



**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:**

- This Background Information Document (BID) provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), an overview of the proposed project.
- The BID invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.
- The BID provides you, as an I&AP with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports.
- The BID also provides you, as an I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

Project Introduction:

Elandsfontein Colliery Pty Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Geo Soil and Water cc (GSW) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the necessary Environmental Authorisation and amendment processes for Elandsfontein Colliery.

It is anticipated that several listed activities contained in the (National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEMWA) and National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA)) will be triggered by this proposed project and these will be confirmed during the Scoping Phase of this project.

The Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process shall be undertaken in terms of Chapters 4 and 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) promulgated under the NEMA (as amended). A full EIA process will be followed which involves a Scoping phase which is the ‘feasibility’ and largely desk-top assessment stage of the project, followed by more detailed assessments in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.

Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:

- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation/Licensing Applications as well as the public participation processes which will be undertaken for the proposed project;
- Allow Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to obtain a broad understanding of the proposed project and to request or share information; and
- Provide details on how I&APs can register their interest with, and submit comments on, the project. It is important to note that only registered I&APs will receive further communication regarding the project for the duration of the EIA process (including invitation to review and comment on the Scoping and EIA Reports).

**LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:**

The proposed project is located on a portion of the remaining extent of portion 8; remaining extent of portion 1; a portion of the remaining extent of portion 6; portion 44; portion 14 and the remaining extent of portion 7 of the Farm Elandsfontein 309

JS, located in Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The site is ~4km south of Kwa-Guqa and ~16k west of Emalahleni. The centre point of the site is 25°53'05.01"S and 29°05'36.57"E.

Please refer to locality map at the end of this BID.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Elandsfontein Colliery comprises of 2 distinct mining rights (MR314 and MR63). The applicant plans to consolidate the two mining right areas into a single mining right with associated consolidated EMPR. In addition, the applicant wishes to expand their existing mining operations to include additional mineral resource areas (i.e.: new open cast & underground areas within the consolidated mining right boundary).

The proposed project includes *inter alia* the following application processes with associated activities:

- New Integrated Environmental Authorisation and Waste Management Licence (Scoping and Environmental Impact Report (S&EIR));
- New Integrated Water Use Licence (IWUL);
- Section 102 consolidation of mining rights as well as consolidation of EMPR's into one holistic EMPR.

#### **LISTED ACTIVITIES APPLICATION:**

The proposed project must be authorized in terms of a number of pieces of South African environmental legislation, namely:

- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA, Act No. 28 of 2002);
- The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998);
- The National Environmental Management Waste Act (NEMWA, Act No. 59 of 2008); and
- The National Water Act (NWA, Act No. 36 of 1998).

Where relevant, these pieces of core legislation stipulate the required studies, reports and legal processes to be conducted, and the results thereof submitted to the relevant authorities for approval prior to commencement of new mining operations.

It is anticipated that the following approvals will be required:

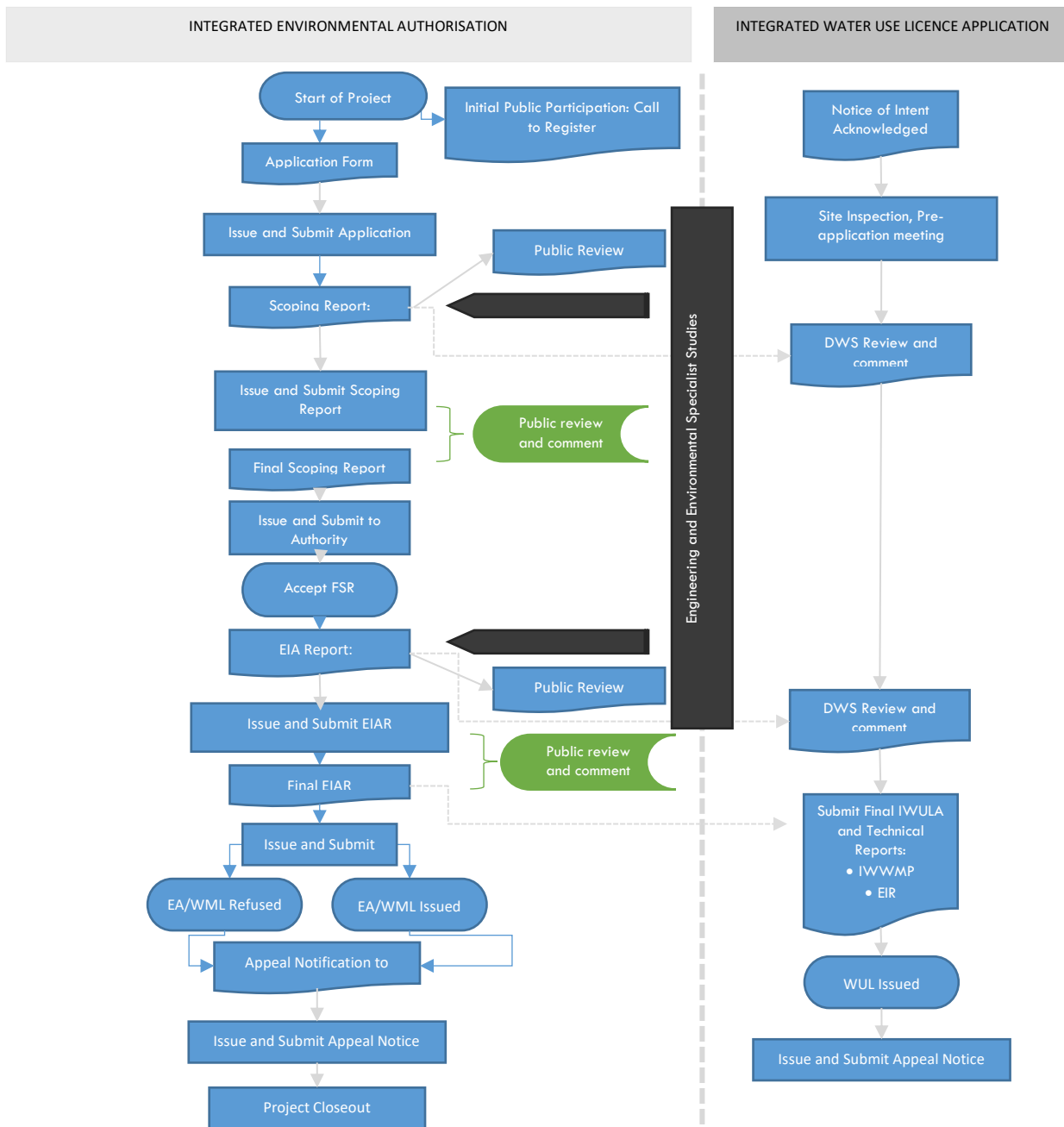
- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR 982, GNR 983, GNR 984 and/or GNR 985 – as amended);
- Waste Management Licence (WML) in terms of the NEMWA (GNR 921);
- Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of the NWA (Section 21 water uses); and
- MPRDA Section 102 consolidation of mining rights and consolidation of existing EMPR's.

The following listed activities, in accordance with the above pieces of legislation, are currently anticipated to be triggered by the proposed project. The applicability of each of these listed activities (or the requirement for any additional listed activities) will be assessed during the initial authority consultation process as well as during the scoping phase.

- NEMA GNR 983: Activities 9, 12, 13, 14, 19, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 34, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 56, 57, 67.
- NEMA GNR 984: Activities 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 24.
- NEMA GNR 985: Activity: 12, 14.
- NEMWA GNR 921: Category B1, B2, B3, B7, B10, B11, C1.
- NWA: Section 21 (a), (b), (c), (g), (i) and (j) water uses.
- NWA: GN 704.

It should be noted that additional listed activities may be identified during the course of the EIA Process.

### INTEGRATED EIA PROCESS



#### TYPICAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES:

Potential impacts resulting from the project may include *inter alia*:

- Impacts on surface water resources;
- Impacts on groundwater resources;
- Impacts on ecology (fauna and flora);
- Potential impacts on wetlands and aquatic ecology;
- Potential environmental pollution;
- Potential subsidence

- Noise impacts;
- Dust impacts, etc.

The above-mentioned impacts should not be construed as the only impacts that will be identified during the course of the EIA. Based on public consultation, specialist input and further detailed assessments, additional impacts will likely be identified and assessed.

All potential impacts will be identified and assessed following an impact assessment methodology guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014 – as amended). The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the environmental risk (ER) by considering the consequence (C) of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the probability/likelihood (P) of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a prioritisation factor (PF) which is applied to the ER to determine the overall significance (S).

Furthermore, based on the identified impacts and their ratings, mitigation and management measures are recommended and these are included in an EMPR towards ensuring that any negative impacts that cannot be avoided are minimised and managed and positive impacts maximised.

Specialist studies will be utilised to guide the assessment of the potential impacts, namely:

1. Air Quality and Climate Change
2. Aquatic and Wetland
3. Blasting and Vibration
4. Ecology (Fauna and Flora)
5. Engineering design
6. Financial Provisions
7. Geohydrology (Ground Water)
8. Heritage and Palaeontology
9. Hydrology (Surface Water)
10. Waste Classification

Any additional specialist studies identified during the Scoping phase and/or required by the Competent Authority (DMR and/or DWS) will be undertaken if necessary and relevant existing specialist studies will be utilised to inform the study.

#### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED:**

Should you feel that you may be interested in or affected by this project, it is essential that you register as an I&AP in which case you will be kept informed regarding the project and afforded an opportunity to participate in the process. Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding the project and associated updates.

You may register and/or comment as an I&AP in any of the following ways:

1. Complete the attached I&AP registration form and questionnaire and return it to EIMS via email, fax or post;
2. Via telephone call addressed to the contact person stipulated at the end of this document; and/or
3. Submit written comments in a format of your choosing to EIMS via email, fax or post.

It is important to note that the EIA process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes and as such, in order to ensure your continued and valuable involvement in the project, we request that your registration requests and any preliminary comments are submitted to Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (the appointed public consultation consultant) (contact details provided below) by **the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of the availability of the Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Report upon which comments will be solicited.

**Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd**

**Contact Person: Cheyenne Muthukarapan**

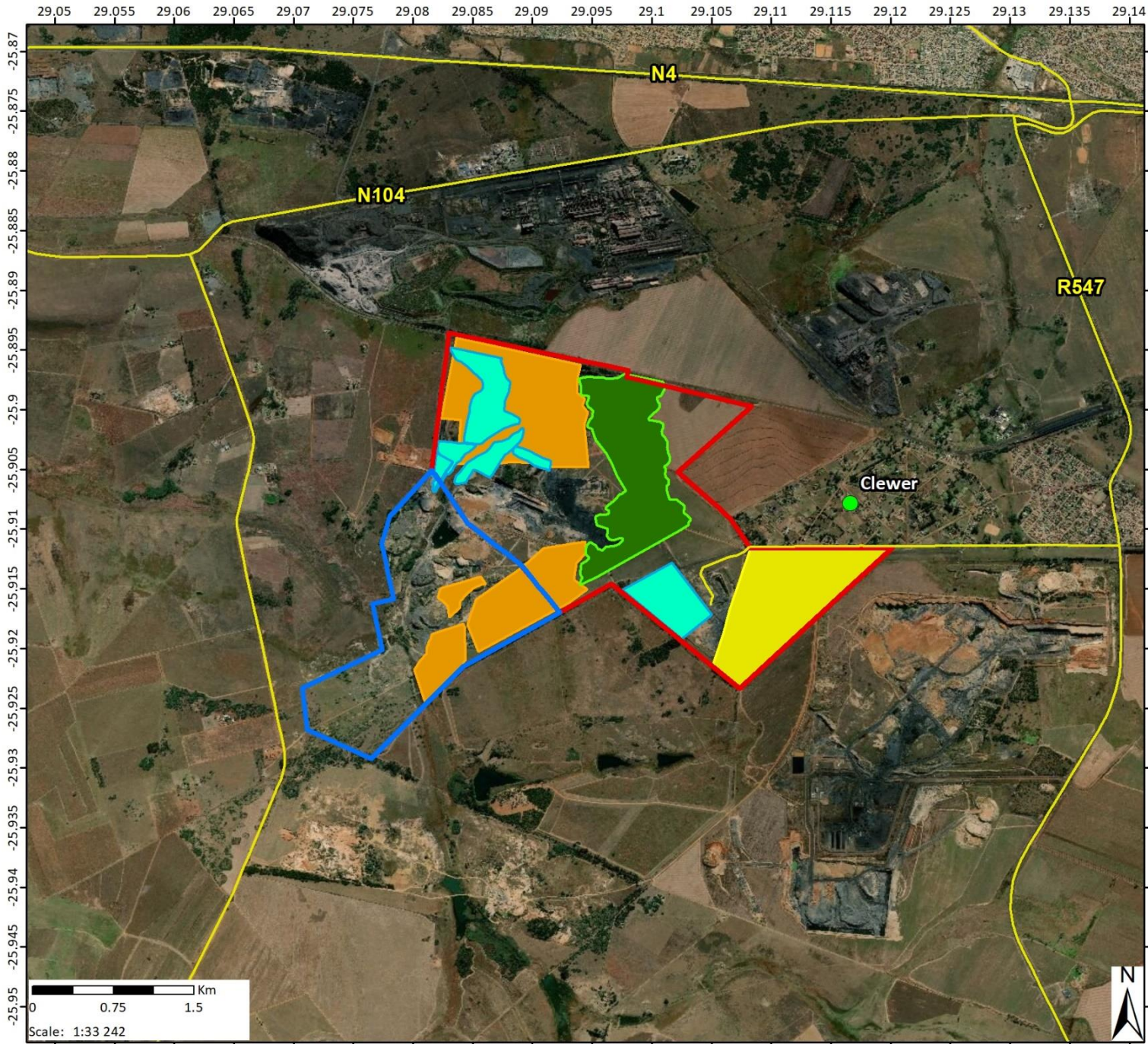
**EIMS Project Reference Number: 1323**

**Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123**

**Telephone: (011) 789 7170 / Fax: (011) 787 3059**

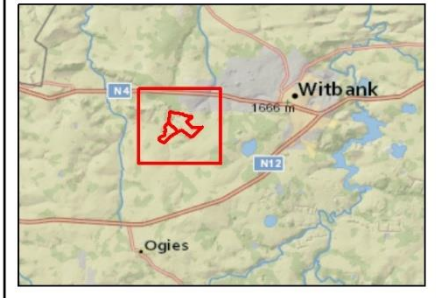
**E-mail: [elandsfontein@eims.co.za](mailto:elandsfontein@eims.co.za)**





## Elandsfontein Planned Mining Layout

- Legend**
- Planned Seam 2 Open Cast
  - Planned Seam 1 UG
  - Planned Seam 1 UG or OC (Old UG)
  - Planned Seam 1, 2 or 4 UG or OC Mining
  - Roads
- Mining Right Boundaries**
- MR MP 314
  - MR MP 63



**Data Sources:**  
CSG; ESRI; Submerged August 2019

**Coord System:** GCS WGS 1984  
**Datum:** WGS 1984

**Ref:** Elandsfontein Proposed UG and OC

Date: 2019/10/10  
Compiled: PH  
Reviewed: BW  
Approved: BW

