospecting activities. The use of earth moving machinery and construction vehicles on site poses the risk of chemical spillages including fuel and oils, which may leach into the groundwater. The removal of vegetation could furthermore lower the evapotranspiration rates, thereby allowing a greater volume of potentially contaminated water to percolate to the underlying aquifer in the event of an accidental spill from the machinery. It must however be noted that the removal of vegetation will be limited to the required footprints for the access roads, the boreholes and sumps as well as the camp sites. The impact on evapotranspiration is therefore expected to be negligible.

Construction activities such as site clearing, and grubbing is unlikely to materially affect the groundwater within the project area. However, care should be taken during the utilisation and storage of hydrocarbons and chemicals, which may have an impact on groundwater quality as a result of spillages and uncontrolled release.

### 13.1.3 Surface water

The main users of surface water resources are agricultural irrigation, domestic, industrial, mining and power generation, while plantation forestry intercepts and reduces runoff before it reaches the rivers and groundwater.

The potential impacts on surface water during the construction phase of the proposed project are as follows:

- Accidental spillages of hazardous substances from construction vehicles used during construction of the crossings, as well as from hazardous storage areas;
- Contamination of runoff by poor materials/waste handling practices;
- Debris from poor handling of materials and/or waste blocking watercourses;
- Contaminated dirty water runoff to surrounding areas resulting in the impact on local surface water quality;
- Increase in turbidity of the local water streams as a result of runoff of cleared areas; and
- Increase of surface runoff and potentially contaminated water that needs to be controlled in the areas where site clearing occurred.

Some level of sedimentation is expected to occur in the drainage line that traverse the project area as runoff is naturally anticipated to pick up environmental debris as it crosses natural areas. Increased turbidity is reversible and surface water should return to pre-impact turbidity levels once sediment levels entering the watercourse are reduced. Settled sediments should naturally move downstream during periods of high flow flowing storm events.

### 13.1.4 Aquatic Ecosystems

The removal of vegetation from the construction area is also expected to have an impact on the provision of ecological and sociocultural services by aquatic ecosystems. In addition, construction waste dumping and oil leakages from construction vehicles will alter biodiversity maintenance of the aquatic ecosystems, which endangers the survival of aquatic ecosystem and riparian species inhabiting the area. Impacts on the aquatic ecosystems and will include:

- Loss of habitat and aquatic ecosystem and riparian ecological structure as a result of site clearance activities and uncontrolled aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitat degradation;

- Impact on the aquatic ecosystem and riparian systems as a result of changes to the sociocultural service provisions through site clearance, waste management and riparian disturbance;
- Impact on the hydrological functioning of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian systems;
- Soil compaction and levelling as a result of construction activities and vehicle movement leading to loss of riparian habitat; and
- Increased runoff due to topsoil removal and vegetation clearance leading to possible erosion and sedimentation of riparian resources.

The proposed project will only involve drilling and not trenching or pitting, there are also no major surface water sources and for that reason, it is not anticipated that there will be significant impact on aquatic life, if any.

### 13.1.5 Heritage and Archaeological Resources

The following impacts are envisaged on archaeological artefacts and graves as a result of the construction phase of the proposed project:

- The proposed project has the potential to impact on local graves within the area; and
- The proposed project has the potential to impact on sites of archaeological importance.

The final layout plan will be dependent on the location of local heritage and archaeological resources. The siting of the boreholes and infrastructure will be in such a way as to avoid sensitive environments, which include graves and archaeological resources as far as is practicable.

### 13.1.6 Palaeontology Impacts

Earth moving activities such as vehicle and machinery movement, site clearance and excavation may result in the destruction of fossils (if any).

### 13.1.7 Biodiversity

All South Africans depend on healthy ecosystems for economic and livelihood activities, including agriculture, tourism and several incomes generating and subsistence level activities. These natural ecosystems are under pressure from land use change and related processes causing degradation, as well as invasive alien species.

Biodiversity is crucial to ecosystem health, and healthy ecosystems are central to human well-being. Healthy ecosystems interlinked with working landscapes and other open spaces form the ecological infrastructure of the country and are the foundation for clean air and water, fertile soil and food.

#### Flora

The project may result in the following impacts on the floral environment during the construction phase:

- Impact on floral diversity because of site clearance, anthropogenic activity, and possible uncontrolled fires;
- Destruction of potential floral habitats for species of conservational concern as a result of site clearing, alien species, waste management and soil compaction;
- Vegetation clearance may lead to floral habitat loss of potential species of conservational concern;

- Potential spreading of alien invasive species as a result of floral disturbance;
- Generation of waste and incorrect disposal from construction material leading to disturbance of natural vegetation; and
- Habitat fragmentation because of construction activities leading to loss of floral diversity.
- Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase;

### **Fauna**

The project may result in the following impacts on the faunal environment during the construction phase:

- Loss of faunal habitat and ecological structure as a result of site clearing, alien invasive species, erosion, and general construction activities;
- Loss of faunal species due to collisions with construction vehicles and machinery;
- Loss of faunal diversity and ecological integrity as a result of construction activities, erosion, poaching and faunal specie trapping;
- Impact on faunal species of conservational concern due to habitat loss and collision with construction vehicles;
- Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts on faunal habitat during the operation phase.

The loss of biodiversity is expected be insignificant as it will be limited to the footprints of the required infrastructure. However, mitigation and management of species of conservational concern, if any, needs to be adhered to.

### **13.1.8 Air Quality**

The air quality of the area can be described as good because there is very little air pollution compared to urban areas. Problems such as acid rain do not occur in the area. The few cases of air pollution which occur are mostly because of smoke from the burning of vegetation such as reeds along the river, and, to a lesser extent, from certain households. Legislation relating to air pollution (Part III of Act 45 of 1965) is applicable to the region and was promulgated in the Government Gazette R1255 of 19 July 1978. This act is specifically applicable to households with coal stoves, as well as any fuel burning appliance installed at a business or any other property which would make use of it.

With the above said, the movement of construction vehicles and earth moving machinery as well as the stripping of vegetation may still likely result in an increase in nuisance dust, PM10 and PM2.5. There is also potential for increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollution due to the movement of vehicles and construction machinery. It is expected that the implementation of dust suppressing mitigation measures will result in the reduction in nuisance dust.

### **13.1.9 Visual**

The following impacts on the visual character as a result of the proposed project are envisaged during the construction phase:

- Scaring of the landscape as a result of the clearance of vegetation;
- Visual intrusion as a result of the movement of machinery and the erection of contractor camps; and

- Indirect visual impact due to dust generation as a result of the movement of vehicles and materials, to and from the site area.

### **13.1.10 Ambient Noise**

The use of vehicles and machinery may result in an increase in ambient noise in the immediate vicinity of the project. To alleviate this, work will be limited to day hours and the field staff will be supplied with hearing protection PPE such as earmuffs and ear plugs.

### **13.1.11 Soil Land Use and Land Capability**

Due to the sandy nature of much of the soil a large part of the ZFMDM is susceptible to wind erosion if the natural vegetation cover is disturbed. During the construction phase, all infrastructure and activities required for the operational phase will be established. The main envisaged activities include the following:

- Movement of construction vehicles, machinery and workers in unprotected areas (bare) may result in compacting of the soil of the existing roads. Fuel and oil spills from vehicles may result in soil chemical pollution;
- Clearing of vegetation will result in the soils being particularly more vulnerable to soil erosion. The impact can persist long after cessation of prospecting activities depending on mitigation and rehabilitation strategies. Strategic stormwater management should be put in place to minimise soil losses.
- Soil contamination as a result of construction activities can be as a result of a number of activities (i.e., incorrect hazardous substance storage, incidental hydrocarbon leakages from construction vehicles);
- Loss of soil resource and utilisation as a result of the cleaning and topsoil stripping of the construction footprint. Although soils will be stripped and stockpiled, loss of seed reserve and organic matter depletion through decomposition during stockpiling will severely reduce soil quality and its ecological function if not managed appropriately. Re-vegetation should be imposed as far as is possible to maintain soil fertility through natural nutrient cycling during soil storage prior to rehabilitation phase;
- Other activities in this phase that will impact on soil are the handling and storage of building materials and different kinds of waste. This will have the potential to result in soil pollution when not managed properly; and
- In areas of permanent changes such as the borehole and sump area, access roads (tracks), the erection of infrastructure and stockpiles, the current land capability and land use will be lost permanently. This will however be localised to the footprint of the infrastructure.

### **13.1.12 Traffic**

There will be a need for vehicles to move in and out of the project site during the construction stage. Vehicles and other machinery in the project area will result in an increase in traffic on the roads.

### **13.1.13 Climate Change**

Climate change poses a threat to the environment, its residents, and future development. Actions are required to reduce carbon emissions (mitigation) and prepare for the changes that are projected to take place (adaptation) in the district.

The movement of vehicles and earth moving machinery may result in the production of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas), which may have an impact on the climate in the area.

The above-mentioned impacts were assessed based on the quantitative impact assessment methodology described in Section 14 of this Report. For each impact assessed, mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce or avoid negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. These mitigations were also incorporated in the EMPr to ensure that they are implemented during the various phases of the proposed project.

The summary of the impact assessment during the construction phase is provided in Table 13-2.



**Table 13-2: Impact Assessment Table for the Construction Phase**

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Frequency: Impact	Significance			
<b>Site Establishment: Establishment of the access (tracks) to the prospecting site, Establishment of the campsite, site physical surveying and pegging of drilling sites</b>																		
Social	Influx of job seekers will have a negative social impact on the landowners and land occupiers.	2	2	3	2	2	28	Medium Low	Random and regular alcohol and drug testing shall be conducted on all personnel responsible for operating machinery and driving construction vehicles to ensure the safety of the public; Security and safety should be emphasised; Recruitment will not be undertaken on site; Recruitment practises will favour locals, but farm labourers will not be employed unless agreed to with the farm owners; Liaise with the SAPD and existing forums in order to implement effective crime prevention strategies; and No construction workers shall be allowed to access private properties without the owner's knowledge and consent.	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Unauthorised access to private property outside of the demarcated areas will result in conflict with landowners.	2	2	3	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Increased traffic in the area will increase the likelihood of accidents on the roads, posing a health and safety issue for the landowners and land occupiers.	2	2	3	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	The influx of job seekers in the area may result in an increase in petty crimes.	2	2	3	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Ineffective communication channels leading to community unrest.	2	2	3	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Negative impact because of the dissection of land by clearing and excavations for construction of infrastructure, constraints to access to cultivated land to farmers, impacting on day-to-day farm activity.	3	1	3	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Possible boost in short term local small business opportunities.	3	1	3	2	2	28	Medium Low positive		3	1	3	2	2	28	Medium Low positive		
Groundwater	Localised spillages of oils from machinery leaching to groundwater contamination.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low	No washing of vehicles shall be allowed outside demarcated areas. The bays will be clearly demarcated and will not be allowed to contaminate any surface runoff; Sufficient areas shall be provided for the maintenance and washing of vehicles; Refuelling of vehicles will only be allowed in designated areas; All construction equipment shall be parked in a demarcated area. Drip trays shall be used when equipment is not used for some time; On surface bulk storage of hydrocarbons must be situated in a dedicated area which will include a bund or a drain where necessary to contain any spillages during the use, loading and off-loading of the material; Bund areas shall contain 110% of the stored volume; Bund areas must be impermeable; Bund areas must have a facility such as a valve/sump to drain or remove clean stormwater; Contaminated water shall be pumped into a container for removal by an approved service provider; Regular inspections shall be carried out to ensure the integrity of the bundwalls; All preventative servicing of earth moving equipment and construction vehicles shall be undertaken off site; Runoff from this area shall be contained; Spill kits shall be made available, and all personnel shall be trained on how to use the kits and training records shall be	2	1	1	2	2	16	Low		
	Existing boreholes within the prospecting area may create conduits of flow to the groundwater unless sealed.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		2	1	1	2	2	16	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
									Management and Mitigation Measures									
									made available on request.									
Surface Water	Increase in silt load in runoff due to site clearing, grubbing and the removal of topsoil from the footprint area associated with the drill sites and associated infrastructure.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low	Ensure that topsoil is properly stored, away from the streams and drainage areas; No construction activities will be undertaken within 100 metres of the nearby streams and 500 meters from riparian areas without consent from the DWS; Vehicle and personnel movement within watercourses and riparian areas shall be strictly prohibited; Adequate stormwater management must be incorporated into the design of the project in order to prevent contamination of water courses from dirty water.	1	1	1	2	2	12	Low		
	Potential deterioration in water quality due to the potential accidental spillages of hazardous substances.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	2	2	12	Low		
	Debris from poor handling of materials and/or waste blocking watercourses, resulting in flow impediment and pollution.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low		1	1	1	2	2	12	Low		
	Contaminated dirty water runoff to surrounding areas resulting in the impact on local surface water quality.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	2	2	12	Low		
	Increase of surface runoff and potentially contaminated water that needs to be maintained in the areas where site clearing occurred.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	2	2	12	Low		
Aquatic Ecosystems	Localised changes to the riparian areas as a result of vegetation clearing.	2	2	2	2	3	30	Medium Low	Adequate stormwater management must be incorporated into the design of the project in order to prevent erosion and the associated sedimentation of the aquatic system; No construction activities shall be allowed within 500 m of riparian zones without consent from the DWS; No vehicles may be allowed to indiscriminately drive through the riparian areas or within the active stream channels; All disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated with indigenous species; All construction materials shall be kept out of the riparian areas; and All vehicles shall be regularly inspected for leaks. Re-fuelling must take place outside the project area, on a sealed surface area to prevent ingress of hydrocarbons into topsoil and aquatic ecosystems	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Loss of habitat and aquatic ecological structure as a result of site clearance activities and uncontrolled aquatic ecosystem degradation.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Impact on the aquatic ecological systems as a result of changes to the sociocultural service provisions.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Increased runoff due to topsoil removal and vegetation clearance leading to possible erosion and sedimentation of riparian resources.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Soil compaction and levelling as a result of construction activities and vehicle movement leading to loss of riparian habitat.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Impact on the hydrological functioning of the aquatic ecosystems.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Heritage Resources	The proposed project has the potential to impact on local graves within the area (if any).	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	Prior to the site establishment, a heritage impact assessment must be undertaken and mitigation and /or management measure for the protection of such resources must be implemented; No construction activities may be undertaken within 50 m of the heritage and/or cultural sites; If archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	The proposed project has the potential to impact on sites of archaeological importance.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Palaeontological Resources	Drilling of exploratory boreholes has potential to impact on palaeontological resources	2	1	2	2	1	20	Low	Should fossils be exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
Flora	Loss of localised biodiversity habitats within sensitive areas due to site clearance and establishment of drill sites.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	<p>The Contractor shall be on the lookout for SCC and any floral SCC encountered within the development footprint are to be relocated to areas with suitable habitat, outside the disturbance footprint;</p> <p>Floral species of conservation concern, if encountered within the development footprint, are to be handled with care and the relocation of sensitive plant species to suitable similar habitat is to be overseen by a botanist;</p> <p>The proposed development footprint shall be kept to the minimum;</p> <p>All disturbed areas must be concurrently rehabilitated during construction;</p> <p>Prohibit the collection of any plant material for firewood or medicinal purposes;</p> <p>The existing integrity of flora surrounding the study area shall be upheld and no activities shall be carried out outside the footprint of the construction areas;</p> <p>Edge effect control shall be implemented to avoid further habitat degradation outside of the proposed footprint area;</p> <p>All sensitive open space areas will be demarcated and access into these areas shall be prohibited;</p> <p>Protected floral species occurring within the vicinity of the study area, but outside the disturbance footprint shall be fenced for the duration of the construction activities;</p> <p>Monitoring of relocation success will be conducted during the operational phase;</p> <p>Construction related activities shall be kept strictly within the development footprint;</p> <p>Construction vehicles shall only be allowed on designated roadways to limit the ecological footprint of the project.</p> <p>Alien Invasive Plant Species Management plan to be implemented;</p> <p>Edge effects of activities including erosion and alien/ weed control will be strictly managed in the riparian area;</p> <p>All sites disturbed by construction activities shall be monitored for colonisation by exotic or invasive plants;</p> <p>Exotic or invasive plants shall be controlled as they emerge;</p> <p>An alien vegetation control program must be developed and implemented within all disturbed areas. After removal of alien vegetation, the affected areas must be re-assessed to determine the success of the program and any follow up measures that may be required;</p> <p>The eradicated plant material must be disposed of at an approved solid waste disposal site;</p> <p>During post-construction, an alien vegetation removal and monitoring plan must be compiled for those areas which were not effectively rehabilitated;</p> <p>The extent of invasion must be established through investigation to identify priority areas;</p> <p>Priority species shall be identified to control and develop protocols for the removal of all alien species e.g., mechanical removal, herbicidal treatment etc. Mechanical,</p>	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Loss of localised floral species diversity including RDL and medicinal protected species due to site clearance and establishment of drill sites.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Potential spreading of alien invasive species as indigenous vegetation is removed, and pioneer alien species are provided with a chance to flourish.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
									Management and Mitigation Measures									
									methods must be favoured for the removal of alien invasive species. Chemical removal shall only be undertaken by a suitably qualified and approved person; and As much vegetation growth as possible must be promoted in order to protect soils. In this regard, special mention is made of the need to use indigenous vegetation species where hydro seeding, rehabilitation planting (where applicable) is to be implemented.									
Fauna	Vegetation clearance may result in loss of faunal habitat ecological structure, species diversity and loss of species of conservation concern.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	The proposed development footprint areas shall remain as small as possible and where possible be confined to already disturbed areas;	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Habitat fragmentation as a result of construction activities of leading to loss of floral diversity.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	No trapping or hunting of fauna shall be permitted;	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Loss of faunal diversity and ecological integrity as a result of construction activities, erosion, poaching and faunal specie trapping.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Edge effects of all construction and operational activities, such as erosion and alien plant species proliferation, which may affect faunal habitat, need to be strictly managed;	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Movement of construction vehicles and machinery may result in collision with fauna, resulting in loss of fauna.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Should any SCC be encountered within the study area, these species will be relocated to similar habitat within or in the vicinity of the study area with the assistance of a suitably qualified specialist; No informal fires in the vicinity of construction areas shall be permitted; An alien vegetation control plan must be developed and implemented in order to manage alien plant species occurring within the study area, and to prevent further faunal habitat loss.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Air Quality	Possible increase in dust generation, PM <sub>10</sub> and PM <sub>2.5</sub> as a result of bulk earthworks, operation of heavy machinery, and material movement.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Dust suppression measures shall be implemented on dry weather days and periods of high wind velocities;	1	2	1	1	2	12	Low		
	Increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollutants (NO <sub>2</sub> and SO <sub>2</sub> ) as a result of movement of vehicles and operation of machinery/equipment.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Appropriate dust suppression measures may include spraying with water; Where practical rehabilitation should be undertaken in tandem with the construction activities; A speed limit of 40 km/hr shall apply to limit vehicle entrained dust from the unpaved road; All construction equipment must be scheduled for preventative maintenance to ensure the functioning of the exhaust systems to reduce excessive emissions and limit air pollution; Dust control suppression shall be implemented on dry weather days and periods of high wind velocities; Appropriate dust suppression measures may include limiting the extent of open areas, reducing the frequency of disturbance and spraying with water; Where practical rehabilitation should be undertaken progressively; Materials transported on public roads must be covered; Odours: Putrescible waste must be handled, stored and disposed of before the probability of it generating odours; and Chemical toilets must be emptied / serviced on a regular basis. Proof of this must be provided to the Engineer.	1	2	1	1	2	12	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
Visual	Scaring of the landscape as a result of the clearance of vegetation.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	The number of construction vehicles and machinery to be used shall be kept to a minimum; Movement of vehicles shall be kept to outside busy hours to minimise the visual impacts on the residents; Materials transported on public roads must be covered; and Where possible, rehabilitation of the work areas shall be undertaken in tandem with construction to ensure that areas stripped of vegetation are kept to a minimum.	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Visual intrusion as a result of the movement of machinery and the establishment of the required infrastructure.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Indirect visual impact due to dust generation as a result of the movement of vehicles and materials, to and from the site area.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
Noise	The use of vehicles and machinery during the construction phase may generate noise in the immediate vicinity.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Adjacent landowners must be advised of any work that will take place outside of normal working hours, that may be disruptive (e.g.w. noise) in advance; Surrounding communities must be notified in advance of noisy construction activities; All equipment should be provided with standard mufflers; Muffling units on vehicles and equipment must be kept in good working order. Construction staff working in areas where the 8-hour ambient noise levels exceed 85 Dba should wear ear protection equipment; Where possible, operation of several equipment and machinery simultaneously must be avoided; All equipment must be kept in good working order, with immediate attention being paid to defective silencers, slipping fanbelts, worn bearings and other sources of noise; Equipment must be operated within specifications and capacity (e.g., no overloading of machines); Regular maintenance of equipment must be undertaken, particularly with regard to lubrication; Equipment shall be switched off when not in operation; Appropriate directional and intensity settings must be maintained on all hooters and sirens; The Contractor must ensure that the employees conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while on site; and Noise/vibration producing activities shall be limited to daylight hours (Monday to Friday 07H00 to 18H00 and Saturday 07H00 -14H00).	1	1	1	2	1	9	Low		
Soil, Land use and Land Capability	Localised chemical pollution of soils as a result of vehicle hydrocarbon spillages and compaction.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	Contaminated soil shall be removed and disposed of to an appropriate licensed landfill site in terms of NEMWA, or can be removed by a service provider that is qualified to clean the soil; The time in which soils are exposed during construction activities should remain as short as possible;	1	1	1	2	1	9	Low		
	Localised clearing of vegetation and compaction of the construction footprint will result in the soils being particularly more vulnerable to soil erosion.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
	Localised loss of resource and its utilisation potential due to compaction over unprotected ground/soil.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	Erosion control measures shall be implemented where deemed necessary; In general, all steep slopes steeper than 1:3 or where the soils are more prone to erosion must be stabilised; If stockpiles are not going to be used immediately the stockpiles shall be rehabilitated to prevent erosion; Runoff from stockpiles shall be detained in order to support growth of vegetation; Runoff from the stockpiles shall be suitably managed to ensure that the runoff volumes and velocities are similar to pre disturbed levels; Vegetation shall be used to promote infiltration of water into the stockpile instead of increasing runoff; A monitoring programme will be implemented if the stockpiles are not used within the first year whereby the vegetation of the stockpiles is monitored in terms of basal cover and species diversity; If it is noticed that the vegetation on the stockpiles is not sustainable, appropriate corrective actions shall be taken to rectify the situation; Stockpiles shall be maintained until the topsoil is required for rehabilitation purposes; Topsoil stockpiles shall be monitored regularly to identify alien vegetation, which shall be removed as soon as possible to prevent further distribution of any alien vegetation.	1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
	Localised loss of soil and land capability due to reduction in nutrient status - de-nitrification and leaching due to stripping and stockpiling footprint areas.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
Traffic	Increase in traffic volumes as a result of pre-construction activities which may lead to an increase in traffic congestion along the Secondary and N14 roads as well as the farm roads around the prospecting area.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low	Local speed limits and traffic laws shall apply at all times to minimise the occurrences of accidents on public roads; The number of construction vehicles and trips shall be kept to a minimum; and Where possible the transportation of construction materials and rubbish shall be undertaken outside traffic peak hours to minimise inconveniencing residents.	2	2	2	1	2	18	Low		
Climate	Emissions of Green House Gases as a result of the use of plant, heavy moving machinery, generators etc.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	All the construction vehicles shall undergo maintenance on a regular basis to improve on the combustion engine vehicle efficiency.	1	2	1	1	1	8	Low		
Waste Management	Potential water and soil pollution as a result of inappropriate waste management practices.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low	Separation of waste: All waste shall be separated into general waste and hazardous waste; Hazardous waste shall not be mixed with general waste and in doing so increase the quantities of hazardous waste to be managed; General waste can further be separated into waste that can be recycled and or reused; No littering shall be allowed in and around the site, a sufficient number of bins shall be provided for the disposal of waste; Where necessary dedicate a storage area on site for collection of construction waste. Storage of waste: No stockpiling of debris shall be permitted within 100 m of any water courses and drainage lines, or within 500 m of	2	2	2	1	2	18	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation						Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation					
		Consequence			Probability				Consequence			Probability		
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Frequency: Impact
								riparian areas; General waste will be collected in an adequate number of litter bins located throughout the construction site; Bins must have lids in order to keep rainwater out; Bins shall be emptied regularly to prevent them from overflowing; All work areas shall be kept clean and tidy at all times; All waste management facilities will be maintained in good working order; Waste shall be stored in demarcated areas according to type of waste; Runoff from any area demarcated for waste will be contained, treated and reused; Flammable substances must be kept away from sources of ignition and from oxidizing agents; No construction rubble shall be disposed of to the riparian area; If construction rubble is not removed immediately, it shall be stockpiled outside the 1:100-year floodline and outside the sensitive riparian areas; Demolition waste and surplus concrete shall be disposed of responsibly; Waste shall not be buried or burned on site; and The maximum retention time for temporary storage of waste generated shall not exceed 30 days, provided the waste does not present a health hazard or risk of odour. Disposal of hazardous waste: No dumping shall be allowed in or near the construction site; Hazardous containers shall be disposed of at an appropriate licensed site; Hazardous waste will be removed and managed by an approved service provider; A safe disposal certificate will be provided by the approved service provider as proof of responsible disposal of hazardous waste; and The safe disposal certificate shall be stored and provided on request. Disposal of general waste: No dumping shall take place in or near the construction site; All general waste shall be disposed of to the nearest licensed landfill site; Demolition waste and builder's rubble shall be disposed of to an appropriate licensed landfill site; and The necessary permissions must be obtained to dispose of builders' rubble to the landfill site.						

## 13.2 Operational Phase

The operation phase of the project will comprise RC and diamond core drilling.

### 13.2.1 Social-Economic

It is expected that during the operation phase the project will not result in the creation of employment as prospecting requires highly specialised personnel. The applicant will make use of qualified contractors for the drilling and sampling of the sites. The community will however continue to benefit as a result of the continued boost in small local businesses. The socio-impacts expected during the operation phase include:

- Impact on the day-to-day operation by landowners in the area, which may have an impact on their livelihoods;
- Negative impacts on health and safety of the local communities as a result of additional vehicles on the roads;
- Negative impact on, local community health and safety due to influx of employees, the presence of job seekers, which may lead to prostitution and conflict with the local communities. Illegal informal settlement of job seekers in the area may exacerbate the situation; and
- Potential damage to adjacent landowners'/occupiers' infrastructure as a result of drilling activities.

### 13.2.2 Groundwater

The drilling process will involve the use of vehicles which may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils and groundwater.

The prospecting operations will require the drilling of boreholes, which may result in the drawdown, which may affect the yield to the surrounding groundwater users.

Material used for backfilling boreholes may leach pollutants, which will result in the contamination of surrounding groundwater regime. This may spread beyond the backfilling site via plume migration.

### 13.2.3 Surface water

Drilling operations may result in the generation of surface water runoff contaminated with drill muds and cuttings, should spillage occur. The runoff containing sediments will have negative impacts on the water quality due to increase turbidity and sedimentation of water courses. This will also have an impact on aquatic habitats.

### 13.2.4 Aquatic Ecology

In addition to the impacts on aquatic habitats as explained above, the operation phase of the project is expected to have the following impacts on aquatic ecosystems:

- Loss of habitat and aquatic ecological structure as a result of continual disturbance and uncontrolled degradation;
- Impact on the aquatic ecological systems as a result of changes to the sociocultural service provisions through continued uncontrolled vegetation clearance, waste management and disturbance; and



- Impact on the hydrological functioning of the aquatic ecological and riparian systems as a result of reduced aquatic ecosystem and riparian footprints and uncontrolled disturbance.

### 13.2.5 Flora

The project may result in the following impacts on the floral environment during the operation phase:

- Destruction of potential floral habitats as a result of continual disturbance of soil, leading to altered floral habitats, erosion and sedimentation;
- Impact on floral diversity as a result of possible uncontrolled fires;
- Potential spreading of alien invasive species as a result of floral disturbance; and
- Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase.

### 13.2.6 Fauna

The project may result in the following impacts on the faunal environment during the operation phase:

- Migration of fauna from the prospecting area due to noise as a resulting of drilling activities;
- Loss of faunal species due to collisions with vehicles and machinery;
- Loss of faunal diversity and ecological integrity as a result of poaching and faunal species trapping;
- Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the operation phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase.

### 13.2.7 Soils, Land Use and Land Capability

Spillages of hydrocarbons from the vehicles and machinery may result from vehicle movement during the drilling. This will result in the contamination of soils. The material from the drilling site may result in the contamination of soils, which may render the land not usable after backfilling operation.

### 13.2.8 Air Quality

The movement of vehicles and drilling machinery will likely result in an increase in nuisance dust, PM10 and PM2.5. There is also potential for increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollution due to the movement of vehicles and construction machinery. It is expected that the implementation of dust suppressing mitigation measures will result in the reduction in nuisance dust.

### 13.2.9 Visual

The drill rigs and towers used during the drilling operation phase will be visible from nearby locations and will have visual impact on the local communities near the prospecting area.

### 13.2.10 Heritage, Archaeological Resources

The drilling operations may result in the destruction of graves and other heritage resources that may be on site.

### 13.2.11 Palaeontology Impacts

Earth moving activities may result in the destruction of fossils (if any).

**13.2.12 Ambient Noise**

The use of vehicles and machinery may result in an increase in noise in the immediate vicinity of the project. The drilling activities will also result in an increase in noise in the vicinity of the project.

**13.2.13 Traffic**

The movement of vehicles in the project area will result in an increase in traffic on the roads.

**13.2.14 Climate**

The movement of vehicles and machinery may result in the production of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas), which may have an impact on the climate in the area.

**13.2.15 Vibrations**

Drilling ground vibrations may result in possible damage to infrastructure and private property.

The summary of the impact assessment during the operation phase is provided in Table 13-3.

**Table 13-3: Impact Assessment Table for the Operation Phase**

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation							
		Consequence			Probability					Consequence			Probability				
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating	
Socio-Economic	Operation may affect the day-to-day operation of the landowners hence result in direct impact on their livelihood.	2	1	2	2	3	25	Low	Random and regular alcohol and drug testing shall be conducted on all personnel responsible for operating machinery and driving construction vehicles to ensure the safety of the public; Drill sites shall be kept to a minimum; Landowners shall be informed of the exact location of the drill sites and shall be privy to the drilling programme, indicating the days on which each site will be drilled; and The time spent at each drill site shall be kept to a minimum.	1	1	2	1	1	8	Low	
	Uncontrolled access of private property during operation may result in conflict with affected landowners and occupiers.	2	1	1	2	2	16	Low		Security and safety should be emphasized; No construction workers shall be allowed to access private properties without the owner's knowledge and consent; Access to private property and areas outside the designated operation areas shall be strictly prohibited.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low
	Negative impact as a result of additional trucks on the roads, impacting on local communities' health and safety.	3	3	2	1	2	24	Low		Local speed limits and traffic laws shall apply at all times to minimise the occurrences of accidents on public roads; Where possible the transportation of materials and rubbish shall be undertaken outside traffic peak hours to minimise inconveniencing residents; The number of vehicles on the roads shall be kept to a minimum; Materials transported on public roads must be covered.	1	2	1	1	1	8	Low
	Negative impact on, local community health and safety due to potential influx of employees, the presence of job seekers, which may lead to prostitution and conflict with the local communities. Illegal informal settlement of job seekers in the area may exacerbate the situation.	3	3	2	1	2	24	Low		Liaise with the SAPD and existing forums in order to implement effective crime prevention strategies; and The applicant will ensure that as far as possible locals will be used during the operation of the prospecting project. Recruitment will not be undertaken on site.	1	2	1	1	1	8	Low
	As a result of drilling activities during operation, potential damage to adjacent landowner's/occupiers' infrastructure	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Drill sites shall be located as far from private property as is possible to minimise damage to infrastructure; Should private property be damaged due to operation activities, property owners shall be appropriately compensated.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	As a result of drilling, there is potential for the occurrence of subsidence, impacting on the safety surface land dwellers and users.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Groundwater	The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbon liquids from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of the vegetation cover and soils. The material removed from the drilling exercises will contain carbonaceous material, which has a potential for pollution should it be allowed stay for a prolonged period at the drilling site.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low	Ensure that the drilling of the exploration boreholes is conducted in such a manner that the environment is protected from probable spillages and contamination. All boreholes and sumps will be rehabilitated to pre-drilling conditions. Tarpaulins will be placed on the ground to prevent oil, grease, hydraulic fluid and diesel spills during emergency repairs. All oil spills will be remedied using approved methodologies. The contaminated soils will be removed and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility. All waste generated from the drilling sites and the campsite will be collected in proper receptacles and removed to a registered disposal facility e.g., sewage treatment plant, solid waste disposal site or hydrocarbon recycling or treatment facilities.	2	1	2	1	2	15	Low	
	Storage of hydrocarbons and chemicals, which may impact on groundwater as a result of spillages and uncontrolled release.	3	2	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		2	1	2	1	2	15	Low	

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity					
	The prospecting operations will require the drilling of boreholes. The boreholes may result in the drawdown, which may affect the yield to the surrounding groundwater users. Material used for backfilling may leach pollutants that will result in the pollution of the surrounding groundwater regime. This may even spread beyond the backfilling site via plume migration.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Ensure that the landowners' borehole yields are monitored during the drilling operation. Should it be proven that the operation is indeed affecting the quantity and quality of groundwater available to users and surrounding water resources, the affected parties must be compensated.	2	1	2	1	2	15	Low		
Surface Water	The drilling operations may result in the generation of surface water runoff contaminated with drilling muds and cuttings should spillages occur. The sedimentation and possible contamination with carbonaceous material will have negative impacts on the surrounding clean water environment. These will cause an increase in the turbidity and will decrease acidity of the water in the streams, which will affect the aquatic habitat, hence important habitats may be lost.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	No prospecting operations will be undertaken within 100 metres from the nearby streams and 500 meters from riparian areas without consent from the DWS; Sumps will be excavated for the collection mud and excess water from the drilling sites; The sumps will be sized such that they will be able to contain the water and mud that will be generated during the prospecting operation; Storm water generated around the drilling site will be diverted away to the clean water environment; No concrete mixing and vehicle maintenance will be allowed on site. All hydrocarbons will be stored on protected storage areas away from the streams.	2	1	2	1	2	15	Low		
Biodiversity	Continued destruction of potential floral habitats for species of conservational concern as a result of continual disturbance of soils leading to altered floral habitats, erosion and sedimentation.	2	1	3	2	2	24	Low	All disturbed areas must be rehabilitated in tandem with construction activities. The collection of any plant material for firewood or medicinal purposes shall be strictly prohibited.	2	1	1	1	1	8	Low		
	Impact on floral species of conservational concern as a result of an increased in alien species proliferation and ineffective rehabilitation of exposed areas	2	1	3	2	2	24	Low	The existing integrity of flora surrounding the study area shall be upheld and no activities shall be carried out outside the footprint of the demarcated drill sites.	2	1	1	1	1	8	Low		
	Loss of faunal habitat and ecological structure as a result of increased fires during operation and introduction of alien species, leading to transformation of the natural habitat	2	1	3	2	2	24	Low	The rehabilitation of the disturbed areas must be conducted such that the rehabilitated areas will encourage the migration of animals back into the rehabilitated areas. The proposed development footprint areas shall remain as small as possible and where possible be confined to already disturbed areas. No trapping or hunting of fauna shall be permitted. Edge effects of all operational activities, such as erosion and alien plant species proliferation, which may affect faunal habitat shall be strictly managed. No informal fires in the vicinity of drill sites shall be permitted. An alien vegetation control plan must be implemented in order to manage alien plant species occurring within the study area, and to prevent further faunal habitat loss. Poaching of wild animals and livestock will be prohibited.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Soils Land use and Land Capability	Topsoil removal, storage and replacement during the excavation of the sumps will result. This will result in the disruption of the soils profile.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low	Ensure that topsoil is properly stored, away from the streams and drainage areas. The soils must be used for the backfilling and rehabilitation of the sumps.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Soil contamination as a result of operational activities can be as a result of a number of activities (i.e., hazardous substance storage, incidental hydrocarbon leakages from construction vehicles).	3	1	2	2	2	24	Low	The rehabilitated sump must be seeded with recommended seed mix consisting of indigenous species. Tarpaulins will be placed on the ground to prevent oil, grease, hydraulic fluid and diesel spills during emergency repairs. Soil disturbance within the drill sites shall be kept to a minimum.	2	1	1	1	1	8	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity					
Air Quality	The prospecting operation will require vehicular movement which may result in Possible increase in dust generation, PM10 and PM2.5 as a result of stockpiling material, use of heavy machinery, and material movement.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low	Dust suppression must be conducted during the operational phase of the project. Correct speed will be maintained at the proposed project site. Vehicle maintenance must be conducted regularly to avoid excessive diesel fumes. Where practical possibly rehabilitation should be undertaken progressively. A speed limit of 40 km/hr shall apply to limit vehicle entrained dust from the unpaved roads. All construction equipment must be scheduled for preventative maintenance to ensure the functioning of the exhaust systems to reduce excessive emissions and limit air pollution. Dust control suppression shall be implemented on dry weather days and periods of high wind velocities; Appropriate dust suppression measures may include limiting the extent of open areas, reducing the frequency of disturbance and spraying with water; Materials transported on public roads must be covered; and Where practical rehabilitation should be undertaken progressively. <i>Odours</i> Putrescible waste must be handled, stored and disposed of before the probability of it generating odours; and Chemical toilets must be emptied / serviced on a regular basis. Proof of this must be provided to the Engineer.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollutants (NO2 and SO2) as a result of movement of vehicles and operation of machinery/equipment.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Visual	The drill rigs and towers used during the drilling operations will be visible from the nearby residents and properties.	2	2	3	2	3	35	Medium Low	Ensure that the time period used for the drill rigs is optimised to ensure that the drill rigs are moved from one site to another over short periods. Materials transported on public roads must be covered.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Heritage Resources	The drilling operation may result in the destruction of graves and any other heritage that may exist on site during operational phase of the project.	3	2	2	1	2	21	Low	Locate exploration borehole more than 50 m from the identified heritage sites.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Noise	The use of vehicles and machinery during the construction phase may generate noise in the immediate vicinity	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	Ensure that proper management measures as well as technical changes are undertaken to reduce the impacts on surrounding residents and employees. This include ensuring that less noisy equipment is used, that equipment is kept in good working order and that the equipment must be fitted with correct and appropriate noise abatement measures and where possible use white-noise generators instead of tonal reverse alarms on heavy vehicles operating on roads. Adjacent landowners must be advised of any work that will take place outside of normal working hours, that may be disruptive (e.gw. noise) in advance. Surrounding communities must be notified in advance of noisy construction activities. All equipment should be provided with standard mufflers. Muffling units on vehicles and equipment must be kept in good working order. Construction staff working in areas where the 8-hour ambient noise levels exceed 85 DbA should wear ear protection	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Increase in ambient noise levels as a result of the drilling activities.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low		1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
									equipment. Where possible, operation of several equipment and machinery must be avoided; All equipment must be kept in good working order, with immediate attention being paid to defective silencers, slipping fanbelts, worn bearings and other sources of noise; Equipment must be operated within specifications and capacity (e.g., no overloading of machines); Regular maintenance of equipment must be undertaken, particularly with regard to lubrication; Equipment shall be switched off when not in operation; Appropriate directional and intensity settings must be maintained on all hooters and sirens; The Contractor must ensure that the employees conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while on site; Adjacent landowners shall be notified in writing if work needs to be carried out after hours or if any blasting will be required; and Noise/vibration producing activities shall be limited to daylight hours (Monday to Friday 07H00 to 18H00 and Saturday 07H00 - 14H00).									
Traffic	Increase in traffic volumes as a result of pre-construction activities which may lead to an increase in traffic congestion along the Secondary and N14 roads as well as the farm roads around the prospecting area.	2	3	1	2	2	24	Low	Local speed limits and traffic laws shall apply at all times to minimise the occurrences of accidents on public roads; and Where possible the transportation of construction materials and rubbish shall be undertaken outside traffic peak hours to minimise inconveniencing residents.	1	2	1	1	1	8	Low		
Climate	Emissions of Green House Gases as a result of the use of plant, heavy moving machinery, generators etc.	2	2	2	2	2	24	Low	The number of construction vehicles and trips shall be kept to a minimum. All the vehicles shall undergo maintenance on a regular basis to improve on the combustion engine vehicle efficiency.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Drilling and Vibrations	Impact of drilling ground vibration on houses, boreholes and roads, resulting in possible damage to infrastructure	2	1	1	2	2	16	Low	Drill sites shall be located as far from private property as is possible. Affected property owners shall be notified of any drilling activities before commencement of the activities.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
	Fly rock impact on houses, boreholes and roads, resulting in possible damage to infrastructure;	2	1	1	2	2	16	Low	Should there be damage to private property as a result of drilling activities, property owners shall be appropriately compensated.	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		
Waste Management		2	1	1	2	2	16	Low	<b>Storage of waste</b> General waste will be collected in an adequate number of litter bins located throughout the construction site; Bins must have lids in order to keep rainwater out; Bins shall be emptied regularly to prevent the bins from overflowing; All work areas shall be kept clean and tidy at all times; All waste management facilities will be maintained in good working order; Waste shall be stored in demarcated areas according to type of waste; Runoff from drill sites will be contained, treated and reused; Flammable substances must be kept away from sources of ignition and from oxidizing agents; No storage of waste shall be permitted within 100 m of the water courses or within 500 m of riparian areas; Demolition waste and surplus concrete shall be disposed of responsibly;	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low		

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Probability		Frequency	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Probability		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
									Waste shall not be buried or burned on site; and The maximum retention time for temporary storage of waste generated shall not exceed 30 days, provided the waste does not present a health hazard or risk of odour. <i>Disposal of hazardous waste</i> No dumping shall be allowed in or near the construction site; Hazardous containers shall be disposed of at an appropriate licensed site; Hazardous waste will be removed and managed by an approved service provider; A safe disposal certificate will be provided by the approved service provider as proof of responsible disposal of hazardous waste; and The safe disposal certificate shall be stored and provided on request. <i>Disposal of general waste</i> No dumping shall take place in or near the drill sites; and All general waste shall be disposed of to the nearest licensed landfill site.									

### **13.3 Decommissioning and Closure**

The impacts for the decommissioning and closure phases will be like the impacts during the construction phase and have not been assessed in detail (please refer to the construction phase assessment). The most significant impacts will be:

#### **13.3.1 Soils and Land Capability**

The affected soil and land use will be restored after rehabilitation of the drilling sites and associated access infrastructure. This will also result in the resumption of the use of the land since the infrastructure would have been removed. However, should the rehabilitation of affected sites not be conducted properly, it may result in loss of usable soils and agricultural land, resulting in reduced land capability.

#### **13.3.2 Land Use**

Positive impacts will result due to the reduction in areas of disturbance and the return of land use of the affected areas and making available an area that was covered by the drilling sites.

#### **13.3.3 Soils and Vegetation**

The use of vehicles/machinery during the rehabilitation of the exploration sites may result in the compaction of soils and in the spillages of hydrocarbon liquids from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination and destruction of the vegetation cover, soils and groundwater.

#### **13.3.4 Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems**

During the decommissioning and closure phases equipment will be removed, stockpiled soils will be used for rehabilitation, remaining sumps will be backfilled, levelled, top soiled and the area re-seeded. During the process of rehabilitation surface water runoff from the rehabilitation site may have elevated silt load, which may cause pollution of the nearby water courses.

#### **13.3.5 Air Quality**

Rehabilitation and removal of the prospecting sites and equipment will require vehicular movement. This will result in the generation of dust by movement of vehicles and due to blowing winds. Vehicles and machinery will also generate diesel or petrol fumes. Generated dust will migrate towards the predominant wind direction and may settle on surrounding properties including nearby vegetation.

#### **13.3.6 Noise**

Noise will be generated during the removal of equipment and rehabilitation of the sites. The noise is not expected to exceed occupational noise limits and will be short lived.

The summary of the impact assessment during the decommissioning and closure phase is provided in Table 13-4.



**Table 13-4: Impact Assessment Table for the Decommissioning and Closure Phase**

Environmental Aspect	Nature of potential impact/risk	Environmental Impact Significance Before Mitigation							Impact Management Actions (Proposed Mitigation Measures)	Environmental Impact Significance After Mitigation								
		Consequence			Likelihood (Probability)		Frequency: Impact	Significance		Significance Rating	Consequence			Likelihood (Probability)		Frequency: Impact	Significance	Significance Rating
		Severity	Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity					Spatial	Duration	Frequency: Activity	Severity	Spatial			
Soils, Land Capability and Land Use	The removal of the campsite equipment and the rehabilitation of the drilling sites and associated access infrastructure will result in the affected soil and land use being restored. This will also result in the resumption of the use of the land since the infrastructure would have been removed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	<b>Management and Mitigation Measures</b> Ensure that contamination of the rehabilitate area by hydrocarbon liquids is prevented. Ensure that the rehabilitation work is done in such a manner that the environment is protected from probable spillages. All boreholes and sumps will be rehabilitated to pre-drilling conditions. Tarpaulins will be placed on the ground to prevent oil, grease, hydraulic fluid and diesel spills during emergency repairs. All oil spills will be remedied using approved methodologies. The contaminated soils will be removed and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility. All waste generated from the rehabilitation sites will be collected in proper receptacles and removed to registered disposal facilities e.g., sewage treatment plant, solid waste disposal site or hydrocarbon recycling or treatment facilities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Land Use	Positive impacts will result due to the reduction in areas of disturbance and the return of land use of the affected areas and making available an area that was covered by the campsite and drilling sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Soils and Vegetation	The use of vehicles/machinery during the rehabilitation of the exploration sites may result compaction of soils and in the spillages of hydrocarbon liquids from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination and destruction of the vegetation cover and soils.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	2	1	2	12	Low		
Surface Water	During the decommissioning and closure phases equipment will be removed, stockpiled soils will be used for rehabilitation, remaining sumps will be backfilled, levelled, top soiled and the area re-seeded. During the process of rehabilitation, surface water runoff from the rehabilitation site may have elevated silt load, which may cause pollution of the nearby water environment.	2	3	2	2	2	28	Medium Low		2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		
Air Quality	Rehabilitation and removal of the prospecting sites and equipment will require vehicular movement. This will result in the generation of dust by movement of vehicles and due to blowing winds. Vehicles and machinery will also be generated diesel or petrol fumes. Generated dust will migrate towards the predominant wind direction and may settle on surrounding properties including nearby vegetation.	1	3	2	2	2	24	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		
Noise	Noise will be generated during the removal of equipment and rehabilitation of the sites. This noise is not expected to exceed occupational noise limits and will be short lived.	2	1	2	2	2	20	Low		1	1	1	1	2	9	Low		

## 14 Impact Assessment Methodology

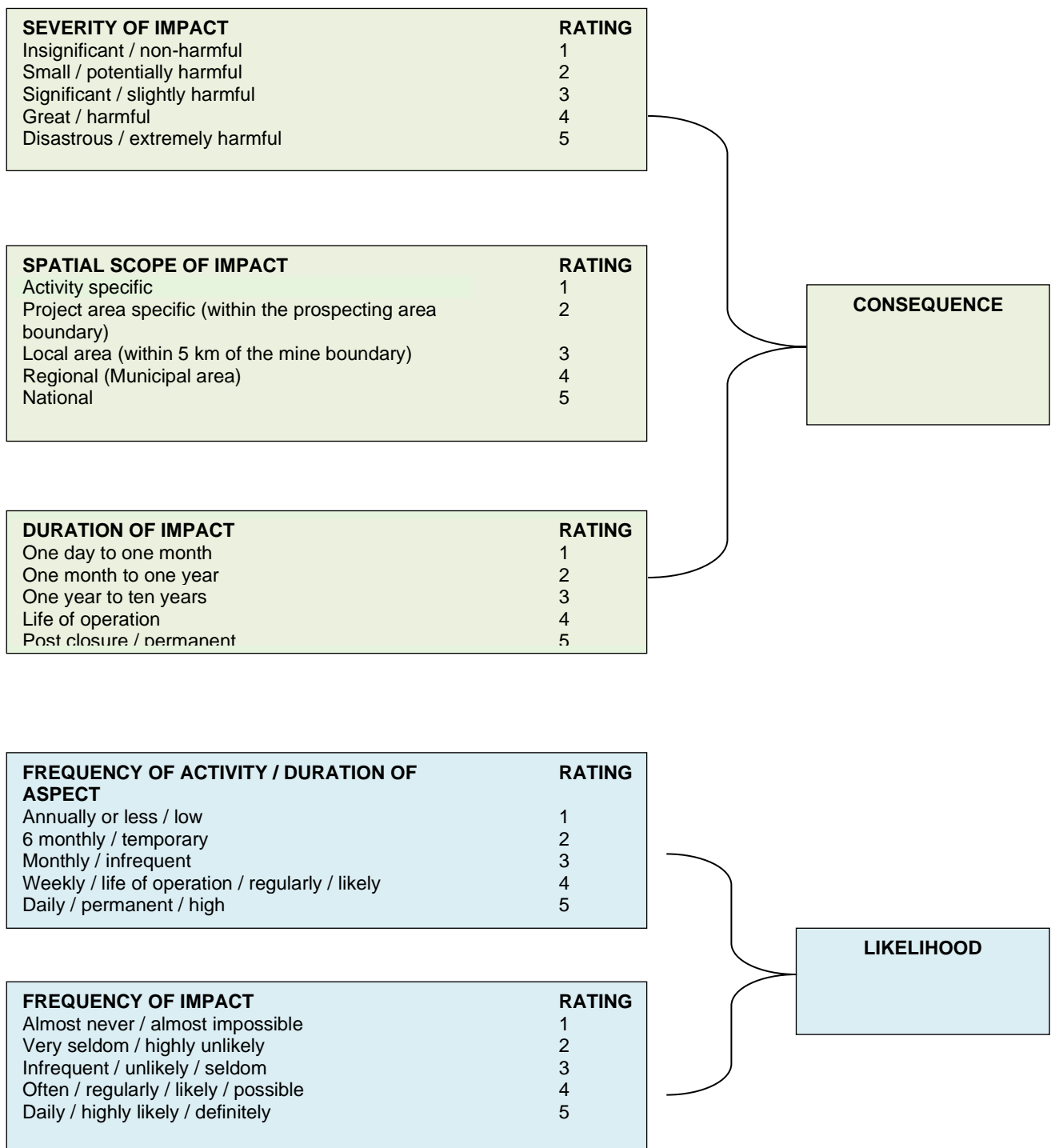
All the identified potential impacts were assessed according to the following Impact Assessment Methodology as described below. This methodology has been utilised for the assessment of environmental impacts where the consequence (severity of impact, spatial scope of impact and duration of impact) and likelihood (frequency of activity and frequency of impact) have been considered in parallel to provide an impact rating and hence an interpretation in terms of the level of environmental management required for each impact.

The first stage of any impact assessment is the identification of potential environmental activities, aspects and impacts which may occur during the commencement and implementation of a project. This is supported by the identification of receptors and resources, which allows for an understanding of the impact pathway and an assessment of the sensitivity to change. Environmental impacts (social and biophysical) are then identified based on the potential interaction between the aspects and the receptors/resources.

The significance of the impact is then assessed by rating each variable numerically according to defined criteria as outlined in Table 14-1. The purpose of the rating is to develop a clear understanding of influences and processes associated with each impact. The severity, spatial scope and duration of the impact together comprise the consequence of the impact and when summed can obtain a maximum value of 15. The frequency of the activity and the frequency of the impact together comprise the likelihood of the impact occurring and can obtain a maximum value of 10. The values for likelihood and consequence of the impact are then read off a significance rating matrix table as shown in Table 14-1. This matrix thus provides a rating on a scale of 1 to 150 (low, medium low, medium high or high) based on the consequence and likelihood of an environmental impact occurring.

Natural and existing mitigation measures, including built-in engineering designs, are included in the pre-mitigation assessment of significance. Measures such as demolishing of infrastructure, and reinstatement and rehabilitation of land, are considered post-mitigation.

**Table 14-1: Criteria for Assessing Significance of Impacts**



		Consequence														
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Likelihood	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
	2	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60
	3	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90
	4	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120
	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
	6	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	156	168	180
	7	14	28	42	56	70	84	98	112	126	140	154	168	182	196	210
	8	16	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240
	9	18	36	54	72	90	108	126	144	162	180	198	216	234	252	270
	10	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	260	280	300

	High	76 to 150	Improve current management
	Medium High	40 to 75	Maintain current management
	Medium Low	26 to 39	
	Low	1 to 25	No management required

SIGNIFICANCE = CONSEQUENCE x LIKELIHOOD

## 15 Positive and Negative Impacts

The alternative sites will be identified based on the location of sensitive environments such as heritage sites (graves etc.), aquatic ecosystems, riparian zones, and areas with Red Data Species. Changes in the layout plan will be discussed and agreed on with the affected landowners and the layout map amended accordingly. The impacts of the proposed site layout will be the same as those of the alternative sites that may be identified during the prospecting exercise.

Positive impacts resulting from prospecting activities will be the creation of employment, which is required in the region. Should adequate iron ore be found in the project area, NC Mining will be able to mine the available reserves. This will result in job creation and support to local businesses is continued. NC Mining expects that substantial benefits from the project (should adequate reserves be found and confirmed) will accrue to the immediate project area, the sub-region and the province of the Northern Cape.

Minerals of interest, Iron ore mining in South Africa is of important economic value, especially for the construction and jewellery industries. The proposed prospecting project has a potential to decrease level of unemployment rate in proposed areas and surroundings. This prospecting project will bring revenue into the city and the province which will in turn boost the economy of the country.

Activities to be conducted have medium to low significance impacts, which will be short term activities in nature. The probability of occurrence of an impact was determined and most of the activities can be controlled and impacts can be reduced or avoided. The probability was also determined based on other prospecting activities of similar nature. It was found that generally prospecting activities have low impact on the environment.

Please refer to Section 13 for a comprehensive impact assessment.

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

Please refer to Section 13 for the management and mitigation measures.

## **17 Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.**

The preferred site is in an area where there is potential for iron ore due to the geology of the area. The site is therefore regarded as the preferred site and alternative sites are not considered. The alternative drill sites will be identified based on the location of sensitive environments such as heritage sites (graves etc.), aquatic ecosystems, riparian zones, and areas with Red Data Species. Changes in the layout plan will be discussed and agreed on with the affected landowners.

## **18 Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site. (Provide a statement motivating the final site layout that is proposed)**

The location and extent of the prospecting activities will be derived from the desktop surveys as well as the specialist studies. Where practicable, the drilling sites and location of infrastructure will be selected to avoid sensitive environments such as aquatic ecosystems, riparian areas, watercourses, biodiversity of conservation importance and heritage features.

### **18.1 Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site.**

To identify the potential impacts associated with the proposed prospecting activities, the following steps were undertaken:

- The stakeholder consultation process is currently underway in a manner to be interactive, providing the landowners and identified stakeholders with an opportunity to provide input into the project. This is considered a key focus as the local residents have capabilities of providing site-specific information, which may not be available in desktop research material. Stakeholders were requested, as part of the notification letter, to provide their views on the project, and to state any potential concerns they may have. All comments and responses provided will be collated into the Comments and Responses Register, which will be attached to the final BAR, and will also be incorporated into the final impact assessment.
- A thorough desktop study was undertaken to determine the environmental setting in which the project is located. Based on the desktop investigations, various resources were used to determine the significance and sensitivity of the various environmental considerations. The desktop investigation involved the use of:

- The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Biodiversity Geographic Database LUDS System;
- The Municipal Integrated Development Plan for the Tsantsabane Local Municipality; and
- The Spatial Development Framework for the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality.

The rating of the identified impacts was undertaken in a quantitative manner as provided in Section 11 (impact rating). The ratings were undertaken in a manner to calculate the significance of each of the impacts. The identification of management and mitigation measures was done based on the significance of the impacts and measures included are considered sufficient, appropriate and practical to protect the environment.

## 19 Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk.

Table 19-1: Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk.

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	SIGNIFICANCE if not mitigated	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE if mitigated
Data Collection and Assessment	Desktop Study	None	N/A	Planning	N/A	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	N/A
Geological Mapping		None	N/A	Planning	N/A	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	N/A
Planning for Drilling Surveys		None	N/A	Planning	N/A	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	N/A
Access Roads	Physical surveying of the site and pegging of drilling boreholes	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation and dust control	Low
Drill Sites		Contamination of groundwater from hydrocarbon spillages	Groundwater	Construction	Medium Low	Control through management and monitoring of spillages. Where spillages occur, the soil must be stripped and disposed of as stipulated in the EMPr.	Low
Temporary Soil Storage Area		Contamination of surface water due to erosion of soils which will lead to increased turbidity as well as contamination from hydrocarbon spillages	Surface water	Construction	N/A	Monitoring through rehabilitation and management of spoil sites	Low
Hydrocarbon Storage Area		None	N/A	Construction	N/A	Control through clear demarcation of prospecting areas to ensure avoidance of graves and other heritage sites	Low
Contractors Camp		None	N/A	Construction	N/A	Management of drill sites. Should any fossils be discovered, operations must cease and SAHRA must be notified	Low
Mobile Ablution Facility		Loss of natural vegetation in the affected areas	Flora	Construction	Low	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation. Control of alien invasive plant species	Low
		Migration of fauna due to disturbance caused by the proposed project	Fauna	Construction	Low	Relocation of affected species of conservation importance	Low
		Air pollution through nuisance dust, PM 10 and PM2.5 as well as emissions from construction vehicles and machinery.	Air Quality	Construction	Low	Dust control measures	Low
		Increase in ambient noise due to movement of construction vehicles and machinery	Noise	Construction	Low	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers Control through the limiting of the activities to the daytime and the implementation of an open and transparent channel of communication	Low
		Visual impacts as a result of vegetation clearance	Visual	Construction	Low	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation	Low



NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	SIGNIFICANCE if not mitigated	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE if mitigated
		Increased traffic on the roads due to additional construction vehicles	Traffic, Socio-economic	Construction	Medium Low	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	Low
		Impact of carbon dioxide (GHG) produced by construction vehicles on the local climate	Climate Change	Construction	Low	Control and keep to a minimal the number of vehicles used for construction. Vehicles must be maintained to ensure efficient use of fuel.	Low
RC and Diamond Core Drilling	Drilling and Sampling	It is expected that during the operation phase the project will not result in the creation of employment as prospecting requires highly specialised personnel. The applicant will make use of qualified contractors for the drilling and sampling of the sites. The community will however continue to benefit as a result of the continued boost in small local businesses. Drilling has potential to affect the day-to-day operations by affected landowners	Socio-Economic	Operation	Low	Control of times during which operation activities will take place	Low
		The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils and groundwater. The prospecting operations will require the drilling of boreholes, which may result in the drawdown, which may affect the yield to the surrounding groundwater users. Material used for backfilling boreholes may leach pollutants, which will result in the contamination of surrounding groundwater regime. This may spread beyond the backfilling site via plume migration.	Groundwater	Operation	Medium Low	Rehabilitation of affected areas and control using bunds	Low
		Drilling operations may result in the generation of surface water runoff contaminated with drill muds and cuttings, should spillage occur. The sedimentation will have negative impacts on the water quality due to increase turbidity in the watercourses. This will have an impact on aquatic habitats.	Surface Water	Operation	Low	Control through management and monitoring of surface runoff	Low
		The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils. The material from the drilling site may result in the contamination of soils, which may render the land not usable after backfilling operation.	Soils Land use and Land Capability	Operation	Low	Rehabilitation of affected areas	Low
		The movement of vehicles and drilling machinery will likely result in an increase in nuisance dust, PM10 and PM2.5. There is also potential for increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollution due to the movement of vehicles and construction machinery.	Air Quality	Operation	Medium Low	Dust control measures	Low
		The drill rigs and towers used during the drilling operation phase will be visible from nearby locations and will have visual impact on the local communities in close proximity to the prospecting area.	Visual	Operation	Medium Low	Strategic location of rigs and towers to areas where there may be some tree cover, as far as practicable	Low
		The drilling operations may result in the destruction of graves and other heritage resources that may exist on site.	Heritage Resources	Operation	Low	Control through clear demarcation of prospecting areas to ensure avoidance of graves and other heritage sites	Low

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	SIGNIFICANCE if not mitigated	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE if mitigated
		Earth moving activities may result in the destruction of fossils (if any).	Palaeontological Resources	Operation	Low	Management of drill sites. Should any fossils be discovered, operations must cease and SAHRA must be notified	Low
		The use of vehicles and machinery may result in an increase in noise in the immediate vicinity of the project. The drilling activities will also result in an increase in noise in the vicinity of the project.	Noise	Operation	Low	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers	Low
		The movement of vehicles in the project area will result in an increase in traffic on the roads.	Traffic	Operation	Low	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	Low
		The movement of vehicles and machinery may result in the production of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas), which may have an impact on the climate in the area.	Climate	Operation	Low	Control and keep to a minimal the number of vehicles used for operations. Vehicles must be maintained to ensure efficient use of fuel.	Low
		Drilling ground vibrations may result in possible damage to infrastructure.	Drilling and Vibrations	Operation	Low	Drill sites must be located as far from infrastructure as is possible to avoid damage to infrastructure	Low
Data Analysis	Feasibility Studies	None	N/A	Operation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Feasibility Studies Report		None	N/A	Operation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Borehole capping Removal of equipment and infrastructure	Closure and Rehabilitation of borehole and infrastructure sites	The rehabilitation of the drilling sites and associated access infrastructure will result in the affected soil and land use being restored. This will also result in the resumption of the use of the land since the infrastructure would have been removed.	Soils, Land Capability and Land Use	Decommissioning and Closure	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Positive impacts will result due to the reduction in areas of disturbance and the return of land use of the affected areas and making available an area that was covered by the drilling sites.	Land Use	Decommissioning and Closure	N/A	N/A	N/A
		The use of vehicles/machinery during the rehabilitation of the exploration sites may result compaction of soils and in the spillages of hydrocarbon liquids from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination and destruction of the vegetation cover and soils.	Soils and Vegetation	Decommissioning and Closure	Low	Control and prohibit access of vehicles and machinery to areas outside of established access tracks. Control through the clear delineation of the prospecting area. Control through the implementation of environmental induction and toolbox talks, as well as the implementation of a fine system. Control through the implementation of a soil management programme in terms of the correct tops oil removal, stockpiling and rehabilitation practices as discussed in the EMPr.	Low
		During the decommissioning and closure phases equipment will be removed, stockpiled soils will be used for rehabilitation, remaining sumps will be backfilled, levelled, top soiled and the area re-seeded. During the process of rehabilitation surface water runoff from the rehabilitation site may have elevated silt load, which may cause pollution of the nearby water environment.	Surface Water	Decommissioning and Closure	Medium Low	Control through the clear delineation of the prospecting area. Control through the implementation of environmental induction and toolbox talks, as well as the implementation of a fine system. Control through the implementation of the NWA GN 704 water management principles.	Low

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	SIGNIFICANCE if not mitigated	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE if mitigated
		Rehabilitation and removal of the prospecting sites and equipment will require vehicular movement. This will result in the generation of dust by movement of vehicles and due to blowing winds. Vehicles and machinery will also generate diesel or petrol fumes. Generated dust will migrate towards the predominant wind direction and may settle on surrounding properties including nearby vegetation.	Air Quality	Decommissioning and Closure	Low	Dust control measures and rehabilitation of areas stripped of vegetation	Low
		Noise will be generated during the removal of equipment and rehabilitation of the sites. This noise is not expected to exceed occupational noise limits and will be short lived.	Noise	Decommissioning and Closure	Low	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers	Low

*The supporting impact assessment conducted by the EAP must be attached as an appendix, marked Appendix.*

Please refer to Appendix 5.

## 20 Summary of specialist reports.

No specialist studies were conducted as part of this application. Desktop information was used to compile the report and to conduct the impact assessment.

LIST OF STUDIES UNDERTAKEN	RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIST REPORTS	SPECIALIST RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE EIA REPORT (Mark with an X where applicable)	REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE SECTION OF REPORT WHERE SPECIALIST RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.
No specialist studies have been undertaken	N/A. Specialist studies will be undertaken during the mining right application process.	N/A	N/A

*Attach copies of Specialist Reports as appendices (N/A)*

## 21 Environmental impact statement

### 21.1 Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment.

Impacts may occur on soils, natural vegetation, surface water, groundwater, sensitive landscapes, air quality, noise, visual aspects, and sites of archaeological and cultural importance should the EMPr not be adhered to.

NC Mining will undertake measures to ensure that the identified impacts are minimised. Assessment of the impacts with the proposed mitigation measures has shown the significance of the impacts on all affected environmental aspects to be reduced from medium and low to low and negligible significance.

Landowners and land occupiers within the proposed project area may be affected although on a temporary basis due to the need to access the sites. Measures such as safety along the roads and dust suppression will be undertaken to ensure that the impacts on the landowners and land occupiers are minimised.

Storm water runoff from the dirty water areas of the drilling sites, may have a detrimental impact on the surrounding water environment should this water be released to the environment. To prevent the occurrence of the above-mentioned impacts, dirty water collection sump will be used to collect all dirty water from the drilling site. The water collected from the sump will be re-used, evaporated and the sump will be rehabilitated once the drilling is finished. Sediments will be created from the site during the construction, operational and decommissioning phase, which may impact negatively on the surrounding water environment. The sediments will be treated should they contain hydrocarbon waste.

Employees will undergo training and will be given strict instruction not to undertake activities that will affect the environment and that may have an impact on the landowners. Waste generated from the site will be collected in proper receptacles and disposed of in registered waste disposal sites.

Key findings of the environmental impact assessment include:

- Identified impacts will be localised, short term and will have a medium and low significance. The significance of potential environmental impacts can be reduced to low and very low significance with implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring.
- Cumulative noise, visual and air quality (dust) impacts are deemed to not be significant (low) when proper mitigation measures are implemented.
- During the construction phase of the project, vegetation loss is inevitable. This will however be limited to the footprint of the infrastructure (boreholes). Care must be taken to manage any species of special concern as well as the proliferation of alien invasive plant species.

### 21.2 Final Site Map

Please refer to Appendix 6 for the preliminary site map which includes the environmental sensitive areas.

The final map showing the layout of the proposed project will be submitted to the DMR on granting of the prospecting right. The map will be developed to superimpose the proposed prospecting project and associated infrastructure together with the environmentally sensitive areas such as heritage sites, wetland and riparian areas, water courses and Red Data Listed floral species within the proposed project site.

### **21.3 Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;**

After assessing the impacts that the proposed activities will have on the environment, it was determined that they will be of medium and low significance and will be short term activities. The probability of occurrence of an impact was determined and most of these activities can be controlled and impacts can be reduced or avoided. Generally prospecting activities have low impact on the environment. The planned activities' negative impacts can be controlled and avoided or minimised. Mitigation measures will be used to manage and control any potential impact. The main impacts will include:

- Increased ambient noise levels resulting from drilling activities and increased traffic movement;
- Potential water and soil pollution resulting from hydrocarbon spills and soil erosion which may impact on the water resources utilised by the communities and landowners;
- Potential water and soil pollution resulting from hydrocarbon spills and soil erosion which may impact on ecosystem functioning;
- Increased vehicle activity within the area resulting in potential destruction and disturbance of flora and fauna;
- Poor access control to farms may impact on cattle movement, breeding and grazing practices;
- Influx of job seekers to site may result in increased opportunistic crimes;
- Potential visual impacts by drilling activities as well as vegetation clearance;
- Prospecting will be undertaken by special sub-contractors and it is not anticipated that employment opportunities for local and/or regional communities will result from prospecting activities; and
- Short term boost for local businesses.

## **22 Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr;**

The objectives of the EMPr will be to:

- Provide sufficient information to strategically plan the prospecting activities as to avoid unnecessary social and environmental impacts;
- Provide sufficient information and guidance to plan the prospecting activities in a manner that will reduce impacts (social, physical and biological) as far as is practically possible;
- Ensure an approach that will provide the necessary confidence in terms of environmental compliance; and
- Provide a management plan that is effective and practical for implementation.

It is anticipated that the identified impacts can be managed and mitigated effectively through the implementation of the identified proposed mitigation measures. All the impacts were assessed to have significance ranging between medium and low without the implementation of mitigation measures. All the identified impacts will have a reduced significance of low when the mitigation measures have been implemented.

## **23 Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Authorisation.**

The following conditions should be included in the Environmental Authorisation:

- A minimum distance of 100 m from any dwellings or infrastructure must be kept;
- Landowners as well as land occupiers must be re-consulted at least 30 days prior to any prospecting activities undertaken on their properties;
- A map detailing the drilling locations should be submitted to the relevant landowners, the DWS and DMR prior to the commencement of the prospecting activities;
- No activities may be undertaken within 500 m of riparian areas/wetland areas and/or within 100 m of watercourses without approval from the DWS;
- No relocation or destruction of heritage resources may be undertaken without the approval of SAHRA; and
- Heritage Impact Assessment must be undertaken where infrastructure and drilling sites will be located, prior to commencement of the prospecting activities.



## 24 Description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge.

The following assumptions, uncertainties and gaps are applicable to this project:

- The Stakeholder Consultation is not yet complete. The Draft BAR will be updated once the 30-day public review and comment period has lapsed. Comments from the stakeholders will be incorporated into the Final BAR to be submitted to the DMR;
- Details on the Water Use Licence requirements are not available;
- No Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken therefore details on the SAHRA permit requirement are not available;
- No wetland/riparian area delineation was undertaken;
- No detailed site layout is currently available due to the nature of the prospecting activities. The impact assessment was undertaken as a holistic assessment for the overall site.

## **25 Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised.**

### **25.1 Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not.**

The EAP's opinion is that the activity may be authorised. The proposed prospecting area that NC Mining identified is situated within the Postmasburg Manganese Field (PMF) between Sishen and Postmasburg. The manganese and iron ore deposits of the Postmasburg area occur because of the thrusting between the Campbell Rand Subgroup and the Gamagara Formation of the Olifantshoek Supergroup has caused an erosional unconformity, which locally overlies it, at the base of the Gamagara Formation. This unconformity is marked by a very distinct and unique succession of sedimentary rocks, including the Wolhaarkop Breccia, lateritic paleosols and hematite pebble conglomerates of the Doornfontein Member of the Gamagara Formation. The property consists of banded ironstone with bands of amphibolite and lenses of flat pebble conglomerate; crocidolite and tuff of the Kuruman Member of the Asbesberge Formation in the Griekwastad of the Griqualand West Sequence. The site is therefore regarded as the preferred site and alternatives are not considered.

Should the project not be approved, this will result in a significant loss of valuable information regarding the mineral status (in terms of iron ore), present on the identified properties. In addition, should economical reserves be present and the applicant does not have the opportunity to prospect the opportunity to utilize these reserves for future phases will be lost.

As stated in the impact assessment undertaken for the proposed project, the impacts of the project are of medium and low significance. The significance of the impacts can be reduced to low and very low when the mitigation measures are implemented.

The project will also have positive impacts due to the employment to be created although for a short term, as well as a short boost to local businesses.

The stakeholders will also be requested for their comments. All comments to be received during Public Participation Process will be included in this BAR and EMPr. These comments will be addressed the as far as possible to the satisfaction of the interested and affected parties.

The management of the impacts identified in the impact assessment for all phases of the proposed project will be undertaken through a range of programmes and plans contained in the EMPr. In consideration of the layout plan and the management and mitigation measures contained within the EMPr compiled for the project, which are expected to be effectively implemented, there will be significant reduction in the significance of potential impacts.

### **25.2 Conditions that must be included in the authorisation.**

See Section 23 of the BAR.

## **26 Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required.**

The prospecting right has been applied for a period of two (2) years. The Environmental Authorisation should therefore allow for 2 years of prospecting.

## 27 Undertaking

Confirm that the undertaking required to meet the requirements of this section is provided at the end of the EMPr and is applicable to both the Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme report.

An undertaking by the EAP and the client is provided in Section 41 of the EMPr.

## 28 Financial Provision

Work will be carried out by the contractors and consultant. The closure costs were calculated to be R 222 167, 80 as shown in Table 28-1.

**Table 28-1: Cost Estimate Expenditure**

CALCULATION OF THE QUANTUM							
Applicant:		NC Mining Resources (Pty) Ltd		Ref No.:		NC13162PR	
Evaluators:		Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd		Date:		Sept-22	
No.	Description	Unit	A	B	C	D	E=A*B*C*D
			Quantity	Master Rate	Multiplication factor	Weighting factor 1	Amount (Rands)
1	Dismantling of processing plant and related structures (including overland conveyors and powerlines)	m3	0	17,91	1	1	0
2 (A)	Demolition of steel buildings and structures	m2	0	249,45	1	1	0
2(B)	Demolition of reinforced concrete buildings and structures	m2	0	367,62	1	1	0
3	Rehabilitation of access roads	m2	300	44,64	1	1	12957
4 (A)	Demolition and rehabilitation of electrified railway lines	m	0	433,26	1	1	0
4 (A)	Demolition and rehabilitation of non-electrified railway lines	m	0	236,33	1	1	0
5	Demolition of housing and/or administration facilities	m2	0	498,91	1	1	0
6	<b>Opencast rehabilitation including final voids and ramps</b>	ha	0	<b>253918,43</b>	<b>0,52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
7	Sealing of shafts adits and inclines	m3	0	133,92	1	1	0
8 (A)	Rehabilitation of overburden and spoils	ha	0	174355,57	1	1	0
8 (B)	Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (non-polluting potential)	ha	0	217156,72	1	1	0
8 (C)	Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (polluting potential)	ha	0	630726,4	1	1	0
9	Rehabilitation of subsided areas	ha	0	145996,53	1	1	0
10	General surface rehabilitation	ha	0,8	138119,02	1	1	106898
11	River diversions	ha	0	138119,02	1	1	0
12	Fencing	m	0	157,55	1	1	0
13	Water management	ha	0	52516,74	1	1	0
14	2 to 3 years of maintenance and aftercare	ha	1	18380,86	1	1	50807,03
15 (A)	Specialist study	Sum	0			1	0
15 (B)	Specialist study	Sum				1	0
					Sub Total 1		170662
1	Preliminary and General		20479,4436	weighting factor 2			20479,44
					1		
2	Contingencies		2047,94436				2047,944
					Subtotal 2		193189,40
					VAT (15%)		28978,41
					<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>222167,80</b>

## **28.1 Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived.**

The financial provision for the environmental rehabilitation and closure of any mine/prospecting and its associated operations forms an integral part of the MPRDA. Sections 41 (1) and, 41 (2), 41 (3) and 45 of the MPRDA deal with the financial provision for rehabilitation and closure. During 2012, the DMR made updated rate available for the calculation of the closure costs, where contractor's costs are not available, these apply.

The "Guideline Document for the Evaluation of Financial Provision made by the Mining Industry" was developed by the DMR in January 2005 to empower the personnel at Regional DMR offices to review the quantum determination for the rehabilitation and closure of mining sites.

With the determination of the quantum for closure, it must be assumed that the infrastructure had no salvage value (clean closure). The closure cost estimate (clean closure) was determined in accordance with the DMR guidelines.

## **28.2 Confirm that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure.**

The amount required to cover the rehabilitation is estimated to be R 222 167, 80 at this stage. NC Mining will fund the operation.

The applicant hereby confirms that the amount is anticipated to be an operating cost and is provided for as such in the Prospecting Work Programme.

## **29 Specific Information required by the competent Authority.**

### **29.1 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:**

-

#### **29.1.1 Impact on the socio-economic conditions of any directly affected person.**

No specific report was generated for the purposes of the socio-economic conditions. Current land uses inside the prospecting area, such as farming and grazing, may be temporarily impacted through the presence of the fenced areas that drill rigs will operate within. These will, however, be small areas. These areas will be rehabilitated post drilling activities and the areas will once again become available for grazing. Other potential socio-economic impacts will include:

- Nuisance noise due to on site activities and drilling;
- Poor access control resulting in impacts on cattle movement, breeding and grazing practises;
- Influx of job seekers to site, which may result in an increase in opportunistic crime;
- Uncontrolled access to private property outside of the demarcated boundaries; and
- Visual impact because of the vegetation clearance.

Prospecting will be undertaken by sub-contractors and it is not anticipated that employment opportunities for local and/or regional communities will result from the prospecting activities during the drilling phases.

Management and mitigation measures must be implemented to prevent environmental pollution which may impact on environmental resources utilised by communities, landowners and other stakeholders. Measures to manage the potential impacts on communities, individuals or competing land uses in close proximity include;

Noise due to construction activities and drilling:

- Directly affected and adjacent landowners and land occupiers must be informed of the planned dates of the drilling activities and a grievance lodging mechanism must be made available to the stakeholders.
- Site activities shall be concluded during daytime hours (07:00 to 17:30), to avoid night-time noise disturbances and night-time collisions with fauna.

Poor access control resulting in impacts on cattle movement, breeding and grazing practices:

- Access control procedures must be agreed on with the farm owners and all on site personnel shall be trained on these procedures.

Influx of job seekers to the site which may result in increased opportunistic crime:

- Casual labour shall not be recruited at the site. This will eliminate the incentive for people to travel to site seeking employment. Where necessary, a recruitment centre may be established in the major town areas;
- The landowners shall be notified on unauthorised persons encountered on site; and
- Where necessary, the South African Police Service (SAPS) will be notified of unauthorised persons encountered on site.

Visual Impact:

- Dust suppression will be undertaken to manage nuisance dust from construction vehicle movements and other construction activities as and when necessary;
- The portable ablution facilities and any other infrastructure will be acquired with a consideration for colour. Natural earth, green and mat black options which blend with the surrounding must be favoured;
- A waste management system will be implemented, and sufficient waste bins will be provided for on site. A fine system must be implemented to further prohibit littering and poor housekeeping practices; and
- Vegetation cover shall be used where drill rigs will be located to minimise visual impacts.

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

As outlined in Section 7 of this report, prospecting will be undertaken in phases. The first phase will be a desktop study, which will be followed by drilling.

Drill sites will be determined based on the outcome of the desktop studies activities and geological mapping. Potential heritage impacts will only occur once the drilling sites have been identified. It is therefore recommended that if the HIA is to be undertaken, it should be done so prior to the commencement of the drilling activities, and that the HIA be conducted over the identified localised drill sites and access routes, as opposed to the entire exploration area.

This recommendation will be submitted to the SAHRA for approval.

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

The proposed prospecting area is geologically located within the Postmasburg Manganese Field (PMF) between Sishen and Postmasburg. The manganese and iron ore deposits of the Postmasburg area occur because of the thrusting between the Campbell Rand Subgroup and the Gamagara Formation of the Olifantshoek Supergroup has caused an erosional unconformity, which locally overlies it, at the base of the Gamagara Formation. This unconformity is marked by a very distinct and unique succession of sedimentary rocks, including the Wolhaarkop Breccia, lateritic paleosols and hematite pebble conglomerates of the Doornfontein Member of the Gamagara Formation. The site is therefore regarded as the preferred site and alternatives are not considered.

The location of the infrastructure will be determined based on the location of the prospecting activities, which will only be determined during Phase 1 of the Prospecting Works Programme, as well as the presence of sensitive environmental attributes such as wetlands, watercourses, protected flora and graves. All infrastructures will be temporary and/or mobile (Refer to Section 7.6) of this report).

In addition, the proposed technologies have been chosen based on long term proven success in prospecting.



## **PART B**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT**

## **30 Draft environmental management programme.**

### **30.1 Details of the EAP**

Details of the EAP are included in Part A Section 3

### **30.2 Description of the Aspects of the Activity**

The EAP hereby confirms that the requirement to describe the aspects of the activity that are covered by the draft Environmental Management Programme is already included in Part A, Section 11 of this report as required.

### **30.3 Composite Map**

Please refer to Appendix 7 for the composite map. No specific heritage sites have been identified and therefore have not been included in the preliminary composite map. The composite map will be updated once all the sensitive environmental sites have been identified. The current composite map includes red flag areas which include the following:

- Water Course and 100m regulated buffer area;
- Wetlands and regulated 500m areas;
- CBAs and ESAs; and
- Protected Areas.

## **31 Description of Impact management objectives including management statements.**

### **31.1 Determination of closure objectives.**

As previously mentioned, each phase of the prospecting activities is dependent on the success of the preceding phase. Depending on the findings from Phase 1, Phase 2 will be initiated. The location and extent of the drill sites can therefore not be determined at this stage of the process.

The rehabilitation plan was developed on the basis that the rehabilitated areas will be made safe, stable, non-polluting and will be able to support self-sustaining ecosystems, similar to surrounding natural ecosystems.

To ensure that the rehabilitation plan is aligned with the closure objective, high-level risk assessment of the prospecting components was undertaken to establish the potential risks associated with therewith.

The closure objectives are to:

- Eliminate any safety risks associated with drill holes and sump through adequate drill hole capping and backfilling;
- Remove and/or rehabilitate all pollution and pollution sources such as waste materials and spills;
- To establish rehabilitated areas to a state which with no susceptible to soil erosion which may result in loss of soil, pollution of water resources;
- Restore disturbed areas and re-vegetate these areas with plant species naturally occurring in the area to restore the ecological function of the affected areas as far as practicable; and
- Eliminate all alien invasive plant species from the disturbed areas.

## **32 Volumes and rate of water use required for the operation.**

The rates and volumes of water to be used are not available at this stage.

### **33 Has a water use licence has been applied for?**

A meeting with the DWS will be organised to determine whether abstraction of water will be required. Based on the outcomes of the discussions with the DWS, any potential abstraction of water due to drilling activities will be clarified. At this stage it is not anticipated that abstraction will be required.

Water will be used for dust suppression purposes, consumption by field staff as well as for a few diamond core drilling holes. Furthermore, depending on the DWS opinion, Section 21 (c) and (j) WUL may not be required. This will also be clarified with the DWS. Should it be deemed necessary, on instruction by the DWS, the applicant will submit a water use licence application.

### 34 Impacts to be mitigated in their respective phases.

Table 34-1: Environmental Management Programme for the proposed NC Mining Prospecting project

NAME OF ACTIVITY		PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE of disturbance	MITIGATION MEASURES	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Data Collection and Assessment	Desktop Study	Planning	N/A	N/A	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Throughout the planning phase
Geological Mapping			N/A	N/A		
Planning for Drilling Surveys			N/A	N/A		
Access Roads	Physical surveying of the site and pegging of drilling boreholes	Construction	N/A	<p><u>Loss of soils, erosion of the soils and impacts on landowner's livelihood:</u> No soil stripping will be allowed during site establishment;</p> <p>Should it be necessary to conduct geophysical surveys and geological mapping, ensure minimal disturbance of soil;</p> <p>Any activity that may result into the disturbance of the soils must be rehabilitated immediately on discovery;</p> <p>Machinery to be used for the operation will be of good working conditions;</p> <p>Any hydrocarbon spill from the site establishment will be remediated as soon as possible;</p>	Implementation of mitigation measures will ensure that the activities in the development of the prospecting sites and associated infrastructure do not have detrimental impacts on the soils, land use and land capability.	During the construction phase
Drill Sites			Total 25 RC and 5 Diamond core drilling sites with a total footprint of 0.2ha	<p>Use sites that are unused and that are in the degraded state for the proposed development. This must be done in agreement with the landowner. The siting of the boreholes must be conducted such that rocky ridges, sensitive grass lands, indigenous trees and shrubs, sites of geological importance and farmlands actively used for crop farming are avoided;</p>		
Temporary Soil Storage Area			0.01 ha	<p>Contaminated soil shall be removed and disposed of to an appropriate licensed landfill site in terms of NEMWA, or can be removed by a service provider that is qualified to clean the soil;</p>		
Vegetation Clearance			<0.1 ha	<p>The time in which soils are exposed during construction activities should remain as short as possible;</p> <p>Erosion control measures shall be implemented where deemed necessary;</p> <p>In general, all steep slopes steeper than 1:3 or where the soils are more prone to erosion must be stabilised;</p> <p>Institute adequate sedimentation control measures where necessary when excavation or disturbance of the riverbanks takes place;</p> <p>The time in which soils are exposed during construction activities;</p> <p>If stockpiles are not going to be used immediately the stockpiles shall be rehabilitated to prevent erosion and resulting in the increase in turbidity;</p> <p>Runoff from stockpiles shall be detained in order to support growth of vegetation;</p> <p>Runoff from the stockpiles shall be suitably managed to ensure that the runoff volumes and velocities are similar to pre disturbed levels;</p> <p>Vegetation shall be used to promote infiltration of water into the stockpile instead of increasing runoff;</p> <p>A monitoring programme will be implemented if the stockpiles are not used within the first year whereby the vegetation of the stockpiles is monitored in terms of basal cover and species diversity;</p> <p>If it is noticed that the vegetation on the stockpiles is not sustainable, appropriate corrective actions shall be taken to rectify the situation;</p> <p>Stockpiles shall be maintained until the topsoil is required for rehabilitation purposes;</p> <p><u>Loss of natural vegetation in the affected areas:</u> Use sites with most disturbed vegetation cover for the development;</p> <p>No strip of topsoil and vegetation will be allowed during site establishment;</p> <p>Ensure minimal disturbance of vegetation when conducting geophysical surveys and geological mapping;</p> <p>Use existing track and roads in all instances as far as is practicable;</p> <p>Avoid significant vegetation such as trees and large shrubs in the event that driving</p>		
Vehicle Parking Area			0.02 ha			
Ablution Facility			0.02 ha			
				<p>The implementation of mitigation measures will ensure that the establishment of the prospecting site and associated infrastructure/equipment do not have detrimental impact on the</p>		



				<p>vehicles and other equipment shall be provided with appropriate soakaways, will be clearly demarcated and will not be allowed to contaminate any surface runoff;                  Sufficient areas shall be provided for the maintenance and washing of vehicles;                  Refuelling of vehicles will only be allowed in designated areas;                  All construction equipment shall be parked in a demarcated area Drip trays shall be used when equipment is used for some time;                  On surface bulk storage of hydrocarbons must be situated in a dedicated area which will include a bund or a drain where necessary to contain any spillages during the use, loading and off-loading of the material;                  Bunded areas shall contain 110% of the stored volume;                  Bund areas must be impermeable;                  Bund area must have a facility such as a valve/sump to drain or remove clean stormwater,                  Contaminated water shall be pumped into a container for removal by an approved service provider;                  Regular inspections shall be carried out to ensure the integrity of the bundwalls;                  All preventative servicing of earth moving equipment and construction vehicles shall be conducted off site;                  Runoff from this area shall be contained;                  Spill kits shall be made available, and all personnel shall be trained, and training records shall be made available on request;                  Ensure that topsoil is properly stored, away from the streams and drainage areas;                  Vehicle and personnel movement within watercourses and riparian areas shall be strictly prohibited;                  Adequate stormwater management must be incorporated into the design of the project in order to prevent contamination of water courses from dirty water;  <u>Water abstraction:</u>                  Any abstraction of water for construction purposes must be approved by DWS'.</p> <p><u>Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Ecology destruction and loss of habitat:</u>                  Construction activities will be limited to be more than 500 m from the edge of the riparian areas without consent from the DWS;                  Adequate stormwater management must be incorporated into the design of the project in order to prevent erosion and the associated sedimentation of the aquatic system;                  No vehicles may be allowed to indiscriminately drive through the riparian areas or within the active stream channels;                  All disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated with indigenous species;                  All construction materials shall be kept out of the riparian areas;                  All vehicles shall be regularly inspected for leaks. Re-fuelling must take place outside the project area, on a sealed surface area to prevent ingress of hydrocarbons into topsoil and aquatic ecosystem;  <u>Air pollution through air pollutants' emissions, from the construction site:</u>                  Wet suppression using will be conducted at areas with excessive dust emissions;                  Dust suppression measures shall be implemented on dry weather days and periods of high wind velocities;                  Rehabilitation of disturbed areas shall be undertaken in tandem with construction activities;                  A speed limit of 40 km/hr shall apply to limit vehicle entrained dust from the unpaved roads;                  All construction equipment must be scheduled for preventative maintenance to ensure the functioning of the exhaust systems to reduce excessive emissions and limit air pollution;                  Appropriate dust suppression measures may include limiting the extent of open areas,</p>	<p>Compliance with the regulations under the GN704.</p> <p>Water abstraction will not be permitted unless authorisation is granted by DWS. Obtain all necessary authorisations in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (No.36 of 1998).</p> <p>Implementation of mitigation measures will assist with maintaining the current state of the sensitive landscapes within the project area and will enable the project to comply with the requirements of the NWA.</p> <p>With the implementation of the mitigation measures, the construction will be undertaken such that the ambient air quality does not exceed the National Air Quality Standards.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>reducing the frequency of disturbance and spraying with water;</p> <p>Odours: Putrescible waste must be handled, stored and disposed of before the probability of it generating odours; Chemical toilets must be emptied / serviced on a regular basis. Proof of this must be provided to the Engineer; All the construction vehicles shall undergo maintenance on a regular basis to improve on the combustion engine vehicle efficiency; Traffic will be restricted to demarcated areas and traffic volumes and speeds within the construction site will be controlled;</p> <p><u>Increased nuisance noise levels:</u> The maximum speed limit shall be limited to 40 km/hr subject to risk assessment; Less noisy equipment will be used, the equipment will be kept in good working order and the equipment will be fitted with correct and appropriate noise abatement measures; Ensure that the employees are issued with earplugs and that they are instructed to use them; Educate employees on the dangers of hearing loss due to mine machinery noise; Adjacent landowners must be advised of any work that will take place outside of normal working hours, that may be disruptive (e.g., noise) in advance; Surrounding communities must be notified in advance of noisy construction activities; All equipment should be provided with standard mufflers; Muffling units on vehicles and equipment must be kept in good working order; Construction staff working in areas where the 8-hour ambient noise levels exceed 85 Dba should wear ear protection equipment; Where possible, operation of several equipment and machinery must be avoided; All equipment must be kept in good working order, with immediate attention being paid to defective silencers, slipping fanbelts, worn bearings and other sources of noise; Equipment must be operated within specifications and capacity (e.g., no overloading of machines); Regular maintenance of equipment must be undertaken, particularly with regard to lubrication; Equipment must be operated in such a way that the equipment is operated throughout the working periods instead of operating several items simultaneously; Equipment shall be switched off when not in operation; Appropriate directional and intensity settings must be maintained on all hooters and sirens; The Contractor must ensure that the employees conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while on site; Adjacent landowners shall be notified in writing if work needs to be carried out after hours; Noise/vibration producing activities shall be limited to daylight hours (Monday to Friday 07H00 to 18H00 and Saturday 07H00 -14H00);</p> <p><u>Visual impacts on the surrounding communities and road users from the construction:</u> The landowners will be informed on the type of machinery and equipment to be used at the prospecting sites; Lighting will be conducted in a manner that will reduce the impacts on visual aspects at night times; The number of construction vehicles and machinery to be used shall be kept to a minimum; Movement of vehicles shall be kept to outside busy hours to minimise the visual impacts on the residents; Where possible, rehabilitation of the work areas shall be undertaken in tandem with construction to ensure that areas stripped of vegetation are kept to a minimum;</p> <p><u>Damage or destruction of sites with archaeological and cultural significance:</u> Prior to the site establishment, a heritage impact assessment must be undertaken and mitigation and /or management measures for the protection of such resources must be implemented. If archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should</p>	<p>The mitigation measures ensure that the noise levels from the construction sites will be managed and measures will be taken to ensure that noise levels are below the National Noise Control Regulations, SANS 10103:2008 Guidelines and will ensure that the noise levels emanating from the construction sites will not have detrimental effects on the prospecting staff and surrounding communities/landowners.</p> <p>Measures will be undertaken to ensure that the visual aspects from the site are complying with the relevant visual standards and objectives and ensure that all operations during the construction phase do not result in detrimental visual impacts on surrounding properties, communities and road users.</p> <p>The construction will be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) and recommendations from the</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	---	--



				<p>immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made;</p> <p>The establishment of the sites will be away from any identified grave site or heritage sites. A buffer of 50 m will be created between the sites and the proposed camp and drilling sites;</p> <p><u>Impact from the influx of job seekers and employment of farm labourers:</u></p> <p>Recruitment will not be undertaken on site;</p> <p>Recruitment process shall favour locals, but farm labourers will not be employed unless agreed to with the farm owners;</p> <p>Where required, liaise with the SAPD to ensure safety of landowners in the areas;</p> <p><u>Waste Management:</u></p> <p><u>Separation of waste</u></p> <p>All waste shall be separated into general waste and hazardous waste;</p> <p>Hazardous waste shall not be mixed with general waste and in doing so increase the quantities of hazardous waste to be managed;</p> <p>General waste can further be separated in waste that can be recycled and or reused;</p> <p>No littering shall be allowed in and around the site, a sufficient number of bins shall be provided for the disposal of waste;</p> <p>Where necessary dedicate a storage area on site for collection of construction waste.</p> <p><u>Storage of waste:</u></p> <p>No stockpiling of material shall be permitted within 100 m of water courses and/or drainage lines, or within 500 m of riparian areas;</p> <p>General waste will be collected in an adequate number of litter bins located throughout the construction site Bins shall be located no more than 50 m from construction sites;</p> <p>Bins must have lids in order to keep rainwater out;</p> <p>Bins shall be emptied regularly to prevent the bins from overflowing;</p> <p>All work areas shall be kept clean and tidy at all times;</p> <p>All waste management facilities will be maintained in good working order;</p> <p>Waste shall be stored in demarcated areas according to type of waste;</p> <p>Runoff from any area demarcated for waste will be contained, treated and reused;</p> <p>Flammable substances must be kept away from sources of ignition and from oxidizing agents;</p> <p>Waste shall not be buried or burned on site; and</p> <p>The maximum retention time for temporary storage of waste generated shall not exceed 30 days, provided the waste does not present a health hazard or risk of odour;</p> <p><u>Disposal of hazardous waste:</u></p> <p>No dumping shall be allowed in or near the construction site;</p> <p>Hazardous containers shall be disposed of at an appropriate licensed site;</p> <p>Hazardous waste will be removed and managed by an approved service provider;</p> <p>A safe disposal certificate will be provided by the approved service provider as proof of responsible disposal of hazardous waste; and</p> <p>The safe disposal certificate shall be stored and provided on request;</p> <p><u>Disposal of general waste:</u></p> <p>No dumping shall take place in or near the construction site;</p> <p>All general waste shall be disposed of to the nearest licensed landfill site;</p> <p>Demolition waste and builder's rubble shall be disposed of to an appropriate licensed landfill site; and</p> <p>The necessary permissions must be obtained to dispose of waste to a registered landfill site;</p> <p><u>Traffic:</u></p> <p>Where existing public roads are used to access the construction areas, adequate construction signage is in place to inform the public of increased construction activities in the affected areas by placing adequate signage;</p> <p>Traffic signs should warn community road users of the presence of construction vehicles;</p> <p>Local speed limits and traffic laws shall apply at all times to minimise the occurrences of accidents on public roads;</p>	<p>specialist. The mitigation measures will ensure that the construction activities do not have detrimental impacts on the heritage sites.</p> <p>The identified mitigation measures will result in minimal influx of job seekers to the site.</p> <p>The mitigation measures will result in reduced the amounts of waste produced, will encourage re-use of material where possible and recycling of the material where possible. Disposal will be utilised as the last resort. The mitigation measures will also ensure that the management of waste will be in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 51 of 2008)</p> <p>Implementing mitigation measure will ensure road safety along the public roads and onsite and to increase awareness of slow-moving vehicles.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	---	--

					<p>Where possible the transportation of construction materials and rubbish shall be undertaken outside traffic peak hours to minimise inconveniencing residents;                  The number of construction vehicles and trips shall be kept to a minimum.                  Materials transported on public roads must be covered.</p>		
RC and Diamond Core Drilling	Drilling and Sampling	Operation	35 Boreholes	<p><u>Soil profile disruption, contamination of soils, destruction of natural vegetation and loss of land use:</u>                  The drilling of the exploration boreholes will be undertaken in such a manner that the environment is protected from probable spillages and contamination by carbonaceous material.                  All boreholes and sumps will be rehabilitated to pre-drilling conditions.                  Tarpaulins will be placed on the ground to prevent oil, grease, hydraulic fluid and diesel spills during emergency repairs.                  All oil spills will be remedied using approved methodologies.                  The contaminated soils will be removed and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility.                  All waste generated from the drilling sites and the campsite will be collected in proper receptacles and removed to registered disposal facilities e.g., sewage treatment plant, solid waste disposal site or hydrocarbon recycling or treatment facilities.                  No topsoil shall be stored within 100 m of water courses and drainage lines or within 500 m of riparian areas.                  The soils must be used for the backfilling and rehabilitation of the sumps.                  The rehabilitated sump must be seeded with recommended seed mix.  <u>Migration of animal life due to disturbance caused proposed project:</u>                  Where possible drill sites shall be located within degraded environments.                  Poaching will be prohibited at the prospecting sites.  <u>The drilling operation and use of campsite may result in the generation of surface water runoff contaminated with silt (sedimentation) and possibly hydrocarbon fluids should</u></p>	<p>The implementation of the mitigation measures will ensure that the land use and capability of the sites where the operations will be undertaken will continue after the proposed project.</p> <p>Maintenance of the current status on animal life within the project area.</p>	<p>Upon cessation of the individual activity                  Throughout the operation phase</p>	

<p>Sampling</p>				<p><u>spillages occur:</u>                  No prospecting operations will be undertaken within 100 metres from the nearby streams and 500 meters from the riparian areas.                  Sumps will be excavated for the collection mud and excess water from the drilling sites. The sump will be sized such that it will be able to contain the water and mud that will be generated during the prospecting operation.                  Storm water generated around the drilling site will be diverted away to the clean water environment.                  No vehicle maintenance will be allowed on site. All hydrocarbons will be stored on protected storage areas away from the streams.                  The drilling of the exploration boreholes will be undertaken done in such a manner that the environment is protected from probable spillages and contamination by carbonaceous material.                  Tarpaulins will be placed on the ground to prevent oil, grease, hydraulic fluid and diesel spills during emergency repairs. All oil spills will be remedied using approved methodologies. The contaminated soils will be removed and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility.                  The landowners' borehole water quality and yield will be closely monitored during the drilling operation.                  Should it be proven that the operation is affecting the quantity and quality of groundwater available to users and surrounding water resources, the affected parties must be compensated.                  All boreholes and sumps will be rehabilitated to pre-drilling conditions.                  All waste generated from the drilling sites and the campsite will be collected in proper receptacles and removed to a registered disposal facility e.g., sewage treatment plant, solid waste disposal site or hydrocarbon recycling or treatment facilities.                  The contaminated soils will be removed and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility.                  All waste generated from the drilling sites and the campsite will be collected in proper receptacles and removed to registered disposal facilities e.g., sewage treatment plant, solid waste disposal site or hydrocarbon recycling or treatment facilities.  <u>Generation of dust and fuel fumes by vehicular movement:</u>                  Dust suppression must be conducted during the operational phase of the project.                  Vehicle maintenance must be conducted regularly to avoid excessive diesel fumes.                  Maintain a speed limit of 20km/hr during the dry season and or when the wind velocity is likely to result in an increased nuisance dust.                  Materials transported on public roads must be covered.</p>	<p>The mitigation measures will ensure that the drilling operation does not have detrimental impacts on the surface and ground water environment, and that the activities will comply with the provisions of the NWA.</p>	
				<p><u>Increased noise levels:</u>                  Limit the maximum speed to 40 km/h or less, subject to risk assessment.                  Less noisy equipment will be used, the equipment will be kept in good working order and the equipment will be fitted with correct and appropriate noise abatement measures.                  Ensure that the employees are issued with earplugs and that they are instructed to use them.                  Educate employees on the dangers of hearing loss due to mine machinery noise.                  Drill sites shall be located as far from private property as is possible to minimise noise impacts.  <u>Visual impacts on the surrounding communities and road users from the construction:</u>                  The landowners will be informed on the type of machinery and equipment to be used at the prospecting sites.                  Lighting will be conducted in manner that will reduce the impacts on visual aspects at night times.                  Materials transported on public roads must be covered.                  The number of construction vehicles and machinery to be used shall be kept to a minimum.                  Movement of vehicles shall be kept to outside busy hours to minimise the visual impacts on the residents.</p>	<p>The air quality in the vicinity of the drilling sites and sites' access routes will be maintained to stay within the national air quality standards.</p> <p>The mitigation measures will ensure that the noise levels from the sites will be managed and measures will be taken to ensure that noise levels are below the National Noise Control Regulations, SANS 10103:2008 guidelines.</p> <p>Measures will be undertaken by the mine to ensure that the visual aspects from the site are complying with the relevant visual standards and objectives.</p>	

				<p>All lighting shall be kept to a minimum within the requirements of safety and efficiency. Where such lighting is deemed necessary, low-level lighting, which is shielded to reduce light spillage and pollution, shall be used.</p> <p>No naked light sources shall be directly visible from a distance. Only reflected light shall be visible from outside the site.</p> <p>External lighting shall use down-lighters shielded in such a way as to minimise light spillage and pollution beyond the extent of the area that needs to be lit.</p> <p>Security and perimeter lighting shall be shielded so that no light falls outside the area needing to be lit.</p> <p>Drill rigs shall be located in areas with adequate tree and bush cover to minimise the visual impact on residents.</p> <p>Where no adequate vegetation cover is available for the drill rigs, shade cloths can be used to screen off the drill rigs.</p> <p>Where possible, rehabilitation of the work areas shall be undertaken in tandem with construction to ensure that areas stripped of vegetation are kept to a minimum.</p> <p><u>Damage or destruction of sites with archaeological and cultural significance:</u></p> <p>The drilling sites will be situated away from any identified grave site or heritage sites. A 50 m buffer will be created between the sites and the proposed camp and drilling sites.</p> <p><u>Safety, intrusion livelihood impacts on the landowners and occupiers:</u></p> <p>Residents shall be informed of any road closures and other disruptions and maintain roads used for the operation in good order. Clear signage shall be installed around the project area indicating the type of disruption and the time during which the disruptions will occur.</p> <p>Communication with landowners and land occupiers shall be kept open during the operational phase of the project. A record of such communication shall be kept on site.</p> <p>Ensure that negotiations on compensation are undertaken before the drilling programme can commence. This will include any other conditions that the landowners may deem necessary for the prospecting operation. The outcomes of the negotiations shall be recorded and kept in a file on site.</p> <p>Ensure that safety measures are implemented to prevent impacts on landowners and occupiers.</p> <p>Access to private property, outside of the demarcated drill sites, without landowner consent shall be strictly prohibited.</p> <p><u>Traffic:</u></p> <p>Local speed limits and traffic laws shall apply at all times to minimise the occurrences of accidents on public roads;</p> <p>Where possible the transportation of materials and rubbish shall be undertaken outside traffic peak hours to minimise inconveniencing residents;</p> <p>The number of construction vehicles and trips shall be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>All the construction vehicles shall undergo maintenance on a regular basis to improve on the combustion engine vehicle efficiency.</p> <p><u>Flora:</u></p> <p>All disturbed areas must be concurrently rehabilitated.</p> <p>Prohibit the collection of any plant material for firewood or medicinal purposes.</p> <p>The existing integrity of flora surrounding the study area shall be upheld and no activities shall be carried out outside the footprint of the construction areas.</p> <p>Edge effect control shall be implemented to avoid further habitat degradation outside of the proposed footprint area.</p> <p>All sensitive open space areas will be demarcated and access into these areas shall be</p>	<p>With the implementation of the mitigation measures, the drilling operations will be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) and recommendations from the specialist.</p> <p>The mine will ensure that all safety standards are met and that access to landowners and occupiers are not detrimentally affected.</p> <p>The objective is to warn the general public of construction traffic, and to manage traffic on site and implementing the mitigation measures will ensure road safety along the public roads and onsite and to increase awareness of slow-moving vehicles.</p> <p>The implementation of mitigation measures will ensure that the drilling and sampling activities do not have detrimental impact on the area's flora.</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	---	--

					<p>prohibited.</p> <p>Protected floral species occurring within the vicinity of the study area, but outside the disturbance footprint shall be fenced for the duration of the drilling activities.</p> <p>Monitoring of relocation success will be conducted during the operational phase.</p> <p>Monitoring of relocation success shall continue during and beyond the decommissioning and closure phase.</p> <p>All disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated with indigenous riparian species.</p> <p>As much vegetation growth as possible must be promoted in order to protect soils. In this regard, special mention is made of the need to use indigenous vegetation species where hydro seeding, rehabilitation planting (where applicable) is to be implemented.</p> <p><u>Fauna:</u></p> <p>The rehabilitation of the disturbed areas must be conducted such that the rehabilitated areas will encourage the migration of animals back into the rehabilitated areas.</p> <p>The proposed development footprint areas shall remain as small as possible and where possible be confined to already disturbed areas.</p> <p>No trapping or hunting of fauna shall be permitted.</p> <p>Edge effects of all operational activities, such as erosion and alien plant species proliferation, which may affect faunal habitat, need to be strictly managed.</p> <p>No informal fires in the vicinity of construction areas shall be permitted.</p> <p>An alien vegetation control plan must be developed and implemented in order to manage alien plant species occurring within the study area, and to prevent further faunal habitat loss.</p> <p>Poaching of wild animals and livestock will be prohibited.</p>	Maintenance of the current status on animal life within the project area.	
Data Analysis	Feasibility Studies			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Feasibility Studies Report				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Borehole capping	Closure and Rehabilitation of borehole and infrastructure sites	Decommissioning and Closure		All the affected sites	<p><u>Compaction and contamination of soils within the rehabilitation site:</u></p> <p>All vehicles and machinery used at the rehabilitation site will be kept in good working order.</p> <p>No repairs of vehicles or machinery will be conducted at the rehabilitation site unless it is emergency repairs, which will be conducted on protected ground.</p> <p>Movement of mine vehicles and machinery will be limited to demarcated routes, which will be rehabilitated when no longer in use.</p> <p><u>Re-instatement of soil productivity, land capability and land use:</u></p> <p>All infrastructure will be removed from the site in accordance with the rehabilitation plan.</p> <p>Contaminated soils shall be cleaned or disposed of at a registered landfill site in terms of the requirements of the NEM: WA.</p> <p><u>Pollution of surface water environment:</u></p> <p>The site area will be rehabilitated to be free draining.</p> <p>Erosion protection measures such as the use of contour berms and repair of gullies will be undertaken until such time that the rehabilitated surfaces can be shown to be sustainable.</p> <p>Existing roads should be used where possible and new disturbed areas should be minimised.</p> <p><u>Air pollution from rehabilitation site:</u></p> <p>Where necessary, wet suppression will be conducted at areas with excessive dust emissions.</p> <p>Vehicles and machinery will be well maintained.</p> <p>The traffic volumes and speed within the rehabilitation site will be controlled.</p> <p><u>Nuisance Noise:</u></p> <p>Smaller or less noisy equipment should where possible be used when working near receptors.</p> <p>Equipment will be well maintained and fitted with the correct and appropriate noise abatement measures.</p> <p><u>Damage or destruction of sites with Archaeological and cultural significance:</u></p>	Rehabilitated areas will be maintained to comply with the closure objectives.	Upon cessation of the aggregate stone-dolerite, Clay and sand prospecting
Removal of equipment and infrastructure						<p>Rehabilitated areas will be maintained to comply with the closure objectives.</p> <p>The surface water leaving the rehabilitation site will comply with the DWS target water quality parameters.</p> <p>Decommissioning and rehabilitation of the site will be conducted in such a manner that the ambient air quality does not exceed the air quality standards.</p> <p>Ensure that the noise from the rehabilitation activities do not exceed the SANS 10103 Rating Level.</p>	

					A 50m buffer will be maintained between any site and the archaeological site.	Should heritage sites be identified, rehabilitation in close proximity to the sites will not be damaged or destroyed by the rehabilitation activities	
--	--	--	--	--	---	---	--

### 35 Impact Management Outcomes

Table 35-1: Impact Management

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	MITIGATION TYPE	Standard to be achieved
Data Collection and Assessment	Desktop Study	None	N/A	Planning	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Remain within the ambits of the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation.
Geological Mapping		None	N/A	Planning	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Remain within the ambits of the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation.
Planning for Drilling Surveys		None	N/A	Planning	Control potential deviations from the approved EMPr through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Remain within the ambits of the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation.
Access Roads	Physical surveying of the site and pegging of drilling boreholes	Loss of soils, erosion of the soils and impacts on landowners' livelihood.	Soils, Land capability and Land use	Construction	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation and dust control	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. Vegetation clearance shall be kept to a minimum. No clearance of vegetation outside demarcated areas
Drill Sites		Contamination of groundwater from hydrocarbon spillages	Groundwater	Construction	Control through management and monitoring of spillages. Where spillages occur, the soil must be stripped and disposed of as stipulated in the EMPr.	Comply with the EMPr. Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. Where required, disposal of contaminated soils shall be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA)
Temporary Soil Storage Area		Contamination of surface water due to erosion of soils which will lead to increased turbidity as well as contamination from hydrocarbon spillages	Surface water	Construction	Monitoring through rehabilitation and management of spoil sites	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. Comply with the requirements of the NWA: no construction activities within 100 m of water courses and 500m of riparian zones without consent from the DWS.
Vegetation Clearance		None	N/A	Construction	Control of access to riparian areas and within the regulated 500 m buffer.	National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) No construction activities may be conducted within 500 m of riparian zones without approval from the DWS.
Vehicle Parking Area		None	N/A	Construction	Control through clear demarcation of prospecting areas to ensure avoidance of graves and other heritage sites	No destruction/loss of heritage resources
Contractors Camp		None	N/A	Construction	Management of drill sites. Should any fossils be discovered, operations must cease and SAHRA must be notified	No destruction/loss of fossils
Ablution Facility		Loss of natural vegetation in the affected areas	Flora	Construction	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation. Control of alien invasive plant species	Comply with existing legislation National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) and Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014. No vegetation clearance outside of demarcated areas
		Migration of fauna due to disturbance caused by the proposed project	Fauna	Construction	Relocation of affected species of conservation importance	Remain within the designated area demarcated for prospecting activities. Ensure minimal clearance of vegetation

NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	MITIGATION TYPE	Standard to be achieved	
	Air pollution through nuisance dust, PM 10 and PM2.5 as well as emissions from construction vehicles and machinery.	Air Quality	Construction	Dust control measures	Comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004: Dust Regulation guidelines for rural communities. Comply with the requirements of the Minimum Emission Standards	
	Increase in ambient noise due to movement of construction vehicles and machinery	Noise	Construction	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers Control through the limiting of the activities to the daytime and the implementation of an open and transparent channel of communication	Remain within the Noise Regulation Standards for Rural Areas.	
	Visual impacts as a result of vegetation clearance	Visual	Construction	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation	Vegetation clearance must be limited to demarcated areas only	
	Increased traffic on the roads due to additional construction vehicles	Traffic, Socio-economic	Construction	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	Minimise the number of vehicles used during construction. Movement of construction vehicles shall be limited to outside of busy hours	
	Impact of carbon dioxide (GHG) produced by construction vehicles on the local climate	Climate Change	Construction	Control and keep to a minimal the number of vehicles used for construction. Vehicles must be maintained to ensure efficient use of fuel.	Comply with the EMPr. Minimise the number of vehicles used during construction. Regular maintenance of vehicles and machinery to improve fuel efficiency. Comply with requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004	
RC and Diamond core drilling	Drilling and Sampling	It is expected that during the operation phase the project will not result in the creation of employment as prospecting requires highly specialised personnel. The applicant will make use of qualified contractors for the drilling and sampling of the sites. The community will however continue to benefit because of the continued boost in small local businesses. Drilling has potential to affect the day-to-day operations by affected landowners	Socio-Economic	Operation	Control of times during which operation activities will take place	Maintain a 100% crime free area within the control of the prospecting. No complaints from landowners due to prospecting activities. Should there be conflicts, these must be resolved
		The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils and groundwater. The prospecting operations will require the drilling of boreholes, which may result in the drawdown, which may affect the yield to the surrounding groundwater users. Material used for backfilling boreholes may leach pollutants, which will result in the contamination of surrounding groundwater regime. This may spread beyond the backfilling site via plume migration.	Groundwater	Operation	Rehabilitation of affected areas and control using bunds	No soil contamination as a result of hydrocarbon spillages Rehabilitation and disposal of contaminated soils conducted in terms of the NEM: WA
Sampling		Drilling operations may result in the generation of surface water runoff contaminated with drill muds and cuttings, should spillage occur. The sedimentation and possible contamination with carbonaceous material will have negative impacts on the water quality due to increase turbidity and an increase in acidity of the water in the streams. This will have an impact on aquatic habitats.	Surface Water	Operation	Control through management and monitoring of surface runoff	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. No dirty runoff/stormwater entering water courses. The NWA: No activities within 100 m of watercourses and drainage without consent from the DWS. No soil contamination as a result of hydrocarbon spillages Rehabilitation and disposal of contaminated soils conducted in terms of



NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	MITIGATION TYPE	Standard to be achieved
					the NEM: WA
	Uncontrolled movement within riparian zones may have an impact on the aquatic ecological habitat, ecological functioning and structure.	Aquatic Ecosystems	Operation	Avoidance of riparian areas	NWA: No activities shall be permitted within 500 m of riparian areas without prior approval from the DWS. Comply with requirements of the NWA
	The project may result in the following impacts on the floral environment during the operation phase: Destruction of potential floral habitats because of continual disturbance of soil, leading to altered floral habitats, erosion and sedimentation; Impact on floral diversity because of possible uncontrolled fires; Potential spreading of alien invasive species because of floral disturbance; and Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase	Flora	Operation	Rehabilitation of affected areas Monitoring of rehabilitated areas to ensure success.	No invasive plant species in rehabilitated areas No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas. Ensure successful rehabilitation and/or removal of contaminated soils
	The project may result in the following impacts on the faunal environment during the operation phase: Migration of fauna from the prospecting area due to noise as a resulting of drilling activities; Loss of faunal due to collisions with vehicles and machinery; Loss of faunal diversity and ecological integrity as a result of poaching and faunal species trapping; Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase.	Fauna	Operation	Rehabilitation of affected areas Drill holes must be temporarily plugged immediately after drilling is completed and remain plugged until they are permanently plugged below ground to eliminate the risk posed to fauna by open drill holes. Drill holes must be permanently capped as soon as is practicable	No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas. Successful plugging of drill holes, with no faunal casualties as a result of holes being left open
	The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils. The materials removed from the drilling sites will contain carbonaceous material, which has potential for contamination should it not be managed properly. The material from the drilling site may result in the contamination of soils, which may render the land not usable after backfilling operation.	Soils Land use and Land Capability	Operation	Rehabilitation of affected areas	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation.
	The movement of vehicles and drilling machinery will likely result in an increase in nuisance dust, PM10 and PM2.5. There is also potential for increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollution due to the movement of vehicles and construction machinery.	Air Quality	Operation	Dust control measures	Remain within the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004: Dust Regulation guidelines for rural as well as Minimum Air Emissions Standards
	The drill rigs and towers used during the drilling operation phase will be visible from nearby locations and will have visual impact on the local communities in close proximity to the prospecting area.	Visual	Operation	Strategic location of rigs and towers to areas where there may be some tree cover, as far as practicable	No removal of vegetation outside de of demarcated area to ensure as much vegetation cover for the rigs, as possible. Make use of rigs that have earthy cover to minimise the visual impact
	The drilling operations may result in the destruction of graves and other heritage resources.	Heritage Resources	Operation	Control through clear demarcation of prospecting areas to ensure avoidance of graves and other heritage sites	No destruction/loss of heritage resources Comply with requirements of the SAHRA

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	MITIGATION TYPE	Standard to be achieved
		Earth moving activities may result in the destruction of fossils (if any).	Palaeontological Resources	Operation	Management of drill sites. Should any fossils be discovered, operations must cease and SAHRA must be notified	No destruction/loss of fossils Comply with requirements of the SAHRA
		The use of vehicles and machinery may result in an increase in noise in the immediate vicinity of the project. The drilling activities will also result in an increase in noise in the vicinity of the project.	Noise	Operation	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers	Remain within the Noise Regulation Standards for Rural Areas. National Noise Control Regulations, SANS10103:2008 guidelines.
		The movement of vehicles in the project area will result in an increase in traffic on the roads.	Traffic	Operation	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	Minimise the number of vehicles on the roads and movement of vehicles shall be kept to outside busy times
		The movement of vehicles and machinery may result in the production of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas), which may have an impact on the climate in the area.	Climate	Operation	Control and keep to a minimal the number of vehicles used for operations. Vehicles must be maintained to ensure efficient use of fuel.	Remain within the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004: Dust Regulation guidelines for rural as well as Minimum Air Emissions Standards Minimise the number of vehicles
		Drilling ground vibrations may result in possible damage to infrastructure.	Drilling and Vibrations	Operation	Drill sites must be located as far from infrastructure as is possible to avoid damage to infrastructure	No private infrastructure shall be damaged/lost due to drilling vibrations
Data Analysis	Feasibility Studies	None	N/A	Operation	N/A	N/A
Feasibility Studies Report		None	N/A	Operation	N/A	N/A
Borehole capping	Closure and Rehabilitation of borehole and infrastructure sites	The removal of the campsite equipment and the rehabilitation of the drilling sites and associated access infrastructure will result in the affected soil and land use being restored. This will also result in the resumption of the use of the land since the infrastructure would have been removed.	Soils, Land Capability and Land Use	Decommissioning and Closure	N/A	No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas. Ensure successful rehabilitation of contaminated soils. Rehabilitation of land to a state it was before prospecting activities
Removal of equipment and infrastructure		Positive impacts will result due to the reduction in areas of disturbance and the return of land use of the affected areas and making available an area that was covered by the campsite and drilling sites.	Land Use	Decommissioning and Closure	N/A	No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas. Ensure successful rehabilitation of contaminated soils. Rehabilitation of land to a state it was before prospecting activities
		The use of vehicles/machinery during the rehabilitation of the exploration sites may result compaction of soils and in the spillages of hydrocarbon liquids from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination and destruction of the vegetation cover and soils.	Soils and Vegetation	Decommissioning and Closure	Control and prohibit access of vehicles and machinery to areas outside of established access tracks. Control through the clear delineation of the prospecting area. Control through the implementation of environmental induction and toolbox talks, as well as the implementation of a fine system. Control through the implementation of a soil management programme in terms of the correct tops oil removal, stockpiling and rehabilitation practices as discussed in the EMPr.	Vehicle movement shall be limited to areas demarcated as access tracks. Comply with the requirements of the EMPr
		During the decommissioning and closure phases equipment will be removed, stockpiled soils will be used for rehabilitation, remaining sumps will be backfilled, levelled, top soiled and the area re-seeded. During the process of rehabilitation surface water runoff from the rehabilitation site may have elevated silt load, which may cause pollution of the nearby water environment.	Surface Water	Decommissioning and Closure	Control through the clear delineation of the prospecting area. Control through the implementation of environmental induction and toolbox talks, as well as the implementation of a fine system. Control through the implementation of the NWA GN 704 water management principles.	Maintain the water quality of water course in the project area. Ensure that dirty stormwater and runoff is diverted from the water courses and riparian areas. Comply with the requirements of GN704.

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated	MITIGATION TYPE	Standard to be achieved
		Rehabilitation and removal of the prospecting sites and equipment will require vehicular movement. This will result in the generation of dust by movement of vehicles and due to blowing winds. Vehicles and machinery will also be generated diesel or petrol fumes. Generated dust will migrate towards the predominant wind direction and may settle on surrounding properties including nearby vegetation.	Air Quality	Decommissioning and Closure	Dust control measures and rehabilitation of areas stripped of vegetation	Comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, 2004 Dust Regulation guidelines for rural communities.
		Noise will be generated during the removal of equipment and rehabilitation of the sites. This noise is not expected to exceed occupational noise limits and will be short lived.	Noise	Decommissioning and Closure	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers	Comply with the Noise Regulation Standards for Rural Areas.

### 36 Impact Management Actions

Table 36-1: Impact management actions

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	MITIGATION TYPE	Time Period for Implementation	Compliance with standards
Data Collection and Assessment	Desktop Study	None	Control potential deviations from the approved Prospecting Works Programme through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Planning	Remain within the ambits of the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation.
Geological Mapping		None	Control potential deviations from the approved Prospecting Works Programme through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Planning	Remain within the ambits of the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation.
Planning for Drilling Surveys		None	Control potential deviations from the approved Prospecting Works Programme through the effective implementation of the data acquisition and desktop study.	Planning	Remain within the ambits of the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation.
Access Roads	Physical surveying of the site and pegging of drilling boreholes	Loss of soils, erosion of the soils and impacts on landowners' livelihood.	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation and dust control	Construction	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. Vegetation clearance shall be kept to a minimum. No clearance of vegetation outside demarcated areas
Drill Sites		Contamination of groundwater from hydrocarbon spillages	Control through management and monitoring of spillages. Where spillages occur, the soil must be stripped and disposed of as stipulated in the EMPr.	Construction	Comply with the EMPr. Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. Where required, disposal of contaminated soils shall be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA)
Temporary Soil Storage Area		Contamination of surface water due to erosion of soils which will lead to increased turbidity as well as contamination from hydrocarbon spillages	Monitoring through rehabilitation and management of spoil sites	Construction	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation. Comply with the requirements of the NWA: no construction activities within 100 m of water courses and 500m of riparian zones without consent from the DWS.
Vegetation Clearance		None	N/A	Construction	National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) No construction activities may be conducted within 500 m of riparian zones without approval from the DWS.
Vehicle Parking Area		None	N/A	Construction	No destruction/loss of heritage resources
Mobile office		None	N/A	Construction	No destruction/loss of fossils
Ablution Facility		Loss of natural vegetation in the affected areas	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation. Control of alien invasive plant species	Construction	Comply with existing legislation National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) and Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014. No vegetation clearance outside of demarcated areas
		Migration of fauna due to disturbance caused by the proposed project	Relocation of affected species of conservation importance	Construction	Remain within the designated area demarcated for prospecting activities. Ensure minimal clearance of vegetation
		Air pollution through nuisance dust, PM 10 and PM 2.5 as well as emissions from construction vehicles and machinery.	Dust control measures	Construction	Comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004: Dust Regulation guidelines for rural communities. Comply with the requirements of the Minimum Emission Standards

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	MITIGATION TYPE	Time Period for Implementation	Compliance with standards
		Increase in ambient noise due to movement of construction vehicles and machinery	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers  Control through the limiting of the activities to the daytime and the implementation of an open and transparent channel of communication	Construction	Remain within the Noise Regulation Standards for Rural Areas.
		Visual impacts as a result of vegetation clearance	Rehabilitation of areas cleared of vegetation	Construction	Vegetation clearance must be limited to demarcated areas only
		Increased traffic on the roads due to additional construction vehicles	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	Construction	Minimise the number of vehicles used during construction.  Movement of construction vehicles shall be limited to outside of busy hours
		Impact of carbon dioxide (GHG) produced by construction vehicles on the local climate	Control and keep to a minimal the number of vehicles used for construction. Vehicles must be maintained to ensure efficient use of fuel.	Construction	Comply with the EMPr.  Minimise the number of vehicles used during construction.  Regular maintenance of vehicles and machinery to improve fuel efficiency.  Comply with requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004
RC and Diamond Core Drilling	Drilling and Sampling	It is expected that during the operation phase the project will not result in the creation of employment as prospecting requires highly specialised personnel. The applicant will make use of qualified contractors for the drilling and sampling of the sites. The community will however continue to benefit as a result of the continued boost in small local businesses.  Drilling has potential to affect the day-to-day operations by affected landowners	Control of times during which operation activities will take place	Operation	Maintain a 100% crime free area within the control of the prospecting.  No complaints from landowners due to prospecting activities. Should there be conflicts, these must be resolved
		The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils and groundwater.  The prospecting operations will require the drilling of boreholes, which may result in the drawdown, which may affect the yield to the surrounding groundwater users. Material used for backfilling boreholes may leach pollutants, which will result in the contamination of surrounding groundwater regime. This may spread beyond the backfilling site via plume migration.	Rehabilitation of affected areas and control using bunds	Operation	No soil contamination as a result of hydrocarbon spillages  Rehabilitation and disposal of contaminated soils conducted in terms of the NEM: WA
Sampling		Drilling operations may result in the generation of surface water runoff contaminated with drill muds and cuttings, should spillage occur.  The sedimentation and possible contamination with carbonaceous material will have negative impacts on the water quality due to increase turbidity and an increase in acidity of the water in the streams. This will have an impact on aquatic habitats.	Control through management and monitoring of surface runoff	Operation	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation.  No dirty runoff/stormwater entering water courses.  The NWA: No activities within 100 m of watercourses and drainage without consent from the DWS.  No soil contamination as a result of hydrocarbon spillages  Rehabilitation and disposal of contaminated soils conducted in terms of the NEM: WA
		The project may result in the following impacts on the floral environment during the operation phase:  Destruction of potential floral habitats as a result of continual disturbance of soil, leading to altered floral habitats, erosion and sedimentation;  Impact on floral diversity as a result of possible uncontrolled fires;	Avoidance of riparian areas	Operation	NWA: No activities shall be permitted within 500 m of riparian areas without prior approval from the DWS.  Comply with requirements of the NWA

NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	MITIGATION TYPE	Time Period for Implementation	Compliance with standards
	<p>Potential spreading of alien invasive species as a result of floral disturbance; and</p> <p>Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase</p>			
	<p>The project may result in the following impacts on the faunal environment during the operation phase:</p> <p>Migration of fauna from the prospecting area due to noise as a resulting of drilling activities;</p> <p>Loss of faunal due to collisions with vehicles and machinery;</p> <p>Loss of faunal diversity and ecological integrity as a result of poaching and faunal species trapping;</p> <p>Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of affected areas</p> <p>Monitoring of rehabilitated areas to ensure success.</p>	Operation	<p>No invasive plant species in rehabilitated areas</p> <p>No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas.</p> <p>Ensure successful rehabilitation and/or removal of contaminated soils</p>
	<p>The project may result in the following impacts on the faunal environment during the operation phase:</p> <p>Migration of fauna from the prospecting area due to noise as a resulting of drilling activities;</p> <p>Loss of faunal due to collisions with vehicles and machinery;</p> <p>Loss of faunal diversity and ecological integrity as a result of poaching and faunal species trapping;</p> <p>Failure to initiate a rehabilitation plan and alien control plan during the construction phase may lead to further impacts during the operation phase.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of affected areas</p> <p>Drill holes must be temporarily plugged immediately after drilling is completed and remain plugged until they are permanently plugged below ground to eliminate the risk posed to fauna by open drill holes.</p> <p>Drill holes must be permanently capped as soon as is practicable</p>	Operation	<p>No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas.</p> <p>Successful plugging of drill holes, with no faunal casualties as a result of holes being left open</p>
	<p>The use of vehicles during the drilling of the exploration boreholes may result in the spillages of hydrocarbons from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination of soils. The materials removed from the drilling sites will contain carbonaceous material, which has potential for contamination should it not be managed properly. The material from the drilling site may result in the contamination of soils, which may render the land not usable after backfilling operation.</p>	Rehabilitation of affected areas	Operation	Retain topsoil integrity for the reuse in rehabilitation.
	<p>The movement of vehicles and drilling machinery will likely result in an increase in nuisance dust, PM10 and PM2.5.</p> <p>There is also potential for increase in carbon emissions and ambient air pollution due to the movement of vehicles and construction machinery.</p>	Dust control measures	Operation	Remain within the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004: Dust Regulation guidelines for rural as well as Minimum Air Emissions Standards
	<p>The drill rigs and towers used during the drilling operation phase will be visible from nearby locations and will have visual impact on the local communities in close proximity to the prospecting area.</p>	Strategic location of rigs and towers to areas where there may be some tree cover, as far as practicable	Operation	<p>No removal of vegetation outside de of demarcated area to ensure as much vegetation cover for the rigs, as possible.</p> <p>Make use of rigs that have earthy cover to minimise the visual impact</p>
	<p>The drilling operations may result in the destruction of graves and other heritage resources.</p>	Control through clear demarcation of prospecting areas to ensure avoidance of graves and other heritage sites	Operation	No destruction/loss of heritage resources Comply with requirements of the SAHRA
	<p>Earth moving activities may result in the destruction of fossils (if any).</p>	Management of drill sites. Should any fossils be discovered, operations must cease and SAHRA must be notified	Operation	No destruction/loss of fossils Comply with requirements of the SAHRA

NAME OF ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	MITIGATION TYPE	Time Period for Implementation	Compliance with standards
		The use of vehicles and machinery may result in an increase in noise in the immediate vicinity of the project. The drilling activities will also result in an increase in noise in the vicinity of the project.	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers	Operation	Remain within the Noise Regulation Standards for Rural Areas. National Noise Control Regulations, SANS10103:2008 guidelines.
		The movement of vehicles in the project area will result in an increase in traffic on the roads.	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	Operation	Minimise the number of vehicles on the roads and movement of vehicles shall be kept to outside busy times
		The movement of vehicles and machinery may result in the production of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas), which may have an impact on the climate in the area.	Control and keep to a minimal the number of vehicles used for operations. Vehicles must be maintained to ensure efficient use of fuel.	Operation	Remain within the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004: Dust Regulation guidelines for rural as well as Minimum Air Emissions Standards Minimise the number of vehicles
		Drilling ground vibrations may result in possible damage to infrastructure.	Drill sites must be located as far from infrastructure as is possible to avoid damage to infrastructure	Operation	No private infrastructure shall be damaged/lost due to drilling vibrations
Data Analysis	Feasibility Studies	None	N/A	Operation	N/A
Feasibility Studies Report		None	N/A	Operation	N/A
Borehole capping	Closure and Rehabilitation of borehole and infrastructure sites	The removal of the campsite equipment and the rehabilitation of the drilling sites and associated access infrastructure will result in the affected soil and land use being restored. This will also result in the resumption of the use of the land since the infrastructure would have been removed.	N/A	Decommissioning and Closure	No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas. Ensure successful rehabilitation of contaminated soils. Rehabilitation of land to a state it was before prospecting activities
Removal of equipment and infrastructure		Positive impacts will result due to the reduction in areas of disturbance and the return of land use of the affected areas and making available an area that was covered by the campsite and drilling sites.	N/A	Decommissioning and Closure	No removal of vegetation outside of demarcated areas. Ensure successful rehabilitation of contaminated soils. Rehabilitation of land to a state it was before prospecting activities
		The use of vehicles/machinery during the rehabilitation of the exploration sites may result compaction of soils and in the spillages of hydrocarbon liquids from the vehicles and machinery. This will result in the contamination and destruction of the vegetation cover and soils.	Control and prohibit access of vehicles and machinery to areas outside of established access tracks. Control through the clear delineation of the prospecting area. Control through the implementation of environmental induction and toolbox talks, as well as the implementation of a fine system. Control through the implementation of a soil management programme in terms of the correct tops oil removal, stockpiling and rehabilitation practices as discussed in the EMPr.	Decommissioning and Closure	Vehicle movement shall be limited to areas demarcated as access tracks. Comply with the requirements of the EMPr
		During the decommissioning and closure phases equipment will be removed, stockpiled soils will be used for rehabilitation, remaining sumps will be backfilled, levelled, top soiled and the area re-seeded. During the process of rehabilitation surface water runoff from the rehabilitation site may have elevated silt load, which may cause pollution of the nearby water environment.	Control through the clear delineation of the prospecting area. Control through the implementation of environmental induction and toolbox talks, as well as the implementation of a fine system. Control through the implementation of the NWA GN 704 water management principles.	Decommissioning and Closure	Maintain the water quality of water course in the project area. Ensure that dirty stormwater and runoff is diverted from the water courses riparian areas. Comply with the requirements of GN704
		Rehabilitation and removal of the prospecting sites and equipment will require vehicular movement. This will result in the generation of dust by movement of vehicles and due to blowing winds. Vehicles and machinery will also be generated diesel or petrol fumes. Generated dust will migrate towards the predominant wind direction and may settle on surrounding properties including nearby vegetation.	Dust control measures and rehabilitation of areas stripped of vegetation	Decommissioning and Closure	Comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, 2004 Dust Regulation guidelines for rural communities.

NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT (Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)	MITIGATION TYPE	Time Period for Implementation	Compliance with standards
	Noise will be generated during the removal of equipment and rehabilitation of the sites. This noise is not expected to exceed occupational noise limits and will be short lived.	Management and maintenance of construction vehicles. Management through the use of noise dissipating technologies e.g., noise mufflers	Decommissioning and Closure	Comply with the Noise Regulation Standards for Rural Areas.



## **37 Financial Provision**

### **37.1 Determination of the amount of Financial Provision.**

#### **37.1.1 Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they have been aligned to the baseline environment described under the Regulation.**

Phases are dependent on the success of the previous one. The prospecting drilling will be initiated based on the outcome of the desktop and geological mapping phase. The location and extent of the drill and infrastructure sites cannot be determined at this stage. Mapping of the actual prospecting activities cannot be undertaken.

The rehabilitation plan was developed on the basis that the rehabilitated areas will be left safe, stable, non-polluting and able to support a self-sustaining ecosystem similar to the surrounding natural environment. To ensure that the rehabilitation plan is aligned with the closure objective, a high-level risk assessment of the prospecting components was undertaken to establish the potential risks associated therewith.

The closure objectives are to:

- Eliminate any safety risks associated with drill hole and sumps through adequate drill hole capping and backfilling;
- Remove and/or rehabilitate all pollution and pollution sources such as waste materials and spills;
- To establish a rehabilitated area that is not susceptible to soil erosion which may result in the loss of soil, degradation of water resources and aquatic environments;
- Restore disturbed areas and re-vegetate these areas with plant species naturally occurring the area to restore the ecological function of such areas, as far as is practicable; and
- To eradicate all alien invasive plant species that may colonise the areas that have been cleared of vegetation.

#### **37.1.2 Confirm specifically that the environmental objectives in relation to closure have been consulted with landowner and interested and affected parties.**

All registered I&APs will have access to the draft BAR and EMPr for a 30-day review and comment period. All comments received and responses provided to the stakeholders will be incorporated into the final BAR and EMPr and will be collated into a Comments and Responses Register.

#### **37.1.3 Provide a rehabilitation plan that describes and shows the scale and aerial extent of the main mining activities, including the anticipated mining area at the time of closure.**

Every phase of the prospecting activities is dependent on the success of the preceding phase. Depending on the outcome of the desktop and geological mapping phase, the prospecting drilling will be initiated. The location and extent of the drill and infrastructure sites cannot be determined at this stage. Mapping of the actual prospecting activities cannot be undertaken.

As a result of the nature of the activities, the potential impacts will be limited in spatial extent and will be of short duration. The management plan is provided in such a manner as to ensure concurrent rehabilitation. The areas for drilling purposes will be the main area experiencing impacts. The impacts will be temporary in nature, and a detailed management plan has been provided to address the potential impacts associated with these activities.

The only rehabilitation that will specifically be required is borehole capping and revegetation:

- Borehole Capping: Drill holes will be permanently capped as soon as is practicable.
- Re-vegetation: A suitably qualified ecologist will be appointed to determine the appropriate species that may be used for re-vegetating the area.
- Re-vegetation efforts will be monitored every second month for a period of 6 months after the initial seeding. An effective vegetation cover of 45% must be achieved. Re-seeding will be undertaken if the vegetation cover has not been achieved after 6 months.

#### **37.1.4 Explain why it can be confirmed that the rehabilitation plan is compatible with the closure objectives.**

The nature of the activities is such that, its impacts will be very limited and of short duration. The management plan is in such a manner as to ensure concurrent rehabilitation. The areas for drilling purposes will be the main areas that will require rehabilitation at the end of the prospecting activities. The impacts of the drilling activities will be temporary in nature and a detailed management plan has been provided to address potential impacts.

#### **37.1.5 Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline.**

The financial provision for the environmental rehabilitation and closure of any mine/prospecting and its associated operations forms an integral part of the MPRDA. Sections 41 (1) and, 41 (2), 41 (3) and 45 of the MPRDA deal with the financial provision for rehabilitation and closure. During 2012, the DMR made updated rate available for the calculation of the closure costs, where contractor's costs are not available, these apply.

The "Guideline Document for the Evaluation of Financial Provision made by the Mining Industry" was developed by the DMR in January 2005 to empower the personnel at Regional DMR offices to review the quantum determination for the rehabilitation and closure for mining sites.

With the determination of the quantum for closure, it must be assumed that the infrastructure had no salvage value (clean closure). The closure cost estimate (clean closure) was determined in accordance with the DMR guidelines. The closure costs were calculated to be R **222 167, 80** as shown in Table 37-1.

**Table 37-1: Cost Estimate Expenditure**

<b>CALCULATION OF THE QUANTUM</b>							
Applicant: Evaluators :		<b>NC Mining Resources</b>			Ref No.:		<b>NC13162PR</b>
		<b>Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd</b>			Date:		<b>Sept-22</b>
No.	Description	Unit	A	B	C	D	E=A*B*C*
			Quantity	Master Rate	Multiplication factor	Weighting factor 1	Amount (Rands)
1	Dismantling of processing plant and related structures (including overland conveyors and powerlines)	m3	0	17,91	1	1	0
2 (A)	Demolition of steel buildings and structures	m2	0	249,45	1	1	0
2(B)	Demolition of reinforced concrete buildings and structures	m2	0	367,62	1	1	0
3	Rehabilitation of access roads	m2	300	44,64	1	1	12957
4 (A)	Demolition and rehabilitation of electrified railway lines	m	0	433,26	1	1	0
4 (A)	Demolition and rehabilitation of non-electrified railway lines	m	0	236,33	1	1	0
5	Demolition of housing and/or administration facilities	m2	0	498,91	1	1	0
6	<b>Opencast rehabilitation including final voids and ramps</b>	ha	0	<b>253918,43</b>	<b>0,52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
7	Sealing of shafts adits and inclines	m3	0	133,92	1	1	0
8 (A)	Rehabilitation of overburden and spoils	ha	0	174355,57	1	1	0
8 (B)	Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (non-polluting potential)	ha	0	217156,72	1	1	0
8 (C)	Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (polluting potential)	ha	0	630726,4	1	1	0
9	Rehabilitation of subsided areas	ha	0	145996,53	1	1	0
10	General surface rehabilitation	ha	0,8	138119,02	1	1	106898
11	River diversions	ha	0	138119,02	1	1	0
12	Fencing	m	0	157,55	1	1	0
13	Water management	ha	0	52516,74	1	1	0
14	2 to 3 years of maintenance and aftercare	ha	1	18380,86	1	1	50807,03
15 (A)	Specialist study	Su m	0			1	0
15 (B)	Specialist study	Su m				1	0
					<b>Sub Total 1</b>		<b>170662</b>
1	Preliminary and General		20479,4436		<b>weighting factor 2</b>		20479,44
					1		
2	Contingencies		2047,94436				2047,944
					<b>Subtotal 2</b>		<b>193189,40</b>
					<b>VAT (15%)</b>		<b>28978,41</b>
					<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>222167,80</b>

**37.1.6 Confirm that the financial provision will be provided as determined.**

NC Mining will fund the operation and hereby undertakes to fund the operations and to manage the operations. The applicant (NC Mining) hereby confirms that the financial provision will be provided as determined in Table 37-1.

## **38 Mechanisms for monitoring compliance with and performance assessment against the environmental management programme and reporting thereon, including.**

### **38.1 Monitoring of Impact Management Actions**

Please refer to Table 38-1.

### **38.2 Monitoring and Reporting Frequency**

Please refer to Table 38-1.

### **38.3 Responsible Persons (Roles and Responsibilities)**

Generic roles that require to be defines for the project include:

- Project Developer;
- Environmental Control Officer;
- Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Manager; and
- Site Manager.

The typical requirements of each of the roles are provided in the following sections.

#### **38.3.1 Project Developer**

The Project Developer (NC Mining) is the 'owner' of the project and as such is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation issued in terms of NEMA (should the project receive such authorisation) are fully complied with, as well as ensuring that any other necessary permits or licenses are obtained and complied with. It is expected that NC Mining will appoint the Environmental Control Officer, EHS Manager and Site Manager.

#### **38.3.2 Environmental Control Officer**

An independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be appointed to monitor the compliance of the proposed project with the conditions of Environmental Authorisation (should such authorisation be granted by DMR) during the construction phase (and possibly the operational phase, depending on the requirements of DMR). The ECO must also monitor compliance of the proposed project with environmental legislation and conditions of the EMPr. The roles and responsibilities of the ECO should include the following:

- The ECO must undertake periodic environmental audits during the relevant phases of the proposed project to monitor and record environmental impacts and non-conformances. It is recommended that weekly or bi-weekly environmental audits be undertaken by the ECO during the construction phase.
- Environmental compliance reports must be submitted by the ECO to the DMR on an annual basis or as stipulated by the DMR.
- The ECO must maintain a diary of site visits and audits, a copy of the Environmental Authorisation (should such authorisation be granted by DMR) and relevant permits for

reference purposes, a non-conformance register, a public complaint register, and a copy of previous environmental audits undertaken.

- Prior to the commencement of construction, the ECO must meet on site with the Site Manager to confirm the construction procedure and designated construction areas.

### **38.3.3 Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Manager**

The EHS Manager will be appointed to fulfil the roles of the Environmental Officer during the construction phase and the Environmental Manager during the operational phase. The responsibility of the EHS Manager include overseeing the implementation of the EMPr during the construction and operational phases, monitoring environmental impacts, record-keeping and updating of the EMPr as and when necessary. The EHS Manager is also responsible for monitoring compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation that may be issued to NC Mining.

The lead contractor and sub-contractors may have their own Environmental Officers or designate Environmental Officer functions to certain personnel.

During construction, the EHS Manager will be responsible for the following:

- Meeting on site with the Site Manager prior to the commencement of construction activities to confirm the construction procedure and sites allocated for the drill sites and infrastructure required for the project.
- Daily or weekly monitoring of site activities during construction to ensure adherence to the specifications contained in the EMPr and Environmental Authorisation (should such authorisation be granted by DMR), using a monitoring checklist that is to be prepared at the start of the construction phase.

### **38.3.4 Site Manager**

The site manager will be responsible for the following:

- Overall construction programme, project delivery and quality control for the construction of the facility.
- Overseeing compliance with the Health, Safety and Environmental Responsibilities specific to the project construction.
- Promoting total job safety and environmental awareness by employees, contractors and sub-contractors and ensuring that all employees and contractors and sub-contractors are aware of the importance that the project proponent attaches to safety and the environment.
- Ensuring that each subcontractor employ an Environmental Officer (or have a designated Environmental Officer function) to monitor and report on the daily activities on-site during the construction period.
- Ensuring that safe, environmentally acceptable working methods and practices are implemented, and that sufficient plant and equipment is made available, is properly operated and maintained in order to facilitate proper access and enable any operation to be carried out safely.
- Meeting on site with the EHS Manager prior to the commencement of construction activities to confirm the construction procedure and designated activity zones.
- Ensuring that all appointed contractors and sub-contractors are aware of this EMPr and their responsibilities in relation to the programme.

- Ensuring that all appointed contractors and sub-contractors repair, at their own cost, any environmental damage as a result of a contravention of the specifications contained in the EMPr, to the satisfaction of the EHS Manager.

### **38.4 Time Period for Implementing Impact Management Actions**

Please refer to Table 38-1.

### **38.5 Mechanism for Monitoring Compliance**

Please refer to Table 38-1.

**Table 38-1: Mechanisms for Monitoring**

SOURCE ACTIVITY	IMPACTS REQUIRING MONITORING PROGRAMMES	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MONITORING PROGRAMMES)	MONITORING AND REPORTING FREQUENCY AND TIME PERIODS FOR IMPLEMENTING IMPACT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
Site Clearance and removal of vegetation Drilling of prospecting boreholes (RC) Stockpiling material from site clearance Discarding material from drill sites Construction of temp/mobile site infrastructure and access routes Stormwater management Waste generation and management. Demolition and/or removal of temporary infrastructure/equipment Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas	Soil Erosion	Management and monitoring of soil stockpiles. Soils must be stored properly and revegetated to prevent erosion and to enable re-use during rehabilitation. Stockpiles must be visually inspected daily to ensure that no erosion is taking place	ECO, Site Manager	Daily Monitoring and Monthly Reporting
	Loss of Indigenous plant Species	A suitably ecologist or horticulturist will be required to make recommendations regarding the collection, propagation/storage and transplantation of plants is advised.	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting. Monitoring will be required at all the construction and operational activities until such time that rehabilitation is completed, and sustainability of vegetation cover is achieved.
	Faunal Habitat Loss	Adhere to law and best practice guidelines regarding the displacement and relocation of CI fauna. Where required fauna shall be relocated to an area with a similar habitat as the project area Time construction activities to minimise faunal mortality. Poaching of fauna shall be prohibited. Uncontrolled fires shall not be permitted on site and persecution or hunting of fauna	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting. Monitoring will be required at all the construction and operational activities until such time that rehabilitation is completed, and sustainability of vegetation cover is achieved.
	Proliferation of alien invasive species	Declared weeds and alien invasive species must be eradicated. Management of alien invasive plant shall be undertaken throughout the	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting. Monitoring will be required at all the construction and operational activities until such time that rehabilitation is completed and sustainable.
	Nuisance dust and air emissions generation	During dry seasons, ensure that cleared (excavated) areas and unpaved surfaces are sprayed with water obtained from an approved source to minimise dust generation. Set up PM 2.5 and PM10 Monitoring sites in the area to monitor dust fall.	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Loss of arable land/land for grazing	Ensure proper rehabilitation measures are adhered to in order to return the soil quality to its natural state.	ECO, Site Manager	Monitor monthly and report on an annual basis. Monitoring will be required until such time that rehabilitation is completed.
	Soil and groundwater contamination	Manage through the EMPr and develop a groundwater management programme. Collection of baseline hydrochemistry samples for analysis.	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Groundwater extractions	Ensure that no groundwater extraction is undertaken without approval from the DWS. Monitoring water levels of the boreholes found in close proximity to the proposed mining site, through a flow meter and water level data logger.	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Visual Intrusion and loss of sense of place	Ensure that infrastructure is kept to its most "natural" state and keep a tidy visually ordered site. Rubble/litter/waste removal and disposal to be monitored throughout construction. Complaints about night lights should be investigated and documented in a register	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Increased pressure on the road network	Speed control and limitation of the times when construction vehicles may be on the roads	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
Soil disturbance resulting in the spread of alien	Alien invasive vegetation monitoring and control through Alien Invasive Management Plan	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting	



SOURCE ACTIVITY	IMPACTS REQUIRING MONITORING PROGRAMMES	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MONITORING PROGRAMMES)	MONITORING AND REPORTING FREQUENCY AND TIME PERIODS FOR IMPLEMENTING IMPACT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
	Surface water contamination	Monitor surface water quality upstream and downstream of the prospecting area to ensure that the prospecting activities are not contamination water resources	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Riparian Area and Aquatic Ecosystem Loss	Ensure that there are construction activities that will be located within any riparian and aquatic ecosystem areas.	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Destruction of graves and cultural resources	No drilling sites shall impact graves and sites of heritage or cultural importance	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Water Use	No water may be sources from rivers and streams without approval from the DWS. No clean water shall be used for dust suppression		
	Nuisance Noise	Measure noise levels routinely to ensure the noise levels are being kept within the acceptable ISO standards.	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly monitoring and reporting
	Health and safety of personnel	Routine safety checks, safety training and Inspections to be carried out during the construction and operation phase to enforce the use of Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE). This must also be included in the safety requirements of the Contract.	ECO, Site Manager	Routine inspection and Quarterly reporting
	Waste Management	Maintain a waste manifest book to record volumes of waste leaving the site, including recyclables. Keep safe disposal certificates on file on site for Hazardous waste. Way Bridge slips must be obtained for all other waste streams and kept on file on site	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly daily and report on a monthly basis
	Stormwater Management	Visual monitoring based on sediment. Clean water must be kept separate from contaminated water emanating from the project sites	ECO, Site Manager	Monthly daily and report on a monthly basis
	Rehabilitation	Monitoring of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basal Cover</li> <li>• Arial Cover</li> <li>• Species diversity</li> </ul>	ECO, Site Manager	Rehabilitation will be undertaken throughout all the project phases. The final rehabilitation will be undertaken when the prospecting activities have been finalised. The ECO shall inspect the affected areas 6 months after finalisation of rehabilitation to assess the success of the rehabilitation.

### **39 Indicate the frequency of the submission of the performance assessment/ environmental audit report.**

Environmental audits must be undertaken every year to ensure compliance with the EMPr and EA. The audit reports must also include the financial provision. The reports must be submitted to the DMR.

## 40 Environmental Awareness Plan

### 40.1 Manner in which the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work.

An Environmental Awareness and Risk Assessment Schedule has been developed and is outlined in Table 40-1. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure that onsite employees are not only trained, but that the principles are continuously re-enforced.

**Table 40-1: Environmental Training and Awareness Schedule**

Frequency	Time allocation	Objective
Induction (all staff and workers)	1-hour training on environmental awareness training as part of site induction	<p>Develop an understanding of what is meant by the natural environmental and social environment and establish a common language as it relates to environmental, health, safety and community aspects.</p> <p>Establish a basic knowledge of the environmental legal framework and consequences of non-compliance.</p> <p>Clarify the content and required actions for the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>Confirm the spatial extent of areas regarded as sensitive and clarify restrictions.</p> <p>Provide a detailed understanding of the definition, the method for identification and required response to emergency incidents.</p>
Monthly Awareness Talks (all staff and workers)	30 minutes awareness talks	Based on actual identified risks and incidents (if occurred) reinforce legal requirements, appropriate responses and measures for the adaptation of mitigation and/or management practices.
Risk Assessments (supervisor and workers involved in task)	Daily task-based risk assessment	Establish an understanding of the risks associated with a specific task and the required mitigation and management measures on a daily basis as part of daily toolbox talks.

### 40.2 Manner in which risks will be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment.

As advised in Table 40-1, Task/Issue based Risk Assessments must be undertaken with all workers involved in the specific tasks to establish an understanding of the risks associated with a specific task and the required mitigation and management measures contained in this report.

Environmental Awareness Training Content- Induction Training: The following environmental awareness training will be provided to all staff and workers who will be involved in prospecting activities:

- Description of the approved prospecting activities and content of the prospecting right;
- An overview of the applicable legislation and regulations as they relate to environmental, health, safety and community;

Content and implementation of the approved EMPr specifically:

- Allocated roles and responsibilities;

- Management and mitigation measures; and
- Identification of risks and requirements adaptation.

Sensitive environments and features:

- Description of environmentally sensitive areas and features; and
- Prohibitions as it relates to activities in or in proximity to such areas.

Emergency Situations and Remediation:

- Methodology for the identification of areas where accidents and emergencies may occur, communities and individuals that may be affected;
- An overview of the response procedure;
- Equipment and resources;
- Designate of responsibilities;
- Communication, including communication with the potentially affected communities and responsible authorities; and
- Training schedule to ensure effective response.

Development of procedures and checklists: The following procedures will be developed, and all staff and workers will be adequately trained on the content and implementation thereof:

Emergency Preparedness and Response: The procedure will be developed to specifically include risk identification, preparedness, response measures and reporting. The procedure will specifically include spill and fire risk, preparedness and response measures. The appropriate emergency control centres (fire department, hospitals etc.) will be identified and the contact numbers obtained and made available on site. The procedure must be developed in consultation with potentially affected landowners.

Should risks be identified, which may affect adjacent landowners (or other persons), the procedure will include appropriate communication strategy to inform such persons and provide response measures to minimize the impact.

Procedure for Reporting Incident: Incident reporting will be undertaken in accordance with an established incident reporting procedure to:

Provide details of the responsible person, including any person who:

- Is responsible for the incident;
- Owns any hazardous substance involved in the incident;
- Was in control when the incident occurred.
- Provide details of the incident (time, date, location);
- The details of the cause of incident;
- Identify aspects of the environment affected;
- The details of corrective action taken; and
- The identification of any potential residual or secondary risks that must be monitored and corrected or managed.

Environmental and Social Audit Checklist: An environmental audit checklist will be established to include the environmental and social mitigation and management measures as developed and

approved as part of the EMPr. Non-conformances will be identified, and corrective action taken where required.

### **40.3 Specific information required by the Competent Authority.**

No specific information was required by the Competent Authority.

## 41 UNDERTAKING

The EAP herewith confirms

- a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports;
- b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs ;
- c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant;   
and
- d) that the information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected. parties are correctly reflected herein.



---

Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

Ndi Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd

---

Name of company:

05 September 2022

---

Date:

-END-

## Appendices

## **Appendix 1: The Qualifications of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner**



## **Appendix 2: Curriculum Vitae of the EAP**

### **Appendix 3: Locality and Layout Maps**

## **Appendix 4: Stakeholder Engagement Documents**

## **Appendix 5: Supporting Impact Assessment**

**Appendix 6: Preliminary Layout Plan, including Environmental Attributes.**

## Appendix 7: Composite Map

