

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND MINING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED TYOLOMNQA HEAVY MINERAL SANDS PROJECT LOCATED IN TYOLOMNQA AREA I (FARMS 1163, 1165, 1166 AND 1167), KEISKAMMA AREA II (FARMS 1169, 1170, 1185, 1186, 1188, AND 1189), AND HAMBURG AREA III (FARMS HERCULES (1/174, 2/174, 3/174), BLUEKRANS (0/175), FRESH WATER POORT (1/176, RE/176)) IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Vendicom Minerals Beneficiation Group (Pty) Ltd (VMBG) has proposed the mining of sand minerals including Zircon, Rutile, Ilmenite and Leucoxene of heavy mineral concentrates using open cast mining. The three mining areas are located at Tyolomnqa Area 1 (33°22'74.02 S, 27°55'92.36 E), Keiskamma Area II (33°25'81.94 S, 27°50'21.09 E), and Hamburg Area III (33°32'72.98 S, 27°39'13.54 E).

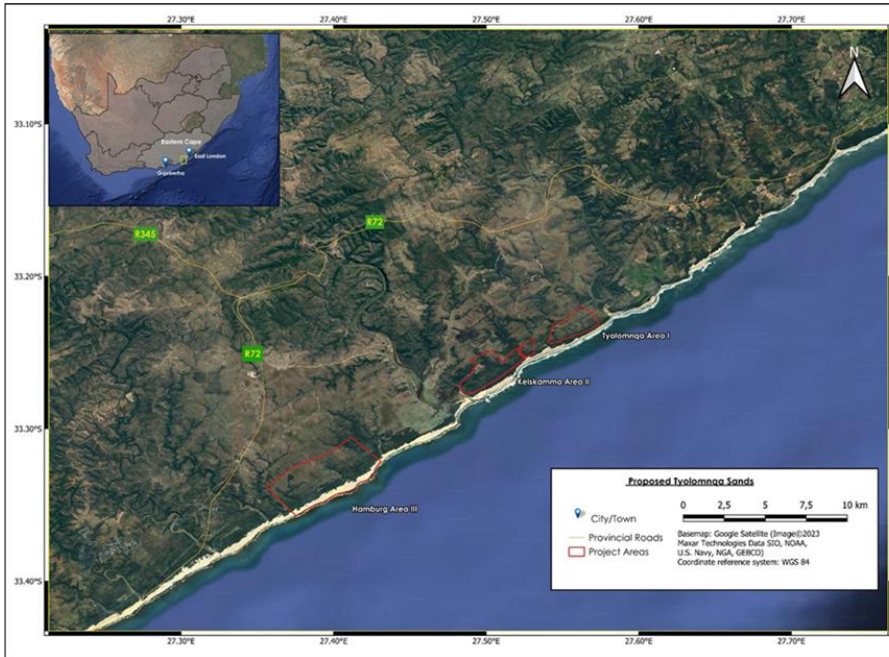


Figure 1: Locations of the three project areas, measuring 2 903.1842 hectares (combined), relative to provincial roads and communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The duration of construction for Phase 1 (Tyolomnqa Area I) is expected to be 16 months, including early works. The Phase 2 construction (keiskamma Area II and Hamburg Area III), which will commence after 3 – 4 years of Phase 1 mining operations, is also planned for a 16-month duration. It is planned that during peak construction, 800 persons will be employed at the site. The mine is planned to operate for 24 hours of two 12 shifts per day (4 days in and 4 days out) during the operational phase of 30 years Life of Mine.

It is planned that during peak operation, 600 to 800 persons will be employed. These will include skilled workers (30 %; professionals (including experts about 5%, artisanal), semi-skilled (50 %) and unskilled (20 %; e.g., labourers and general workers).

The proposed mining method and sequence comprised of the following main mining activities:

- Excavation of topsoil and other unconsidered materials, which will be stockpiled to ensure it can be replaced back in the void;
- The exposure and physical mining of the HMS seam, which is loaded onto trucks and hauled to the onsite Wet Concentrator Plant (WCP);
- Discard HMS material will be extracted and replaced in the bottom of the opencast pit, while the product will be taken to the weighbridge via trucks and then removed off site for downstream processing at a Mineral Separation Plant (MSP) located at the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ);
- The overburden is replaced back into the pit as mining progresses leaving a minimum area open at a single time;
- The topsoil and the unconsidered materials which were stripped and stockpiled separately before mining commenced is then replaced in the void. The findings of the land capability study will determine the optimal composition to ensure pre-mining conditions for utilization.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform all stakeholders, including Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs), of the proposed mining activity by VMBG.

The Environmental Authorisation and the Mining Rights applications are in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA No. 107 of 1998), and Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA No. 28 of 2004, as amended), respectively.

As required by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations GN No. 982 of 2014 (as amended), Assured Turnkey Solutions (Pty) Ltd., (ATS), the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), will facilitate the relevant public participation process (PPP). Date and venue will be announced for the public meeting once scheduled. Further information concerning the EIA process, this BID and I&AP Registration forms, relevant EIA Reports, can be accessed and downloaded from the link (<https://assuredts.com/blog.html>).



Contact details for enquiries and comments:

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RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- ✓ National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998
- ✓ National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act No. 39 of 2004
- ✓ National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004
- ✓ National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act No. 24 of 2008
- ✓ National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003
- ✓ National Environmental Management: Waste Act No. 59 of 2008
- ✓ National Heritage Resource Act No. 25 of 1999
- ✓ National Water Act No. 36 of 1998
- ✓ Constitution Act No. 108 of 1996
- ✓ Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act No. 28 of 2004 as amended.
- ✓ Mine Health and Safety Act No. 29 of 1996
- ✓ EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) as amended.

LISTED ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (NO. 107 OF 1998)

Listed Activities contained in GN No. 983 (Listing Notice 1), as amended:

- Activity 11: Electricity infrastructure will be developed outside an urban area.
- Activity 13: It is contemplated that water will be stored onsite for us at the Wet Concentrator Plant.
- Activity 14: Hydrocarbon will be stored on site.
- Activity 15: Mining infrastructures will be developed.
- Activity 19: Filling and deposition of materials as backfill into the excavated area during rehabilitation
- Activity 19a: The excavation and removal or moving of soil, sand etc of more than 5 cubic metres will occur.
- Activity 24: Haulage roads will be developed to access the proposed mining sites.
- Activity 30: Relevant Biodiversity permit may be required should listed Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) occur in the project area.
- Activity 56: Existing roads may be upgraded to allow for haulage vehicles.
- Activity 67: The proposed mining operation will be phased, commencing with the Tyolomnqa Area I operations.

Listed Activities contained in GN No. 984 (Listing Notice 2), as amended:

- Activity 4: The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good.
- Activity 15: The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation
- Activity 17: The activity requires a Mining Right as contemplated in section 22 of the MPRDA 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)
- Activity 26: The proposed mine is located in a coastal area.

Listed Activities contained in GN No. 985 (Listing Notice 3), as amended:

- Activity 4: Access/haulage roads wider than 4 metres but less than 8 metres will be constructed outside an urban area in a CBA. The road may occur on a Focus area as the project areas are surrounded by focus priority areas.
- Activity 10: Hydrocarbon will be stored on site
- Activity 12: The project area occurs in Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) which will result in the clearance of 300 m² or more of indigenous vegetation. The boundaries of the project are more than 100 m of the high-water mark. The project areas occur more than 100 m from estuarine functional zones (EFZs) outside urban areas.
- Activity 18: Existing roads may be upgraded to allow for haulage vehicles.

NATIONAL WATER ACT (NO. 36 OF 1998)

Section 21 Listed Activities:

- a: taking water from a water resource
- b: Storage of water
- c: Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse

- *g: Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on water resource*
- *i: Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.*
- *j: removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people*

PERMITS OR LICENSES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED

RELEVANT DEPARTMENT	RELEVANT TO PROJECT
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)	<u>Mining Right and Environmental Authorisation</u>
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)	<u>Waste Licence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Management: Waste Act 2008 (No 59 of 2008) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application for waste licence for listed waste activities under Schedule 1.
	<u>Atmospheric Emission License (AEL)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ AEL application through the South African Atmospheric Emission Licensing an Inventory Portal (SAAELIP) will be required.
Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) / Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)	<u>Biodiversity Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should Listed Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) occur in the project area, the relevant permit would need to be applied for. ○ Alien invasive species under the various categories may occur in the project areas thus may require the relevant permits and reports (eradication plan) prior to their removal. ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) • National Forestry Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Licence for listed activities for protected tree species
Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)	<u>General Waste</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Management: Waste Act 2008 (No 59 of 2008) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application for waste licence for listed waste activities under Schedule 1.
Municipalities (Ngqushwa LM/ Buffalo City MM)	<u>Rezoning/ Land use change</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	<u>Water use licence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 21 of National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>a: taking water from a water resource</i> ○ <i>b: Storage of water</i> ○ <i>c: Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse</i> ○ <i>g: Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on water resource</i> ○ <i>i: Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.</i> ○ <i>j: removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people</i>
Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (ECPHRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permit for the removal of any concentrations of archaeological and/or historical heritage material, marine shells or humans

Environmental Impact Assessment Process

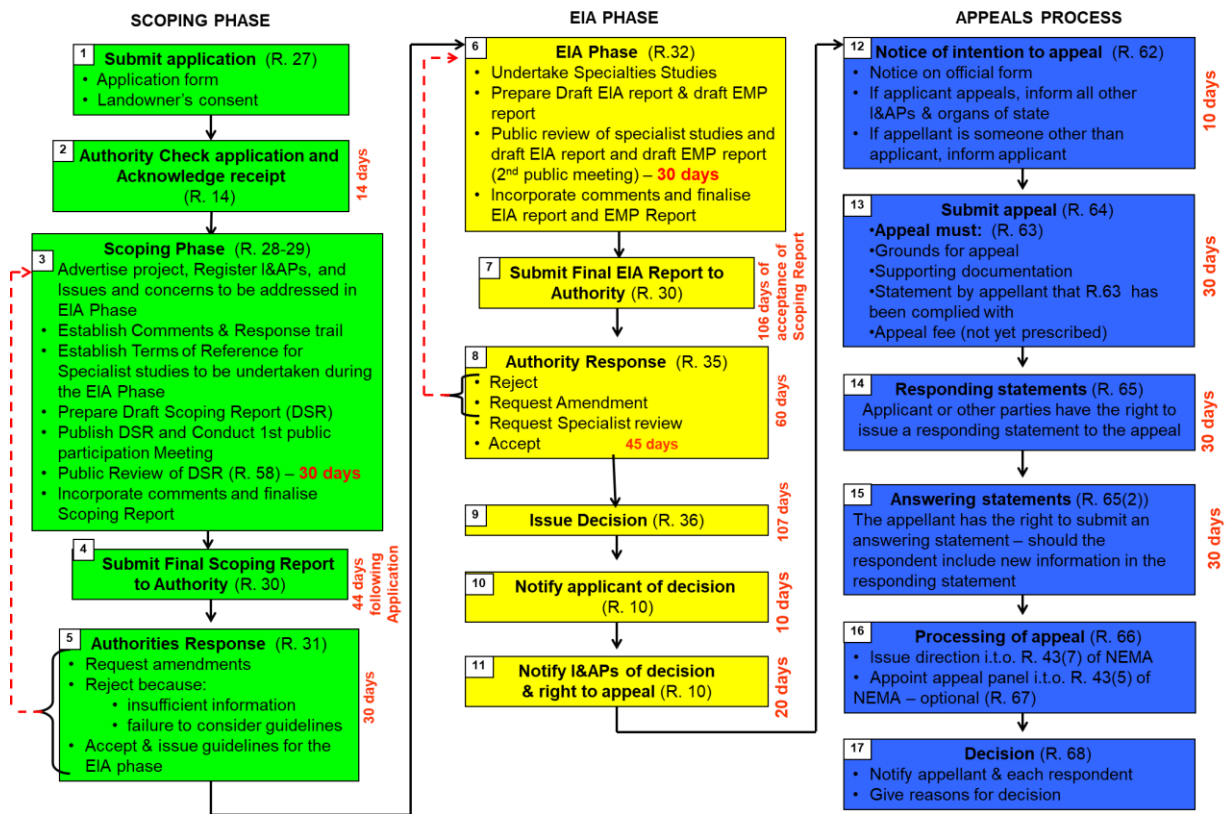


Figure 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

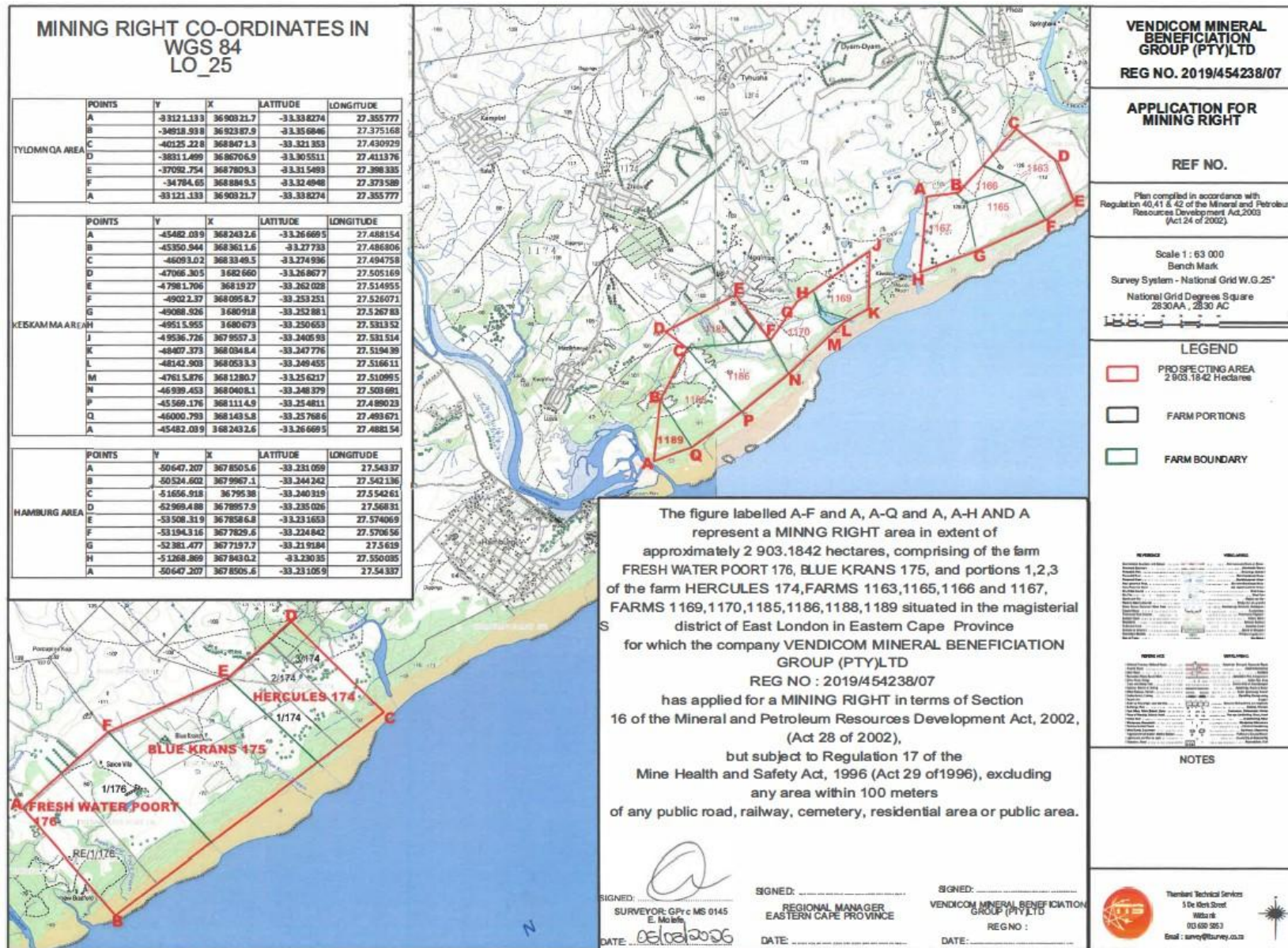


Figure 3: The Regulation 2(2) plan of the proposed mine location

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND MINING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED TYOLOMNQA HEAVY MINERAL SANDS PROJECT LOCATED IN TYOLOMNQA AREA I (FARMS 1163, 1165, 1166 AND 1167), KEISKAMMA AREA II (FARMS 1169, 1170, 1185, 1186, 1188, AND 1189), AND HAMBURG AREA III (FARMS HERCULES (1/174, 2/174, 3/174), BLUEKRANS (0/175), FRESH WATER POORT (1/176, RE/176)) IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

This form serves to register Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for the above-mentioned project and to solicit input and participation. Contributions by I&APs will be submitted to the competent authority for consideration in the decision-making process.

Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof
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Name and surname			
Designation			
Telephone	Work:	Home:	Cell:
Fax number			
Email Address			
Physical / Postal Address			

Please state your interest and or concerns in the proposed project below:

We respectfully request that you please sign this letter and return it to the EAP at the details provided to confirm that you have received notification regarding the proposed development and to ensure that your comments, concerns or objections are recorded. All comments, queries, and concerns must be submitted in writing using this form or the contact details provided (Tyolomnqa_sands_eia@assuredts.com or whatsapp No. 064 046 8479). Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding this project.

Signature..... Name..... Date.....