

# LETAMO QUARRIES (PTY) LTD AGGREGATE QUARRY ON PORTION 7 F THE FARM SMALDEEL NO 683, HEILBRON DISTRICT, FREE STATE PROVINCE

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT



<b>DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>FS 30/5/1/2/2/243 MR</b>
<b>AUDIT PERIOD:</b>	<b>February 2024 – March 2025</b>

### PREPARED FOR:

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### PREPARED BY:

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# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

## 1. PROJECT SPECIFIC DETAIL

ITEM	MINING RIGHT/PERMIT HOLDER
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Contact Person	Gillian Miller
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ITEM	CONSULTANT DETAIL
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Postal Address	Postnet Suite 62 Private Bag x15 Somerset West 7129

ITEM	LOCATION AND AREA INFORMATION
Site Name	Letamo Quarry
Property Description	Portion 7 of the farm Smaldeel No 683
Location	The mine is located ±24 km south-east of Vereeniging, and ±30 km east of Sasolburg, in the Free State Province.
Size of Mining Area	72.081 ha

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# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY


## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT

### PROJECT DETAIL

<b>Permit / Right Number:</b>	FS 30/5/1/2/2/243 MR	<b>Date of Commencement:</b>	±2013
<b>Site Name:</b>	Letamo Quarry	<b>Inspection Date:</b>	24/03/2025
<b>Permit / Right Holder:</b>	Letamo Quarries (Pty) Ltd	<b>Other Authorisations:</b>	N/A
<b>Report Number:</b>	03		

### DETAIL OF AUDITOR

#### (APPENDIX 7 SUB-REGULATION 3(A) & (B)):

<b>ECO:</b>	Christine Fouché
<b>EXPERTISE:</b>	Ms Fouche has a Diploma in Nature Conservation and a BSc in Botany and Zoology with nineteen years experience in doing environmental impact assessments and compliance monitoring in South Africa.
<b>DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:</b>	<p>I, Christine Fouche, in my capacity as environmental control officer declare that–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I act as independent environmental control officer in this compliance audit;</li> <li>• I will perform the work relating to the audit in an objective manner, even if the results and findings are not favourable to the holder of the authorisation;</li> <li>• I have expertise in conducting environmental compliance audits, including knowledge of the Act and regulations that have relevance to the activity;</li> <li>• I will adhere to and comply with all responsibilities as indicated in the National Environmental Management Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.</li> <li>• I do not have and will not have any vested interest in the activity other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.</li> </ul> <p></p> <p>Christine Fouché</p> <p>Date: 28 March 2025</p>

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

### **SCOPE & PURPOSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT**

#### **(APPENDIX 7 SUB-REGULATION 3(C)):**

This environmental performance assessment / environmental audit report (EAR) was compiled in terms of the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The EAR focussed on the management commitments stipulated in the 2010 Environmental Management Programme of the Quarry.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of the environmental audit report (EAR) is to evaluate compliance of the operational activities with the 2010 Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR), as approved by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. To evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPR's, identify shortcomings, and discern the need for changes to the environmental management programmes.

#### **INSPECTED AREAS:**

The inspection included an assessment of the following areas:

- Entrance gate and guard house;
- Previous office area;
- Old workshop area;
- Historic stockpile areas;
- Historic crushing area; and
- Quarry pit area.

To establish the environmental compliance of the operation, the mining area was inspected on foot by the Environmental Control Officer, Christine Fouché, of Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd.


### **ASSUMPTIONS, UNCERTAINTIES OR GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE**

#### **(APPENDIX 7 SUB-REGULATION 3(F)):**

The assumptions made in this document, stem from specific information gathered during the site audit and background information gathered from site management. No uncertainties or gaps in knowledge could be identified that is applicable during this audit period.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

### LOCATION

<b>Site Location:</b>	The mine is located $\pm 24$ km south-east of Vereeniging, and $\pm 30$ km east of Sasolburg, in the Free State Province.	
<b>Site Map:</b>		
<b>Site Coordinates:</b>	A -26.807425° S	28.027094°E
	B -26.809522° S	28.032931°E
	C -26.817608° S	28.029525°E
	D -26.819757° S	28.026249°E
	E -26.816022° S	28.022886°E
	F -26.815563° S	28.023617°E
	<b>EXCLUSION AREA:</b>	
	A1 -26.812667° S	28.027610°E
	B1 -26.814144° S	28.028750°E
	C1 -26.814469° S	28.028058°E
	D1 -26.813025° S	28.026964°E

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Letamo Quarry (Pty) Ltd ("Letamo") is the holder of a mining right for stone aggregate and gravel on a portion of Portion 7 of the farm Smaldeel 683, Heilbron district, which mining right was initially granted to Vaal Quarry (Pty) Ltd (FS 30/5/1/2/2/243 MR), and notarially executed on 24 October 2012. The mining right was ceded to Letamo on 17 July 2014 and is valid until 23 October 2042.

Prevailing adverse economic conditions however caused the mining operation to run at a severe loss, and in April 2015 an application to place the mine in care and maintenance pending significant improvement of the economic conditions was lodged with the DMRE. The mine has since been closed and no mining took place during the preceding years. This was confirmed by the site inspection of March 2025.

### SITE CONDITIONS

Partly cloudy, windless day with dry soil conditions.

### REPORTABLE ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

<b>Incident Date:</b>	None
<b>Incident No:</b>	
<b>Incident:</b>	
<b>How addressed:</b>	
<b>When addressed:</b>	

### ADOPTED METHODOLOGY *(APPENDIX 7 SUB-REGULATION 3(D):*

COMPLIANCE SCORE	DESCRIPTION
1	Task not achieved
2	Task 20% achieved
3	Task 50% achieved
4	Task 80% achieved
5	Task 100% achieved in accordance with the EMP

NON-COMPLIANCE SCORE	DESCRIPTION
1	<b>LOW</b> – Mitigation not needed / mitigation measures to be maintained
2	<b>MEDIUM</b> – Mitigation should be considered
3	<b>HIGH</b> – Mitigation compulsory

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

### INSPECTION ASPECTS

DESCRIPTION	COMPLIANCE SCORE	NON-COMPLIANCE SCORE	STATUS	COMMENTS
<b>LEGISLATION COMPLIANCE:</b>				
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017)	N/A	-	-	The competent authority deems the approved EMPR and MR of the quarry equivalent to an Environmental Authorisation in terms of NEMA, 1998.
Copy of the EA and EMPR available on site	N/A	-	-	A copy of the approved EMPR (in terms of the MPRDA) is kept at the company's offices as the site is in care and maintenance.
Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002)	5	-	Compliant	-
Mining right available on site	5	-	Compliant	A copy of the approved EMPR is kept at the company's offices as the site is in care and maintenance.
Mine plan annually reviewed	N/A	-	-	The mine has been in care and maintenance since 2015 and therefore no changes in the mining layout occurred in the last nine years. The last mine plan review was done in 2017.
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No 39 of 2004)	N/A	-	-	No mining activities are operational on site.
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No 59 of 2008)	N/A	-	-	Not currently applicable as no mining activities are taking place on site, and no mining related waste is currently produced.
National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)	N/A	-	-	No mining took place during the audit period, and therefore the mine did not use water.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA)	4	3	To be addressed	Some listed invader plant species are present in the mining area that needs to be removed.
Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act 15 of 1973)	N/A	-	-	No mining related hazardous substances are presently stored on site.
<b>MINE VEHICLES AND THE PROCESSING PLANT (EMPR PG 7-73):</b>				
Reduced tailpipe gaseous emissions and noise from vehicles and machinery	N/A	-	-	As the quarry is in care and maintenance, no mining vehicles are present on the site.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

DESCRIPTION	COMPLIANCE SCORE	NON-COMPLIANCE SCORE	STATUS	COMMENTS
<b>EMPLOYEES (EMPR PG 7-73):</b>				
Maximize socio-economic benefit to employees	N/A	-	-	Quarry in care and maintenance – presently no labourers employed at the mine.
Safety at the mine	5	-	Compliant	The entrance to the mine is closed off to prevent unauthorised access to the quarry pit that could lead to potential injury. The mining footprint is fenced.
Employees attending annual medicals	N/A	-	-	Quarry in care and maintenance – presently no labourers employed at the mine.
Signage erected at the mine highlighting hazardous areas and PPE.	N/A	-	-	Although some remnants of signage, previously used on the mine, is still visible the majority of the signage was removed when the activities ceased.
<b>CONSULTING WITH I&amp;AP'S (EMPR PG 7-74):</b>				
Maintain good relations with I&AP's	5	-	Compliant	The landowner uses the warehouse on the mining area for farming purposes.
Complaints book present	N/A	-	-	As mining activities ceased and the site office closed, there is no need for a complaints register to be on site.
Operational areas daily inspected for signs of trapped animals	5	-	Compliant	The landowner has access to the quarry and inspects the pit for trapped animals.
<b>DOCUMENTATION CONTROL AT THE MINE (EMPR PG 7-74):</b>				
Maintain validity of all legally required permits/registrations/licences	5	-	Compliant	The mine was formally placed in care and maintenance by the DMRE upon request from the MR Holder. The Mining Right is valid until 23 October 2042.
Copy of all sub-contractor's valid legally required environmental permits/registrations/licences.	N/A	-	-	No sub-contractors presently on site.
Maintain legally required documentation	5	-	Compliant	This report will be submitted for the MR Holder to comply with the Environmental Performance Assessment requirement. Furthermore, the MR Holder is also in the process of reviewing the environmental liability for rehabilitation of the quarry.
<b>STRIPPING OF TOPSOIL AND OVERBURDEN (2EMPR PG 7-77):</b>				
Reduce the likelihood of topsoil losses and restrict the stripping of topsoil	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintenance – no topsoil were stripped since ±2014.

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DESCRIPTION	COMPLIANCE SCORE	NON-COMPLIANCE SCORE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Maintain seed-bank viability and chemical and physical properties of topsoil	N/A	-	-	
Minimise the dispersion of dust due to stripping topsoil	N/A	-	-	
MINING ACCREGATE AND LOADING DUMP TRUCKS (EMPR PR 7-78):				
No injuries on site	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintenance – no employees on site.
Restrict the visual impact of the mining operation	5	-	Compliant	The mining area is screened by the <i>Eucalyptus</i> trees that surrounds it.
Recreate natural runoff over the property	N/A	-	-	Although the area received abundant rains in the preceding weeks, there is no erosion of concern on site.
Minimise the dispersion of dust created	N/A	-	-	No dust is generated as the quarry isn't operational.
HAULING MINED MATERIAL TO EITHER THE PLANT OR THE AGGREGATE STOCKPILE (EMPR PG 7-79):				
Haul roads no negatively impair on the environment	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintained – no mining related machinery or vehicles operate on site.
Vehicles not damaged due to poor haul roads	N/A	-	-	
Reduced dust fallout resulting from mining operations.	N/A	-	-	
STOCKPIILING OF AGGREGATE (EMPR PG 7-79):				
Reduced potential aesthetical impact associated with stockpiles	5	-	Compliant	All the material stockpiles were removed from site.
Restrict the impact of the stockpile footprint	N/A	-	-	No new stockpile areas were established since ±2014.
WASHING AND SCREENING (INCLUDING PROCESSING WATER) (EMPR PG 7-81):				
Maintain a low noise level	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintenance – no washing and/or screening of material takes place.
Keep water loss to a minimum through recycling and reuse of water	N/A	-	-	
Mine does not impact on surface water quality	N/A	-	-	
STOCKPIILING AGGREGATE PRODUCTS (EMPR PG 7-82):				
Reduced water usage	N/A	-	-	No stockpiling of aggregate or generation of dust that could require water use.
Reduced visual impact of the mine	5	-	Compliant	All the material stockpiles were removed from site.
ACCESS CONTROL (EMPR PG 7-82) & WIGHING PRODUCT (EMPR PG 7-83):				
No polluting by clients of the mine	N/A	-	-	

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

DESCRIPTION	COMPLIANCE SCORE	NON-COMPLIANCE SCORE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Reduced safety hazard associated with the mine	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintenance – no clients visiting the site or material transported from it.
Reduced chance of overloading	N/A	-	-	
MANAGEMENT OF SITE SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES (EMPR PG 7-83):				
Proper management of the workshop activities	N/A	-	-	No mining related activities on site – therefore the workshop is inoperative.
Reduced impacts associated with waste	N/A	-	-	No waste presently generated on site.
Reduced likelihood of pollution created from the fuel tank area	N/A	-	-	
Reduce waste and recycle where possible	N/A	-	-	
Reduce the chance of a PCB contaminated oil spill	N/A	-	-	At the time of the inspection no used oil or other oil cans were noted outside any of the site buildings.
Minimise the chance of poor quality drinking water supplied to employees.	N/A	-	-	No employees on site.
MANAGEMENT OF CONCURRENT REHABILITATION AND MINE CLOSURE (EMPR PG 7-86):				
Mine systematically where-by concurrent rehabilitation forms part of mining activities.	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintenance since 2015.
Mine towards a sustainable closure option.	N/A	-	-	
MANAGEMENT OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES (EMPR PG 7-87):				
Prevent unnecessary soil, stormwater and groundwater contamination by hydrocarbons	5	-	Compliant	No contamination was noted at the time of the inspection.
Reduce the amount of fuel leaking from the tank (if burst/leaking)	5	-	Compliant	The fuel tank was removed from site.
Prevent the spread of fire	N/A	-	-	Mine in care and maintenance – no activity.
Stop activities causing unnecessary dust	N/A	-	-	

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

### **COMMENTS OR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM I&AP' S** **(APPENDIX 7 SUB-REGULATION 3(G) & (J)):**

No written environmental related complaints were received during the audit period.

### **AUDITING OF EA, EMPR AND REPORTING THEREOF** **(REGULATION 34):**

<b>Date of previous EAR/EPA:</b>	29 February 2024
<b>Proof of submission to DMRE available:</b>	The previous EPA was submitted to the DMRE on 30 March 2024 and proof of submission is available from Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd.
<b>EAR/EPA compiled by independent person with environmental auditing expertise:</b>	The 2025 environmental performance assessment reports was compiled by Ms Christine Fouché from Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd, registered EAP with EAPASA.
<b>Potential and registered I&amp;AP's notified within 7 days of the submission date, and report available on publicly accessible website</b>	A copy of the 2025 EAR/EPA will be loaded onto the Greenmined website where it will be available for public review.

### **GENERAL REPORT**

The compliance of Letamo Quarry with the EMPR (2010) was reviewed during the site assessment. The mining area recorded a compliance score of 99% for the audit period.

As mentioned earlier, the Letamo Quarry has been in care and maintenance for the past ten (10) years. During this period, minimal disturbance and abundant rainfall have allowed grass cover to naturally regenerate across most of the previously worked areas. This regrowth has significantly reduced the presence of invasive plant species, as there are now very few bare or disturbed areas for it to establish.

The old entrance to the quarry remains closed and access is restricted by a game fence. A guard (appointed by the farmer) now stays in the guard house, but the remaining buildings previously used as site offices (by the mine) are empty.

No areas of erosion concern were identified. As mentioned earlier, the footprint is well vegetated and this assists in dissipating the impact of stormwater.

#### **Weeds and/or Invader Plant Species:**

Invader plant species listed as Category 1b invasive species in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 and Alien and Invader Species Regulations, (as amended) do however still occur in places. The listed species identified during the inspection included:

 Fountain Grass                      *Pennisetum setaceum*    Category 1b

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY

Wild Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Category 1b
Large Thorn-apple	<i>Datura ferox</i>	Category 1b

In terms of the above mentioned legislation, plants classified as Category 1 a/b species are invasive species which must be controlled and whenever possible, removed and destroyed. Any form of trade or planting is strictly prohibited. It is recommended that site management approach the landowner to assist with the control of the weeds/invaser plant species within the mining area if the quarry remains in care and maintenance.

As mentioned in the 2024 EPA the established *Eucalyptus* trees at the site do not have to be removed, but all seedlings must be controlled.

### **DOCUMENT CHECKLIST:**

Mining right	-	Present at MR Holder's office
Mine works program	-	Present at MR Holder's office
Social and labour plan	-	Present at MR Holder's office
Approved EMPR	-	Present at MR Holder's office
Regulation 2(2) plan	-	Present at MR Holder's office
Financial provision	-	2024 Report present at MR Holder's office
Environmental Assessment Report	-	2024 Report present at MR Holder's office
Waste spreadsheet	-	To be used once mine reopens
Incidents register	-	To be used once mine reopens
Complaints Register	-	To be used once mine reopens
Environmental Awareness Training	-	To be used once mine reopens
Material Safety Data Sheets	-	To be used once mine reopens
Closure Plan	-	Present as part of the EMPr

### **MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED:**

1. The Category 1b plants (in terms of the NEM:BA) must be removed from site.

### **ABILITY OF EMPR TO ADEQUATELY MANAGE OR MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (APPENDIX 7 SUB-REGULATION 3(E):**

It is believed that the EMPR currently adequately manage and/or mitigate environmental impacts at the mining area.


### **NEED FOR AMENDMENT OF THE EMPR:**

No need was identified for the amendment of the EMPR.

### **FINANCIAL PROVISION:**

The last quantum calculation of Letamo Quarry was in May 2023 and the financial provision amount came to R2 225 189.84. This EPA is accompanied with the latest reassessment of the financial provision calculation to the value of R 1 676 928.74 that does not exceed the value of the financial guarantee in place with the DMRE.

### **ECO SIGNATURE**

NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:
Christine Fouche		28 March 2025



PHOTOGRAPHS



Old stockpile area covered with grass



Entrance road and old stockpile area



Previous stockpile and maintenance areas



# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY



**Previously used offices and workshop buildings**



**Warehouse used by landowner**



**Old entrance gate**



**Waste rock stockpile area where grass cover improved**



# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT LETAMO QUARRY



Quarry pit – note grass cover on the benches and excavation surroundings