

**PROPOSED SAND MINE ON A PORTION OF PORTION 2
(REMAINING EXTENT) OF FARM 199 RD, CLANWILLIAM,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

AMENDED - CLOSURE PLAN



NOVEMBER 2024

Reference Number: *WC30/5/1/3/2/10349MP*

PREPARED FOR:

Skemervlei Trust
P.O. Box 249
Clanwilliam
8135

Tel: 027 482 1701

E-mail: grondwerke@smiting.co.za

PREPARED BY:

Greenmined Environmental
Office 36, M01 Baker Square Block
De Beers Avenue
Paardevlei
Somerset West

7130

Tel: 021 851 2673

Fax: 086 546 0579

E -mail: murchellin.s@greenmined.co.za



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd is the consultants responsible for the mining permit application, and in light of this, an Annual- and Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan (*in aliis verbis* Closure Plan) was accordingly drafted for the proposed mine.

The purpose of this document is to provide site management with an Annual Rehabilitation Plan as well as the Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Closure Plan, compiled in terms of the NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No. 25 of 2014) read with the Regulations pertaining to the Financial Provision for Prospecting, Exploration, Mining or Production Operations, November 2017 (GN 1228, Financial Provision Regulations 2017). The amendment of the closure plan entails a review of the following aspects:

1. Annual rehabilitation as reflected in the annual rehabilitation plan;
2. Final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the mining operations at the end of the life of operations as reflected in the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan;
3. Remediation of latent or residual environmental impacts, which may become known in the future, as, reflected in the environmental risk assessment report.

Annual Rehabilitation Plan:

Upon approval of the mining permit application and receipt of the EA, the permit holder will annually report on the planned rehabilitation actions.

Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan:

The decommissioning phase will entail removing the stockpiled material, and site infrastructure/equipment and landscaping the disturbed footprints. In order to return the site to its pre-mining condition, mine rehabilitation must be seen as a continuous process. Therefore, the Plan's goal is to guarantee that mine lifecycle activities are planned to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any potential negative long-term effects on the environment and society. The designated Environmental Control Officer (ECO) of the mine must oversee the Closure and Rehabilitation Plan. Before submitting a closure application to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), rehabilitation will eventually entail the site's final landscaping, topsoil replacement on the last layer, excavator removal.

Environmental Risk Assessment Report:

At this stage, no latent risks that will potentially arise during closure phase of the mining area were identified. By reason of the fact that no latent risks with regard to the management of the mining area were identified no additional monitoring, auditing or reporting requirements are required at this stage.

LIST OF DEFINITIONS

Abandonment: The act of abandoning and relinquishment of a mining claim or intention to mine, a voluntary surrender of the claim or mine to the next party.

Appropriately qualified: A person who has training in the skills appropriate to the type of work to be done, and experience of the type of mine and of the size, complexity and safety classification of the deposit or the environmental conditions (or both) pertaining to the specific project.

Closure Plan: Annual Rehabilitation and Final Rehabilitation, Decommission and Closure Plan.

Biodiversity: Biodiversity is an abbreviation of “biological diversity”. It means the variety of living things – the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

Closure: The act of reinstating a redundant mine which is acceptable for final mine closure.

Context of an environmental impact: The overall environmental setting in which an environmental impact occurs. It includes all "natural" components and characteristics (or both) and all "human and social" components and characteristics (or both). It has both spatial and time dimensions.

Design: The documented result of a systematic process during which all relevant factors and criteria are taken into account. The design includes the design report, the working drawings and the operations manual.

Environmental impact: Any change in the state of a component of the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, that wholly or partially results from activities, projects or developments.

Environmental integrity: The reliability of performance of the environmental impact management measures associated with the facility, with respect to the environmental performance objectives.

Environmental management programme: A programme contemplated in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 submitted to and approved by the Director: Mineral Development, and detailing the plan to be adopted and implemented by a mine for managing the environmental effects of the operations of the mine.

Environmental objectives: Those objectives that represent the desired state of environmental components that have been adopted for the mine.

Intensity of an environmental impact: The severity of the consequences of an environmental impact, as judged by suitably qualified persons.

Manager of a mine (general manager): Any competent person appointed in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 29 of 1996), to be responsible for the control, management and direction of a mine.

Rehabilitated land: Is defined as land that has previously been mined through or areas, which have been disturbed by the mining process. These areas have been levelled, covered with topsoil, fertilized, seeded and are capable of supporting a sustained long-term vegetation cover.

Redundant: No longer required for mining operation.

Reliability: The probability that a specified event will not occur in a specified time (usually expressed as a ratio, when measured in quantitative terms).

Risk: The probability that a specified event, such as failure, will occur in a specified time.

Scheduled closure: Planned closure of the mine

Significant environmental impact: An impact in respect of which consultation (with the relevant authorities and other interested and affected parties) on the context and intensity of its effects provides reasonable grounds for mitigating measures to be included in the environmental management programme. Significance is determined by the integration of the context and intensity of the effects of the impact, and the likelihood that the impact will occur.

Topsoil: means the layer of soil covering the earth which –

- (a) provides a suitable environment for the germination of seed;
- (b) allows for penetration of water; and
- (c) Is a source of microorganisms, plant nutrients and in some cases seed.

Unscheduled closure: The closure cost associated with immediate closure and provision.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Performance Assessment
EMPR	Environmental Management Program
I&AP's	Interested and Affected Parties
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002)
NWA	National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NEM:WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)
WCMR	Waste Classification and Management Regulations
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	9
1.1	PROJECT PROPOSAL.....	9
1.2	OBJECTIVE OF THE CLOSURE PLAN.....	10
2.	DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR	11
3.	LEGAL BACKGROUND AND BEST PRACTICES	12
3.1	THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996 (ACT NO. 108 OF 1996)	12
3.2	THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 28 OF 2002) [MPRDA].....	13
3.2.1	Regulation 527 of the MPRDA, 2002	13
3.3	THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) [NWA]	14
3.4	THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998) [NEMA].....	15
3.4.1	Regulation 1228 of NEMA, 1998.....	16
3.5	THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: WASTE ACT, 2008 (ACT NO 57 OF 2008) [NEM:WA].....	16
3.5.1	Waste Classification and Management Regulations, 2013 (GNR 634).....	17
3.6	FURTHER ACTS RELEVANT TO MINE REHABILITATION.....	18
3.7	BEST PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES	18
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROJECT CONTEXT	19
4.1	PROJECT LOCATION	19
4.2	PROPOSED MINING OPERATION	20
4.2.1	Site Establishment Phase	20
4.3	OPERATIONAL PHASE	23
4.4	TOPOGRAPHY	24
4.5	AIR AND NOISE QUALITY	24
4.6	GEOLOGY	24
4.7	HYDROLOGY	25
4.8	TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AREAS AND GROUND COVER	26
	CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT	27
	EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	27
4.9	LAND CAPABILITY AND SURROUNDING LAND USE	27
5.	ANNUAL REHABILITATION PLAN	27
5.1	IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF TIMEFRAMES	28
5.2	MONITORING RESULTS	28
5.2.1	Control of Invasive Alien Vegetation	28

5.2.2	Noise Monitoring	28
5.2.3	Dust Monitoring	28
5.2.4	Waste Monitoring	29
5.3	SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED	29
5.4	REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING 12 MONTHS	29
5.5	REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S REHABILITATION ACTIONS	29
5.6	COSTING	29
6.	REHABILITATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND MINE CLOSURE PLAN	30
6.1	CLOSURE STRATEGY GUIDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT	31
6.2	DESIGN PRINCIPLES	31
6.2.1	Excavation	31
	The MP Holder proposed the following regarding the rehabilitation of the mined areas:	31
6.3	POST-MINING LAND USE	33
6.4	CLOSURE ACTIONS	33
6.4.1	Medium Term Rehabilitation	33
6.4.2	Long term Final Rehabilitation	35
6.4.3	Final rehabilitation:	36
6.4.4	Revegetation of Rehabilitated Areas.....	36
6.4.5	Maintenance and Monitoring.....	36
6.4.6	Success Criteria and Monitoring	37
6.4.7	Impact Specific Procedures	37
6.5	CLOSURE SCHEDULE	40
6.6	IMPLEMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CLOSURE PLAN	41
6.6.1	Site Management Responsibility List	41
6.6.2	Management of Information and Data.....	41
6.7	IDENTIFIED GAPS IN THE PLAN	42
6.8	RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE ACTIVITIES.....	42
6.9	CLOSURE COST ESTIMATE.....	43
6.10	MOTIVATION FOR AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE FINAL REHABILITATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND MINE CLOSURE PLAN.	44
7.	MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING	44
7.1	SCHEDULE FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	46
8.	ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT	47
8.1	ASSESSMENT PROCESS USED TO IDENTIFY AND QUANTIFY LATENT RISKS	47
8.1.1	Methodology	47

8.1.2	Description of Latent Risks	54
8.1.3	Results and Finding of Risk Assessment	54
8.1.4	Changes to the Risk Assessment Results	55
8.2	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	55
8.3	COST ESTIMATE	55
8.4	MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	55
9.	CONCLUSION.....	55
10.	SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR	55
11.	UNDERTAKING BY PERMIT HOLDER.....	56
12.	REFERENCES	57

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Figure 1: Satellite view showing the access road entrance (red polygon) to the proposed mining area site alternative 1 (yellow polygon) and site alternative 2 (green polygon).....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Figure 2: Elevation profile of the area to the north (first top image), east (second top image) and the south-east (lower image). (Image obtained from Google Earth)</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Figure 3: Indication of the simplified geology of the study area, where light blue represents Cape Supergroup, pink the Namaqua Metamorphic Provinces, green the Dwyka and ECC Groups, and the yellow lined area represents the Cenozoic Deposits. The proposed mining area is indicated by the red star. (Image obtained from the Council for Geoscience)</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Figure 4: Map showing the position of the non-perennial drainage line to the north of the preferred mining area (S1) (red rectangle) and site alternative 2 (yellow rectangle), as well as the Olifants River to the east. (Image obtained from the BGIS Map Viewer – National Wetlands and NFEPA)</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Figure 5: Map showing the proposed strip-mining method of the footprint that will revert back to agricultural land.</i>	<i>33</i>

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Summary of the relevant rehabilitation sections of the MPRDA, 2002	13
Table 2: Requirements of Government Notice 527	14
Table 3: NWA, 1998 applicable sections	15
Table 4: NEMA, 1998 applicable sections	15
Table 5: GPS coordinates of the proposed mining footprint	19
Table 6: Summary of the impact specific procedures	38
Table 7: Closure schedule	40
Table 8: Relinquishment criteria	43
Table 9: Monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements	45
Table 10: Reporting requirements	46
Table 11: Monitoring Programmes	50
Table 12: Rating of duration used in the assessment of potential latent risks	51
Table 13: Rating of extent / spatial scale used in the assessment of potential latent risks	51
Table 14: Example of calculating overall consequence in the assessment of potential latent risks	51
Table 15: Rating of frequency used in the assessment of potential latent risks	52
Table 16: Rating of probability used in the assessment of potential latent risks	52
Table 17: Example of calculating overall likelihood in the assessment of potential latent risks	53
Table 18: Determination of overall significance in the assessment of potential latent risks	53
Table 19: Description of environmental significance and related action required in the assessment of potential latent risks	54

1. INTRODUCTION

The applicant Skemervlei Trust, applied for environmental authorisation (EA) and a mining permit to mine sand from a portion of Portion 2 (Remaining Extent) of Farm 199, Clanwilliam, Western Cape Province.

Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd (“Greenmined”) is the consultants responsible for the mining permit application, and in light of this, an Annual- and Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan (*in aliis verbis* Closure Plan) was accordingly drafted for the proposed sand mine. This report (the Closure Plan) stipulates the rehabilitation methods to be followed in the restoration of the earmarked mining footprint. The report was compiled in line with Government Notice 940 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 [NEMA] (Act No. 107 of 1998) together with Regulation 62 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 [MPRDA] (Act No. 28 of 2002). The information used in this report was sourced during the EIA process.

The purpose of this document is to provide site management with an Annual Rehabilitation Plan as well as the Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Closure Plan, compiled in terms of the NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No. 25 of 2014) read with the Regulations pertaining to the Financial Provision for Prospecting, Exploration, Mining or Production Operations, November 2017 (GN 1228, Financial Provision Regulations 2017).

1.1 PROJECT PROPOSAL

In light of the above, Skemervlei Trust (hereinafter referred to as “the Applicant”) intends applying for a mining permit to mine sand from a portion of Portion 2 (Remaining Extent) of Farm 199, Clanwilliam, Western Cape Province.

The proposed mining area of the Applicant will be 1.7 ha and will be developed over an area currently used for agricultural purposes. The mining method is representative of the small-scale mining industry where the mineral (sand) is loaded with a front-end-loader (FEL) directly from the footprint area onto a truck that delivers it to the clients. Strip mining will be implemented with little to no stockpiling required. No washing of sand is needed. Due to the small scale of the operation no infrastructure, other than a chemical toilet, will be established within the mining footprint. The proposed project does not require any electrical connections, and no chemicals will be stored on site. Vehicle/equipment maintenance will be done at an existing off-site workshop (Clanwilliam Town) of the Applicant, and the area will be reached via an existing farm road.

Using the existing access road the Applicant could access the mined without the need of driving over rehabilitated areas. If the footprint is apportioned into two strips mining will be start from strip 1 (1ha) working towards strip 2 (0.7ha). The mining depth is estimated between 1.5 - 2m deep. Using the existing access road the Applicant could access each strip without the need of driving over rehabilitated areas.

The mining activities will be as listed below:

- Stripping and stockpiling of the topsoil from a 1 ha strip;
- Loading and hauling of the sand from the open strip;
- Sloping and landscaping of the mined strip prior to the opening and mining of the consecutive strip; and
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetating the disturbed area.

The mining site will contain the following:

- Front-end-loader (1);
- Excavator (1) (part time); and
- ADT truck (1) (part time).

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE CLOSURE PLAN

The purpose of the Closure Plan is to describe the rehabilitation processes that need to take place to ensure that the mine reaches its full environmental potential upon closure.

The primary objective, at the end of the mine's life, is to obtain a closure certificate at minimum cost and in as short a period as possible whilst still complying with the requirements of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA]. To realise this, the following main objectives must be achieved:

- Remove all temporary infrastructure and waste from the site as per the requirements of the EMPR and of the Provincial Department Mineral Resources and Energy.
- Shape and contour all disturbed areas in compliance with the EMPR.
- Ensure that permanent changes in topography (due to mining) are sustainable and do not cause erosion or the damming of surface water.
- Make all excavations safe.
- Use the topsoil effectively to promote the re-establishment of vegetation.
- Ensure that all rehabilitated areas are stable and self-sustaining in terms of vegetation cover.
- Eradicate all weeds/invaser plant species by intensive management of the mine site.

2. DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR


The Applicant, Skemervlei Trust, appointed Greenmined Environmental to prepare the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan. Mrs. M Saal is the responsible consultant for the project and has twelve years of experience in environmental legal compliance audits, (GIS) geographic information system, mining right and permit applications and applications for environmental authorisations & Water use applications. Please find full CV attached in Appendix M.

Name of the Practitioner: Mrs Murchellin Saal (Senior Environmental Consultant)
Tel No.: 021 851 2673
Fax No.: 086 546 0579
E-mail address: murchellin.s@greenmined.co.za
EAP Registration No: 2021/4203

Declaration of Independence:

I, Murchellin Saal, in my capacity as environmental control officer declare that–

- I act as independent environmental control officer in this compliance audit;
- 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;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental compliance audits, including knowledge of the Act and regulations that have relevance to the activity;
- I will adhere to and comply with all responsibilities as indicated in the National Environmental Management Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
- 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.

Murchellin Saal	Date:
	4 October 2024

3. LEGAL BACKGROUND AND BEST PRACTICES

This section provides an overview of the legislative requirements applicable to the project, including the acts, guidelines and policies considered in the compilation of the Closure Plan.

3.1 THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996 (ACT NO. 108 OF 1996)

The legislative motivation for this project is underpinned by The Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), which states that:

The State must, in compliance with Section 7(2) of the Constitution, respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights, which is the cornerstone of democracy in South Africa. Section 24 of the Constitution:

24. Environment

-Everyone has the right-

- (a) To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and*
- (b) To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that-*
 - (i) Prevent pollution and ecological degradation;*
 - (ii) Promote conservation; and*
 - (iii) Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting a justifiable economic and social development.*

Section 24 of the Constitution of South Africa requires that all activities that may significantly affect the environment and require authorisation by law must be assessed prior to approval. In addition, it provides for the Minister of Environmental Affairs or the relevant provincial Ministers to identify:

- New activities that require approval;
- Areas within which activities require approval; and
- Existing activities that should be assessed and reported on.

Section 28(1) of the Constitution of South Africa states that:

“Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring”.

If such pollution or degradation cannot be prevented, then appropriate measures must be taken to minimise or rectify such pollution or degradation. These measures may include:

- Assessing the impact on the environment.
- Informing and educating employees about the environmental risks of their work and ways of minimising these risks;
- Ceasing, modifying or controlling actions which cause pollution/degradation;
- Containing pollutants or preventing movement of pollutants;
- Eliminating the source of pollution or degradation; and
- Remedying the effects of the pollution or degradation.

3.2 THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 28 OF 2002) [MPRDA]

The table below summarises the relevant sections in terms of the MPRDA, 2002.

Table 1: Summary of the relevant rehabilitation sections of the MPRDA, 2002

AREA OF CONCERN	SECTION	LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Environmental Management	Section 37	<i>Requires that the principles set out in section 2 of NEMA must apply to all prospecting and mining operations, and that the generally accepted principles of sustainable development must be applied by integrating social, economic and environmental factors during the planning and implementation phases of mining projects.</i>
	Section 38	<i>Requires the applicant to manage all environmental impacts in accordance with his or her environmental management plan (EMP) or the approved EMPR.</i>
	Section 39	<i>Deals with the requirements of an EMP/EMPR, whichever is applicable.</i>
Financial Provision	Section 41	<i>Financial provision needs to be provided and annually assess the environmental liability.</i>
Closure Certificate	Section 43	<i>Holder of a mining permit is responsible for all environmental liabilities as may be identified in the EMP, application needs to be made to the regional manager for the closure certificate.</i>
Removal of Infrastructure	Section 44	<i>When the mining operation comes to an end the mine may not remove buildings, structures or objects which may not be demolished or removed in terms of any other law.</i>

3.2.1 Regulation 527 of the MPRDA, 2002

Government Notice No. R.527, as published in the Government Gazette, 23 April 2004 (GG No. 26275, Volume 466) of MPRDA stipulate that the following closure objectives must form part of the EMPR:

- Identify the key objectives for closure of the operation to guide the project design;
- Development and management of environmental impacts;
- Provide future land use objectives for the site; and
- Provide proposed closure costs.

Table 2: Requirements of Government Notice 527

AREA OF CONCERN	REGULATION	LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
The need to prevent and alleviate pollution arising from mining activities.	Regulation 42(1)	<i>Section 42(1) of the MPRDA stipulates that the closure process must start at the commencement of a mining operation and continue throughout the entire life of the mine. Furthermore, future closure and land use objectives must be included in the EMP Section 42(1) d stipulates that any environmental damage or residual impacts that are identified during the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) phase must be acceptable to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) in line with Section 24(a) of the National Constitution.</i>
Mine Closure	Regulation 43	<i>A closure plan contemplated in Section 43(3)(d) of the Act, forms part of the EMPR or EMP, as the case may be, and must include – a summary of the results of progressive rehabilitation undertaken.</i>
Part III of R 527 deals with environmental regulations for mineral development, petroleum exploration and production.	Regulation 56	<i>In accordance with applicable legislative requirements for mine closure, the holder of a prospecting right, mining right, retention permit or mining permit must ensure that –The land is rehabilitated, as far as is practicable, to its natural state, or to a predetermined and agreed standard or land use which conforms with the concepts of suitable development.</i>

3.3 THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) [NWA]

The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) aims to provide management of the national water resources to achieve sustainable use of water for the benefit of all water users. This requires that the quality of water resources is protected as well as integrated management of water resources with the delegation of powers to institutions at the regional or catchment level. The purpose of the NWA is to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in ways, which take into account:

- Meeting the basic human needs of present and future generations;
- Promoting equitable access to water;
- Redressing the results of past racial discrimination;
- Promoting the efficient, sustainable and beneficial use of water in the public interest;
- Facilitating social and economic development;

- Providing for growing demand for water use;
- Protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity;
- Reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources;
- Meeting international obligations; and
- Managing floods and droughts.

The following sections of the NWA, 1998 are relevant.

Table 3: NWA, 1998 applicable sections

AREA OF CONCERN	SECTION	LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Prevention and remedying effects of pollution.	Section 19	<i>Any situation exists or which may cause or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource, must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution from occurring, continuing or recurring.</i>
Control of emergency incidents.	Section 20	<i>Incidences of pollution needs to be reported the Department and the relevant catchment agency</i>
General principles: Water uses	Section 21	<i>The MR Holder has a valid General Authorisation issued by DWS in 2017.</i>

3.4 THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998) [NEMA]

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) strives to regulate national environmental management policy and is focussed primarily on co-operative governance, public participation and sustainable development. NEMA makes provisions for co-operative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of state and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The following sections are relevant.

Table 4: NEMA, 1998 applicable sections

AREA OF CONCERN	SECTION	LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Principles that may significantly affect the environment.	Section 28	<i>General duty of care on every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment to take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.</i>

AREA OF CONCERN	SECTION	LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Control of emergency incidents.	Section 30	<i>Incidences of pollution needs to be reported the Department.</i>
Environmental Management Plan.	Section 34	<p><i>A draft EMP must include –</i></p> <p><i>information on any proposed management or mitigation measures that will be taken to address the environmental impacts that have been identified in a report contemplated by these Regulations, including environmental impacts or objectives in respect of –</i></p> <p><i>(iv) rehabilitation of the environment;</i></p> <p><i>as far as reasonably practicable, measures to rehabilitate the environment affected by the undertaking of any listed activity or specified activity to its natural or predetermined state or to a land use which conforms to the generally acceptable principle of sustainable development, including where appropriate, concurrent or progressive rehabilitation measures.</i></p>

3.4.1 Regulation 1228 of NEMA, 1998

NEMA, GNR 1228 GG 41236, known as the NEMA Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 (amended 2017), was promulgated in November 2015, and in terms of these regulations holders of a mining permit are allowed a transitional period of 39 months (19 February 2019) from the date of promulgation to comply.

As mentioned earlier the permit holder must annually update the annual rehabilitation, final rehabilitation and remediation of latent environmental impacts and ensure it is compliant with the Financial Provision Regulations of 2015. The reports need to be conducted in the format that was supplied in the regulations as per Appendix 5 and Appendix 6.

3.5 THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: WASTE ACT, 2008 (ACT NO 57 OF 2008) [NEM:WA]

The rehabilitation measures must be aligned with the objections of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA) which includes:

- (a) To protect health, well-being and the environment by providing reasonable measures for—
- (i) Minimising the consumption of natural resources;
 - (ii) Avoiding and minimising the generation of waste;
 - (iii) Reducing, re-using, recycling and recovering waste;
 - (iv) Treating and safely disposing of waste as a last resort;
 - (v) Preventing pollution and ecological degradation;
 - (vi) Securing ecologically sustainable development while promoting justifiable economic and social development;
 - (vii) Promoting and ensuring the effective delivery of waste services;
 - (viii) Remediating land where contamination presents, or may present, a significant risk of harm to health or the environment; and
 - (ix) Achieving integrated waste management reporting and planning;
- (b) To ensure that people are aware of the impact of waste on their health, well-being and the environment;
- (c) To provide for compliance with the measures; and
- (d) Generally, to give effect to Section 24 of the Constitution in order to secure an environment that is not harmful to health and well-being

3.5.1 Waste Classification and Management Regulations, 2013 (GNR 634)

Waste Classification and Management Regulations (WCMR) promulgated under the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (NEM:WA) (effective 2013) provides mechanisms to:

- Facilitate the implementation of the waste hierarchy to move away from landfill;
- Reuse, recovery and treatment;
- Separate waste classification from the management of waste;
- Divert waste from landfill and into utilisation where possible; and
- Provide measures to monitor the progress

The Waste Classification and Management Regulations ultimately enables the improved and more efficient classification and management of waste; provide for safe and appropriate handling, storage, recovery, reuse, recycling, treatment and disposal of waste and will also enable accurate and relevant reporting on waste generation and management. All waste generators, excluding domestic generators, must ensure that the waste they generate is classified within 180 days of its generation.

All wastes that were classified in terms of the “Minimum Requirements for the Handling, Classification and Disposal of Hazardous Waste in terms of the Department of Water Affairs” (2nd Edition, 1998; Department of Water Affairs and Forestry) or alternative classifications that were approved prior to the WCMR taking effect, must be re-classified and assessed within three years from the commencement of these Regulations.

Reference is made to the NEM:WA, part 8 of Chapter 4 regarding contaminated land:

All owners of land that is significantly contaminated become obliged to report that contamination is occurring. Part 8 of Chapter 4 is concerned with the remediation of contaminated land. This new legal regime for identifying contaminated land, determining its status and the risk that it poses, and regulating the remediation process is introduced. This law imposes significant legal obligation on the owners of land and on those who cause contamination, with potentially serious financial consequences. Part 8 applies where the pollution only manifest sometime after the contamination occurred and also where the action of a person (for example, the excavation of land pursuant to a development) results in a change to pre-existing contamination. Along with the notice bringing Part 8 into effect, norms and standards for the remediation of contaminated land and soil quality (list certain contaminants and specify soil screening values for human health and environmental protection). This act also has several important implications for the sale of and, sellers who know that their lands is contaminated can no longer keep silent and this is classified as an offence.

3.6 FURTHER ACTS RELEVANT TO MINE REHABILITATION

- The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983).
- The South African Mineral Resource Committee (SAMREC) Code. Of particular importance in this regard is the determination of whether the mine has made an adequate provision for environmental rehabilitation in terms of Section 41 of the MPRDA.

3.7 BEST PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES

Mine closure is an international challenge. South Africa has produced various well-known and reputable guidelines on matters directly linked and or associated with mine closure.

Such was the need for guidelines to manage mine closure provisions in a consistent manner provided for by the DMRE (2005).

These guidelines are the only official mine closure guideline as contemplated in Regulation 54(1) in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002). Of particular importance is that this guideline document governs the closure cost assessment process in South Africa and is applied by the DMRE through its respective regional managers in each province.

The Chamber of Mines (CoM) (2007) issued a guideline for the rehabilitation of mined land. This document is a result of scientific knowledge experts. It is an on the ground reference document which provides written guidelines on the best rehabilitation techniques. Of value is how the document distinguishes between the financing, the planning and the licensing components of a typical mining program.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2012 published a discussion document named the “Financial provision for the rehabilitation and closure in South African Mining: Discussion Document on Challenges and recommended improvements”. The document focuses on the adequacy of financial provisions and pulls a very strong link between insufficient financial allocations and that of derelict and abandoned mines in South Africa. The document further emphasizes the importance of establishing a dependency between the EMPR/EMP and financial provision which is updated and adequate.

Recently a released guideline from the Government of Western Australia (GWA 2011) provides insight to the importance of mine closure. The guidelines (GWA 2011) in particular state that planning for mine closure is a critical component of environmental management in the mining industry. Notably is that this industry leading practice also requires that planning for mine closure should start before mining commence and should continue throughout the life of the mine until final closure and relinquishment. This approach enables better environmental outcomes. It is also good business practice, as it should avoid the need for costly remedial earthworks late in the project lifecycle.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROJECT CONTEXT

4.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The mining permit application was lodged over 1.7 ha to mine sand from a portion of Portion 2 (Remaining Extent) of Farm 199, Clanwilliam, Western Cape Province.

Table 5: GPS coordinates of the proposed mining footprint.

NUMBER	DEGREES, MINUTES, SECONDS		DECIMAL DEGREES	
	LAT (S)	LONG (E)	LAT (S)	LONG (E)
A	32° 8'12.08"S	18°50'49.61"E	-32.136690°	18.847114°
B	32° 8'13.05"S	18°50'50.96"E	-32.136958°	18.847489°
C	32° 8'14.84"S	18°50'52.54"E	-32.137455°	18.847927°
D	32° 8'15.77"S	18°50'52.53"E	-32.137714°	18.847925°
E	32° 8'17.35"S	18°50'52.08"E	-32.138152°	18.847800°
F	32° 8'18.88"S	18°50'51.00"E	-32.138577°	18.847501°
G	32° 8'16.10"S	18°50'47.12"E	-32.137805°	18.846422°



Figure 1: Satellite view showing the access road entrance (red polygon) to the proposed mining area site alternative 1 (yellow polygon) and site alternative 2 (green polygon).

4.2 PROPOSED MINING OPERATION

4.2.1 Site Establishment Phase

Site establishment entails the demarcation of the permitted mining area and the identification of the first 1 ha strip to be mined. Site establishment may necessitate the clearing of vegetation (that established through succession), the stripping and stockpiling of topsoil, and the introduction of the mining machinery.

4.2.1.1 Demarcation of Mining Boundaries

Pursuant to receipt of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Mining Permit (MP), and prior to site establishment, the boundaries of the mining area will be demarcated with visible beacons.

4.2.1.2 Access Road

The proposed mining area will be reached via an existing farm road that has a formal (existing) entrance onto the N7. The surface of the farm road will be upgraded and maintained by the permit holder for the duration of the operational phase. The width of the road will not be increased and therefore does not trigger listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017).

4.2.1.3 Vegetation Clearing

The footprint of the proposed sand mine was chosen to extend over an area that is used for agricultural purposes (central pivot) and no natural fynbos needs to be disturbed to allow access to the mineral. According to Mucina and Rutherford (2012) the vegetation type of the natural areas is known as the Leipoldville Sand Fynbos (FFd2).

Although the proposed project will not necessitate the removal of natural Leipoldville Sand Fynbos, the removal of some indigenous vegetation may be necessary should the cultivation of the pivot cease and indigenous vegetation establish through succession. The clearing of vegetation must be contained to the approved mining footprint, and no vegetation/bush clearance, outside the approved area, may be allowed. It is proposed that a botanist is consulted to clear uncultivated areas, where indigenous vegetation established, prior to the stripping of topsoil.

- Contractor's ECO must provide supervision and oversight of vegetation clearing activities and other activities which may cause damage to the environment, especially at the initiation of the project, when the majority of vegetation clearing is taking place.
- Blanket clearing of vegetation must be limited to the proposed footprint and associated infrastructure.

- No clearing outside of the minimum required footprint to take place.
- Clearing of vegetation should be minimized and avoided where possible

4.2.1.4 Topsoil Stripping

It is proposed that topsoil removal will be restricted to the exact footprint of areas required during the operational phase of the activity. The topsoil will be stockpiled at the edge of the strip to be replaced during the rehabilitation of the area. The Applicant must take note that dry sand has a natural angle of repose of $\pm 34^\circ$, accommodation of this must form part of the mine planning to prevent topsoil simply slide back into the mining area. It will be part of the obligations of site management to prevent the mixing of topsoil heaps with overburden/other soil heaps. The complete A-horizon will be removed. If it is unclear where the topsoil layer ends the top 300 mm of soil will be stripped. The topsoil berm will measure a maximum of 1.5 m in height to preserve micro-organisms within the topsoil, which can be lost due to compaction and lack of oxygen.

4.2.1.5 Introduction of Mining Machinery and Site Equipment

No infrastructure, other than a chemical toilet, needs to be established within the proposed 1.7 ha mining area. Mining machinery that will operate within the footprint is expected to consist of the following:

Presently, the mining infrastructure/equipment is expected to consist of at least:

- Front-end-loader (1);
- Excavator (1) (part time); and
- ADT truck (1) (part time).

4.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

The operational phase will involve the removal of topsoil off a strip of approximately 1 ha. The topsoil will be stockpiled at the edge of the strip to be replaced during the rehabilitation of the area. The sand will be removed from the stripped area with a front-end-loader that will directly load a truck that will haul the mined material, via the existing road, to the clients. The transport of sand from the mining area will be done by site management as no clients will be allowed to collect sand directly from the mine. It is proposed that the truck will visit the mining area approximately twenty times a week.

As mentioned in the Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) (full copy attached as Appendix G), it will be important to control the mining depths across the entire mine so that the excavation results in a levelling of the centre pivot lands rather than a hole with steep edges.

The mining activities will be as listed below:

- Stripping and stockpiling of the topsoil from a 1 ha strip;
- Loading and hauling of the sand from the open strip;
- Sloping and landscaping of the mined strip prior to the opening and mining of the consecutive strip; and
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetating the disturbed area

4.4 TOPOGRAPHY

The natural topography of the area surrounding the proposed sand mine is best described as an undulating sandy landscape covered with shrublands. The surface elevation of the study area decreases towards the north (non-perennial drainage line), east (national road N7), and south-east (Olifants River) as shown in the figures below. The elevation loss from the proposed mining footprint to the town of Clanwilliam to be 143 m over 6.27km.

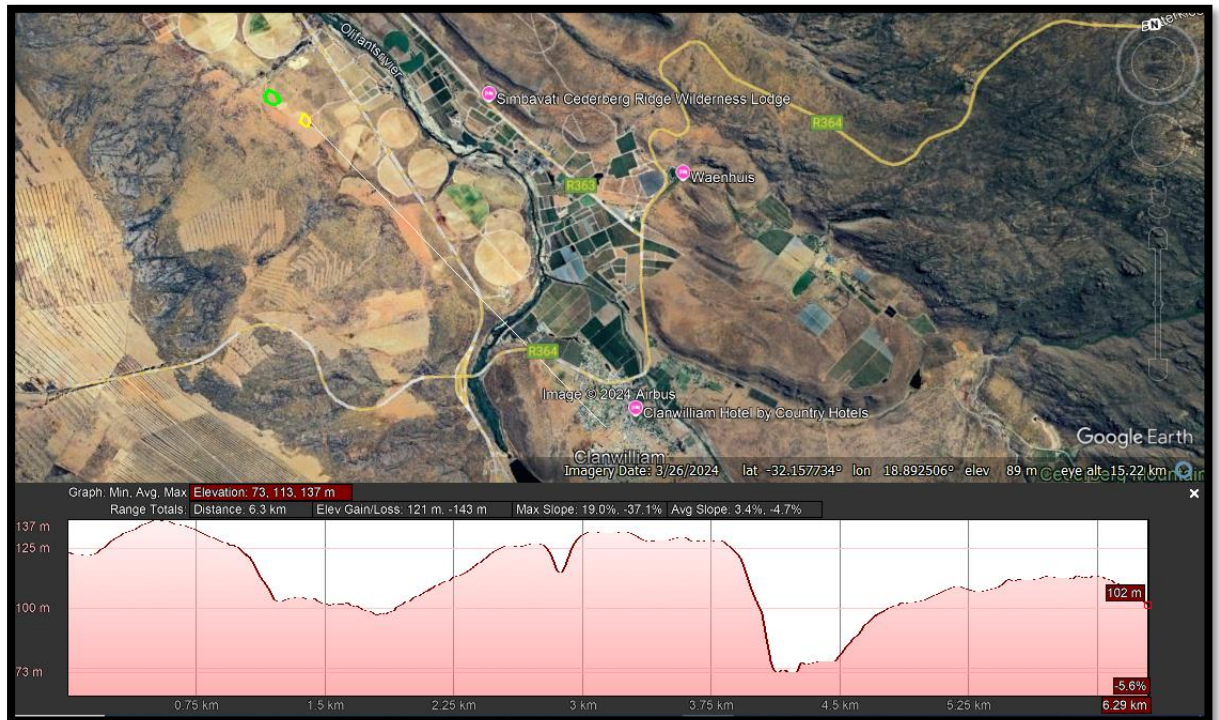


Figure 2: Elevation profile of the area to the north (first top image), east (second top image) and the south-east (lower image). (Image obtained from Google Earth).

4.5 AIR AND NOISE QUALITY

The air quality of the study area is generally very good given the area's predominant agricultural use and rural character. Likewise, the noise ambiance is very low (classified as ambient rural / pastoral) with noise levels mainly affected by traffic along the N7, and the farming equipment operational in the area.

4.6 GEOLOGY

The geology of the study area comprises mostly sediments of the Table Mountain Group (at depth) overlain with Cenozoic sands of the Sandveld Group. The underlying sediments consist of the Nardouw Supergroup which are light-coloured quartzitic sandstones. As seen

in the figure below the geological map for the Council of Geoscience shows very little detail and omits the overlying Cenozoic sand cover of the study area.

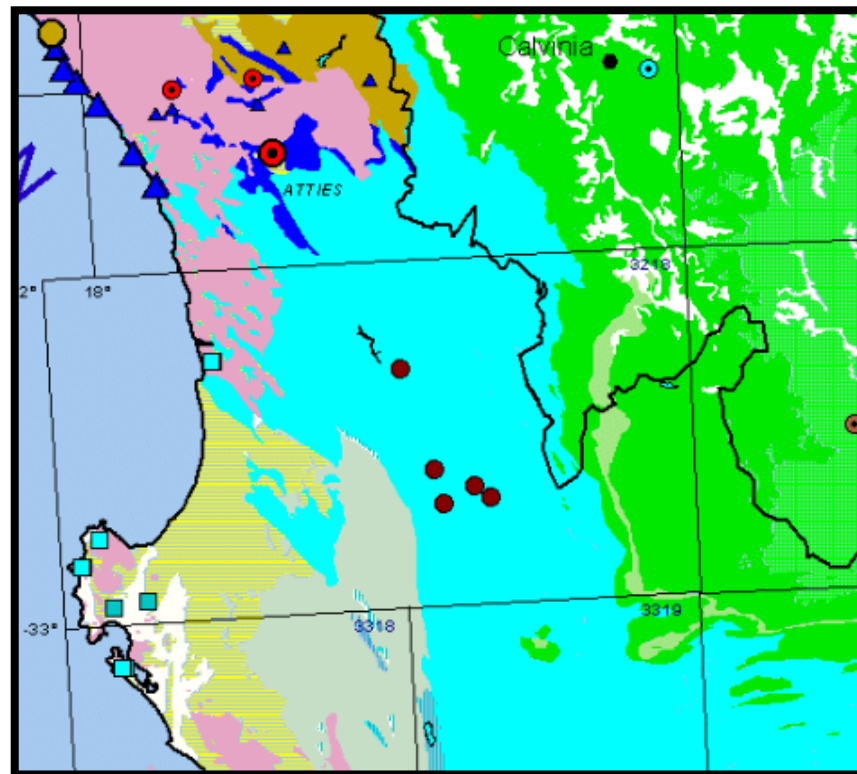


Figure 3: Indication of the simplified geology of the study area, where light blue represents Cape Supergroup, pink the Namaqua Metamorphic Provinces, green the Dwyka and ECC Groups, and the yellow lined area represents the Cenozoic Deposits. The proposed mining area is indicated by the red star. (Image obtained from the Council for Geoscience)

4.7 HYDROLOGY

The earmarked mining area is situated within the Olifants D sub water management area that forms part of the greater Olifants-Doring water management area. According to the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) map as presented by SANBI, the NFEPA status of the study area (S1) is classified as a no priority area.

A non-perennial drainage line passes towards the north (± 510 m from S1) before it joins up with the Olifants River on the opposite (eastern) side of the N7. The drainage line is classified as a channelled valley-bottom wetland on the National Wetland and NFEPA map viewer of BGIS. No other wetlands or other drainage lines were identified within a 500 m radius of the study area (S1). The figure below shows the position of the non-perennial stream and Olifants River that occur within the surrounding area.

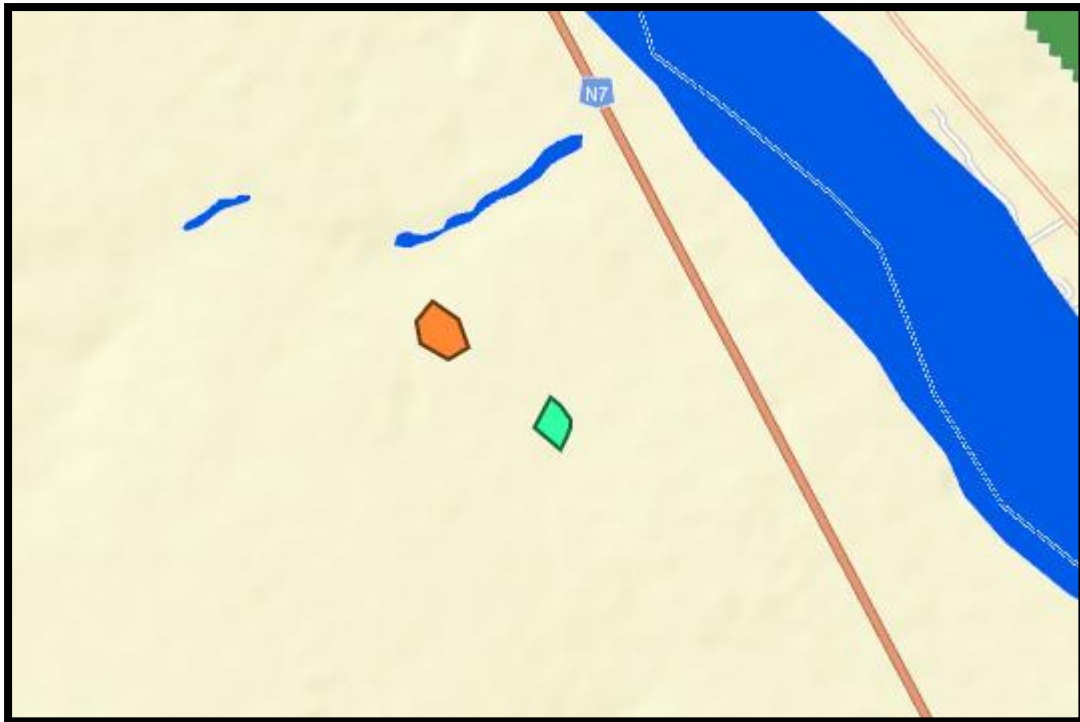


Figure 4: Map showing the position of the non-perennial drainage line to the north of the preferred mining area (S1) (red rectangle) and site alternative 2 (yellow rectangle), as well as the Olifants River to the east. (Image obtained from the BGIS Map Viewer – National Wetlands and NFEPA)

4.8 TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AREAS AND GROUNDCOVER

As mentioned earlier, when the mining footprints of both S1 and S2 is layered over the Mining and Biodiversity Map, it falls over an area of highest biodiversity importance with a corresponding rating of highest risk for mining. The High Biodiversity Importance area (in terms of the Mining and Biodiversity Guideline) does however not correspond with the boundaries of the CBA's and ESA's identified in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan, which excludes the footprint of S1 from significant conservation areas. The guideline notes that environmental screening, the EIA and specialists should focus on confirming the presence and significance of biodiversity features and provide a site-specific basis on which to apply the mitigation hierarchy to inform regulatory decision-making.

In order to avoid an impact on either the CBA's (terrestrial & aquatic) or the ESA's (terrestrial) it is proposed that S1 be considered for approval, as it does not extend over an area of conservation concern and has previously been disturbed by agricultural activities.

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

No sites of archaeological or cultural importance were identified during the site inspection, and consultation with the interested and affected parties also did not identify any potential area of concern. The potential impact of the proposed mining activities on the cultural and/or heritage environment is therefore deemed to be insignificant, however the Applicant will implement a chance-find protocol on site for the duration of the site establishment-, operational- and decommissioning phase.

A Needs and Desirability Application Form will be submitted to SAHRIS in October 2024 to inform them of the proposed project and obtain their comments.

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Site alternative 1 lays over an area under pivot irrigation and the only infrastructure of importance is that of the centre pivot.
- Site alternative 2 was previously dedicated to dry land sowing and potato farming.

During the environmental impact assessment process the feasibility of the proposed site was assessed to identify fatal flaws that are deemed as severe as to prevent the activity continuing, or warrant a site or project alternative. The outcome of the assessment showed that should the mitigation measures and monitoring programmes proposed in this document be implemented, no fatal flaws could be identified that prevents the activity continuing.

4.9 LAND CAPABILITY AND SURROUNDING LAND USE

A portion of Portion 2 (Remaining Extent) of Farm 199, Clanwilliam, Western Cape Province. Is currently used for crop production and grazing as well as small scale mining.

The proposed mining area will be 1.7 ha and will be developed over an area currently used for agricultural purposes.

5. ANNUAL REHABILITATION PLAN

Appendix 3 to the Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 states that the objectives of the annual rehabilitation plan are to:

- a) Review concurrent rehabilitation and remediation activities already implemented;

- b) Establish rehabilitation and remediation goals and outcomes for the forthcoming 12 months, which contribute to the gradual achievement of the post-mining land use, closure vision and objectives identified in the holder's final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan;
- c) Establish a plan, schedule and budget for rehabilitation for the forthcoming 12 months;
- d) Identify and address shortcomings experienced in the preceding 12 months of rehabilitation; and
- e) Evaluate and update the cost of rehabilitation for the 12-month period and for closure, for purposes of supplementing the financial provision guarantee or other financial provision instrument

5.1 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF TIMEFRAMES

The annual rehabilitation plan will be applicable for a 12-month period commencing from the date of approval thereof by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. The document will be reviewed during the 11th month of the operative period to ensure the timely submission of the subsequent annual review.

5.2 MONITORING RESULTS

5.2.1 Control of Invasive Alien Vegetation

The permit holder will continuously monitor the mining footprint for the invasion of alien vegetation in accordance with the Invader Plant Species Management Plan of the site (Appendix I of the BAR & EMPR). This practice will continue through-out the site establishment-, operational-, and decommissioning phases of the project.

5.2.2 Noise Monitoring

It is recommended that a qualified occupational hygienist will quarterly monitor and report on the personal noise exposure of the employees working at the mine. Monitoring will be in accordance with SANS 10083:2004 (Edition 5) sampling method as well as NEM:AQA 2004, SANS 10103:2008.

5.2.3 Dust Monitoring

The above-mentioned occupational hygienist will also report on the gravimetric dust levels of the site. Site management must ensure that the dust generating activities at the site comply with the National Dust Control Regulations, GN No R827 promulgated in terms of NEM:AQA, 2004 and ASTM D1739 (SANS 1137:2012).

Dust levels will be controlled through the management processes stipulated in the BAR & EMPR.

5.2.4 Waste Monitoring

Site management will be responsible to monitor the generation of all types of waste at the mining area, including general-, hazardous- and liquid waste. Solid (general) waste, generated during the operational phase, will be contained in sealable refuse bins that will be placed at the office area until the waste is transported to a recognised general waste landfill site. A recognized contractor will service the chemical toilets that will serve as ablution facilities to the employees.

Hazardous waste (such as spills) will be cleaned up immediately (within two hours of the occurrence) and the contaminated soil will be contained in designated hazardous waste containers that will be kept in a bunded area with impermeable surface until it is removed from site by a registered hazardous waste handling contractor to an approved facility.

5.3 SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED

This report is the first Annual Rehabilitation Plan in terms of the Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 that was compiled for the proposed mine. No shortcomings have therefore been identified.

5.4 REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING 12 MONTHS

Not yet applicable as mining has not yet commenced. Upon approval of the mining permit application and receipt of the EA, the permit holder will annually report on the planned rehabilitation actions.

5.5 REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S REHABILITATION ACTIONS

This report is the first Annual Rehabilitation Plan in terms of the Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 that was compiled for the proposed mine. In this circumstance no annual rehabilitation activities have been identified that can be reviewed.

5.6 COSTING

To be determined once the annual rehabilitation objectives were established.

6. REHABILITATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND MINE CLOSURE PLAN

The objective of the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan (According to MPRDA) is to identify a post-mining land use that is feasible through;

- a) Providing the vision, objectives, targets and criteria for final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the project (as described above);
- b) Outlining the design principles for closure;
- c) Explaining the risk assessment approach and outcomes and link closure activities to risk rehabilitation;
- d) Detailing the closure actions that clearly indicate the measures that will be taken to mitigate and/or manage identified risks and describes the nature of residual risks that will need to be monitored and managed post closure;
- e) Committing to a schedule, budget, roles and responsibilities for final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of each relevant activity or item of infrastructure;
- f) Identifying knowledge gaps and how these will be addressed and filled;
- g) Detailing the full closure costs for the life of project at increasing levels of accuracy as the project develops and approaches closure in line with the final land use; and
- h) Outlining monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements.

(Financial provision regulations, 2015 appendix 4)

The following objectives are leading closure indicators, which need to be applied across all the domains, and read in conjunction with the principles, which embody the strategic objectives. The closure plan must address all the areas associated with closing the operations, of which rehabilitation and re-vegetation forms part of a component. The first step in developing the overall mine closure strategy is to identify potential post mining land use options and establish key objectives for closure to be incorporated in the project design.

The preferred post mining land use for the proposed mine is to restore the natural vegetation (where possible). In this context, the primary objectives for the closure of the mining operations are:

- Remove all temporary infrastructure and waste from the mine as per the requirements of this EMPR and of the Provincial Department of Minerals and Resources and Energy.
- Shape and contour disturbed areas in compliance with the EMPR.
- Ensure that permanent changes in topography (due to mining) are sustainable and do not cause erosion or the damming of surface water.
- Make all excavations safe.
- Use the topsoil effectively to promote the re-establishment of vegetation.

- ❖ Ensure that all rehabilitated areas are stable and self-sustaining in terms of vegetation cover.
- ❖ Eradicate all weeds/invaser plant species by intensive management of the mine site.

6.1 CLOSURE STRATEGY GUIDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The overall objective of the closure plan is to minimize adverse environmental impacts associated with the mining activity whilst maximising the future utilisation of the property. The idea therefore, is to leave the mined out areas in a condition that reduces all negative impacts associated with the activity. Significant aspects to be borne in mind in this regard is visibility of the mining scar, re-vegetation of the mining footprint, stability and environmental risk in an old mine environment. The rehabilitated and immediate surroundings must also be free of weeds and alien vegetation.

6.2 DESIGN PRINCIPLES

6.2.1 Excavation

The MP Holder proposed the following regarding the rehabilitation of the mined areas:

- The project entails the strip mining of site alternative 1 over an area currently used as centre pivot lands. If the footprint is apportioned into two strips mining will be start from strip 1 (1ha) working towards strip 2 (0.7ha). Using the existing access road the Applicant could access each strip without the need of driving over rehabilitated areas. The mining depth is estimated between 1.5 - 2m deep.
- The upper 300 mm of the soil of the strip to be mined must be stripped and stockpiled before mining. Topsoil stripping, stockpiling and re-spreading must be done in a systematic way. The mining plan have to be such that topsoil is stockpiled for the minimum possible time.
- The topsoil must be placed on a levelled area, within the mining footprint. No topsoil may be stockpiled in undisturbed areas.
- Topsoil stockpiles must be protected against losses by water and wind erosion. Stockpiles must be positioned so as not to be vulnerable to erosion by wind and water. The establishment of plants (weeds or a cover crop) on the stockpiles will help to prevent erosion.
- Topsoil heaps may not exceed 2m to preserve micro-organisms within the topsoil, which can be lost due to compaction and lack of oxygen.
- The temporary topsoil stockpiles must be kept free of invasive plant species.
- Storm- and runoff water must be diverted around the stockpile area to prevent erosion.

- The stockpiled topsoil must be evenly spread, to a depth of 300 mm, over the rehabilitated area upon closure of the site.
- The permit holder must strive to re-instate topsoil at a time of year when vegetation cover can be established as quickly as possible afterwards, so that erosion of returned topsoil by both rain and wind, before vegetation is established, is minimized. The best time of year is at the end of the rainy season, when there is moisture in the soil for vegetation establishment and the risk of heavy rainfall events is minimal.
- A cover crop must be planted, irrigated and established immediately after spreading of topsoil, to stabilize the soil and protect it from erosion. The cover crop must be fertilized for optimum biomass production, and any soil deficiencies must be corrected, based on a chemical analysis of the re-spread soil. A chemical analysis from an agricultural laboratory will include a recommendation of the appropriate quantities of chemical ameliorants (for example lime, phosphate etc.) that should be applied to optimize the soil chemistry for the relevant crop. It is important that rehabilitation be taken up to the point of cover crop stabilization. Rehabilitation cannot be considered complete until the first cover crop is well established.
- The area should be cropped and fertilized prior to cropping for optimum growth. Any soil chemical deficiencies should be corrected, based on a chemical analysis of the re-spread soil.
- The rehabilitated area must be monitored for erosion, and appropriately stabilized if any erosion occurs for at least 12 months after reinstatement.

6.3 POST-MINING LAND USE

The end objective is for the entire mining area to return to agricultural use (as agreed with the landowner). The closure specific objectives entail progressive rehabilitation of the two strips starting with the 1 ha and ending with 0.7ha.

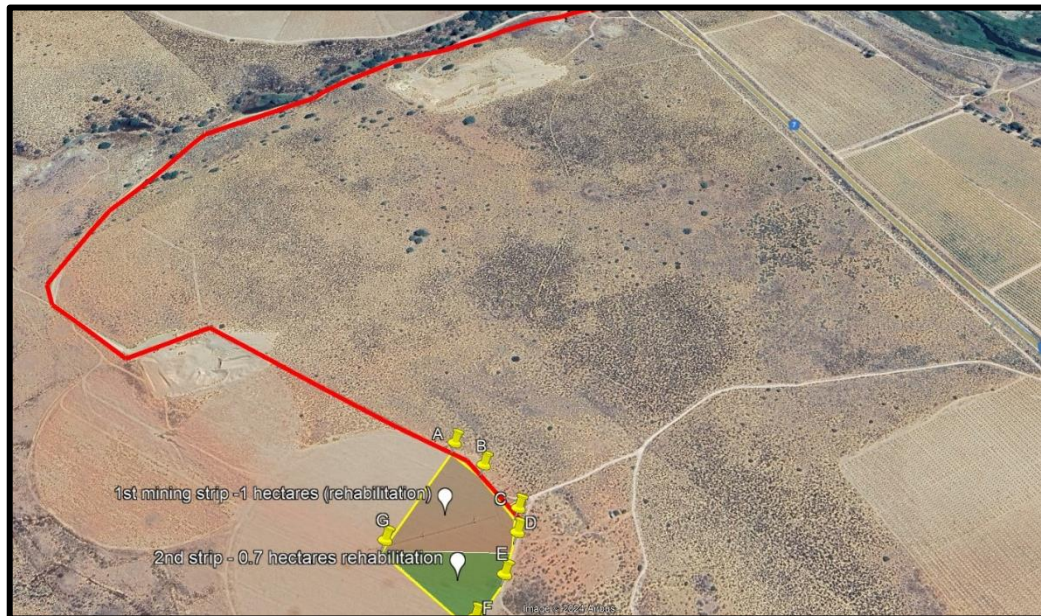


Figure 5: Map showing the proposed strip-mining method of the footprint that will revert back to agricultural land.

6.4 CLOSURE ACTIONS

The closure goals and objectives are to ensure that post-use rehabilitation achieves a stable and functioning landform consistent with the surrounding landscape, other environmental values and agreed land use.

The applicant will comply with the minimum closure objectives as prescribed by the DMRE and detailed below:

6.4.1 Medium Term Rehabilitation

- The mine plan will be such that topsoil is stockpiled for the minimum possible time through rehabilitating each mining block as mining continues.
- To ensure minimum impact on drainage, the applicant will take care not to leave any depressions in the mining floor. A surface slope (even if minimal) will be maintained across the mining floor in the drainage direction, so that all excavations are free draining. The mining depths will be controlled (on the down-slope side of the mine) so that the mining floor remains free-draining and above the low point for drainage out of the mining area.

- After mining, any steep slopes at the edges of excavations will be reduced to a minimum and profiled to blend with the surrounding topography and allow the travel of the centre pivot. The entire surface will be sufficiently smoothed and profiled to allow cultivation and the travel of the centre pivot.
- The stockpiled topsoil will then be evenly spread, to a depth of 300 mm, and smoothed over the entire mining area.
- The Applicant will strive to (when possible) spread topsoil at a time of the year when vegetation cover can be established as quickly as possible afterwards, so that erosion of returned topsoil by both rain and wind, is minimized.
- A cover crop that ties in with the proposed land use will be planted, irrigated and established, immediately after spreading of topsoil to stabilize the soil and protect it from erosion. The cover crop will be fertilised for optimum biomass production, and any soil chemical deficiencies will be corrected, based on a chemical analysis of the re-spread soil.
- The rehabilitated area as well as the land down slope of it will monthly be monitored for erosion, and appropriately stabilized if any erosion occurs.
- The Applicant will ensure monthly monitoring of weeds/invaser plants that may germinated within the rehabilitated area. The invasive plant species management plan (Appendix K) will continually be implemented on site.

6.4.2 Long term Final Rehabilitation

- Final rehabilitation must be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager (DMR). Coarse natural material used for the construction of ramps must be removed and dumped into the excavations.
- Stockpiles must be removed during the decommissioning phase, the area ripped and the topsoil returned to its original depth to provide a growth medium.
- On completion of operations, all structures or objects shall be dealt with in accordance with section 44 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002):
 - Where sites have been rendered devoid of vegetation/grass or where soils have been compacted owing to traffic, the surface shall be scarified or ripped.
 - Areas containing French drains shall be compacted and covered with a final layer of topsoil to a height of 10 cm above the surrounding ground surface.
 - The site shall be seeded with a vegetation seed mix adapted to reflect the local indigenous flora.
- Photographs of the plant, office and service areas, before and during the mining operation and after rehabilitation, shall be taken at selected fixed points and kept on record for the information of the DMRE Regional Manager.
- On completion of mining operations, the surface of these areas, if compacted due to hauling and dumping operations, shall be scarified to a depth of at least 200 mm and graded to an even surface condition. Where applicable/possible topsoil needs to be returned to its original depth over the area.
- The area shall then be fertilized if necessary to allow vegetation to establish rapidly. The site shall be seeded with a local, adapted indigenous seed mix, should natural vegetation not re-establish within 6 months from closure of the site.
- If a reasonable assessment indicates that the re-establishment of vegetation is unacceptably slow, the DMRE Regional Manager may require that the soil be analysed and any deleterious effects on the soil arising from the mining operation be corrected and the area be seeded with a seed mix to his or her specification.

6.4.3 Final rehabilitation:

- Rehabilitation of the surface area shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), maintenance, and clearing of invasive plant species.
- All equipment, plant, and other items used during the mining period must be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).
- Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, must be removed entirely from the mining area and disposed of at a recognized landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.
- The management of invasive plant species must be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities. Species regarded as Category 1a and 1b invasive species in terms of NEM:BA (National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 and regulations applicable thereto) need to be eradicated from the site.
- Final rehabilitation must be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager (DMRE).

6.4.4 Revegetation of Rehabilitated Areas

If necessary, the area can be fertilized to hasten the establishment of flora. Should the site's natural vegetation not grow back within six months of its closure to spread the naturally existent flora in the area, the site could be seeded with a local or adapted indigenous seed mix. This area is seen to have low to medium agricultural potential due to the very sandy soils. Therefore the use of seed mixes should only be done after consultation with a qualified specialist with experience in the area as it might not apply. The use of a commercial seed mix is recommended, and for dryland areas, the seed mix should be less than half the standard sowing rate and include annuals and perennials.

6.4.5 Maintenance and Monitoring

Rehabilitated areas need to be monitored and managed after the initial rehabilitation. The proposed mine's primary tool for maintenance of the rehabilitated area will be monitoring of the reinstated areas until the closure certificate is issued. If areas are identified that are considered unsatisfactory then maintenance may include, but not be limited to:

- Replanting failed or unsatisfactory areas;
- Repairing any erosion problems; and
- Pest and weed control.

6.4.6 Success Criteria and Monitoring

To assess when the rehabilitation and re-vegetation process is complete, the mine will develop a set of completion criteria. These criteria will be reviewed by senior management before being submitted to the regulatory authorities (DMRE) for approval and sign off.

The approved set of completion criteria will be used as a basis for assessing the closure of the mining operations, with the mine required to comply with the specified criteria before the land management can be relinquished. The completion criteria will be reviewed every two years with the closure plan and updated to include findings of the mine rehabilitation research and development program as well as additional requirements of the regulatory authorities.

When selecting completion criteria, consideration must be given to the climatic conditions in the area. Using simple percentage species and percentage cover may not be appropriate, as this is dependent on when the samples are taken. If the baseline was established during a wet year and the assessment undertaken during drought, the criteria will not be met. The rehabilitated and re-vegetated areas will be monitored to determine the progress of the programme. Monitoring is likely to be a combination of methods and may include photographic monitoring, transects and standard plot areas.

6.4.7 Impact Specific Procedures

The table below provides a summary of the impact specific procedures associated with the closure of the mine.

Table 6: Summary of the impact specific procedures

CLOSURE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	ACTION REQUIRED
SOCIO-ECONOMIC		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The retrenchment process will be followed as per requirements of the applicable legal process; and ■ All existing social investments will be phased out over an agreed period with beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Progressive rehabilitation must be implemented if possible as mining progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Any commitments made to I&AP'S will be attended to the relevant I&AP's satisfaction as agreed upon between the I&AP'S and the mine.
TOPOGRAPHY AND EROSION CONTROL		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The area will have contours constructed to prevent soil erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All slopes which may incur erosion will be profiled in such a way that a preferential down drain can be installed; ■ Erosion control measures such as contour banks and cut off berms should be constructed and soil vegetated in rehabilitated areas. On gentle slopes, water will be encouraged to flow off the rehabilitated surface as surface flow, as quickly as possible without causing erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Should it be noted that designs are not being followed, rehabilitation activities will cease and corrective measures will be taken to ensure design specifications are achieved. Specialists will be consulted if necessary; ■ Any pooling will be addressed by filling depression and / or grading areas and re-vegetating such sites; ■ Any erosion will also be addressed utilising contour berms, gabion structures if necessary or a specialist will be consulted if necessary. Any eroded soils will be lifted and returned to the affected area; ■ Any deficiencies will be corrected by placing material in these areas as per the closure plan; ■ Any compacted soils will be ripped or disked and re-vegetated with indigenous flora. Vegetation will then be monitored in these areas; ■ All recommendations made by the specialists will be implemented where deemed appropriate; ■ An alien invasive management program will be implemented for the control and eradication of alien invasive species on site. This plan will give preference to mechanical control methods. Any chemicals utilised will be used responsibly. Where required DWS will be consulted with regards to the use of certain chemicals

CLOSURE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	ACTION REQUIRED
ECOLOGY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The rehabilitated area will be protected from surface disturbance to allow vegetation to establish and stabilise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vegetation in rehabilitated areas will have equivalent values as surrounding natural ecosystems; ■ The rehabilitated ecosystem will have equivalent functions and resilience as the target ecosystem; ■ Soil properties will be appropriate to support the target ecosystem; ■ The rehabilitated areas will provide appropriate habitat for fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Should it be noted that designs are not being followed, rehabilitation activities will be amended to ensure corrective measures will be taken to ensure design specifications are achieved. Specialists will be consulted if necessary; ■ An alien invasive management programme will be implemented for the control and eradication of alien invasive species on site. This plan will give preference to mechanical control methods. Any chemicals utilised must be used responsibly.
LAND USE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To ensure that rehabilitation is done to such an extent that land use potential is regained for agricultural use and associated zoning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Only after the levelled areas have been inspected and approved by the Mine Manager/Site Manager will topsoil be placed to a depth of 0.3 m. The topsoil layer must be as even as possible, i.e. it must be smooth and the depth must remain consistent throughout; ■ Once the topsoil has been replaced, vehicle movement will be restricted to prevent compaction of the topsoil; ■ Rehabilitated areas will be re-vegetated with local indigenous flora as far as possible, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N/A

6.5 CLOSURE SCHEDULE

As explained earlier the Applicant intends progressive rehabilitation of each mined-out strip prior to opening the consecutive strip, thereby minimizing the denuded areas as a result of the mining activity. The Applicant is committed to rehabilitate each strip within the first week after mining of the area is completed.

At this stage it is proposed that the rehabilitation of the mining area will take approximately two months to complete. Rehabilitation will, however, not be considered complete until the first cover crop is well established and therefore the rehabilitation phase will extend over at least a six-month period.

Control of invasive plant species is an important aspect after topsoil replacement and seeding has been completed in an area. Site management will implement an invasive plant species management plan (see Appendix K of the EMPR) during the 12-month aftercare period to address germination of problem plants in the area. Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager

“Section 43(4) Issuing of a closure certificate -

(4) An application for a closure certificate must be made to the Regional Manager in whose region the land in question is situated within 180 days of the occurrence of the lapsing, abandonment, cancellation, cessation, relinquishment or completion contemplated in subsection (3) and must be accompanied by the prescribed environmental risk report.

Table 7: Closure schedule

CLOSURE SCHEDULE	
DECOMMISSIONING / CLOSURE ACTION	TIMEFRAME
EXCAVATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dispose all waste off-site. ■ Replace the stockpiled topsoil over the mined-out area; ■ Landscape and level the area to prevent any depressions and allow for agricultural activities; ■ Seed reinstated area or arrange for planting of relevant cover crop. 	<p>Within 1 week subsequent to area being mined-out</p>

CLOSURE SCHEDULE	
DECOMMISSIONING / CLOSURE ACTION	TIMEFRAME
PLANT, OFFICE AND SERVICE AREAS	
<p><i>Reinstatement of final strip and any other area still in need of rehabilitation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Replace the stockpiled topsoil over the mined-out area; ■ Landscape and level the areas in order to allow for agricultural activities; ■ Seed reinstated area, or arrange for planting of relevant cover crop. 	Week 1-6
MAINTENANCE AND AFTER CARE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Erosion Monitoring ■ Weeds and Invader Plant Control 	Monthly monitoring for 12 months after final rehabilitation of the mining area

6.6 IMPLEMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CLOSURE PLAN

Implementation of the closure plan is ultimately the responsibility of the mining permit holder (Skemervlei Trust). Upon commencement of the closure phase daily compliance monitoring will be the responsibility of the site manager. The site manager will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the guidelines as stipulated in the EMPR as well as the prevention and/or rectification of environmental incidents. The applicant will appoint an Environmental Control Officer to oversee compliance of the rehabilitation/closure activities.

6.6.1 Site Management Responsibility List

- Inspect area for erosion, pooling and/or compaction;
- Monitor any ecologically sensitive species should it be observed on site.

6.6.2 Management of Information and Data

The Closure Plan must include a description of the management strategies, and all information and data relevant to mine closures. These records are valuable during the all phases of mining to provide:

- A history of closure and implementation at the site;
- A history of past developments;
- Information for incorporation into state and national natural resource databases; and
- The potential for improved future land use planning and/or site development.

6.7 IDENTIFIED GAPS IN THE PLAN

The assumptions made in this plan, which relate to the closure objectives and associated impact on the receiving environment, stem from site-specific information gathered by the project team. No gaps in the Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan could be identified.

6.8 RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

The specific rehabilitation outcomes against which the effectiveness of completed rehabilitation must be measured are (*Agricultural Impact Assessment attached as Appendix G to the BAR & EMPR*):

The specific rehabilitation outcomes against which the effectiveness of completed rehabilitation must be measured are:

1. The upper 30 cm of the soil across the entire mining area must be stripped and stockpiled before mining.
2. Topsoil is a valuable and essential resource for rehabilitation, and it should therefore be managed carefully to conserve and maintain it throughout the stockpiling and rehabilitation processes.
3. Topsoil stockpiles should be protected against losses by water and wind erosion. Stockpiles should be positioned so as not to be vulnerable to erosion by wind and water. The establishment of plants (weeds or a cover crop) on the stockpiles will help to prevent erosion. Stockpiles should be no more than 2 metres high.
4. During mining, the outflow of run-off water from the mining excavation must be controlled to prevent any down-slope erosion. This must be done by way of the construction of temporary banks and ditches that will direct run-off water. These should be in place at any points where overflow out of the excavation might occur.
5. To ensure minimum impact on drainage, it is essential that no depressions are left in the mining floor. A surface slope (even if minimal) must be maintained across the mining floor in the drainage direction, so that all excavations are free draining. This means that mining depths will need to be controlled on the down-slope side of the mine, so that the mining floor remains free-draining and above the low point for drainage out of the mining area.
6. It is also important that mining depths are controlled across the entire mine so that excavation results in a levelling of the centre pivot lands rather than a hole with steep edges.

7. After mining, any steep slopes at the edges of excavations, must be reduced to a minimum and profiled to blend with the surrounding topography, and allow the travel of the centre pivot. The entire surface must also be sufficiently smoothed and profiled to allow cultivation and the travel of the centre pivot.
8. The stockpiled topsoil must then be evenly spread, to a depth of 30cm, and smoothed over the entire mining area.
9. The area should be cropped and fertilized prior to cropping for optimum growth. Any soil chemical deficiencies should be corrected, based on a chemical analysis of the re-spread soil.
10. The rehabilitated area must be monitored for erosion, and appropriately stabilised if any erosion occurs.
11. If any alien vegetation is introduced by mining activity it must be removed and on-going alien vegetation control must keep the area free of alien vegetation.

In addition to the above, the following relinquishment criteria is proposed for the closure activities of the mining area:

Table 8: Relinquishment criteria

RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE ACTIVITIES			
CATEGORY	RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA	INDICATORS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Removal of all equipment.	No visible man-made structures should remain.	Closeout inspection by site management upon end of decommissioning phase.	Photographic evidence that infrastructure has been removed.
Soil erosion	Implementation of erosion control measures or the establishment of vegetation in denuded areas.	Engineered structures to control water flow	Proof in final closure report that required structures are in place and functional.
Vegetation	If the natural vegetation does not grow back within 6 months, then seeding of a cover crop after topsoiling is required.	Biodiversity monitoring	Monitoring report
Invader plant management	Continuous management of invader plants until the establishment of the first cover crop.	Biodiversity monitoring	Monitoring report
Land Use	Land capability and productivity similar to that, which existed prior to mining.	Land capability and productivity	Comparison to equivalent areas.

6.9 CLOSURE COST ESTIMATE

Financial provision (Regulation 54 of the MPRDA, 2002) is the amount needed for the rehabilitation of damage caused by the operation, both at sudden closure during the normal operation of the project and at final, planned closure. This amount reflects what it will cost

the Department to rehabilitate the area disturbed in case of liquidation or abscondence. Financial provision for environmental rehabilitation and closure requirements of mining operations forms an integral part of the MPRDA. Section 41 of the MPRDA and Regulations 53 and 54 promulgated in terms of the MPRDA deal with financial provision for mine rehabilitation and closure.

Based on the extent of the current disturbance and by utilising the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy guideline document for calculating financial provision the proposed mine needs to provide a financial provision value of R 80 788.51 (calculated October 2024). Refer to *Part B(1)(f)(i)(e) Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline of the 2024 BAR & EMPR* for an explanation as to how the financial provision amount was calculated.

6.10 MOTIVATION FOR AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE FINAL REHABILITATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND MINE CLOSURE PLAN.

Not applicable as no amendments were made to the Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan.

7. MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING

In compliance with applicable legislation, the mining permit holder will conduct monitoring of the mining activities for the duration of the decommissioning and closure phase. The compliance of the site will be audited, and reporting will be done to the relevant authorities. The table below stipulates the actions to be followed in this regard. Monitoring, auditing and reporting needs to be conducted until mine closure has been approved by the DMRE and the closing certificate obtained.

Table 9: Monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements

MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS			
AUDIT	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FREQUENCY OF AUDIT	CLOSE OUT APPROACH
LEGISLATED AUDITING AND REPORTING			
Environmental Auditing	<u>Internal Review</u>		
	Site manager to ensure compliance with Environmental Management Programme and Closure Plan.	Daily compliance monitoring.	Any non-conformance must immediately be addressed by site management and weekly reported on.
	<u>External Auditing</u>		
	External Environmental Consultant	Annual auditing and reporting to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.	Depending on the significance of the findings, site management has a maximum of four weeks to address and close out auditing results.
Financial Provision Review	Financial Provision Review	Annual review of the financial provision, and reporting of the findings to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.	Should the review of the financial provision indicate a shortfall the holder of the permit would increase the financial provision to meet the audited financial provision within 90 days from the date of the signature.
MONITORING			
Dust Monitoring	Site Management	Daily Dust Monitoring	Site management has a maximum of two weeks to develop and implement a dust management plan should the dust levels increase and such a plan is required by DMRE or the municipality.
Invader Plant Monitoring	Site Management	Annual Monitoring	Site management has a maximum of two weeks to review and implement the invader plant control plan should Category 1a & b plants in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 15 of 1973) and the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014 (amended 2016) germinate on-site.

MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS			
AUDIT	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FREQUENCY OF AUDIT	CLOSE OUT APPROACH
Noise Monitoring	Noise Monitoring Specialist	Quarterly Noise Monitoring	Site management has a maximum of one week to designate additional noise zone where applicable. Hearing protection equipment must be available to employees at all times.

7.1 SCHEDULE FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following table stipulates the reporting requirements and how document updating will be handled:

Table 10: Reporting requirements

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS			
AUDIT	LEGISLATION	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	UPDATE DISCLOSURE
Environmental Auditing	NEMA; EIA Regulations, 2014	Reporting on the environmental compliance of the mining area will be in accordance with Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. The environmental audit report will contain the information set out in Appendix 7 of the said Regulation.	The environmental audit report will indicate the ability of the EMPR and Closure Plan to adequately manage the activity. Should the reports not be sufficient, amendment will be proposed.
Financial Provision Review	NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 25 of 2014) Financial Provision Regulations, 2015	Reporting on the financial provision for closure of the mining area will be in accordance with Section 24P of the NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 25 of 2014) read with the Financial Provision Regulations 2015.	The auditor will report on the adequacy of the financial provision and any adjustments that need to be made to the financial provision.
Health and Safety Auditing	Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996	Reporting on the health and safety compliance of the mining area will be in accordance with the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996.	The safety manager will annually updates the Code of Practices applicable to the site.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

The objective of the environmental risk assessment report is to:

- a) ensure timeous risk reduction through appropriate interventions;
- b) identify and quantify the potential latent environmental risks related to post closure;
- c) detail the approach to managing the risks;
- d) quantify the potential liabilities associated with the management of the risks; and
- e) outline monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements.

(Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 Appendix 4)

8.1 ASSESSMENT PROCESS USED TO IDENTIFY AND QUANTIFY LATENT RISKS

8.1.1 Methodology

The methodology for the assessment of the potential latent risks entailed the use of the following:

DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

Environmental significance:

The concept of significance is at the core of impact identification, evaluation and decision-making. The concept remains largely undefined and there is no international consensus on a single definition. The following common elements are recognised from the various interpretations:

- Environmental significance is a value judgement
- The degree of environmental significance depends on the nature of the risk
- The importance is rated in terms of both biophysical and socio-economic values
- Determining significance involves the amount of change to the environment perceived to be acceptable to affected communities.

Significance can be differentiated into risk magnitude and risk significance. Risk magnitude is the measurable change (i.e. intensity, duration and likelihood). Risk significance is the value placed on the change by different affected parties (i.e. level of acceptability)

The concept of risk has two dimensions, namely the consequence of an event or set of circumstances, and the likelihood of particular consequences being realised (Environment Australia (1999) Environmental Risk Management).

Impact:

The positive or negative effects on human well-being and / or the environment.

Consequence:

The intermediate or final outcome of an event or situation OR it is the result, on the environment, of an event.

Likelihood:

A qualitative term covering both probability and frequency.

Frequency:

The number of occurrences of a defined event in a given time or rate.

Probability:

The likelihood of a specific outcome measured by the ratio of a specific outcome to the total number of possible outcomes.

Environment:

Surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation (ISO 14004, 1996).

Methodology to be used:

The environmental significance assessment methodology is based on the following determination:

Environmental Significance = Overall Consequence x Overall Likelihood

Determination of Overall Consequence:

Consequence analysis is a mixture of quantitative and qualitative information and the outcome can be positive or negative. Several factors can be used to determine consequence. For determining the environmental significance in terms of consequence, the following factors were chosen: Severity/Intensity, Duration and Extent/Spatial Scale. Each factor is assigned a rating of 1 to 5, as described in the tables below.

Determination of Severity / Intensity:

Severity relates to the nature of the event, aspect or impact to the environment and describes how severe the aspects affects the biophysical and socio-economic environment.

The following table will be used to obtain an overall rating for severity, taking into consideration the various criteria.

Table 11: Monitoring Programmes

Type of criteria	Rating				
	1	2	3	4	5
Quantitative	0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
Qualitative	Insignificant / Non-harmful	Small / Potentially harmful	Significant/ Harmful	Great/ Very harmful	Disastrous Extremely harmful
Social/ Community response	Acceptable / I&AP satisfied	Slightly tolerable / Possible objections	Intolerable/ Sporadic complaints	Unacceptable / Widespread complaints	Totally unacceptable / Possible legal action
Irreversibility	Very low cost to mitigate/ High potential to mitigate impacts to level of insignificance/ Easily reversible	Low cost to mitigate	Substantial cost to mitigate/ Potential to mitigate impacts/ Potential to reverse impact	High cost to mitigate	Prohibitive cost to mitigate/ Little or no mechanism to mitigate impact Irreversible
Biophysical (Air quality, water quantity and quality, waste production, fauna and flora)	Insignificant change / deterioration or disturbance	Moderate change / deterioration or disturbance	Significant change / deterioration or disturbance	Very significant change / deterioration or disturbance	Disastrous change / deterioration or disturbance

Determination of Duration

Duration refers to the amount of time that the environment will be affected by the event, risk or impact, if no intervention e.g. remedial action takes place.

Table 12: Rating of duration used in the assessment of potential latent risks

Rating	Description
1	Up to ONE MONTH
2	ONE MONTH to THREE MONTHS (QUARTER)
3	THREE MONTHS to ONE YEAR
4	ONE to TEN YEARS
5	Beyond TEN YEARS

Determination of Extent/Spatial Scale

Extent or spatial scale is the area affected by the event, aspect or impact.

Table 13: Rating of extent / spatial scale used in the assessment of potential latent risks

Rating	Description
1	Immediate, fully contained area
2	Surrounding area
3	Within Business Unit area of responsibility
4	Within the farm/neighboring farm area
5	Regional, National, International

Determination of Overall Consequence

Overall consequence is determined by adding the factors determined above and summarized below, and then dividing the sum by 3.

Table 14: Example of calculating overall consequence in the assessment of potential latent risks

Consequence	Rating
Severity	Example 4
Duration	Example 2

Consequence	Rating
Extent	Example 4
SUBTOTAL	10
TOTAL CONSEQUENCE: (Subtotal divided by 3)	3.3

Determination of Likelihood:

The determination of likelihood is a combination of Frequency and Probability. Each factor is assigned a rating of 1 to 5, as described below and in tables 6 and 7.

Determination of Frequency

Frequency refers to how often the specific activity, related to the event, aspect or impact, is undertaken.

Table 15: Rating of frequency used in the assessment of potential latent risks

Rating	Description
1	Once a year or once/more during operation
2	Once/more in 6 Months
3	Once/more a Month
4	Once/more a Week
5	Daily

Determination of Probability

Probability refers to how often the activity or aspect has an impact on the environment.

Table 16: Rating of probability used in the assessment of potential latent risks

Rating	Description
1	Almost never / almost impossible
2	Very seldom / highly unlikely
3	Infrequent / unlikely / seldom
4	Often / regularly / likely / possible

Rating	Description
5	Daily / highly likely / definitely

Overall Likelihood

Overall likelihood is calculated by adding the factors determined above and summarised below, and then dividing the sum by 2.

Table 17: Example of calculating overall likelihood in the assessment of potential latent risks

Consequence	Rating
Frequency	Example 4
Probability	Example 2
SUBTOTAL	6
TOTAL LIKELIHOOD (Subtotal divided by 2)	3

Determination of Overall Environmental Significance:

The multiplication of overall consequence with overall likelihood will provide the significance of the risk, which is a number that will then fall into a range of **insignificant risk**, **uncertain risk** or **Significant Risk**, as shown in the table below.

Table 18: Determination of overall significance in the assessment of potential latent risks

Significance or Risk	Insignificant risk (cc)	Uncertain risk (bb)	Potential significant risk (aa)
Overall Consequence X Overall Likelihood	1 - 4.9	5 - 9.9	10 – 19.9

Qualitative description or magnitude of Environmental Significance

This description is qualitative and is an indication of the nature or magnitude of the Environmental Significance. It also guides the prioritisations and decision-making process associated with this event, aspect or impact.

Table 19: Description of environmental significance and related action required in the assessment of potential latent risks

Significance	An insignificant risk (cc)	A uncertain risk (bb)	A potential significant risk (aa)
Impact Magnitude	Impact is of very low order and therefore likely to have very little real effect. Acceptable.	Impact is of low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. Acceptable.	Impact is real and substantial in relation to other impacts. Pose a risk to the company. Unacceptable
Action Required	Maintain current management measures. Where possible improve.	Maintain current management measures. Implement monitoring and evaluate to determine potential increase in risk. Where possible improve	Improve management measures to reduce risk.

Based on the above, the significance rating scale has been determined as follows:

- A potential Risk (aa) Risks of a substantial order. Mitigation and / or remedial activity would be feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.
- An uncertain risk (bb) Risk would be negligible. Almost no mitigation and or remedial activity would be needed, and any minor steps, which might be needed, would be easy, cheap and simple.
- An insignificant risk (cc) There would be very small to no risk.

8.1.2 Description of Latent Risks

At this stage, no latent risks that will potentially arise during closure phase of the mining area were identified.

8.1.3 Results and Finding of Risk Assessment

Not applicable as no latent risks were identified.

8.1.4 Changes to the Risk Assessment Results

N/A

8.2 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

No additional management activities are necessary as no latent risks were identified.

8.3 COST ESTIMATE

Not applicable as no latent risks were identified.

8.4 MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

By reason of the fact that no latent risks with regard to the management of the mine were identified, no additional monitoring, auditing or reporting requirements are required at this stage.

9. CONCLUSION

This Closure Plan needs to be followed together with the EMPR and its amendments when it is decided that the end of mining has been reached. This document gives the necessary information when planning the rehabilitation of the mine together with the cost associated with the rehabilitation.

Skemervlei Trusts, pledges to provide all necessary resources to guarantee that the rehabilitation of the mine is carried out in a manner that will be deemed acceptable by all parties.

10. SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Murchellin Saal		4 October 2024

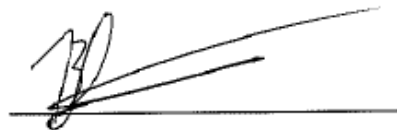
11. UNDERTAKING BY PERMIT HOLDER

I, Tobias Gerhardus Smit the undersigned and duly authorised thereto by
Skemervlei Trust that Skemervlei Trust will
comply with the provisions of the MPRDA and its Regulations as set out in Government Gazette no.
26275 (23 April 2004), as well as NEMA.

I have studied and understand the contents of this document and duly undertake to adhere to the
conditions as set out therein, unless specifically or otherwise agreed to in writing.

Signed at Clanwilliam on this 08/10/2024

FINAL DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED



Name: Tobias Gerhardus Smit

Designation: Verteenwoordiger: Skemervlei Trust

12. REFERENCES

- Chamber of Mines of South Africa, 1981. Guidelines for the rehabilitation of land disturbed by surface product mining in South Africa, Johannesburg
- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, 2003. Draft: A practical procedure for the identification and delineation of wetlands and riparian areas, Pretoria
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Integrated Environmental Management Information Series: Impacts Significance
- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) (2007b) Best Practice Guideline A4: Pollution control dams. The Government Printer, Pretoria