

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1657 SAVUKA 7A & 7B TSF



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 Basic Assessment (BA) Report.
- 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.

INTRODUCTION:

Golden Core Trade and Invest (Pty) Ltd - Mponeng Operations has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the necessary authorisation processes, including compiling the necessary reports and undertaking the statutory consultation processes, in support of the proposed project as described herein.

It is anticipated that several listed or regulated activities contained in the following legislation will potentially be triggered by the proposed project:

- National Environmental Management Act- NEMA (Act 107 of 1998- as amended);
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act- NEM:WA (Act 59 of 2008); and
- National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998).

The exact enviro-legal requirements and activities will be confirmed during the Authority pre-application meetings and 'feasibility' and desktop assessment of this project.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) promulgated under the NEMA (as amended). A Basic Assessment (BA) process will be followed which involves a 'feasibility' and desk-top assessment as well as a detailed assessment with input from specialists.

Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:

- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation/Licencing 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 Basic Assessment (BA) process (i.e. invitation to review and comment on the Draft BA and Final BA Reports).



LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

LOCATION

The proposed project and activity are proposed to be undertaken at the following location:

- Property Description: Portion 25 of the Farm Doornfontein 118 IQ and Portion 93 of the Farm Blyvooruitzicht 116 IQ
- Central Co-ordinates: 26° 26'09.83"S; 27°21'11.03"E
- Physical Address: Merafong City Local Municipality Wards 5 and 27 of the West Rand District Municipality administrative area.
- Regional Description:
 - Local Municipality: Merafong City Local Municipality
 - Province: **Gauteng Province**
- Closest town or point of interest: ~ 5 km south-west of Carletonville

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Applicant holds an approved Mining Right (MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002, as amended) (MPRDA), for the mining of gold at various operations in the West Wits region in the Gauteng Province. The Savuka Plant currently deposits tailings onto the Savuka 7a & 7b Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs). However, these facilities are approaching their final and approved height, and the current planned Life of Mine (LOM) for the West Wits region exceed the available deposition capacity of these TSFs. Accordingly, the applicant is undertaking a feasibility assessment to increase the height of the Savuka 7a & 7b TSFs. Slurry deposition is currently taking place on the Savuka 7a & 7b TSFs and Harmony is proposing to extend the height of these TSFs.

The precise dimensions and details of the proposed extension of the TSF will be provided in the Basic Assessment Report once the feasibility studies and engineering designs have been completed.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed project requires certain authorisations, approvals, permits, and/or licences. The following requirements have specifically been identified:

Relevant Legislation	Listed activities or triggers	Authorisation, Approval, Licence, or Permit requirement:
Chapter 5 of the NEMA	GNR 983 (2014, as amended): Activity 34 : The expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity where such expansion will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions, effluent or pollution, excluding— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (i) where the facility, infrastructure, process or activity is included in the list of waste management activities published in 	Environmental Authorisation (EA)



	<p>terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (ii) the expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater, polluted water or sewage where the capacity will be increased by less than 15 000 cubic metres per day; or ○ (iii) the expansion is directly related to aquaculture facilities or infrastructure where the wastewater discharge capacity will be increased by 50 cubic meters or less per day. 	
Chapter 4 of the NEM:WA	GN921 (2013 as amended): Waste Management Activities Category A: 13 : The expansion of a waste management activity listed in Category A or B of this Schedule which does not trigger an additional waste management activity in terms of this Schedule.	Waste Management Licence (WML)
Chapter 4 of the NWA	NWA, Section 21 Water Uses: Section 21 (g) : Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact a water resource;	Water Use Licence (WUL).

As a consequence of triggering the provisions above, there is a requirement to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIA). The EIA is to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR982, 2014 as amended).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

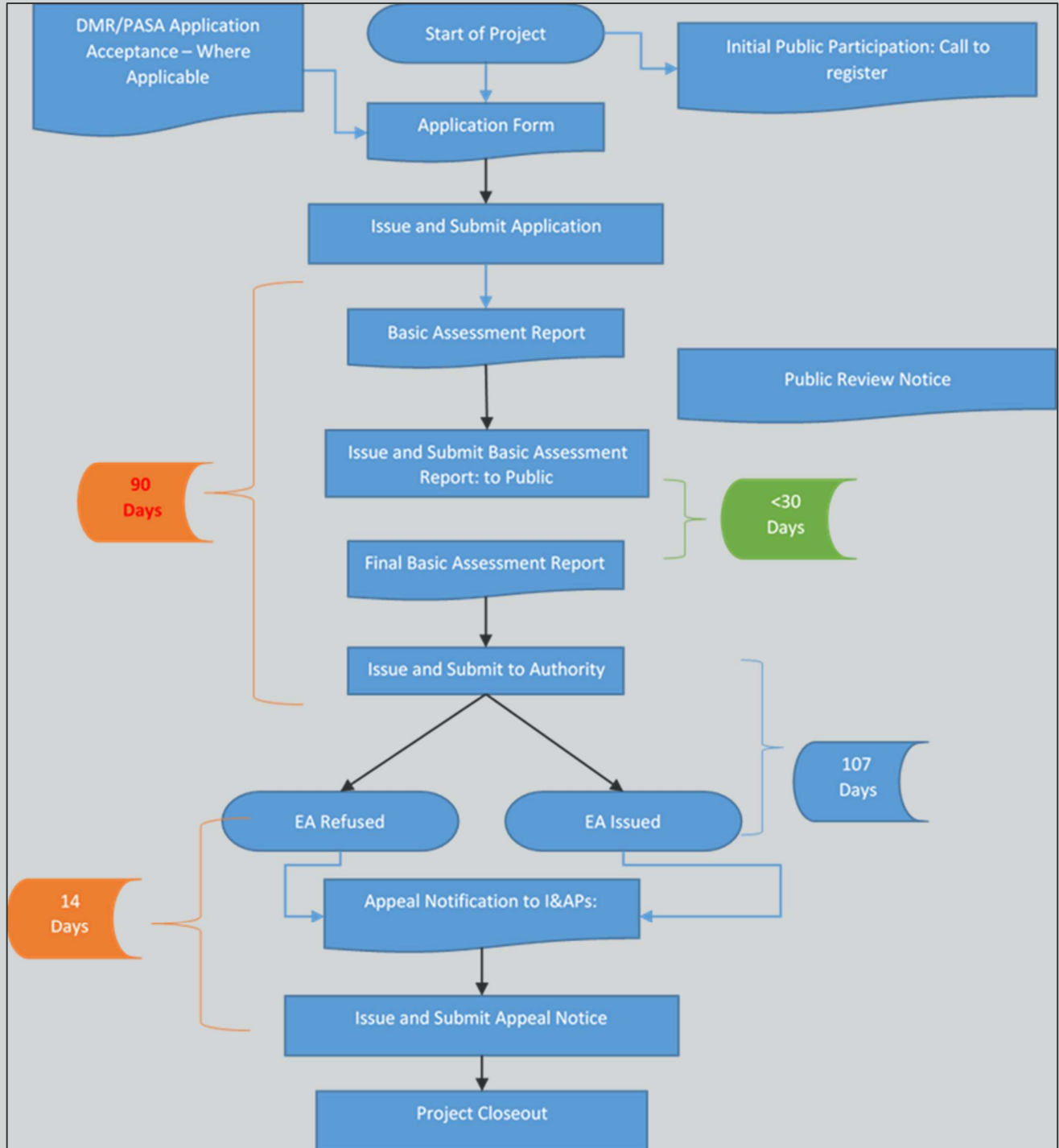
BA process is a planning and decision making tool, to describe and assess the physical, biological, social, and economic impacts which a given development or project may have. To be able to inform the decision-making process, it is important for public issues and concerns to be identified timeously, to enable the BA team to evaluate them.

The BA process allows for the environmental consequences of a proposed project to be identified up-front, investigated throughout the impact assessment process, and taken into consideration by the decision-making authorities. The EAP and various



specialists also identify potential negative and positive impacts that could arise as a result of the proposed project and identify applicable mitigation measures required, to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts.

A broad overview of the Basic Assessment process is provided below:



Once the relevant processes have been completed and the final documentation submitted to the competent authority, the competent authority reviews the application and makes an informed decision. The I&APs will be informed of the decision and their right to appeal in the event that they disagree with the decision.



PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

One of the key drivers to a successful BA process is to ensure that potential impacts (both positive and negative) are identified and investigated, including input from the relevant specialist information. In order to accurately and objectively assess these potential impacts. A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project have been identified. Preliminary identified potential impacts to be assessed in this BA process include amongst others:

- Increase in poor air quality;
- Increase in negative impact on surface and groundwater quality and quantity;
- Increase in visual impact and impact on Sense of Place;
- Increase in impact on geology and soils;
- Health and safety risk due to increase tailings volumes and failure of dam wall;
- Sustaining employment;
- Sustaining indirect social benefits.

The above-mentioned impacts should not be construed as the only impacts that will be identified during the course of the BA. 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. 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 for the applicant and these are included in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) towards ensuring that any negative impacts that cannot be avoided are minimised and managed, and positive impacts maximised.

Specialist studies may be utilised to guide and inform the assessment of the potential impacts. The specialist studies identified to be included in this assessment include:

- Air Quality Impact Assessment.
- Groundwater Assessment.
- Hydrological Assessment.
- Wetland Delineation and Assessment.
- Visual Impact Assessment.
- Closure Costing.
- Health Risk and Radiological Impact Assessment.

The need for further specialist studies may be identified through the BA process.

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 Interested and Affected Party (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:



- Complete the I&AP registration form and questionnaire and return it to EIMS via email, fax or post;
- Submit written comments, registrations, or requests to EIMS via email, fax or post; and/or
- Via telephone call.

It is important to note that the BA 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 EIMS (contact details provided below) as soon as possible.

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of further participation opportunities, as well as the availability of the Basic Assessment Report upon which comments will be solicited.

Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS)

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EIMS Reference Number: 1657

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Further information will be available at www.eims.co.za/public-participation/. Please note that in the event that you are unable to access the website due to data constraints please contact EIMS for alternative arrangements.

