



**Public Participation Report for the proposed
prospecting right for coal, Pseudocoal and
Torbanite/Oil Shale on Isihlenheni 689,
Demoina 830, Weltevrede 540, Misty Valley
831, Toovernaars Rust 518, situated in the
Magisterial District of Vryheid, Kwazulu-Natal.**

DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER: KZN

30/5/1/1/2/11498 PR

Prepared for

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd



Document Detail

Project Number:	NIA02	Authority Reference:	KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948PR
Report Title:	Public Participation Report for the proposed prospecting right for coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale on Isihlenheni 689, Demoina 830, Weltevrede 540, Misty Valley 831, Toovernaars Rust 518, situated in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Kwazulu-Natal. Temvelo reference Number NIA02, DMRE Reference Number 30/5/1/1/2/11498 PR		
Project Name:	Environmental Impact Assessment for Environmental Authorisation application subject to Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Prospecting right for Coal, Pseudo-coal, and Torbanite/Oil Shale by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd.		
Client Name:	Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd		
EAP:	Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd		

Document History

Revision	EAP/Author	Reviewed By	Date of Issue	Comments
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Specialist Declaration form for assessments undertaken for application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

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Declaration by the Specialist

I Nolwazi Dlamini, as duly authorised representative of Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd, hereby confirm my independence and declare that I:

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I am aware of the procedures and requirements for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998, as amended, when applying for environmental authorisation which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;

- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing:
 - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and;
 - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA Act.

Signature of the Specialist:	
Name of Specialist	Nolwazi Dlamini
Name of Company:	Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Date:	August 2025

Declaration by the Specialist

I, Legion Mazibuko, as duly authorised representative of Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd, hereby confirm my independence and declare that I:


- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I am aware of the procedures and requirements for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998, as amended, when applying for environmental authorisation which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;

- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing:
 - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and;
 - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA Act.

Signature of the Specialist:	<i>L. Mazibuko.</i>
Name of Specialist	Legion Mazibuko
Name of Company:	Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Date:	August 2025

Undertaking under Oath/Affirmation

I Nolwazi Dlamini, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.

Signature of the Specialist:	
Name of Specialist	Nolwazi Dlamini
Name of Company:	Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Date:	August 2025



Undertaking under Oath/Affirmation

I Legion Mazibuko, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.

Signature of the Specialist:	<i>L. Mazibuko.</i>
Name of Specialist	Legion Mazibuko
Name of Company:	Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Date:	August 2025

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Acronym/Abbreviation	Meaning
BID	Background Information Document
CRR	Comments and Response Report
DMPR	Department of Mineral and Resources
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GN	Government Notice
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
PR	Prospecting Right
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NEM:WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)
PPP	Public Participation Process
POPIA	Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013)

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Applicant	The individual or legal entity applying for environmental authorisation or regulatory approval for a proposed development. In this case, Transkei Quarries (Pty) Ltd.
Background Information Document (BID)	A non-technical summary document prepared by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to inform stakeholders about the proposed project, its potential impacts, and opportunities to participate.
Comments and Response Report (CRR)	A formal document compiled as part of the PPP, listing all comments received from I&APs and authorities, along with the applicant's or EAP's responses to those comments.
Competent Authority	The government department legally responsible for considering and making decisions on environmental authorisation applications. For mining-related applications, this is the DMRE.
Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources	The authority responsible for regulating mineral resources and energy in South Africa, including mining rights and associated environmental authorisations.
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	The national authority responsible for the management and regulation of South Africa's water resources under the <i>National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)</i> .
Environmental Authorisation (EA)	A decision issued by the competent authority in terms of the <i>National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)</i> , granting or refusing permission for a listed activity.
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	An independent person or organisation with the required qualifications and experience, responsible for managing the environmental authorisation process and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

Term	Definition
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A process required under NEMA for assessing the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of proposed developments before a decision is made.
Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)	A legally binding plan describing mitigation measures, monitoring programmes, and management actions to avoid, minimise, or rehabilitate environmental impacts resulting from the project.
Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)	All individuals, organisations, authorities, and communities that may be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed development or have an interest in its outcome.
Prospecting Right (PR)	A right granted in terms of the <i>Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)</i> , allowing a company to legally conduct prospecting activities over a specific area.
Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA)	South African legislation governing the granting, regulation, and management of mineral and petroleum resource rights.
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)	South Africa's principal environmental legislation, providing a framework for sustainable development, environmental management, and public participation in decision-making.
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA)	Legislation regulating the management, handling, treatment, and disposal of waste in South Africa.
Public Participation Process (PPP)	A legally mandated process ensuring that I&APs are informed of, consulted about, and can contribute to environmental decision-making processes affecting them.
Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA)	Legislation that regulates the collection, storage, and handling of personal information to protect individuals' privacy rights.

Executive Summary

1 Introduction

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd is applying for a Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the exploration of coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil shale. The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; and Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518. The proposed prospecting area is located within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the Zululand District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, covering a total area of approximately 15 hectares. The project area is situated approximately 3 km south of Ngenetseni and about 23 km south of Louwsburg.

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd has appointed Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The proposed prospecting activities will include both non-invasive and invasive techniques. The planned invasive activities will entail the drilling of boreholes to obtain sub-surface geological samples for analysis.

A total of approximately 10–15 boreholes are proposed, with each borehole expected to disturb a small surface footprint. The precise location of these boreholes will be determined following the completion of a desktop study, field mapping, and geophysical surveys. The boreholes will be strategically located within the designated 15-hectare prospecting area to ensure minimal environmental impact and to provide representative sampling across the application area.

The aim of drilling is to determine the presence, depth, thickness, and quality of the targeted mineral formations. Borehole drilling will be undertaken using rotary core drilling rigs and associated equipment, with support by small trucks and mobile water tanks. Drilling will be performed by a qualified drilling contractor in compliance with relevant safety and environmental standards.

The prospecting programme will be executed over four (4) phases within a total period of 60 months (five years). The prospecting right may be renewed for an additional three (3) years if the programme is not completed within the initial term.

The proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed in Listing Notice 1 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), and therefore a Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of Government Notice

Regulation (GNR) 982 (as amended) is required. The environmental impacts of the proposed activities were assessed by identifying environmental aspects and conducting an environmental sensitivity analysis to determine significant issues. The environmental impact assessment covers all project phases, including site establishment, drilling operations, rehabilitation, and closure. A structured impact rating system was applied to evaluate the potential environmental effects and the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

2 Purpose of this Report

This Public Participation Process (PPP) Report has been compiled as part of the Prospecting Right Application (PRA) in terms of Section 16 of the of the MPRDA by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The purpose of this report is to document and demonstrate compliance with the legal requirements for stakeholder engagement, as prescribed in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Specifically, Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) under NEMA which prescribes the requirements for conducting public participation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The primary objectives of this report are to:

- Provide a transparent account of the PPP followed throughout the PRA process;
- Demonstrate how Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were identified, notified, and afforded an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the decision-making process;
- Document all engagement methods and communication efforts, including advertisements, distribution of project materials, and public notices;
- Summarise key issues, concerns, and inputs received from stakeholders, and show how these were considered in the development of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR)
- Ensure alignment with the principles of inclusive and meaningful participation as outlined in NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), specifically the promotion of transparency, accountability, and stakeholder empowerment in environmental decision-making;
- Support the Final PRA submission to the Department Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) by providing evidence of procedural fairness and legal compliance with public engagement requirements.

This Report forms an essential part of the PRA package and will assist the relevant authorities in evaluating the extent to which public views have been considered in the planning and design of the proposed project.

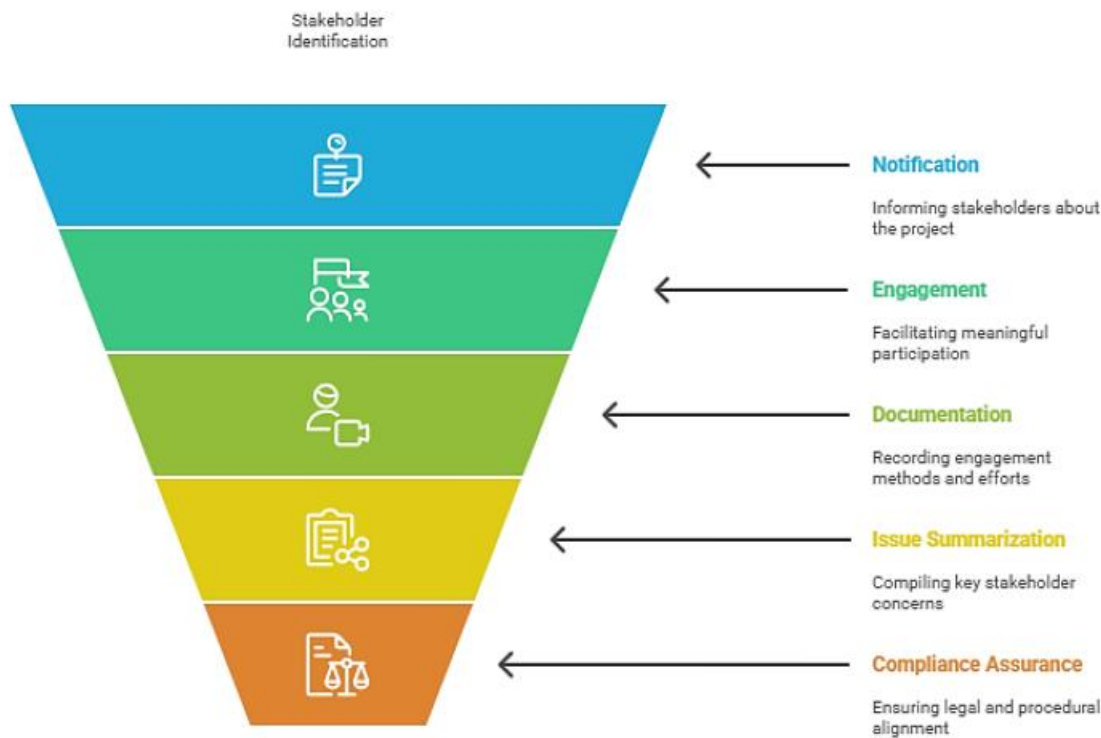


Figure 2-1: Public Participation Process Funnel

3 Objectives of the Public Participation Process

The PPP objectives are crucial for ensuring transparent, inclusive, and democratic decision-making, especially in the context of environmental impact assessments and other regulatory processes. Listed below are the primary objectives:

- **Inclusivity and Representation:** Ensure that all stakeholders, including affected communities, interest groups, and the general public, have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. This includes marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- **Transparency:** Provide clear, accessible, and timely information to the public about proposed projects, policies, or decisions, allowing stakeholders to make informed contributions.
- **Accountability:** Hold decision-makers accountable by ensuring that public input is considered and incorporated into the final decisions. This helps build trust between the public and the authorities.

- **Conflict Resolution:** Identify and address potential conflicts and concerns early in the decision-making process to prevent disputes and promote social harmony.
- **Improved Decision-Making:** Enhance the quality and legitimacy of decisions by incorporating diverse perspectives, local knowledge, and stakeholder concerns. This leads to more sustainable and acceptable outcomes.
- **Compliance with Legislation:** Fulfil legal and regulatory requirements for public participation as stipulated in various South African laws, such as the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).
- **Education and Awareness:** Increase public awareness and understanding of the proposed projects, policies, or decisions and their potential impacts. This empowers communities to engage meaningfully in the process.
- **Empowerment:** Empower communities by giving them a voice in the decision-making process, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards local development and environmental management.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Provide a structured process for receiving, acknowledging, and responding to public feedback, ensuring that concerns and suggestions are addressed appropriately.
- **Social and Environmental Justice:** Promote equitable outcomes by ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders, particularly those most affected, are heard and considered in the decision-making process.

By achieving these objectives, the PPP in South Africa aims to foster a more democratic, transparent, and inclusive society, where the needs and concerns of all stakeholders are respected and integrated into the planning and development processes.

Comply with the legal requirements;

- Inform and consult stakeholders regarding the proposed project;
- Provide stakeholders with accurate project information;
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the process and provide comment;
- Verify that stakeholder comments will be recorded.

3.1 Project Need and Desirability

3.1.1 Need for the Proposed Prospecting Activities

The proposed prospecting activities by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd are crucial for the exploration of coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil shale. The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518. The proposed prospecting area is located within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the Zululand District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, covering a total area of approximately ~15 hectares.

The primary need for the proposed prospecting is to:

- Determine the extent and quality of the coal resource in the area to assess the feasibility of future coal extraction and mining operations. This is essential to enable informed decision-making for potential development of coal mining projects in the region.
- Support national energy security by identifying new coal resources that can be used for power generation. The continued availability of coal as an energy source is vital for the South African energy sector, contributing to base-load electricity generation and ensuring stable energy supply.
- Stimulate local and regional economic development by providing information that may lead to future mining operations, creating job opportunities, boosting the local economy, and attracting investments into the region. The exploration activities themselves will create temporary employment during the prospecting phase, with the potential for further job creation should mining operations commence.

The prospecting activities are in line with national and regional development objectives, including the South African government's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, which emphasize sustainable resource utilization and industrial development.

3.1.2 Desirability of the Proposed Prospecting Activities

The proposed prospecting activities are desirable for several reasons, including:

- **Contributing to resource optimization:** The exploration of coal resources will allow for better management and optimization of South Africa's mineral resources. By identifying and assessing untapped coal deposits, the project could contribute to increasing the lifespan of the local and national coal industry, supporting economic growth and providing employment opportunities.

- **Enhancing energy security and stability:** As coal continues to play a critical role in South Africa's energy mix, discovering and assessing new coal deposits can help maintain energy stability, reduce reliance on energy imports, and improve long-term energy security for the country.
- **Addressing socio-economic needs:** The project offers opportunities for job creation, skills development, and local procurement during the prospecting phase. Should the prospecting results be favorable, the transition to full-scale mining could generate additional employment and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Abaqulusi Local Municipality and surrounding areas.
- **Compliance with national policies:** The proposed prospecting activities are consistent with South Africa's Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and the country's broader objectives for mineral resource development, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. By following a structured process for obtaining environmental authorisation and conducting prospecting activities in compliance with all relevant legislation, Niara Minerals is committed to conducting responsible and sustainable exploration.
- **Environmental management and mitigation:** While the project involves earthworks and land disturbance, the prospecting activities are designed to minimize environmental impact. Rehabilitation measures will be implemented throughout the process, ensuring that any disturbances are temporary and the area is restored to its original state following the completion of prospecting. The activities will be conducted with due consideration of all applicable environmental regulations and best practices to minimize long-term ecological impacts.

4 Locality

The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; and Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518. The proposed prospecting area is located within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the Zululand District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, covering a total area of approximately 15 hectares. The project area is situated approximately 3 km south of Ngenetseni and about 23 km south of Louwsburg. See Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-2 for project locality and affected farms.

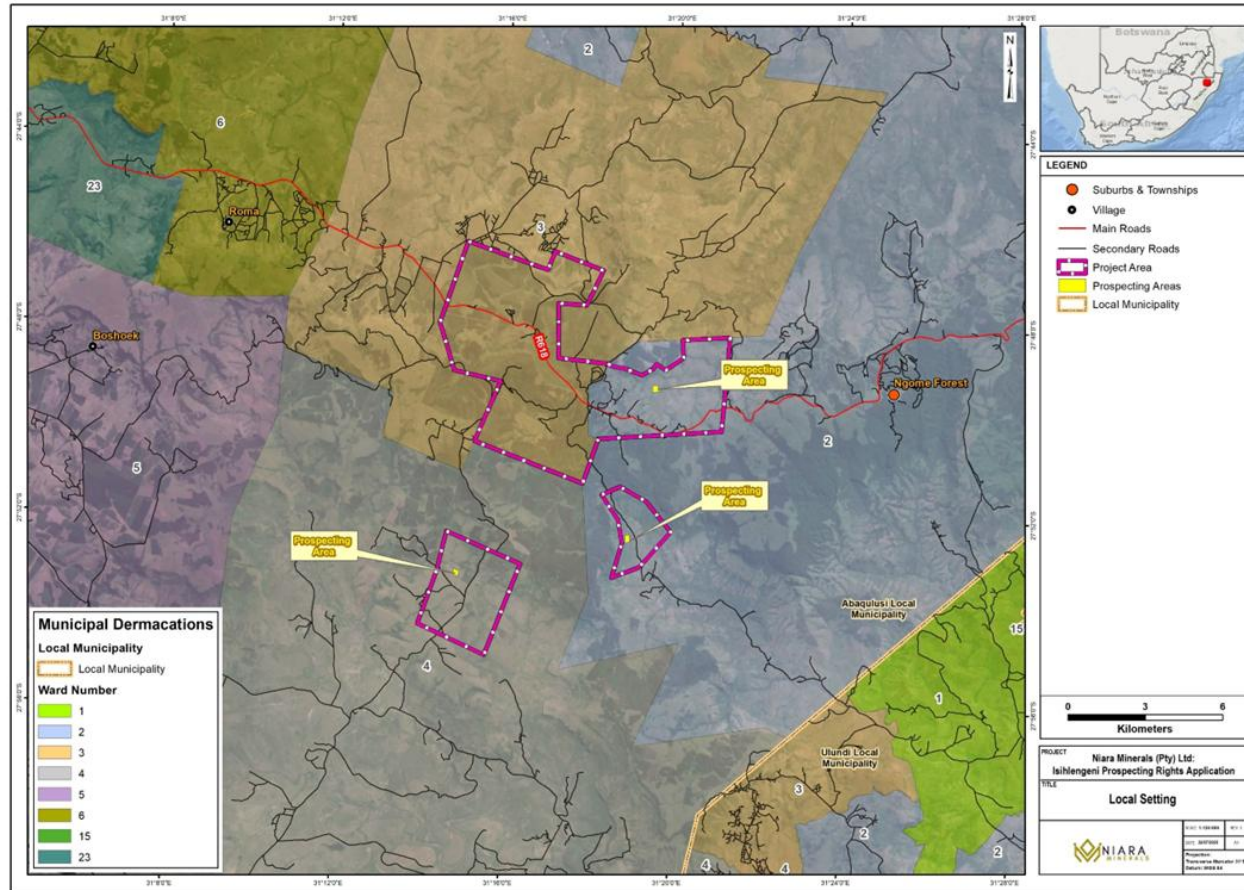


Figure 4-1: Locality Map

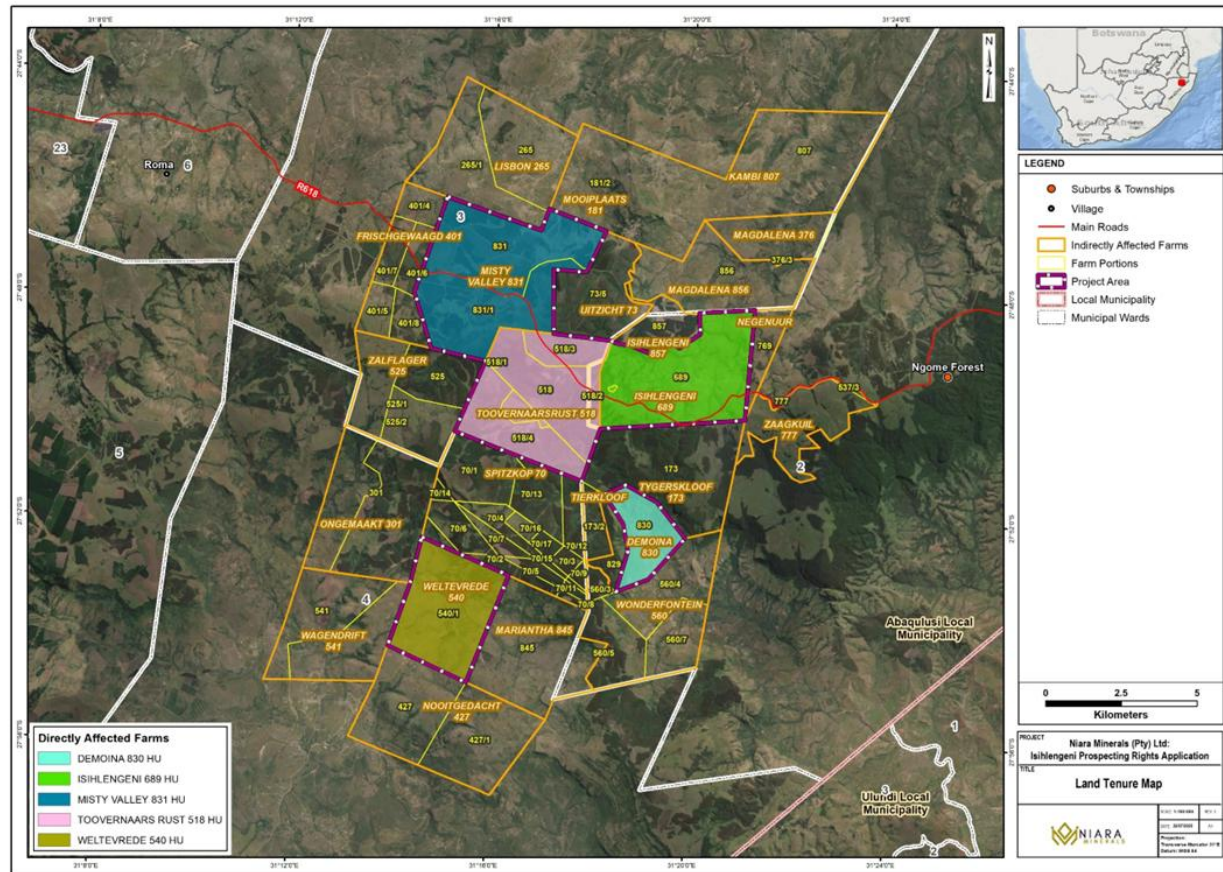


Figure 4-2 :Affected farms

5 Details and Expertise of Specialist

Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd is a multidisciplinary environmental consultancy with a proven track record in delivering high-quality environmental services across South Africa. Established in 2019, the firm has developed a strong reputation for its technical competence, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder sensitivity, particularly within the mining, energy, and infrastructure development sectors.

Temvelo offers a full suite of services aligned with national legislation, including Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Basic Assessments (BAs), Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs), Water Use Licence Applications (WULAs), environmental compliance monitoring, and specialist coordination. The firm’s leadership includes SACNASP-registered professionals and EAPASA-affiliated practitioners who bring both academic rigour and practical experience to every project.

Temvelo’s approach is rooted in environmental ethics, sustainability, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. As the appointed independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for this project, Temvelo is committed to upholding the integrity of the environmental authorisation process by applying objective scientific methods, legislative alignment, and transparent community consultation. Their growing portfolio of successfully authorised applications—especially in rural and environmentally sensitive areas—demonstrates their capacity to deliver technically sound and socially responsive environmental solutions.

Table 5-1 :Details of the EAP

Company name:	Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd
Contact person:	Legion Mazibuko
Physical address:	138 summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204
Telephone:	+27 63 585 2145
Email:	info@temveloconsultants.co.za

5.1 Expertise of the EAP

Legion Mazibuko is an experienced Environmental Consultant and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist with over six years of progressive experience in the environmental consulting sector. Her expertise lies in the execution and coordination of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), environmental authorisation processes, environmental audits, project management, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of Environmental Management Programmes (EMPs). She has demonstrated competency in compliance monitoring

and facilitating public participation processes in accordance with applicable environmental legislation and regulatory frameworks.

In her current role as an Environmental Consultant at Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd, Ms Mazibuko plays an integral part in coordinating and executing environmental assessments, ensuring adherence to the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and associated regulations. She has a sound understanding of environmental governance and the practical application of regulatory instruments across a range of development sectors, including mining, infrastructure, and utilities.

Ms Mazibuko brings strong GIS technical capabilities, with experience in managing spatial data acquisition, editing geodatabases, mapping analysis, and spatial modelling. She is proficient in leading GIS-driven environmental assessments and has developed and maintained GIS infrastructure to support informed environmental decision-making. Her technical proficiency includes ESRI’s ArcGIS Suite (ArcMap 10.5/10.6, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Earth), ArcGIS Online tools (Collector, Survey123, Operations Dashboard), as well as open-source platforms such as Quantum GIS. She has also delivered GIS training and provided ongoing support for mapping and geospatial analysis in environmental projects.

Throughout her career, Ms Mazibuko has developed a robust foundation in both environmental assessment and spatial analysis, contributing to the delivery of high-quality environmental reports, stakeholder-inclusive planning processes, and GIS-supported decision tools. Her multidisciplinary skill set makes her a valuable contributor to integrated environmental management and sustainable development practices.

5.2 The qualifications of the EAP (with evidence as Appendix 1)

This section describes the EAP's qualifications and experience for the proposed Project. Appendix A contains the EAPs' curriculum vitae and degrees.

Name	Nolwazi Dlamini
QAULIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSocSc. (Geography and Environmental Management) University of KwaZulu Natal (2020); • Bsc Hons. (Geography) University of Witwatersrand (2021)
RESPONSIBILITY ON PROJECT	Report Compiler
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA Reg : 2022/5249)
EXPERIENCE	3 + years
Name	Legion Mazibuko

QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc. Hons (Geography) University of South Africa (2020) • Certificate in Geoinformatics. (GIS) University of Johannesburg (2016) • BA. (Environmental Management) University of South Africa (2015)
Responsibility on Project	Report Reviewer
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA Reg 2022/4687)
EXPERIENCE	8 years

6 Project Description

The proposed prospecting activities by Niara Minerals will be undertaken in several phases, commencing with site establishment, followed by access road preparation, borehole drilling and sampling, and concluding with rehabilitation and environmental management. The total application area measures approximately 15 hectares and has been carefully selected to support the project's resource exploration goals while minimising environmental and social impacts. Each activity within the prospecting programme has been designed to align with applicable national legislation, including the NEMA, and the MPRDA.

6.1 Site Establishment

The initial phase of the project will involve the limited clearing of vegetation at selected borehole locations to create access routes and designated operational zones. These clearings will be undertaken using a bulldozer or similarly light machinery, and only the minimum footprint necessary for drilling will be disturbed. Temporary infrastructure will be established to support the drilling operations, which may include equipment laydown areas, mobile site offices or control points, portable sanitation facilities, and water storage tanks. All site establishment activities will be executed in a manner that avoids unnecessary disturbance to vegetation, soil, and drainage patterns, with due regard for environmental sensitivity and safety.

6.2 Access Road Preparation

To the greatest extent possible, the project will make use of existing access roads to reduce the need for new surface disturbances. However, where new access routes are deemed unavoidable, they will be carefully planned based on the findings of environmental sensitivity assessments to avoid ecologically significant habitats and protected areas. Where constructed, new access roads will be developed in accordance with best environmental practices. These include the implementation of erosion control measures, adequate drainage systems, and

minimal soil compaction. The objective is to ensure that access infrastructure facilitates prospecting activities while maintaining the ecological integrity of the surrounding landscape.

6.3 Borehole Drilling and Sampling

The core activity of the project involves the drilling of between 10 and 15 boreholes across the application area. Each borehole site will require a working area of approximately 500 square metres (25 m x 20 m) to accommodate the drill rig, support vehicles, containment facilities for drill cuttings, and operational safety zones. The cumulative disturbed area resulting from borehole drilling is expected to be between 0.5 and 0.75 hectares. The boreholes may reach depths of up to 120 metres, depending on local geological conditions, and will be drilled using rotary core rigs to retrieve continuous core samples for geological analysis.

To maintain borehole integrity and prevent the contamination of groundwater aquifers, casing and grouting will be applied as necessary. Water required for drilling activities will either be sourced from local supply points or transported via mobile water tanks. The volume and use of water will be carefully monitored to avoid wastage, spillage, or over-abstraction, in line with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). Drill cuttings and wastewater will be managed in lined containment pits or tanks and disposed of in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008). Final borehole locations will be confirmed following desktop geological analysis, field mapping, and non-invasive geophysical surveys to ensure optimal resource targeting while minimising environmental disturbance.

6.4 Environmental Management and Rehabilitation

All prospecting activities will be carried out in accordance with the environmental principles and duty of care obligations set out in NEMA and the MPRDA. Environmental management during the operational phase will be governed by applicable legal frameworks, including Sections 38 and 41 of the MPRDA, which mandate the duty to prevent environmental degradation and make financial provision for rehabilitation. In addition, the Waste Act will guide the management of drilling residues and other solid or liquid waste materials, while the National Water Act will inform the management of surface and groundwater resources.

Rehabilitation of disturbed areas will commence as soon as prospecting activities at a particular site are concluded. All boreholes will be properly sealed and decommissioned using appropriate grouting or capping techniques to prevent contamination or safety risks. Temporary infrastructure will be dismantled and removed, and disturbed surfaces will be reshaped where necessary to restore original land contours. Topsoil previously stockpiled during site clearance will be reapplied to promote soil recovery, and locally adapted indigenous vegetation will be introduced to facilitate ecological restoration.

Erosion control measures will be employed to stabilise soils, especially on sloped or disturbed terrain, and progressive rehabilitation will be prioritised throughout the life of the project rather than deferred until closure. A dedicated rehabilitation monitoring programme will be implemented to assess the success of restoration efforts and to identify and implement corrective measures where rehabilitation objectives are not being achieved. This adaptive approach ensures that environmental performance is maintained at a high standard and that ecological function is restored as close to baseline conditions as possible.

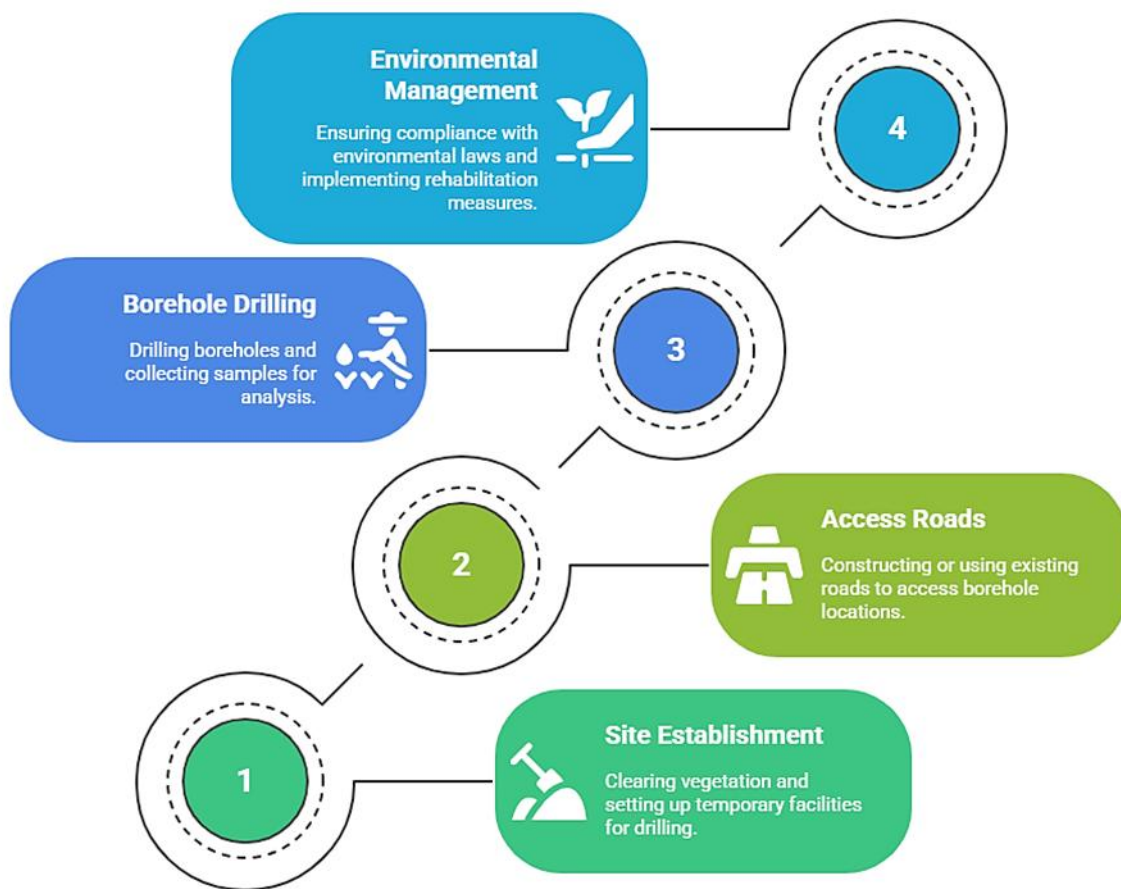


Figure 6-1 : Prospecting Right Application Project Execution Phases

7 Legislative and Policy Framework

The Public Participation Process (PPP) for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the DBAR for the proposed prospecting right is a fair administrative processes and decision legislative requirement undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated under National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (as amended).

7.1 National Legislative Framework

7.1.1 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) provides the overarching legislative framework for environmental management in South Africa. It establishes the principles of sustainable development and mandates a participatory approach to environmental governance.

Specifically, Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) under NEMA prescribes the requirements for conducting public participation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. These requirements include:

- Identification and notification of I&APs.
- Placement of site notices and newspaper advertisements.
- Provision of access to relevant project information.
- Recording and consideration of stakeholder comments in the decision-making process.
- Compilation of a CRR.
- The PPP ensures compliance with NEMA's objectives by fostering transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in environmental decision-making.

7.1.2 Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)

The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) regulates prospecting rights and the development of mineral resources in South Africa. In terms of Section 16 of the MPRDA:

- Public consultation is required as part of applications for prospecting rights
- The Act emphasises the need for consultation with communities and landowners potentially affected by mining activities.

7.1.3 Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013)

The Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA) regulates the lawful collection, processing, storage, and sharing of personal information in South Africa. As part of the Public Participation Process (PPP), Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd, acting as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner collects personal information from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) including, but not limited to:

- Names, contact details, identity numbers (where provided voluntarily), addresses, and opinions submitted as part of the CRR.

In accordance with the requirements of POPIA:

- Personal information collected during the PPP is gathered strictly for the purpose of facilitating stakeholder engagement as required under National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and related environmental authorisation processes.
- Stakeholder information is stored securely and is not shared or disclosed to third parties beyond regulatory authorities, the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner, and the applicant, unless required by law.
- Registered I&APs have the right to request access to, correction, or deletion of their personal information in line with the rights afforded under POPIA.
- Where required, explicit consent is obtained from I&APs when collecting sensitive personal information.

The POPIA compliance measures ensure that stakeholder rights to privacy and information protection are upheld while ensuring full transparency and accountability as part of the environmental and social authorisation processes.

8 Public Participation Process

The Public Participation Process (PPP) offers stakeholders a fair opportunity to be informed about the Proposed Project, to raise issues of concern and to make suggestions for enhanced project benefits. This PPP is being undertaken to ensure compliance with the environmental Authorisation process.

Public participation is the involvement of all parties who are either potentially interested or affected by a proposed development. The principal objective of public participation is to inform and enrich decision-making. Public participation plays a key role in the Environmental Impact Assessment process where it informs the public of the proposed activity and invites people to register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) and provide any comment or information that may be of use during the environmental impact assessment. The role of public participation during the BA phase is to allow the registered I&APs to comment on the DBAR before submission to the relevant decision-making authority. This allows I&APs to evaluate whether their concerns will be appropriately addressed.

One of the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Section 23(2)(d) of NEMA is to “ensure adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment”. An inadequate and non-transparent PPP has the potential to provide a negative decision and perception regarding the proposed project. The EIA Regulations (2010) places a lot of emphasis on the public participation process and will be revised to contain comprehensive guidelines to involve the public in the EIA process. The primary aims of the public participation process include:

- Meaningful and timeous participation of I&APs;
- Identification of issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs with regards to the proposed development, i.e. focus on important issues;
- Promotion of transparency and an understanding of the proposed project and its potential environmental (social and biophysical) impacts;
- Accountability for information used for decision-making;
- Serving as a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs;
- Assisting in identifying potential environmental (social and biophysical) impacts associated with the proposed development; and
- Inclusivity (the needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process).

8.1 Details of the Public Participation Process Followed

Notice of the PPP to review and comment on the DBAR has been given by the following:

- An Advertisement was placed in the local newspaper namely: Northern Natal newspaper on 12 June 2025, to notify I&APs of the proposed project and methods to register and to submit comments within 30 days regarding the Draft BAR
- Site notices informing I&APs of the application were placed at the strategic location (R618 route that traverse the project site, Hamu high school and SAPS Ngome police station and other public places) on 21 June 2025;
- Written notice and Background Information Document (BID) providing a description of the proposed development were emailed and hand delivered to I&APs, including neighbours, competent authority and other relevant Government departments on 19 June 2025; and a revised written notice as well as BID on 1 August 2025;

- A copy of the initial DBAR was placed on Temvelo consultants Website: www.Temveloconsultants.co.za under “downloads” on 19 June 2025; and a revised DBAR on 1 August 2025;
- Letters notifying were emailed to stakeholders of the release of the DBAR for the public participation period (19 July 2025 to 18 July 2025) on 19 June 2025. Stakeholders were also emailed regarding the release of the Revised DBAR for the public participation period (1 August 2025 to 14 August 2025) on 1 August 2025;
- The initial DBAR was emailed to State organs for review and comments on 19 June 2025;
- The initial DBAR has been distributed for 30-days to registered I&APs and organs of state. All comments raised by I&APs during the initial review of the initial DBAR were captured in the Comments Response Report (CRR) and will be addressed within the Revised BAR; and all comments to be received during the public review of the revised DBAR will also be captured in the CRR and addressed within the Final BAR which will then be submitted to the DMRE for decision-making;
- Several meetings were held with stakeholders and I&APs as follows:
 - Khambi Tribal Council (Tribal Authority): 21 June 2025.
 - Public Meeting: 25 June 2025.
 - Impumelelo Community Trust_Trustees (Landowner):28 June 2025.
 - Ogwini Community Trust_Trustees (Landowner): 14 July 2025.
 - Ogwini Community Trust members and the public: (Landowner): 26 July 2025.

8.2 Summary of Issues Raised by I&APs

During the PPP of initial DBAR, a range of concerns were raised by I&APs, including members of the local community, landowners, and key stakeholders such as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. A summary of the key issues raised is provided below:

Impacts on Livelihoods and Employment

- I&APs expressed interest in whether local residents would be prioritised for employment should the prospecting project proceed.
- Concerns were raised that the project may disrupt existing livelihoods, particularly where communities engage in subsistence farming or livestock grazing.

Land Ownership

- Queries were raised regarding the process of obtaining landowner consent for access.
- Some I&APs inquired whether landowners would be compensated or relocated in the event that the project progresses to a mining phase.

Protected Areas

- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife expressed concern regarding the proximity of the proposed project area (portion 431) to the Ntendeka Wilderness Protected Area, which is a declared protected area under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act No. 57 of 2003).
- The potential for future mining to undermine the ecological integrity and conservation value of the protected area was highlighted.

Biodiversity Sensitivities

- The application area was noted to fall within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) classified as *Irreplaceable* and *Optimal*.
- Concerns were raised about possible habitat fragmentation, species disturbance, and disruption to ecological processes.

Threatened Ecosystems

- The site lies within the Ngome Mistbelt Grassland and Forest, which is a nationally listed **Threatened Ecosystem**.
- Ezemvelo emphasised the importance of avoiding degradation to this sensitive ecological area, which supports unique biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Response and Revisions to the BAR

- All issues raised by I&APs, including those submitted by Ezemvelo on 22 July 2025, have been duly considered and addressed. The DBAR has been revised accordingly to incorporate:
- Updated sensitivity mapping, including proximity to the Ntendeka Wilderness Protected Area and delineated Critical Biodiversity Areas;
- Reference to findings from the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment (Arid Cactus Consulting, 2025), which identifies site-specific mitigation measures;
- Clarification of land access and consultation procedures with landowners;

- Inclusion of recommendations to prioritise local employment and limit disturbance to existing livelihoods;
- Updated impact mitigation, management, and monitoring measures aligned with Ezemvelo’s biodiversity guidelines and the National Environmental Screening Tool.
- The revised DBAR and EMPr reflect these updates and will form the basis for ongoing stakeholder engagement and decision-making under the relevant environmental legislation.

9 Approach and Methodology

The PPP activities for the proposed Project is informed by an iterative approach that ensures that all stakeholders are adequately consulted throughout the environmental regulatory process. The overall approach to the PPP is outlined in the table below.

Table 9-1: Approach to the PPP

Activity	Details
Stakeholder identification	Identify individuals/organizations that might be affected by the proposed project or those who might have an interest in the project.
Distribution of project announcement materials.	Distribute/Publish project announcement materials i.e. BID, newspaper advertisements and site notices, notification letters and the DBAR to obtain comments and record in the CRR
Availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR), the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)	<p>The DBAR/ EMPr has been made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days.</p> <p>Obtain comments from stakeholders and provide adequate responses to stakeholders’ comments/concerns. All comments received were recorded in the CRR.</p> <p>The DBAR and EMPr has been made available on Temvelo Consultants website under “downloads”.</p> <p>Commenting authorities were emailed electronic copy of the reports for their review and comments.</p>

Activity	Details
Submission of the DBAR and EMPr to the relevant Competent Authority.	The DBAR and EMPr will be updated accordingly with stakeholder comments. The updated report will then be submitted to the Competent Authority on the for evaluation and decision making.
Public meetings	Structured presentations about the overall project description, potential impacts, mitigation measures, available engagement methods.
Authority review and response	Once the competent authority has come to a decision regarding the authorisation of the project, all registered stakeholders will be notified of the decision made and the appeal process will be explained.

To ensure that meaningful stakeholder engagement is conducted, a range of stakeholder engagement methods were be considered, please refer to Table 9-2. The following aspects have been taken into consideration as part of the Public Participation Plan for the proposed project:

- Literacy and Language:** Project information has been communicated in such a way that stakeholders clearly understand the project, potential impacts, and mitigation measures and how they can become involved in the project. Documentation has been provided in both English and Isi-zulu, however on Literacy levels have been taken into consideration when engaging with stakeholders;
- Connectivity:** limited mobile phone usage and internet connectivity can make electronic communication more challenging in some contexts. Stakeholders with no access to the internet will be provided with cd copies of the reports and a simplified summary of the overall project will be printed and distributed if requested;
- Vulnerable people:** vulnerable project stakeholders may be harder to reach using non-traditional engagement methods such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Skype. Accordingly, attention has been paid to ensuring that an engagement strategy deploys approaches that specifically target these groups. Engagement with vulnerable groups comprised of telephone discussions, engagement with community leaders or elected community representatives to disseminate project information and encourage the involvement of vulnerable groups;
- Anonymity and risks of reprisal:** It is noted that the transparency of online engagement platforms can increase the risk of reprisals, as such, a wide range of engagement channels were made available for stakeholders to raise questions, concerns or complaints and have these addressed appropriately, securely and/or anonymously.

Table 9-2: Methods of engagement with stakeholders

Proposed Method	Description	Engagement Content
<p>Background Information Document</p>	<p>A BID has been compiled and distributed in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By email; • Mailed, this will be done upon request. <p>See appendix 3A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project description; • Project locality; • Applicable listed activities; • The BAR and PPP to be followed; • Availability of the DBAR/EMPr for public review and comment; • How stakeholders can register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) • How stakeholders can access the report and available engagement opportunities; • Contact details of the EAP
<p>Publish newspaper advertisement</p>	<p>A newspaper advertisement has been published in a local newspaper, Northern Natal News</p> <p>See appendix 3C</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project description; • Project locality; • Applicable listed activities; • Availability of the DBAR/EMPr for public review and comment; • How stakeholders can register as I&APs • How stakeholders can access the report and available engagement opportunities • Contact details of the EAP
<p>Posters/Site notices</p>	<p>Site notices have been placed in public places near the project site, R618 route to the project site, local school and other public places</p> <p>See appendix 3D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project description; • Project locality; • Applicable listed activities; • Availability of the draft BAR/EMPr for public review and comment; • How stakeholders can register as I&APs • How stakeholders can access the report and available engagement opportunities • Contact details of the EAP
<p>Text-based messaging</p>	<p>Text-based messaging was used to communicate with stakeholders who do not have access to emails or internet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief project information; • Invitation to register as an I&AP and preferred method of engagement; • Project progress.

Proposed Method	Description	Engagement Content
	connections. This method was also used to notify stakeholders about project progress/updates and milestones.	
Email campaigns	On-going emails have been sent to stakeholders to notify them about the project progress/milestones. See Appendix 3I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project description; • Project locality; • Applicable listed activities; • Availability of the DBAR/EMPr for public review and comment; • How stakeholders can register as I&APs • How stakeholders can access the report and available engagement opportunities • Contact details of the EAP • Time frames
Engagement through community representatives	This method was used as a vehicle to share project information with the broader community, vulnerable groups, and stakeholders with no access to an internet connection. See Appendix 3G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project description; • Project locality; • Applicable listed activities; • Availability of the DBAR/EMPr for public review and comment; • How stakeholders can register as I&APs • How stakeholders can access the report and available engagement opportunities • Contact details of the EAP • Time frames
Public engagements	Public participation meetings See Appendix 3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured presentations about the overall project description, potential impacts, mitigation measures, available engagement methods.

9.1 Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders who might be affected by the proposed project or who might have an interest in the project were identified by means of Windeed searches, telephonic consultations, network referrals, land claims query and those that requested to be registered to participate in the proposed project. It is also important to understand

how each stakeholder may be affected or perceives they may be affected so that engagement can be tailored to inform them and address their views and concerns in an appropriate manner. Details of individual stakeholders are compiled in a stakeholder register which has been updated throughout the regulatory process.

Stakeholders identified who are affected by or interested in the Proposed Project are grouped into the following broad categories:

- All sectors of Government: National, Provincial, District and Local Authorities;
- Relevant Organs of State;
- Traditional authorities
- Directly or indirectly affected landowners;
- Directly or indirectly affected land occupiers;
- Surrounding communities;
- Agriculture and Water Associations;
- Environmental Forums;
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs): Environmental organisations, community-based organisations;

9.2 Distribution of Project Announcement Materials

The project team compiled project information materials such as BIDs, newspaper advertisements and site notices. The section below, provides details of the project information materials that were distributed and published.

- BID
- Newspaper advertisement
- Site notices
- Notification letter
- Public Meeting

9.3 Site Notices

Site notices informing I&APs of the application were placed at the strategic location on 21 June 2025; around the proposed prospecting area in accordance with Regulation 41(2)(a), (3), and (4) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Published under Government Notice R982 in Government Gazette 38282 of 4 December 2014 (as amended).

Site notices were printed in English and Isi-Zulu languages along the project route and other public places:

- Hamu Local School
- R618 route that traverse the project site
- SAPS Ngome Police Station
- Sign board directing to Khambi Tribal Council

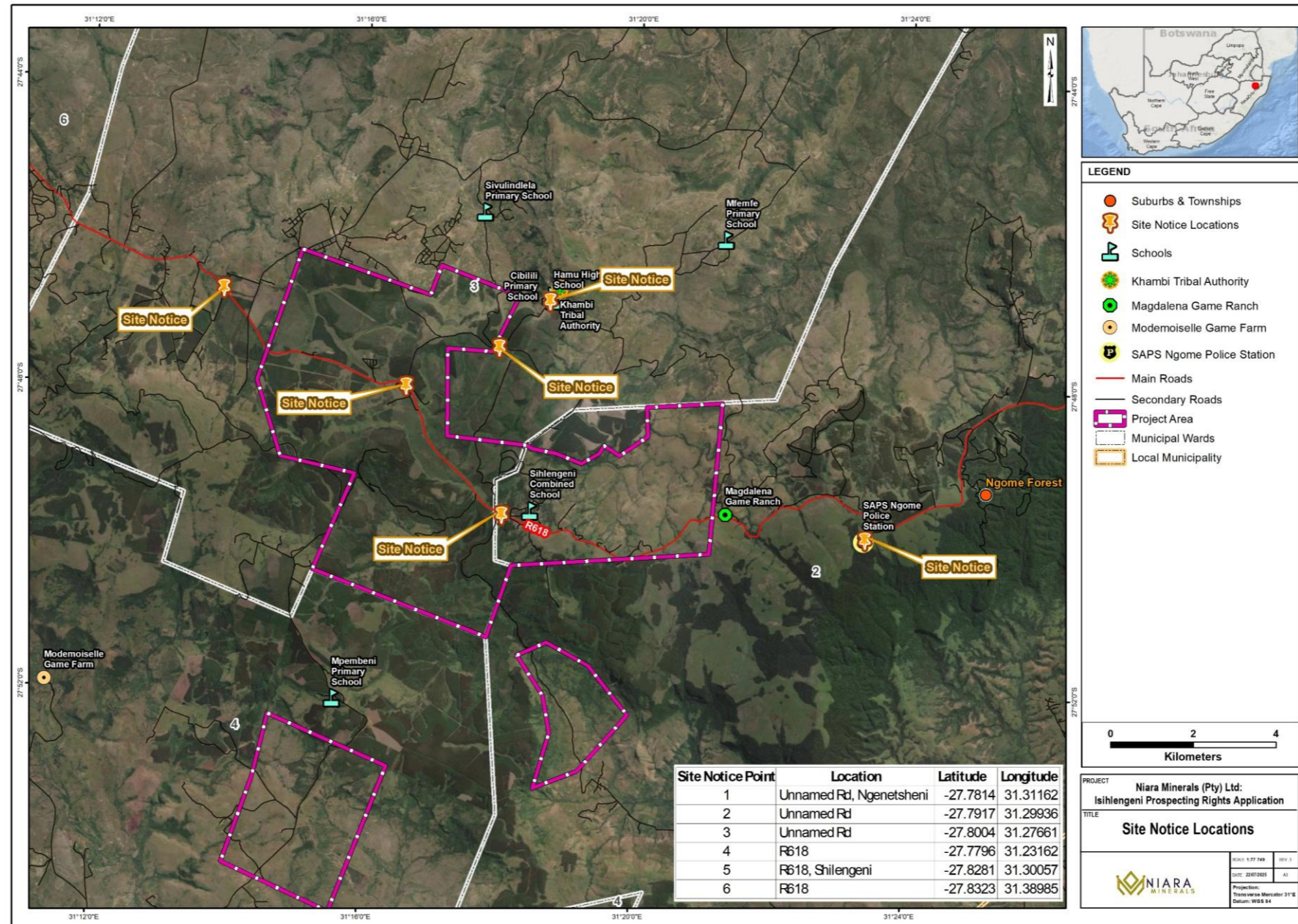
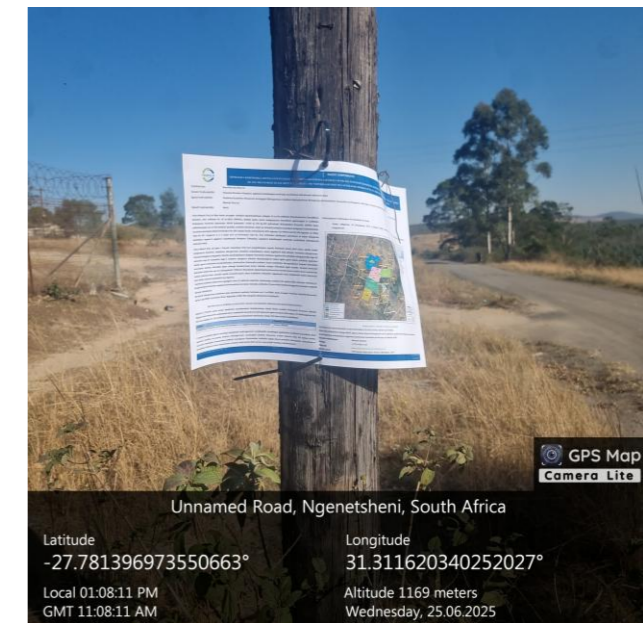
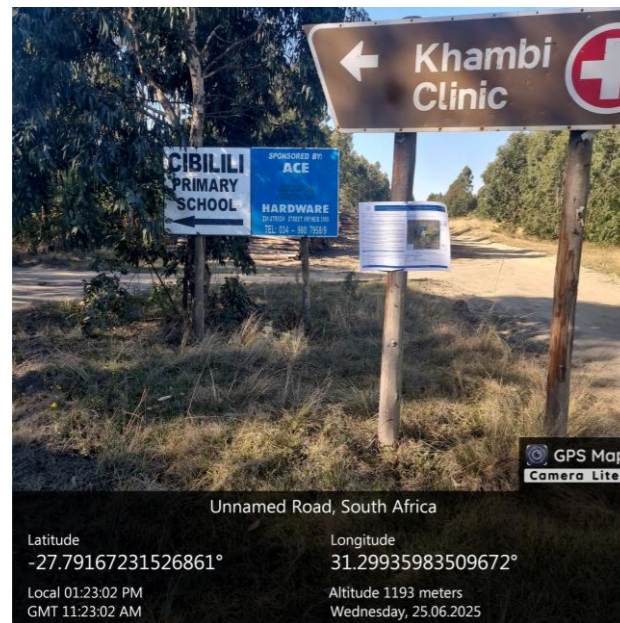


Figure 9-1 : Map Showing Site Notice Locations in relation to project boundary

Table 9-3: Photographic Evidence of Placed Site Notices



9.4 Public meeting

The purpose of the meetings was to inform and engage with stakeholders and members of the public regarding the Prospecting Right application submitted by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The aim was to present details of the proposed prospecting activities and provide a platform for stakeholders to raise concerns, seek clarifications, and offer input. Key stakeholders who will be directly/indirectly affected by the project were identified, these included Khambi Tribal Council, Ogwini Community Trust_Trustees, Impumelelo Community Trust_Trustees and public meetings were held as follows (see appendix Task 3G and 3H)

- Khambi Tribal Council: 21 June 2025.
- Public Meeting: 25 June 2025.
- Impumelelo Community Trust_Trustees (Landowner):28 June 2025.
- Ogwini Community Trust_Trustees (Landowner): 14 July 2025.
- Ogwini Community Trust members and the public: 26 July 2025

5.5 Availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR), the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for public review and comment

To satisfy the requirements of Regulations 40 through 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), I&APs were sent notification letters. These letters served to inform the I&APs of the proposed Project, the associated Environmental Authorisation process and the availability of the Draft BAR/ EMPr for public review.

The DBAR /EMPr has been made available for public review and comment for 30 days public review period 19 June 2025 until 18 July 2025 and revised DBAR/EMPR from 1 August 2025 until 14 August 2025 at the following locations:

Location	Contact person
Temvelo website: www.temveloconsultants.co.za under 'Downloads'	Ms Nolwazi Dlamini 063 585 2145

The Project team ensured to put measures in place to obtain comments from stakeholders and provide adequate responses to stakeholders' comments/concerns. All relevant Commenting Authorities were sent electronic copies of the Final Reports for their review and comments. All comments received will be recorded in the CRR.

9.5 Submission of the Final BAR and EMPr to the relevant Competent Authority

The final BAR and EMPr will be updated accordingly with stakeholder comments. The updated report will be submitted to the Competent Authority for evaluation and decision making. To ensure transparency, both the Draft and the updated/final BAR and EMPr submitted to the Competent Authorities will also be made available on Temvelo Consultant's website, under the 'downloads' tab.

9.6 Authority Review and Response

Once the competent authority has come to a decision regarding the authorisation of the project, all registered stakeholders will be notified of the decision made and the appeal process to be followed.

9.7 Stakeholder Reviews and Comments

All comments raised by stakeholders by completion of the comments sheet, in person communication during the Focus Group Meetings, or via email, WhatsApp and telephone will be captured in the Comment and Response Report (CRR) and was closely considered and addressed.

10 Conclusion

The PPP has been undertaken to ensure meaningful and adequate stakeholder engagement commenced on 19 June 2025 to 18 July 2025 for a period of 30 days and a revised DBAR period from 1 August 2025 to 14 August 2025. The PPP included identification of stakeholders and I&APs through winded searches, telephone, network referrals and those that requested to be registered to participate in the proposed project. Materials to notify IAPs such as follows:

- BID was distributed on 19 June 2025 and a revision on 1 August 2025;
- Newspaper advert was placed on the local newspaper Northern Natal News on 12 June 2025;
- A3 Site notices were fixed within the project site and surrounding areas in both English and Isi-Zulu languages on 21 June 2024 at the following locations :
 - Hamu Local School
 - R618 route that traverse the project site
 - SAPS Ngome Police Station
- The initial DBAR/EMPR on was placed on Temvelo Consultants website under www.temveloconsultants.co.za "downloads" on 19 June 2025 and a revision on 1 August 2025;

- Various meetings held with identified stakeholders and I&APs including Khambi Tribal council, landowners (Ogwini community trust_trustees and Impumelelo community trust_trustees and the public meetings were held as follows;
 - Khambi Tribal Council: 21 June 2025.
 - Public Meeting: 25 June 2025.
 - Impumelelo Community Trust_Trustees (Landowner):28 June 2025.
 - Ogwini Community Trust_Trustees (Landowner): 14 July 2025.
 - Ogwini Community Trust_Trustees and the public on the 26th of July 2025

All comments received during the PPP are addressed and incorporated in the CRR which will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy adjudication and decision-making.



Appendix 3A: Background Information Document



30 July 2025

REVISED BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS OF FARMS INCLUDING ISIHLENGENI NO. 689, DEMOINA NO. 830, WELTEVREDE NO.540, MISTY VALLEY NO. 831 AND TOOVERNAARS RUST NO.518, FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR

1 Project Background

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Prospecting Right in accordance with Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), It also triggers Environmental Authorisation application in terms of section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and its associated EIA Regulations to explore coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil in respect of various portions of farms namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina No. 830; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540;

2 Purpose of this Document

This Background Information Document (BID) introduces all stakeholders to the Environmental Authorisation application process for the Proposed prospecting right.

Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518, in the Magisterial District of Vryheid.

The area covers an extent of 6820.32 ha however prospecting activities will be confined to a 15ha extent, within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the Zululand District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province. Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for the environmental authorisation process.

The BID serves as an initial point of engagement with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), ensuring that relevant information is made available at an early stage of the environmental authorisation process. It aims to promote transparency, facilitate



meaningful public participation, and invite comments, questions, or concerns that stakeholders may have regarding the proposed development. By doing so, the BID supports informed decision-making and helps identify any site-specific issues or community insights that should be considered during the Environmental Authorisation (EA) processes. This BID also aims to provide I&APs with an understanding of the required Environmental Authorisation Application Process to be undertaken as well as to provide stakeholders with the following information:

- Project overview;
- Locality of the Project Area;
- Legal Framework and Environmental Regulatory Process to be followed;
- How stakeholders can be involved in the Project through the Public Participation Process:

3 Locality

Farm: Isihlengeni, Demoina, Weltevrede, Misty Valley, Toovernaars Rust.

Closest town: Nganetseni

District Municipality: Zululand District Municipality.

Local Municipality: Abaqulusi Local Municipality.

- Availability of the Draft BAR for public review and comment;
- How to access the Reports;
- Invitation to Stakeholder Engagement Meetings;
- How the public can register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs);
- Enclosed with this document is the Comments and Registration form - you are kindly requested to complete the Comments and Registration form. This is to ensure that we record your comments and register you as an I&AP. This will ensure that you receive up-to-date and relevant information regarding the Project.

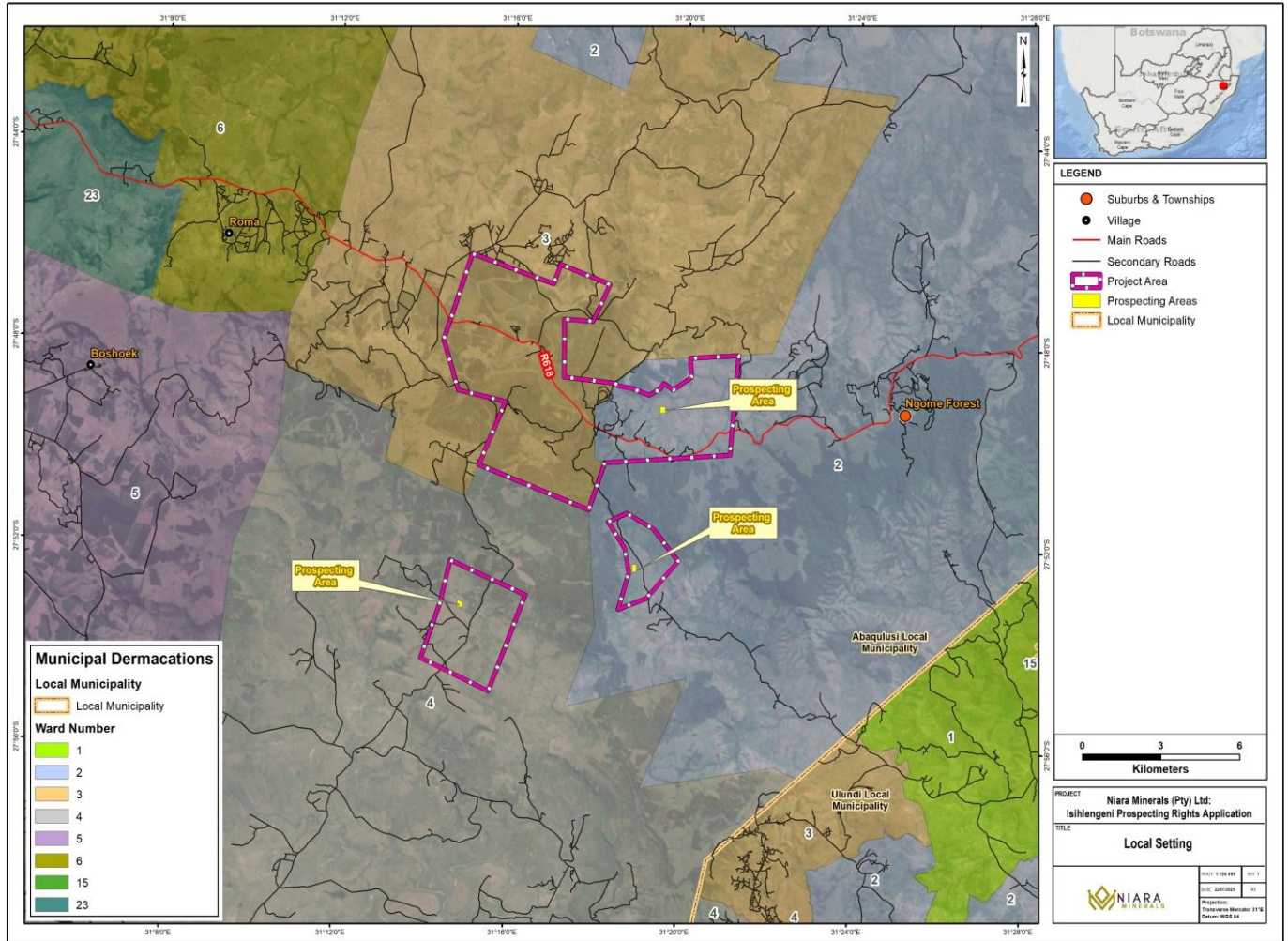


Figure 1: Project Locality



4 Project Description

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd is applying for a Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the exploration of coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil shale. The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; and Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518. The proposed prospecting area is located within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the Amajuba District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, covering a total area of approximately 15 hectares. The project area is situated approximately 3 km south of Ngenetseni and about 23 km south of Louwsburg.

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd has appointed Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The proposed prospecting activities will include both non-invasive and invasive techniques. The planned invasive activities will entail the drilling of boreholes to obtain sub-surface geological samples for analysis.

A total of approximately 10–15 boreholes are proposed, with each borehole expected to

disturb a small surface footprint. The precise location of these boreholes will be determined following the completion of a desktop study, field mapping, and geophysical surveys. The boreholes will be strategically located within the designated 15- hectare prospecting area to ensure minimal environmental impact and to provide representative sampling across the application area.

The aim of drilling is to determine the presence, depth, thickness, and quality of the targeted mineral formations. Borehole drilling will be undertaken using rotary core drilling rigs and associated equipment, with support by small trucks and mobile water tanks. Drilling will be performed by a qualified drilling contractor in compliance with relevant safety and environmental standards.

The prospecting programme will be executed over four (4) phases within a total period of 60 months (five years). The prospecting right may be renewed for an additional three (3) years if the programme is not completed within the initial term.

The proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed in Listing Notice 1 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), and therefore a Basic Assessment



process in terms of Government Notice Regulation

(GNR) 982 (as amended) is required. The environmental impacts of the proposed activities were assessed by identifying environmental aspects and conducting an environmental sensitivity analysis to determine significant issues. The environmental impact assessment covers all project phases, including site establishment, drilling operations, rehabilitation, and closure. A structured impact rating system was applied to evaluate the potential environmental effects and the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

5 Project activities

The project will be executed in phases, comprising the following key activities:

5.1 Site Establishment

- Limited clearing of vegetation will be conducted to create access routes and establish operational zones at borehole locations.
- A bulldozer or equivalent light machinery will be used to clear the minimum footprint necessary for drilling.
- Temporary facilities may include:
 - Equipment laydown areas
 - Portable sanitation units
 - Temporary water storage tanks

- A mobile site office or control point if needed

5.2 Access Roads

- Existing access roads will be used wherever possible to limit additional surface disturbance.
- Where new access routes are unavoidable, they will be sited based on environmental sensitivity assessments to avoid ecologically sensitive or protected areas.
- New roads, if required, will be constructed using best environmental practices, including erosion control, proper drainage, and minimal compaction

5.3 Borehole Drilling and Sampling

- Approximately 10 to 15 boreholes will be drilled within the prospecting area.
- Each borehole site will require a disturbance footprint of approximately 25 m × 20 m (500 m²), including space for the rig, support vehicles, drill cuttings containment, and operational safety zones.
- The total disturbed area from boreholes is estimated at 0.5 to 0.75 hectares, with the remainder of the 15-hectare area allocated for access and support infrastructure.

- Boreholes may reach depths of up to 120 meters, depending on geological conditions.
- Drilling will utilise rotary core rigs to obtain continuous core samples.
- Borehole casing and grouting will be applied where necessary to maintain borehole integrity and prevent aquifer contamination.
- Water for drilling will be sourced locally or supplied via mobile tanks. Water use will be monitored to avoid overuse or spillage.
- Drill cuttings and wastewater will be managed in lined pits or tanks and disposed of per the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008).
- Borehole locations will be finalised after desktop and field studies to optimise resource targeting and minimise environmental impact.

5.4 Environmental Management and Rehabilitation

- All prospecting activities will comply with the **National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)** and its associated **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations**.

- Environmental management will be guided by the following legal frameworks:
 - **MPRDA, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)** – specifically Sections 38 and 41 requiring environmental protection and financial provision for rehabilitation.
 - **NEMA: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)** – in relation to proper handling and disposal of drilling waste.
 - **National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)** – to safeguard water resources from pollution and over-extraction during operations.

Rehabilitation will include:

- **Sealing and decommissioning of all boreholes**, using appropriate grouting or capping methods to prevent contamination or future hazards.
- **Removal of all equipment and temporary infrastructure**, and **reshaping** of disturbed ground where necessary.
- **Reapplication of topsoil**, followed by **revegetation using locally adapted, indigenous species** to encourage ecological restoration.

- **Erosion control measures** to stabilise soil in disturbed areas.
- **Progressive rehabilitation** will be carried out throughout the project where feasible, rather than only at closure.
- A **rehabilitation monitoring programme** will be implemented, with corrective actions taken if rehabilitation targets are not achieved.

6 Legislative Framework

Prospecting right is in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(as amended) and it triggers the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Listing notice 1 (GN R. 983) of the National Environmental management Act, 1998 (NEMA)(as amended) read together with Environmental Impact Assessment, 2014 (as amended). The proposed project is anticipated to further trigger regulated activities contained in above mentioned legislation as well as the following:

- National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)
- National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
- National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) (if applicable based on vegetation types)

7 Draft Basic Assessment Report

The proposed project triggers listed activities of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GN R 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended by GN R 326 of 7 April 2017) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The project triggers Activities found in Listing Notice 1 and therefore, requires a Basic Assessment Process to be undertaken and approval received prior to the prospecting activities. This process requires a comprehensive public consultation process. In terms of the listed activities, a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and the associated Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be undertaken in support of the EA.

An EMPr, in the context of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), is a tool that takes a project from a high-level consideration of issues down to detailed workable mitigation or management measures that can be implemented in a cohesive and controlled manner. The objectives of an EMPr are to minimise disturbance to the environment, present mitigation measures for identified impacts, maximise potential environmental benefit and assign responsibility for actions to ensure that the pre-determined aims are met. An EMPr will be drafted according to the findings of the Basic Assessment Reports.

8 Approach to the Basic Assessment Study

The Basic Assessment process will be conducted in 6 phases namely:

- Phase 1: Project Inception;
- Phase 2: Public Participation;
- Phase 3: Authority Review and Decision;
- Phase 4: Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) including Public Participation;
- Phase 5: Authority Review and Decision;
- Phase 6: Notification of I&APs of Decision and Appeal Process.

9 Public Participation Process

The Public Participation Process (PPP) offers stakeholders a fair opportunity to be informed about the Proposed Project, to raise issues of concern and to make suggestions for enhanced project benefits. This PPP is being undertaken to ensure compliance with the environmental Authorisation process.

Public participation is the involvement of all parties who are either potentially interested or affected by a proposed development. The principal objective of public participation is to inform and enrich decision-making. Public participation plays a key role in the Environmental Impact Assessment process where it informs the public of the proposed activity and invites people to register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) and provide any comment or information that may be of use during the environmental impact assessment. The role of public participation during the BA phase is to allow the registered I&APs to comment on the Draft BA Report before submission to the relevant decision-making authority. This allows I&APs to evaluate whether their concerns will be appropriately addressed.

One of the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Section 23(2)(d) of NEMA is to “ensure adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment”. An inadequate and non-transparent public participation process (PPP) has the potential to provide a negative decision and perception regarding the proposed project. The EIA Regulations (2010) places a lot of emphasis on the public participation process and will be revised to contain comprehensive guidelines to involve the public in the EIA process. The primary aims of the public participation process include:

- Meaningful and timeous participation of interested and affected parties (I&APs);
- Identification of issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs with regards to the proposed development, i.e. focus on important issues;
- Promotion of transparency and an understanding of the proposed project and its potential environmental (social and biophysical) impacts;
- Accountability for information used for decision-making;
- Serving as a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs;
- Assisting in identifying potential environmental (social and biophysical) impacts associated with the proposed development; and
- Inclusivity (the needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process).

10 Availability of the Report

To satisfy the requirements of Regulations 40 through 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), I&APs were sent notification letters. These letters served to inform the I&APs of the proposed Project, the associated Environmental Authorisation process and the availability of the Draft BAR/ EMPr for public review.

The Draft BAR and the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) has been made available for public review and comment for 30 days public review period 19-June-2025 until 18-July-2025 and 30 July 2025 until 14 July 2025 at the following locations:



Location	Contact person
Temvelo website: www.temveloconsultants.co.za under 'Downloads'	Ms Nolwazi Dlamini 063 585 2145

The Project team ensured to put measures in place to obtain comments from stakeholders and provide adequate responses to stakeholders' comments/concerns. All relevant Commenting Authorities will be sent electronic copies of the Final Reports for their review and comments. All comments received will be recorded in the CRR.

11 Your Responsibility

In terms of section 2(4)(f) "The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured" As Interested and Affected Parties (IAP), you have the legal right to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. If you are aware of the proposed prospecting project, you should do the following to participate:

- Register as an I&AP using the contact details provided in the I&AP comment form. You can also contact the EAP to be added to the database
- I&AP who have trouble understanding English or reading and writing should request a Zulu version of the BID/DBAR or support in understanding the project.
- Comment on the DBAR report to be incorporated in the Comment Response Report to be submitted to the competent authority for consideration;
- You can appeal if you are against the decision of the CA.

12 Comments and Queries

Your comments/ inputs regarding the proposed Project are valuable. For your convenience, a registration and/or comment sheet is appended to this document. Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP, to obtain additional information or comment on the proposed Project, please use the contact details below, using the Temvelo reference number NIA02.

Contact person: Nolwazi Dlamini

Telephone: +27 63 585 2145

Email: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za

Postal Address: 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/ or affected party, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the Project to the contact person preferably within 30 days of receipt of this document.

UMBHALO WOLWAZI OBUYEKEZIWE WOKWESINDLELA

UKUHLOLWA KOMTHELELA WENDALO NGELUNGelo LOKUHLONGOZWAYO LOKUHLOLA MAYELANA NAMASIMU AHLUKENE KUBALWA ESIHLENGENI NO. 689, DEMOINA NO. 830, WELTEVREDE NO.540, MISTY VALLEY NO. 831 KANYE NE-TOOVERNAARS RUST NO.518, YE-NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR

1 Ingemuva Lephrojekthi

I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd ifake isicelo seLungelo Lokuhlola Ngokuhambisana neSigaba 16 soMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa KweziMbiwa kanye Nophethiloli, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002) (MPRDA), Iphinde iqalise isicelo sokugunyazwa kwezeMvelo ngokwesigaba 24 soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke, 199198 kanye Nomthetho No. Imithethonqubo yayo ye-EIA yokuhlola amalahle, amalahle mbumbulu, kanye ne-torbanite/uwoyela maqondana nezingxenye ezihlukahlukene zamapulazi okuyiNdawo Esole Yesihlengeni No. 689;

2 Inhloso yalo Mqulu

Lo Mqulu Wolwazi Lwasemuva (i-BID) wethula bonke ababambiqhaza ngenqubo yokufaka isicelo sokuGunyazwa Kwezemvelo ngelungelo elihlongozwayo lokuhlola. I-BID isebenza

Isigaba Esisele seDemoina No. 830; Ingingxenye 1 ye-Weltevrede No. 540;;

Ingingxenye 1 ye-Misty Valley No. 831; Izingxenye 0, 3, 4, kanye no-6 ze-Toovernaars Rust No. 518, esiFundeni sikaMantshi saseVryheid.

Le ndawo ihlanganisa amahektha angama-6820.32 kodwa imisebenzi yokubheka izoba ngamahektha ayi-15, ngaphakathi kukaMasipala waBaqulusi, ngaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda saseZululand, esiFundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali. I-Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd iqokwe njengomsebenzi ozimele wokuhlola imvelo (EAP) obhekele inqubo yokugunyazwa kwemvelo.

njengephuzu lokuqala lokuxoxisana Namaqembu Anentshisekelo Nathintekayo (I&APs), iqinisekisa ukuthi ulwazi olufanele luyenziwa lutholakale kusenesikhathi senqubo yokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Ihlose ukukhuthaza ukwenza izinto obala, ukugqugquzela ukubamba iqhaza komphakathi



okuphusile, nokumema imibono, imibuzo, noma ukukhathazeka ababambiqhaza abangaba nakho mayelana nentuthuko ehlongozwayo. Ngokwenza kanjalo, i-BID isekela ukuthathwa kwezinqumo okunolwazi futhi isiza ukuhlonza noma yiziphi izinkinga eziqondene nesayithi noma imininingwane yomphakathi okufanele icatshangelwe phakathi nezinqubo Zokugunyazwa Kwemvelo (EA). Le BID futhi ihlose ukuhlinzeka ama-I&APs ukuqonda kwenqubo edingekayo ye-Environmental Authorisation Application Process okufanele yenziwe kanye nokuhlinzeka ababambiqhaza ngolwazi olulandelayo.:

- Uhlolajikelele lweprojekthi;
- Indawo yendawo yeProjekthi;
- Uhlaka Lwezomthetho kanye Nenqubo Yokulawula Imvelo okufanele ilandelwe;
- • Bangabandakanyeka kanjani ababambiqhaza kuPhrojekthi ngoHlelo Lokubamba Iqhaza Komphakathi:

3 Indawo

Ipulazi: Isihlengeni, Demoina, Weltevrede, Misty Valley, Toovernaars Rust.

Idolobha eliseduze: Nganetseni

Umasipala Wesifunda: Zululand District Municipality.

Umasipala Wendawo: Abaqulusi Local Municipality.

- Ukutholakala kohlaka lweBAR ukuze umphakathi ubuyekezwe futhi uphawule ngalo;
- Ungayithola kanjani imibiko;
- Isimemo Emihlanganweni Yokusebenzisana Nababambe iqhaza;
- Umphakathi ungabhalisa kanjani njengamaQembu Anentshisekelo Nathintekayo (I&APs);
- Okufakwe nalo mbhalo yifomu lokuphawula kanye nokuBhalisa - uyacelwa ukuba ugcwalise ifomu lokuphawula kanye nokubhalisa. Lokhu okokuqinisekisa ukuthi siqopha ukuphawula kwakho futhi sikubhalisa njenge-I&AP. Lokhu kuzoqinisekisa ukuthi uthola ulwazi lwakamuva kanye nolwazi olufanele mayelana neProjekthi.

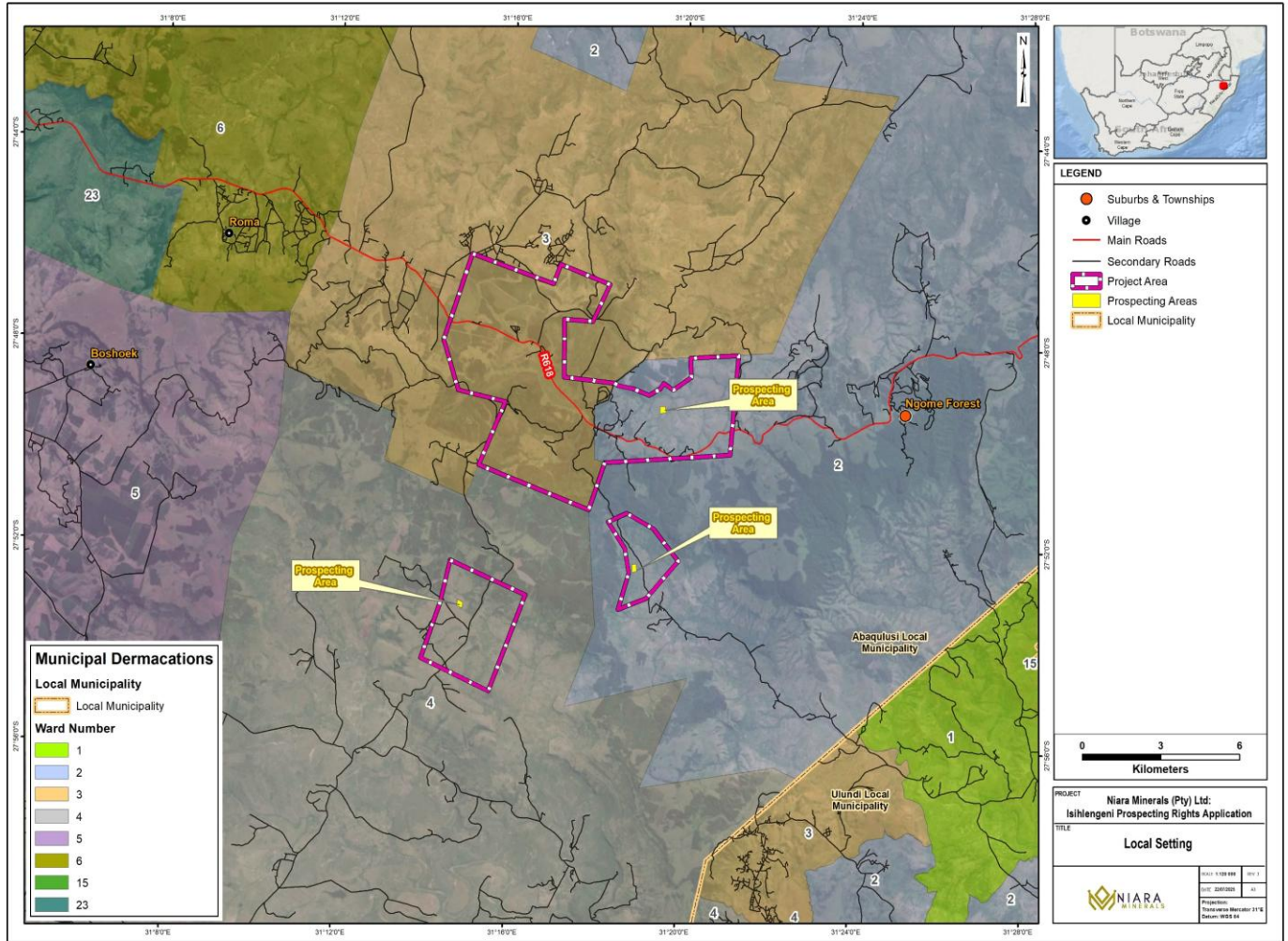


Figure 1: Indawo YePhrojekthi

4 Incazelo Yephrojekthi

I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd ifaka isicelo seLungelo Lokuhlola ngokweSigaba 16 soMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa KweziNdawo Zombiwa kanye Nophethiloli, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002) (MPRDA), ukuze kuhlolwe amalahle, amalahle mbumbulu, kanye ne-torbanite/oil shale. Indawo yokufaka isicelo ihlanganisa izingxenye ezahlukene zamapulazi, okuyiNdawo Esole Yesihlengi No. 689; Ibanga Elisele LeDemoina; Ingxenye 1 ye-Weltevrede No. 540; Ingxenye 1 ye-Misty Valley No. 831; kanye neNgxenye 0, 3, 4, no-6 ye-Toovernaars Rust No. 518. Indawo ehlongozwayo yokubhekwa ingaphakathi kukaMasipala waseBaqulusi, ngaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda Amajuba esiFundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali, ihlanganisa indawo elinganiselwa kumahektha ayi-15. Indawo yephrojekthi isendaweni ecishe ibe ngama-3 km eningizimu neNgenetheni futhi cishe amakhilomitha angama-23 eningizimu yeLouwsburg. I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd iqoke i-Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd njengoMsebenzi ozimele Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP) ukuze aqhube inqubo yokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Imisebenzi ehlongozwayo yokuhlola izobandakanya kokubili amasu angahlaseli kanye nalawo ahlaselayo. Imisebenzi yokuhlasela ehleliwe izobandakanya ukumbiwa kwemigodi ukuze

kutholwe amasampula okwakheka komhlaba angaphansi komhlaba ukuze ahlaziywe.

Kuhlongozwa isamba semigodi elinganiselwa ku-10-15, kanti imbobo ngayinye kulindeleke ukuthi iphazamise indawo encane. Indawo enembile yalezi migodi izonqunywa ngemva kokuphothulwa kocwaningo lwedeskithophu, imephu yezindawo, kanye nokuhlolwa kwe-geophysical. Ama-boreholes azobekwa ngendlela efanele endaweni ebekiwe yamahektha ayi-15 ukuze kuqinisekiswa umthelela omncane kwezemvelo kanye nokuhlinzeka ngamasampula amele kuyo yonke indawo yesicelo.

Inhloso yokumba ukuthola ubukhona, ukujula, ukujiya, kanye nekhwalithi yokwakheka kwamaminerali okuhlosiwe. Ukumba ama-borehole kuzokwenziwa kusetshenziswa imishini yokumba eyi-rotary core kanye nemishini ehambisana nayo, ngokusekelwa amaloli amancane namathange amanzi ahambayo. Ukumba kuzokwenziwa usonkontileka oqeqeshiwe ngokuhambisana nezindinganiso ezifanele zokuphepha kanye nemvelo.

Uhlelo lokuhlola luzokwenziwa ngezigaba ezine (4) phakathi nezinyanga ezingama-60 (iminyaka emihlanu). Ilungelo lokuhlola lingase livuselelwe iminyaka emithathu (3) eyengeziwe

uma uhlelo lungaqedwa phakathi nesikhathi sokuqala.

Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo yokuhlola iqala imisebenzi esohlwini lweSaziso soku-1 soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (NEMA), futhi ngaleyo ndlela kube inqubo Yokuhlola Okuyisisekelo ngokoMthetho Wesaziso Sikahulumeni.

(GNR) 982 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe) iyadingeka. Imithelela yezemvelo yemisebenzi ehlongozwayo yahlolwa ngokuhlonza izici zemvelo kanye nokuhlaziya ukuzwela kwemvelo ukuze kutholwe izindaba ezibalulekile. Ukuhlolwa komthelela kwezemvelo kuhlanganisa zonke izigaba zamaphrojekthi, okuhlanganisa ukusungulwa kwesizinda, ukusebenza kokumba, ukuvuselela, nokuvalwa. Kusetshenziswe isistimu yokulinganisa umthelela ehlelekile ukuze kuhlolwe imithelela engaba khona yezemvelo kanye nempumelelo yezinyathelo zokunciphisa ezihlongozwayo.

5 Imisebenzi yeprojekthi

Iphrojekthi izokwenziwa ngezigaba, ezihlanganisa le misebenzi ebalulekile elandelayo:

5.1 Ukusungulwa kwesizinda

- Kuzokwenziwa ukugawulwa okulinganiselwe kwezimila ukuze kwakhiwe imizila yokungena futhi kusungulwe izindawo zokusebenza ezindaweni zemigodi.
- Ugandaganda noma umshini wokukhanya ofanayo uzosetshenziswa ukusula ubuncane bezinyathelo ezidingekayo ukuze kubhojwe.
- Izinsiza zesikhashana zingabandakanya:
 - Izindawo zokubeka impahla
 - Amayunithi okuthuthwa kwendle aphahekayo
 - Amathangi esikhashana okugcina amanzi
- Ihhovisi lesizindalwazi noma indawo yokulawula uma kudingeka Finyelela emigwaqweni
- Imigwaqo ekhona izosetshenziswa noma nini lapho kungenzeka khona ukuze kukhawulwe ukuphazamiseka okwengeziwe kwendawo.
- Lapho imizila emisha yokungena ingenakugwenywa, izobekwa ngokusekelwe ekuhloleni ukuzwela kwemvelo ukuze kugwenywe izindawo ezizwelayo noma ezivikelekile.
- Imigwaqo emisha, uma kudingeka, izokwakhiwa kusetshenziswa izindlela ezingcono kakhulu zemvelo, okuhlanganisa nokulawula ukuguguleka, ukugeleza kwamanzi ngendlela efanele, kanye nokucinana okuncane.

5.2 Ukumbiwa Kwemigodi kanye Nokuthatha Isampula

- Cishe kuzombiwa amaborehole ayi-10 kuya kwayi-15 endaweni okuzobhekwa kuyo.
- Isizinda semigodi ngasinye sizodinga isiphazamiso esicishe sibe ngu-25 m × 20 m (500 m²), okuhlanganisa nendawo yokulungisa izimoto, izimoto ezisekelayo, ukubamba ama-drill cuttings, kanye nezindawo zokuphepha zokusebenza.
- Isamba sendawo ephazamisekile emigodini ilinganiselwa ku-0.5 kuya ku-0.75 amahektha, kanti ingxenye esele yendawo engamahektha ayi-15 yabelwe ukungena nokusekela ingqalasizinda.
- Amaborehole angafinyelela ekujuleni okungafika kumamitha ayi-120, kuye ngezimo zokuma komhlaba.
- Ukumba kuzosebenzisa ama-rotary core rigs ukuze kutholwe amasampula awumongo aqhubekayo.
- Igodi lemigodi kanye ne-grouting kuyosetshenziswa lapho kunesidingo khona ukuze kugcinwe ubuqotho bemigodi kanye nokuvimbela ukungcoliswa kwe-aquifer.
- Amanzi okumba azotholakala endaweni noma alethwe ngamathangi ahambayo. Ukusetshenziswa

kwamanzi kuzobhekwa ukuze kugwenywe ukusetshenziswa ngokweqile noma ukuchitheka.

- Izimbobo zokumba kanye namanzi angcolile azophathwa emigodini enemigqa noma emathangeni futhi alahlwe ngokoMthetho Kazwelonke Wokulawulwa Kwemvelo: Ukungcola, 2008 (uMthetho No. 59 ka-2008).
- Izindawo zemigodi zizophothulwa ngemva kocwaningo lwedeskithophu nomkhakha ukuze kuthuthukiswe ukuqondiswa kwezinsiza kanye nokunciphisa umthelela kwezemvelo

5.3 Ukuphathwa Kwendawo kanye Nokuvuselela

- Yonke imisebenzi yokuhlola izohambisana **noMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo (NEMA), 1998 (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998)** kanye neMithethonqubo yawo Yokuhlola Umthelela Wezemvelo (EIA).
 - Ukuphathwa kwemvelo kuzoholwa yilezi zinhloko zomthetho ezilandelayo:
 - **I-MPRDA, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002)** – ikakhulukazi iSigaba 38 kanye nesama-41 esidinga ukuvikelwa kwemvelo kanye nokuhlinzekwa kwezimali ukuze kulungiswe.

- **I-NEMA: Umthetho Wemfucuzo, 2008 (uMthetho No. 59 ka-2008)** - maqondana nokuphathwa ngendlela efanele kanye nokulahlwa kwemfucuzo yokumba.
- **UMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 36 ka-1998)** – wokuvikela imithombo yamanzi ekungcolisweni nasekukhishweni ngokweqile ngesikhathi sokusebenza.

Ukuvuselelwa kuzobandakanya:

- Ukuvalwa nokuchithwa kwawo wonke ama-boreholes, kusetshenziswa izindlela ezifanele zokugalela amanzi ukuze kuvinjwe ukungcoliswa noma izingozi ezizayo.
- Ukususwa kwazo zonke izinto zokusebenza nengqalasizinda yesikhashana kanye ukubunjwa kabusha kwendawo ephazamisekile lapho kunesidingo.
- Ukutshala kabusha kwenhlabathi engaphezulu, okulandelwa ukumila kabusha kusetshenziswa izinhlobo zemvelo eziguqulelwe endaweni, ukuze kugququzelwe ukubuyiselwa kwemvelo.

- Izinyathelo zokulawula ukuguguleka komhlabathi ukuze kunzinziswe inhlabathi ezindaweni eziphazamisekile.
- Ukuvuselelwa okuqhubekayo kuzokwenziwa kuyo yonke iphrojekthi lapho kungenzeka khona, hhayi nje kuphela lapho kuvalwa.
- Kuzoqalwa uhlelo lokuqapha ukuhlunyelelwa kwezimilo, kuthathwe izinyathelo zokulungisa uma izinhloso zokuhlunyelelwa zingafinyelelwa.

6 Uhlaka Lwezomthetho

Ilungelo lokuhlola lingokoMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa Kwezinsiza Zezimbiwa Nezophethiloli, 2002 (MPRDA) (njengoba uchitshiyelwe) futhi libangela Ukugunyazwa Kwezemvelo (EA) Uhlu lwesaziso 1 (GN R. 983) soMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwezemvelo, 1998 (NEMA) (njengoba uchitshiyelwe) ufundwe kanye Nokulungiswa Kwezemvelo 41,20 Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo kulindeleke ukuthi iqhubekisele phambili imisebenzi elawulwayo equkethwe emthethweni oshiwo ngenhla kanye nalokhu okulandelayo:

- Umthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 36 ka-1998)
- Ukuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke: Umthetho Wemfucuzo, 2008 (uMthetho No. 59 ka-2008)
- UMthetho Wezinsiza Zamagugu Kazwelonke, 1999 (uMthetho No. 25 ka-1999)
- Umthetho Kazwelonke Wamahlathi, 1998 (uMthetho No. 84 ka-1998) (uma usebenza ngokusekelwe ezinhlotsheni zezitshalo)

7 Uhlaka Lombiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo

Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo iqala imisebenzi esohlwini lweMithetho ye-EIA, yowezi-2014 (GN R 982 yomhla zizi-4 kuZibandlela wezi-2014 njengoba ichtshiyelwe ngu-GN R 326 womhla ziyisi-7 kuMbaso wezi-2017) emenyazelwe ngaphansi koMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA). Le phrojekthi iqala Imisebenzi etholakala ku-Listing Notice 1 ngakho-ke, idinga ukuthi kwenziwe Inqubo Yokuhlola Okuyisisekelo futhi kutholwe imvume ngaphambi kwemisebenzi yokuhlola. Lolu hlelo ludinga uhlelo olunzulu lokubonisana nomphakathi. Ngokwale misebenzi esohlwini, kuzokwenziwa uMbiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo (BAR) kanye noHlelo Lokuphathwa Kwendawo Ezungezile (EMPr) ukuze kusekelwe i-EA.

I-EMPr, kumongo we-EIA Regulations 2014 (njengoba ichtshiyelwe), iyithuluzi elisusa iphrojekthi ekucubunguleni izindaba ezisezingeni eliphezulu liye kuye ekunciphiseni okusetshenzekayo okusebenzayo noma ezinyathelweni zokuphatha ezingasetshenziswa ngendlela ehlangene nelawulwayo. Izinjongo ze-EMPr ukunciphisa ukuphazamiseka kwemvelo, izinyathelo zamanje zokunciphisa imithelela ehlonziwe, ukukhulisa inzuzo engase ibe khona kwezemvelo kanye nokwabela isibopho sezenzo zokuqinisekisa ukuthi izinhloso ezinqunywe kusengaphambili ziyahlangatshezwa. I-EMPr izobhalwa ngokuhambisana nemiphumela ye-Basic Assessment Reports.

8 Indlela Yokuhlola Okuyisisekelo

Inqubo Yokuhlola Okuyisisekelo izokwenziwa ngezigaba eziyisi-6 okuyilezi:

- Isigaba 1: Ukuqaliswa Kwephrojekthi;
- Isigaba sesi-2: Ukubamba iqhaza Komphakathi;
- Isigaba sesi-3: Ukubukezwa Kweziphathimandla kanye Nesinqumo;
- Isigaba sesi-4: Umbiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo (BAR) kanye NoHlelo Lokuphathwa Kwemvelo (EMPr) kubandakanya ukubamba iqhaza koMphakathi;
- Isigaba sesi-5: Ukubukezwa Kweziphathimandla kanye Nesinqumo;
- Isigaba sesi-6: Isaziso sama-I&APs mayelana neNqubo Yezinqumo kanye Nesikhalazo.

9 Inqubo Yokubambiqhaza Komphakathi

I-Public Participation Process (PPP) inika ababambiqhaza ithuba elifanelekile lokwaziswa ngeProjekthi Ehlongozwayo, ukuveza izinto ezikhathazayo kanye nokwenza iziphakamiso zezinzuzo ezithuthukisiwe zephrojekthi. Le PPP yenzelwe ukuqinisekisa ukuhambisana nenqubo yokugunyazwa kwemvelo.

Ukubamba iqhaza komphakathi ukubandakanyeka kwabo bonke abathintekayo okungenzeka banentshisekelo noma abathintwe yintuthuko ehlongozwayo. Inhloso eyinhloko yokubamba iqhaza komphakathi ukwazisa kanye nokucebisa ukuthathwa kwezinqumo. Ukubamba iqhaza komphakathi kudlala indima ebalulekile ohlelweni Lokuhlola Umthelela Wezemvelo lapho kwazisa khona umphakathi ngomsebenzi ohlongozwayo futhi kumema abantu ukuthi babhalise njengabantu abanentshisekelo nabathintekayo (I&APs) futhi banikeze noma yikuphi ukuphawula noma ulwazi olungase lusetshenziswe ngesikhathi sokuhlolwa komthelela kwezemvelo. Iqhaza lokubamba iqhaza komphakathi ngesikhathi se-BA wukuvumela ama-I&APs abhalisiwe ukuthi aphawule ngoMbiko we-BA Owuhlaka ngaphambi kokwethulwa kwabasemagunyeni abathatha izinqumo. Lokhu kuvumela ama-I&APs ukuthi ahlole ukuthi ukukhathazeka kwawo kuzosingathwa ngendlela efanele yini.

Enye yezinjongo ezijwayelekile zokuphathwa kwemvelo okudidiyelwe ezibekwe kuSigaba 23(2)(d) se-NEMA “ukuqinisekisa ithuba elanele nelifanele lokuhlanganyela komphakathi ezinqumweni ezingase zithinte imvelo”. Inqubo yokuzibandakanya komphakathi enganele nengaphumeleli (PPP) inamandla okuhlinzeka ngesinqumo esibi kanye nombono mayelana nephrojekthi ehlongozwayo. I-EIA Regulations (2010) igcizelela kakhulu inqubo yokubamba iqhaza komphakathi futhi izobuyekezwa ukuze iqukathe imihlahlandlela ebanzi ukuze kubandakanye umphakathi ohlelweni lwe-EIA. Izinjongo eziyinhloko zenqubo yokubamba iqhaza komphakathi zihlanganisa:

- Ukubamba iqhaza okuphusile nangesikhathi kwamaqembu anentshisekelo nathintekayo (I&APs);
- Ukuhlonzwa kwezindaba kanye nokukhathazeka kwababambe iqhaza ababalulekile kanye nama-I&APs mayelana nentuthuko ehlongozwayo, okungukuthi ukugxila ezindabeni ezibalulekile;
- Ukuthuthukiswa kokungafihli nokuqonda iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo kanye nemithelela yayo engase ibe khona kwezemvelo (ngokwenhlalo kanye ne-biophysical);
- Ukuziphendulela ngolwazi olusetshenziswa ekuthathweni kwezinqumo;
- Ukusebenza njengesakhiwo sokuxhumana nokuxhumana nama-I&APs;
- Ukusiza ekuhlonzeni imithelela engase ibe khona kwezemvelo (kwezenhlalo kanye nezemvelo) ehambisana nentuthuko ehlongozwayo; futhi
- Ukubandakanywa (izidingo, izintshisekelo kanye namagugu ama-I&APs kumele kubhekwe ohlelweni lokuthatha izinqumo).

10 Ukutholakala Kombiko

Ukwanelisa izidingo zeMithethonqubo 40 kuya ku-44 ye-NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe), ama-I&APs athunyelwa izincwadi zesaziso. Lezi zincwadi zinikezwe ukwazisa ama-I&APs ngeProjekthi ehlongozwayo, inqubo ehambisanayo Yokugunyazwa Kwezemvelo kanye nokuba khona kwe-Draft BAR/EMPr ukuze ibuyekezwe umphakathi.



I-BAR Esalungiswa kanye NoHlelo Lokuphathwa Kwemvelo (EMPr) yenziwe yatholakala ukuze umphakathi ibuyekwezwe futhi uphawule ngayo izinsuku ezingu-30 esikhathini sokubuyekwezwa komphakathi 19-June-2025 kuze kube ziya-18-July-2025 kanye 30 July 2025 kuze kube yi-14 July 2025 kulezi zindawo ezilandelayo:

Indawo	Umunutu Othintwayo
Iwebhusayithi yeTemvelo: www.temveloconsultants.co.za ngaphansi kokuthi 'Downloads'	Ms Nolwazi Dlamini 063 585 2145

Ithimba leProjekthi liqinisekise ukubeka izinyathelo zokuthola ukuphawula kwababambe iqhaza futhi linikeze izimpendulo ezanele kumazwana/ukukhathazeka kwababambe iqhaza. Zonke Iziphathimandla Eziphawulayo ezifanele zizothunyelwa amakhophi e-elektronikhi Emibiko Yokugcina ukuze ibuyekwezwe futhi iphawule. Konke ukuphawula okutholiwe kuzorekhodwa ku-CRR.

11 Isibopho Sakho

Ngokwesigaba 2(4)(f) "Ukubamba iqhaza kwawo wonke amaqembu anentshisekelo nathintekayo ekubusweni kwemvelo kumele kugqugquzelwe, futhi bonke abantu kufanele babe nethuba lokuthuthukisa ukuqonda, amakhono kanye namandla adingekayo ukuze kuzuzwe ukubamba iqhaza ngokulinganayo nangempumelelo, nokubamba iqhaza kwabantu ababuthaka nabancishwe amathuba kufanele kuqinisekise" Njengoba Onentshisekelo Futhi Ethintekayo Unelungelo Lokuhlanganyela Emvelweni We-IAP (EIA) inqubo. Uma wazi ngephrojekthi ye-prospecting ehlongozwayo, kufanele wenze lokhu okulandelayo ukuze ubambe iqhaza:

Bhalisa njenge-I&AP usebenzisa imininingwane yokuxhumana enikezwe efomini lokuphawula le-I&AP. Ungaphinda uthinte i-EAP ukuze ungezwe kusizindalwazi

- I-I&AP enenkinga yokuqonda isiNgisi noma ukufunda nokubhala kufanele icele inguqulo yesiZulu ye-BID/DBAR noma ukwesekwa ekuqondeni umsebenzi.
- Ukuphawula ngombiko we-DBAR ozofakwa eMbikweni Wezimpendulo Zokuphawula okufanele uhanjise kusiphathimandla esinekhono ukuze sicutshungulwe;
- Ungafaka isikhalazo uma uphikisana nesinqumo se-CA.

12 Amazwana Kanye Nemibuzo

Imibono/ imibono yakho mayelana neProjekthi ehlongozwayo ibalulekile. Ukuze kube lula kuwe, ukubhaliswa kanye/noma ishidi lokuphawula lengezwe kule dokhumenti. Uma ufisa ukubhaliswa njenge-I&AP, ukuze uthole



ulwazi olwengeziwe noma uphawule ngalo msebenzi ohlongozwayo, sicela usebenzise imininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi, usebenzisa inombolo yereferensi yeTemvelo, NIA02.

Umuntu Othintwayo: Nolwazi Dlamini

Ucingo: +27 63 585 2145

I-Imeyili: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za

Ikheli Leposi: 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204

Ukuze uqiniseke ukuthi uhlonzwa njengomuntu onentshisekelo kanye/noma othintekayo, sicela uthumele igama lakho, imininingwane yokuxhumana kanye nentshisekelo yakho kulo msebenzi kumuntu ongathintwayo okungcono kakhulu ukuthi zingakapheli izinsuku ezingama-30 uthole lo mbhalo.



Appendix 3B: Interested and Affected Parties Registration Form



30 JULY 2025

COMMENTS AND REGISTRATION FORM

Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be informed of ongoing developments via their preferred means of communication (SMS, email or post). The reports will be made available via the Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd website www.temveloconsultant.co.za (under downloads). Comments raised by stakeholders will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provides information to be considered by the project team and specialists conducting the Environmental Assessment Process.

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP, to obtain additional information or comment on the proposed project, please use the contact details below, using the Temvelo reference number NIA02.

Contact person: Nolwazi Dlamini
Telephone: +27 63 585 2145
Email: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
Postal Address: 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204

Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)	Yes		No	
I would like to receive my notifications by	SMS	Email	Post	

Please indicate which sector you represent. Please also provide a name of the respective sector.

Government Department	
Municipality	
Community	
Non-Government Organisation	
Business	



Section A: Contact Details

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, as amended, Section 44 (1) requires that we gather comments from I&APs. Please complete the questions below. If you require assistance in completing these questions, please contact Temvelo at contact information provided above.

Landowner	Farm(s)						
Land occupier	Farm				Farm owner		

Please fill in your contact details below for the project database:									
Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other			
First Name									
Surname									
Designation									
Contact Numbers	Cell phone				Fax			Tel	
Email address									
Postal address									
Please indicate your preferred method of communication	Email		SMS		Post		Fax		



Section B: Comments/Concerns/Suggestions

(You are welcome to use a separate sheet if required)

Environmental concerns:

Economic concerns:

Social or heritage concerns:



Section C: Additional Stakeholders to be Registered/Consulted

If there are any other stakeholders, we should include onto the stakeholder database for the proposed project, please provide their contact details.

Please provide contact details of any other stakeholders we should consult							
Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other	
First name							
Surname							
Organisation/ Farm / Business							
Cell phone					Email		
Please provide contact details of any other stakeholders we should consult							
Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other	
First name							
Surname							
Organisation/ Farm / Business							
Cell phone					Email		
Signature					Date		



Nhlaba 2025

IMIBONO KANYE NEFOMU LOKUBHALISA

Nhlaba 2025

Abantu Ababhalisiwe Abanentshisekelo Nabathintekayo (I&APs) bazokwaziswa ngentuthuko eqhubekayo kusetshenziswa izindlela abazithandayo zokuxhumana (i-SMS, i-imeyili noma iposi). Imibiko izotholakala ngesizindalwazi seTemvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd esithi www.temveloconsultant.co.za (ngaphansi kweMiqulu Yomphakathi). Imibono ephakanyiswe ababambiqhaza izosiza ekuthatheni izinqumo unolwazi lweziphathimandla futhi inikeze ulwazi okufanele lucatshangelwe ithimba lephrojekthi kanye nongoti abenza UHlelo Lokuhlola Imvelo.

Uma ufisa ukubhaliswa njenge-I&AP, ukuze uthole ulwazi olwengeziwe noma uphawule ngephrojekthi ehlongozwayo, sicela usebenzise imininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi, usebenzisa inombolo yereferensi yeTemvelo, NIA02.

Umuntu othintwayo: Nolwazi Dlamini

Ucingo: +27 83 690 9515

I-imeyili: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za

Ikheli leposi: Office 1 Palm Place Office Park, 22 Bram Fischer Drive, Linden, Egoli, 2195

Ngcela ungibhalise ngokumthethweni njengeQumbu Elinetshisekelo Nelithintekayo (I&AP)	Yebo		Cha	
Ngingathanda ukuthola izaziso zami ngo	iSMS	I-imeyili	iPosi	

Sicela ukhombise ukuthi yimuphi umkhakha owumele. Sicela futhi unikeze igama lomkhakha ofanele.

Unyango kahulumeni	
Umasipala	
Umphakathi	
Inhlangano engekho ngaphansi kukahulumeni	
ibhizinisi	

Isigaba A: Iminingwane Yokuxhumana

Imithethonqubo Yokuhlola Umthelela Wezemvelo ka-2014, eyamenezelwa ngokoMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo, njengoba uchitshiyelwe, Isigaba 44 (1) sidinga ukuthi siqoqe imibono evela kuma-I&APs. Sicela ugwalise imibuzo engezansi. Uma udinga usizo lokuphendula le mibuzo, sicela uthinte iTemvelo ngolwazi lokuxhumana olunikezwe ngenhla.

Umnikazi wonhlanba	Ipulazi	
Umhlali womhlaba	Ipulazi	Umnikazi wonhlanba

Sicela ugwalise iminingwane yakho yokuxhumana ngezansi ukuze uthole iminingwane egciniwe yeprojekthi							
Isihloko	Mnumzane	unkosikasi	Ntombi	Udokotela	uprofesa	Okunye	
Igama							
Isibongo							
Ukuqokwa							
Izinombo lo zokuthintana	Umakhalekhukhwini		ifeksi			Ucin go	
Ikheli le-imeyili							
Ikheli leposi							
Sicela ubonise indlela oyithandayo yokuxhumana:	I-imeyili		iSMS		Okuthunyelwe		Ifekisi



Isigaba B: Ukuphawula/Okukhathazayo/Iziphakamiso

(Wamukelekile ukusebenzisa ishidi elihlukile uma kudingeka)

Okukhathazeka ngemvelo:

Okukhathazeka kwezomnotho:

Okukhathazeka komphakathi noma kwamagugu:

Isigaba C: Ababambiqhaza abengeziwe abazobhaliswa/kuboniswane

Uma kukhona abanye ababambiqhaza, kufanele sibafake kusizindalwazi sababambe iqhaza kuphrojekthi ehlongozwayo, sicela unikeze imininingwane yabo yokuxhumana.

Sicela unikeze imininingwane yokuxhumana yanoma ibaphi abanye ababambiqhaza okufanele sibabonise							
Isihloko	Mnumzane	Unkosikazi	owesifazane	Udokotela	Uprofesa	Okunye	
Igama							
Isibongo							
Inhlangano/ Ipulazi / Ibhizinisi							
Izinombolo zokuthintana					I-meyili		
Sicela unikeze imininingwane yokuxhumana yanoma ibaphi abanye ababambiqhaza okufanele sibabonise							
Isihloko	Mnumzane	Unkosikazi	Owesifazane	Udokotela	Uprofesa	Okunye	
Igama							
Isibongo							
Inhlangano/ Ipulazi / Ibhizinisi							
Izinombolo zokuthintana					I-meyili		

Isiginesha		Usuku	
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30 kuNtulikazi 2025

INCWADI YEZAZISO

Sawubona Bambiki,

**UKUHLOLA OKUSISEKELO NGELUNGELO OKUHLONGOZWAYO LOKUHLOLA AMAFUMU
EMINYAKENI EHLUKENEYO KUBALALWA I-ISIHLANGENI, DEMOINA, WELTEVREDE, MISTY
VALLEY KANYE NE-TOOVERNAARS RUST FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, REFERENCE
NUMBER 1/914/8/5/1KZNPR.**

I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd ifaka isicelo seLungelo Lokuhlola ngokweSigaba 16 soMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa KweziNdawo Zombiwa kanye Nophethiloli, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002) (MPRDA), ukuze kuhlolwe amalahlwe, amalahlwe mbumbulu, kanye ne-torbanite/oil shale. Indawo yokufaka isicelo ihlanganisa izingxenye ezahlukene zamapulazi, okuyiNdawo Esole Yesihlangeni No. 689; Ibanga Elisele LeDemoina; Ingxenye 1 ye-Weltevrede No. 540; Ingxenye 1 ye-Misty Valley No. 831; kanye neNgxenye 0, 3, 4, no-6 ye-Toovernaars Rust No. 518. Indawo ehlongozwayo yokubhekwa ingaphakathi kukaMasipala waseBaqulusi, ngaphansi kukaMasipala wesiFunda Amajuba esiFundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali, ihlanganisa indawo elinganiselwa kumahektha ayi-15. Indawo yephrojekthi isendaweni ecishe ibe ngama-3 km eningizimu neNgenetheni futhi cishe amakhilomitha angama-23 eningizimu yeLouwsburg.

I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd iqoke i-Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd njengoMsebenzi ozimele Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP) ukuze aqhube inqubo yokugunyazwa kwemvelo. Imisebenzi ehlongozwayo yokuhlola izobandakanya kokubili amasu angahlaseli kanye nalawo ahlaseleyo. Imisebenzi yokuhlasela ehleliwe izobandakanya ukumbiwa kwemigodi ukuze kutholwe amasampula angaphansi komhlaba ukuze ahlaziye.

Kuhlongozwa isamba semigodi elinganiselwa ku-10-15, kanti imbobo ngayinye kulindeleke ukuthi iphazamise indawo encane. Indawo enembile yalezi migodi izonqunywa ngemva kokuphothulwa kocwaningo lwedeskithophu, imephu yezindawo, kanye nokuhlolwa kwe-geophysical. Ama-boreholes azobekwa ngendlela efanele endaweni ebekiwe yamahektha ayi-15 ukuze kuqinisekise umthelela omncane kwezemvelo kanye nokuhlinzeka ngamasampula amele kuyo yonke indawo yesicelo.

Inhloso yokumba ukuthola ubukhona, ukujula, ukujiya, kanye nekhwalithi yokwakheka kwamaminerali okuhlosiwe. Ukumba ama-borehole kuzokwenziwa kusetshenziswa imishini yokumba eyi-rotary core kanye nemishini ehambisana nayo, ngokusekelwa amaloli amancane namathange amanzi ahambayo. Ukumba

kuzokwenziwa usonkontileka oqeqeshiwe ngokuhambisana nezindinganiso ezifanele zokuphepha kanye nemvelo.

Uhlelo lokuhlola luzokwenziwa ngezigaba ezine (4) phakathi nezinyanga ezingama-60 (iminyaka emihlanu). Ilungelo lokuhlola lingase livuselelwe iminyaka emithathu (3) eyengeziwe uma uhlelo lungaqedwa phakathi nesikhathi sokuqala.

Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo yokuhlola iqala imisebenzi esohlwini lweSaziso soku-1 soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (NEMA), futhi ngaleyo ndlela kube inqubo Yokuhlola Okuyisisekelo ngokoMthetho Wesaziso Sikahulumeni.

(GNR) 982 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe) iyadingeka. Imithelela yezemvelo yemisebenzi ehlongozwayo yahlolwa ngokuhlonza izici zemvelo kanye nokuhlaziya ukuzwela kwemvelo ukuze kutholwe izindaba ezibalulekile. Ukuhlolwa komthelela kwezemvelo kuhlanganisa zonke izigaba zephrojekthi, okuhlanganisa ukusungulwa kwesizinda, ukusebenza kokumba, ukuvuselela, nokuvalwa. Kusetshenziswe isistimu yokulinganisa umthelela ehlelekile ukuze kuhlolwe imithelela engaba khona yezemvelo kanye nempumelelo yezinyathelo zokunciphisa ezihlongozwayo.

Imisebenzi yephrojekthi

Iphrojekthi izokwenziwa ngezigaba, ezihlanganisa le misebenzi ebalulekile elandelayo:

1.1 Ukusungulwa Kwesizinda

- Kuzokwenziwa ukugawulwa okulinganiselwe kwezimila ukuze kwakhiwe imizila yokungena futhi kusungulwe izindawo zokusebenza ezindaweni zemigodi.
- Ugandaganda noma umshini wokukhanya ofanayo uzosetshenziswa ukusula ubuncane bonyawo obudingekayo ekubholweni.
- Izinsiza zesikhashana zingabandakanya:
 - Izindawo zokubeka impahla
 - Amayunithi okuthuthwa kwendle aphahekayo
 - Amathangi esikhashana okugcina amanzi
 - Ihhovisi lesizindalwazi noma indawo yokulawula uma kudingeka

1.2 Ukungena Emigwaqeni

- Imigwaqo ekhona izosetshenziswa noma nini lapho kungenzeka khona ukuze kukhawulwe ukuphazamiseka okwengeziwe kwendawo.

- Lapho imizila emisha yokungena ingenakugwenywa, izobekwa ngokusekelwe ekuhloleni ukuzwela kwemvelo ukuze kugwenywe izindawo ezizwelayo noma ezivikelekile.
- Imigwaqo emisha, uma kudingeka, izokwakhiwa kusetshenziswa izindlela ezingcono kakhulu zemvelo, okuhlanganisa nokulawula ukuguguleka, ukugeleza kwamanzi ngendlela efanele, kanye nokucinana okuncane.

1.3 Ukumbiwa Kwemigodi kanye Nokuthatha Isampula

- Cishe kuzombiwa amaborehole ayi-10 kuya kwayi-15 endaweni okuzobhekwa kuyo.
- Isizinda semigodi ngasinye sizodinga isiphazamiso esicishe sibe ngu-25 m × 20 m (500 m²), okuhlanganisa nendawo yokulungisa izimoto, izimoto ezisekelayo, ukubamba ama-drill cuttings, kanye nezindawo zokuphepha zokusebenza.
- Isamba sendawo ephazamisekile emigodini ilinganiselwa ku-0.5 kuya ku-0.75 amahektha, kanti ingxenye esele yendawo engamahektha ayi-15 yabelwe ukungena nokusekela ingqalasizinda.
- Amaborehole angafinyelela ekujuleni okungafika kumamitha ayi-120, kuye ngezimo zokuma komhlaba.
- Ukumba kuzosebenzisa ama-rotary core rigs ukuze kutholwe amasampula awumongo aqhubekayo.
- Igodi lemigodi kanye ne-grouting kuyosetshenziswa lapho kunesidingo khona ukuze kugcinwe ubuqotho bemigodi kanye nokuvimbela ukungcoliswa kwe-aquifer.
- Amanzi okumba azotholakala endaweni noma alethwe ngamathangi ahambayo. Ukusetshenziswa kwamanzi kuzobhekwa ukuze kugwenywe ukusetshenziswa ngokweqile noma ukuchitheka.
- Izimbobo zokumba kanye namanzi angcolile azophathwa emigodini enemigqa noma emathangeni futhi alahlwe ngokoMthetho Kazwelonke Wokulawulwa Kwemvelo: Ukungcola, 2008 (uMthetho No. 59 ka-2008).
- Izindawo zemigodi zizophothulwa ngemva kocwaningo lwedeskithophu nomkhakha ukuze kuthuthukiswe ukuqondiswa kwezinsiza kanye nokunciphisa umthelela kwezemvelo.

1.4 Ukuphathwa Kwendawo kanye Nokuvuselela

- Yonke imisebenzi yokuhlola izohambisana noMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo (NEMA), 1998 (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998) kanye neMithethonqubo yawo Yokuhlola Umthelela Wezemvelo (EIA).
- Ukuphathwa kwemvelo kuzoholwa yilezi zinhlaka zomthetho ezilandelayo:

- I-MPRDA, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002) – ikakhulukazi iSigaba 38 kanye nesama-41 esidinga ukuvikelwa kwemvelo kanye nokuhlinzekwa kwezimali ukuze kulungiswe.
- I-NEMA: Umthetho Wemfucuza, 2008 (uMthetho No. 59 ka-2008) - maqondana nokuphathwa ngendlela efanele kanye nokulahlwa kwemfucuza yokumba.
- UMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 36 ka-1998) – wokuvikela imithombo yamanzi ekungcolisweni nasekukhishweni ngokweqile ngesikhathi sokusebenza.

Ukuvuselela kuzobandakanya:

- Ukuvalwa nokuchithwa kwawo wonke ama-boreholes, kusetshenziswa izindlela ezifanele zokugalela amanzi ukuze kuvinjelwe ukungcoliswa noma izingozi ezizayo.
- Ukususwa kwazo zonke izinto zokusebenza nengqalasizinda yesikhashana, kanye nokubunjwa kabusha kwendawo ephazamisekile lapho kunesidingo.
- Ukutshala kabusha kwenhlabathi engaphezulu, okulandelwa ukumila kabusha kusetshenziswa izinhlobo zemvelo eziguqulelwe endaweni, ukuze kugququzelwe ukubuyiselwa kwemvelo.
- Izinyathelo zokulawula ukuguguleka komhlabathi ukuze kunzinziswe inhlabathi ezindaweni eziphazamisekile.
- Ukuvuselelwa okuqhubekayo kuyokwenziwa kuyo yonke iphrojekthi lapho kungenzeka khona, hhayi nje kuphela lapho kuvalwa. Uhlelo lokuqapha ukuvuselelwa luzoqalwa, nezinyathelo zokulungisa ezizothathwa uma izinhloso zokuvuselela zingafinyelelwa.

UKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO WE-BA OSALUNGISWA

Ukwanelisa izidingo zeMithethonqubo 40 kuya ku-44 ye-NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (njengoba ichitshiyelwe), ama-I&APs athunyelwa izincwadi zesaziso. Lezi zincwadi zinikezwe ukwazisa ama-I&APs ngeProjekthi ehlongozwayo, inqubo ehambisanayo Yokugunyazwa Kwezemvelo kanye nokuba khona kwe-Draft BAR/EMPr ukuze ibuyekezwe umphakathi.

I-BAR Esalungiswa kanye Nohlelo Lokuphathwa Kwemvelo (EMPr) yenziwe yatholakala ukuze umphakathi ibuyekezwe futhi uphawule ngayo izinsuku ezingu-30 esikhathini sokubuyekezwa komphakathi 19-June-2025 kuze kube ziye-18-July-2025 kanye 30 July 2025 kuze kube yi-14 July 2025 kulezi zindawo ezilandelayo:



Indawo	Umuntu Othintwayo
Iwebhusayithi yeTemvelo: www.temveloconsultant.co.za ngaphansi kokuthi 'Downloads'	Nolwazi Dlamini

Ithimba leProjekthi liqinisekise ukubeka izinyathelo zokuthola ukuphawula kwababambe iqhaza futhi linikeze izimpendulo ezanele kumazwana/ukukhathazeka kwababambe iqhaza. Zonke Iziphathimandla Eziphawulayo ezifanele zizothunyelelwa amakhophi e-elektronikhi Emibiko Yokugcina ukuze ibuyekezwe futhi iphawule. Konke ukuphawula okutholiwe kuzorekhodwa ku-CRR.

IMIBONO NEMIBUZO

Imibono/ imibono yakho mayelana nephrojekthi ehlongozwayo ibalulekile. Ukuze kube lula kuwe, ishidi lamazwana lengezwe kule dokhumenti. Uyacelwa ukuthi ugcwalise bese ubuyisela ifomu lokubhalisa elinamathiselwe kanye nelokuphawula kwaTemvelo uma ufisa ukubhalisa njengababambe iqhaza, futhi ukhombise nentshisekelo yakho yokuthola ulwazi olwengeziwe mayelana nenqubo yokuGunyazwa Kwezemvelo. Amazwana nempendulo yakho kwaziswa kakhulu.

Ungathumela noma yimiphi imibuzo usebenzisa imininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi, usebenzisa inombolo yesithenjwa yeTemvelo NIA02:

Umuntu Othintwayo: Nolwazi Dlamini

Ucingo: +27 63 585 2145

I-Imeyili: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za

Ikheli Leposi: 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204

REVISED NOTIFICATION LETTER

Dear Stakeholder,

BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS PORTIONS OF FARMS INCLUDING ISIHLENGENI, DEMOINA, WELTEVREDE, MISTY VALLEY AND TOOVERNAARS RUST FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, REFERENCE NUMBER KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR.

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd is applying for a Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for the exploration of coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil shale. The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; and Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518. The proposed prospecting area is located within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the Amajuba District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, covering a total area of approximately 15 hectares. The project area is situated approximately 3 km south of Ngenetseni and about 23 km south of Louwsburg.

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd has appointed Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The proposed prospecting activities will include both non-invasive and invasive techniques. The planned invasive activities will entail the drilling of boreholes to obtain sub-surface geological samples for analysis.

A total of approximately 10–15 boreholes are proposed, with each borehole expected to disturb a small surface footprint. The precise location of these boreholes will be determined following the completion of a desktop study, field mapping, and geophysical surveys. The boreholes will be strategically located within the designated 15-hectare prospecting area to ensure minimal environmental impact and to provide representative sampling across the application area.

The aim of drilling is to determine the presence, depth, thickness, and quality of the targeted mineral formations. Borehole drilling will be undertaken using rotary core drilling rigs and associated equipment, with support by small trucks and mobile water tanks. Drilling will be performed by a qualified drilling contractor in compliance with relevant safety and environmental standards.

The prospecting programme will be executed over four (4) phases within a total period of 60 months (five years). The prospecting right may be renewed for an additional three (3) years if the programme is not completed within the initial term.

The proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed in Listing Notice 1 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), and therefore a Basic Assessment process in terms of Government Notice Regulation

(GNR) 982 (as amended) is required. The environmental impacts of the proposed activities were assessed by identifying environmental aspects and conducting an environmental sensitivity analysis to determine significant issues. The environmental impact assessment covers all project phases, including site establishment, drilling operations, rehabilitation, and closure. A structured impact rating system was applied to evaluate the potential environmental effects and the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

Project activities

The project will be executed in phases, comprising the following key activities:

1.1 Site Establishment

- Limited clearing of vegetation will be conducted to create access routes and establish operational zones at borehole locations.
- A bulldozer or equivalent light machinery will be used to clear the minimum footprint necessary for drilling.
- Temporary facilities may include:
 - Equipment laydown areas
 - Portable sanitation units
 - Temporary water storage tanks
 - A mobile site office or control point if needed

1.2 Access Roads

- Existing access roads will be used wherever possible to limit additional surface disturbance.
- Where new access routes are unavoidable, they will be sited based on environmental sensitivity assessments to avoid ecologically sensitive or protected areas.
- New roads, if required, will be constructed using best environmental practices, including erosion control, proper drainage, and minimal compaction

1.3 Borehole Drilling and Sampling

- Approximately 10 to 15 boreholes will be drilled within the prospecting area.
- Each borehole site will require a disturbance footprint of approximately 25 m × 20 m (500 m²), including space for the rig, support vehicles, drill cuttings containment, and operational safety zones.
- The total disturbed area from boreholes is estimated at 0.5 to 0.75 hectares, with the remainder of the 15-hectare area allocated for access and support infrastructure.

- Boreholes may reach depths of up to 120 meters, depending on geological conditions.
- Drilling will utilise rotary core rigs to obtain continuous core samples.
- Borehole casing and grouting will be applied where necessary to maintain borehole integrity and prevent aquifer contamination.
- Water for drilling will be sourced locally or supplied via mobile tanks. Water use will be monitored to avoid overuse or spillage.
- Drill cuttings and wastewater will be managed in lined pits or tanks and disposed of per the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008).
- Borehole locations will be finalised after desktop and field studies to optimise resource targeting and minimise environmental impact.

1.4 Environmental Management and Rehabilitation

- All prospecting activities will comply with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and its associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.
- Environmental management will be guided by the following legal frameworks:
 - MPRDA, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) – specifically Sections 38 and 41 requiring environmental protection and financial provision for rehabilitation.
 - NEMA: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) – in relation to proper handling and disposal of drilling waste.
 - National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) – to safeguard water resources from pollution and over-extraction during operations.

Rehabilitation will include:

- Sealing and decommissioning of all boreholes, using appropriate grouting or capping methods to prevent contamination or future hazards.
- Removal of all equipment and temporary infrastructure, and reshaping of disturbed ground where necessary.
- Reapplication of topsoil, followed by revegetation using locally adapted, indigenous species to encourage ecological restoration.
- Erosion control measures to stabilise soil in disturbed areas.
- Progressive rehabilitation will be carried out throughout the project where feasible, rather than only at closure. A rehabilitation monitoring programme will be implemented, with corrective actions taken if rehabilitation targets are not achieved.



AVAILABILITY OF THE Draft BA REPORT

To satisfy the requirements of Regulations 40 through 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), I&APs were sent notification letters. These letters served to inform the I&APs of the proposed Project, the associated Environmental Authorisation process and the availability of the Draft BAR/ EMPr for public review.

The Draft BAR and the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) has been made available for public review and comment for 30 days public review period 19-June-2025 until 18-July-2025 and 30 July 2025 until 14 July 2025 at the following locations:

Location	Contact person
Temvelo website: www.temveloconsultant.co.za under 'Downloads'	Nolwazi Dlamini

The Project team ensured to put measures in place to obtain comments from stakeholders and provide adequate responses to stakeholders' comments/concerns. All relevant Commenting Authorities will be sent electronic copies of the Final Reports for their review and comments. All comments received will be recorded in the CRR.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

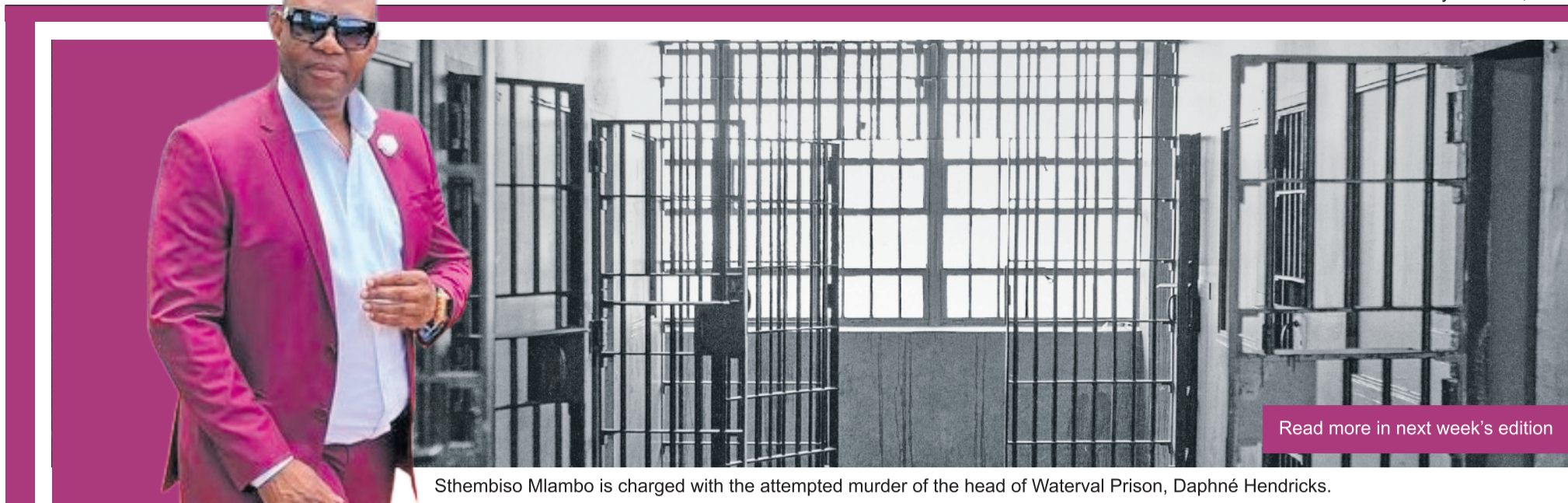
Your comments/ inputs regarding the proposed project are valuable. For your convenience, a comment sheet is appended to this document. Please complete and return the attached registration and comment form to Temvelo if you wish to register as a stakeholder, as well as indicate your interest in receiving further information regarding the Environmental Authorisation process. Your comments and feedback are highly valued.

You may direct any queries using the contact details below, using the Temvelo reference number NIA02:

Contact person: Nolwazi Dlamini
Telephone: +27 63 585 2145
Email: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
Postal Address: 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



Appendix 3c: Proof of Newspaper Advert



Stembiso Mlambo is charged with the attempted murder of the head of Waterval Prison, Daphné Hendricks.

Prison warders recall the day their boss was shot

Two warders from Waterval prison testified as state witnesses in the trial of Isizweni loan-shark, Stembiso Mlambo, earlier this month. Mlambo and his co-accused, Sihle Ngwenya and Ayanda Ngwenya, are charged for myriad of crimes, including murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Their trial began before Judge Bruce Bedderson in the Madadeni High Court on May 20 and proceedings are still underway.

The first prison official to take the stand was Mxolisi De-Bruin Mveli, who is employed as the unit manager in the unit that houses awaiting trial prisoners.

Earlier on in the trial an inmate referred to as Prisoner Two testified that he had overheard Mlambo and Sihle plotting to have the head of the prison, Daphné Hendricks, killed. While Prisoner Two's name was divulged in court and is known to the Northern Natal News, his identity is being withheld from media reports on request from the SAPS due to the threat to his life.

Prisoner Two said he had approached two prison warders, Mveli and Nkosi, and told them he needed to speak to Hendricks urgently. His intention was to warn her about the threat to her life, but both prison warders had refused. Prisoner Two said he did not tell Mveli and Nkosi what he knew because of the influence Mlambo wielded at Waterval. He had heard that most of the prison warders had borrowed money from Mlambo and he didn't trust any of them.

Mveli confirmed that Prisoner Two did approach him at around midday on October 30, 2023, the day Hendricks was shot, and asked to speak to Hendricks.

Having had no knowledge of what Prisoner Two wanted to see Hendricks about, Mveli explained to him that there was a procedure to follow before an inmate can engage directly with the head of the prison.

First the request, or complaint, by the prisoner needed to be recorded in a register. Then the unit manager (in this case Mveli) should be given an opportunity to attend to the request / complaint. "If I fail to resolve the issue, then the matter is escalated to head of the prison," explained Mveli.

"I told the prisoner that he should tell me his complaint, we would write it down and if I couldn't resolve it, I would take it to Hendricks. He didn't tell me what the issue was. He continued to follow the queue for his lunch and didn't come back to me."

According to Mveli, Hendricks had left Waterval and gone to check on a prisoner who was admitted at Madadeni Hospital at the time when Prisoner Two asked to see her.

"We knocked off that afternoon and we were about to lock up the cells when we heard Hendricks had been shot. The manager on standby asked me to drive her to Utrecht police station. When we got there we saw Hendricks talking to the police. She was crying. We noticed her vehicle had been shot at on the driver's side," recalled Mveli.

During cross-examination, Mveli said he knew Mlambo was a loan shark, but he had never borrowed money from him. He added that the only connection he

had to Mlambo was that he was the unit manager of the section in which Mlambo was housed at Waterval.

The divisional head of security at Waterval Prison, Henry Jabulani Nkosi, was the next to take the stand. Prisoner Two testified earlier in the trial that he approached Nkosi, hoping he would take him to see Hendricks, when he failed with Mveli.

Nkosi said he had accompanied Hendricks and the head of Human Resources to the prison hospital on October 27, 2023, in order to attend to a complaint from an inmate. This particular inmate, referred to as Shelembe, was a sentenced prisoner, so Nkosi found it strange that Mlambo (who was an awaiting trial prisoner) was sitting on the bed and chatting to Shelembe.

Nkosi explained that sentenced prisoners are usually kept separate from awaiting trial prisoners.

"I first asked Shelembe to join us in the office of the hospital unit manager. He complained that he was assaulted while he was being transferred to Qalabusha Prison over the weekend. He asked us to contact the police so he could lay a charge. Hendricks advised him that it was his right to lay a charge but his transfer to Qalabusha would continue," said Nkosi.

"We then chatted to Mlambo. Mlambo was transferred to Ncome Prison on October 15, 2023. On October 21, 2023, he was taken to court for an appearance. However, he didn't return to Ncome after his court appearance.

Instead, he was brought back to Waterval. Mlambo complained to Hendricks that while he was being transported back to Ncome Prison, the warder who was driving him was abusive towards him and drove recklessly. Hendricks said she would investigate the complaint but he was to be taken back to Ncome. Mlambo was upset about this. He said he didn't want to be in Ncome when his matter is being heard in Madadeni."

Nkosi said he was driving home from work on October 30, 2023, when he received a phonecall from Hendricks.

"She was crying. She said she had been shot and was driving to the Utrecht police station. I made u-turn, picked up two members from the area commissioner's office and proceeded to the Utrecht police station. When we got there, I saw Hendricks sitting on the ground, crying. Her vehicle had bullet holes on the right side," he recalled.

Nkosi did not remember Prisoner Two approaching him to speak to Hendricks on October 30, 2023. He expressed surprise on hearing that Prisoner Two testified that he didn't trust him. "There's no reason for that," he said. Nkosi further denied any knowledge of any of the prison warders having borrowed money from Mlambo.

"That is not lawful," said Nkosi, referring to the allegation that prison warders borrowed money from Mlambo. "But people won't do something unlawful in front of me. As head of security, this sort of information doesn't reach me easily, but when it does, I take immediate steps to deal with it."



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS PORTIONS OF FARMS INCLUDING ISIHLENGI NO. 689, DEMONIA NO. 830, WONDERFONTEIN NO. 560, MARIANTHA NO. 845, WELTEVREDE NO.540, WAGENDRIFT NO. 541, ONGEMAAKT NO. 301, ZALFLAGER NO. 525, FRISCHGEWAAGD NO. 401, MISTY VALLEY NO. 831, TOOVERNAARS RUST NO. 518 AND SPITSKOP NO 70, FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd hereby gives notice of its application for a Prospecting Right in terms of Sections 16 and 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). This application also triggers the need for Environmental Authorisation in accordance with Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

The proposed prospecting activities will involve the exploration of coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil shale across various farm portions. These include the Remaining Extent of Isihlengi No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demonia No. 830; Portions 4 and 5 of Wonderfontein No. 560; Portion 5 of Marantha No. 845; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; the Remaining Extent and Portion 1 of Wagendrift No. 541; the Remaining Extent and Portion 1 of Ongemaakt No. 301; the Remaining Extent, Portion 1, and Portion 2 of Zalflager No. 525; Portion 8 of Frischgewaagd No. 401; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; Portions 0, 1, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518; and Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19 of Spitzkop No. 70.

The prospecting area covers approximately 2,357 hectares and is located about 3 km south of Ngenetseni and 23 km south of Louwsburg, within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the jurisdiction of the Zululand District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal Province. Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the environmental authorisation process.

AVAILABILITY OF THE REPORT: Temvelo hereby informs all Interested and Affected Parties that the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) in support of the prospecting right application will be made available for public review and comment from **June 12, 2025 to July 12, 2025** (30 days public review period) at the following locations:

Location	Contact person
Temvelo website: www.temveloconsultants.co.za under 'Downloads'	Nolwazi Dlamini

Physical stakeholder engagement meetings as well as Online video conferencing tools such as Microsoft Teams, Skype, Hang Out and Zoom will be used to engage with stakeholders for online discussions if required. The purpose of online video conferencing is to discuss the proposed project, the Draft Scoping Report, potential impacts and mitigation measures.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES: Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP, to obtain additional information or comment on the proposed project, please use the contact details below, using the Temvelo reference number **NIA02**.

- Contact person: Nolwazi Dlamini • Tel: + 27 66 526 5099
- Email: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
- Postal Address: 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino,1204

UKUHLOLWA KOMPUMELA WENDALO NGENXA YELUNGO ELIHLONGOZWAYO MAYELANA NEINGXENYE EZAHLUKENE ZEZIMAMU KUHLANGANISA ISIHLENGI NO. 689, DEMONIA NO. 830, WONDERFONTEIN NO. 560, MARIANTHA NO. 845, WELTEVREDE NO.540, WAGENDRIFT NO.541, ONGEMAAKT NO. 301, ZALFLAGER NO. 525, FRISCHGEWAAGD NO. 401, MISTY VALLEY NO. 831, TOOVERNAARS RUST NO.518 AND SPITSKOP NO 70, FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948PR

I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd lapha inikeza isaziso sesicelo sayo seLungelo Lokuhlola ngokweSigaba 16 kanye nesama-20 soMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa Kwezimbini kanye Nophetholi, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002) (MPRDA). Lolu hlelo lokusebenza futhi luvusa isidingo sokugunyazwa kweNdwano ngokuhambisana neSigaba 24 soMthetho Wokuphatwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) kanye Nezimiso Zokuhlola Umthetho Wengawo (EIA).

Imisebenzi ehlangozwayo yokuhlola izobandakanya ukuhlolwa kwamalahle, amalahlé mbumbulu, kanye ne-torbanite/oil shale kuzo zonke izingxenyé zepulazi. Lezi zihlanganisa iNkathi Esole Yesihlengi No. 689; Isigaba Esisele seDemonia No. 830; Izingxenyé 4 no-5 ze-Wonderfontein No. 560; Inxenyé yesi-5 ka-Marantha No. 845; Inxenyé 1 ye-Weltevrede No. 540; Isigaba Esisele kanye Nengxenyé 1 ye-Wagendrift No. 541; Isigaba Esisele kanye Nengxenyé 1 ye-Ongemaakt No. 301; Isigaba Esisele, Inxenyé 1, kanye Nengxenyé 2 ye-Zalflager No. 525; Inxenyé yesi-8 ye-Frischgewaagd No. 401; Inxenyé 1 ye-Misty Valley No. 831; Izingxenyé 0, 1, 3, 4, no-6 ze-Toovernaars Rust No. 518; kanye neNgenye 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, kanye ne-19 ye-Spitzkop No. 70.

Indawo okubhekwa kuyo imboni ihlanganisa cishe amahaktha ayi-2,357 futhi itholakala endaweni engamakhilomitha amathathu eningizimu yeNgenetseni kanye namakhilomitha angama-23 eningizimu yeLouwsburg, phakathi kukaMasipala Wengawo YaBaqulusi, ngaphansi kolawulo lukaMasipala wesifunda saseZululand esiFundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali. I-Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd iqokwe njengomsebenzi ozimele wokuhlola imvelo (EAP) obhekele ukwenza uhlelo lokugunyazwa kwezemvelo.

UKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO: Ngakho-ke i-Temvelo yazisa wonke amaQembu Anentshisekelo Nathintekayo ukuthi Uhlaka Lombiko Wokuqoqwa Kwezimvo (i-DSR) ngokweseka isicelo selungelo lokubhekwa luzotholakala ukuze umphakathi ubuyekezwe futhi uphawule ngalo kusukela mhla zi-12 kuJuni 2025 kuya kuJulai 12, 2025 (isikhathi sokubuyekazwa komphakathi esiyizinsuku ezingu-30) kulezi zindawo ezilandelayo:

Indawo	Umuntu othintwayo
Temvelo website: www.temveloconsultants.co.za under 'Downloads'	Nolwazi Dlamini

Imihlangano yokubandakanya ababambiqhaza kanye namathuluzi enkomfa ngevidiyo aku-inthanethi njenge-Microsoft Teams, i-Skype, i-Hang Out ne-Zoom izosetshenziselwa ukuhlalanyela nababambe iqhaza ezingxoweni eziku-inthanethi uma kudingeka. Inhloso yenkomfa ngevidiyo ku-inthanethi ukuxoxa ngephrojekthi ehlangozwayo, uMbiko Osalungiswa Wokuhlola, imithelela engaba khona kanye nezinyathelo zokunciphisa.

IMIBONO NEMIBUZO: Uma ufisa ukubhalisa njenge-I&AP, ukuze uthole ulwazi olwengeziwe noma uphawule ngephrojekthi ehlangozwayo, sicela usebenzise imininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi, usebenzisa inombolo yereferensi yeTemvelo **NIA02**.

- Umuntu othintwayo: Nolwazi Dlamini • Ucingo: + 27 66 526 5099
- I-imeyili: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
- Ikhele leposi: 38 Summer Rain Estate, Karino,1204



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS PORTIONS OF FARMS INCLUDING ISIHLENGI NO. 689, DEMONIA NO. 830, WONDERFONTEIN NO. 560, MARIANTHA NO. 845, WELTEVREDE NO.540, WAGENDRIFT NO. 541, ONGEMAAKT NO. 301, ZALFLAGER NO. 525, FRISCHGEWAAGD NO. 401, MISTY VALLEY NO. 831, TOOVERNAARS RUST NO. 518 AND SPITSKOP NO 70, FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR

Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd hereby gives notice of its application for a Prospecting Right in terms of Sections 16 and 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). This application also triggers the need for Environmental Authorisation in accordance with Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

The proposed prospecting activities will involve the exploration of coal, pseudo-coal, and torbanite/oil shale across various farm portions. These include the Remaining Extent of Isihlengi No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demonia No. 830; Portions 4 and 5 of Wonderfontein No. 560; Portion 5 of Mariantha No. 845; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; the Remaining Extent and Portion 1 of Wagendrift No. 541; the Remaining Extent and Portion 1 of Ongemaakt No. 301; the Remaining Extent, Portion 1, and Portion 2 of Zalflager No. 525; Portion 8 of Frischgewaagd No. 401; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; Portions 0, 1, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518; and Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19 of Spitzkop No. 70.

The prospecting area covers approximately 2,357 hectares and is located about 3 km south of Ngenetseni and 23 km south of Louwsburg, within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality, under the jurisdiction of the Zululand District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal Province. Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the environmental authorisation process.

AVAILABILITY OF THE REPORT: Temvelo hereby informs all Interested and Affected Parties that the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) in support of the prospecting right application will be made available for public review and comment from **June 12, 2025 to July 12, 2025** (30 days public review period) at the following locations:

Location	Contact person
Temvelo website: www.temveloconsultants.co.za under 'Downloads'	Nolwazi Dlamini

Physical stakeholder engagement meetings as well as Online video conferencing tools such as Microsoft Teams, Skype; Hang Out and Zoom will be used to engage with stakeholders for online discussions if required. The purpose of online video conferencing is to discuss the proposed project, the Draft Scoping Report, potential impacts and mitigation measures.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES: Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP, to obtain additional information or comment on the proposed project, please use the contact details below, using the Temvelo reference number **NIA02**.

- Contact person: **Nolwazi Dlamini** • Tel: + 27 66 526 5099
Email: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
- Postal Address: 138 Summer rain estate, Karino,1204

UKUHLOLWA KOMPHUMELA WENDALO NGENXA YELUNGELO ELIHLONGOZWAYO MAYELANA NEINGXENYE EZAHLUKENE ZEZIMAMU KUHLANGANISA ISIHLENGI NO. 689, DEMONIA NO. 830, WONDERFONTEIN NO. 560, MARIANTHA NO. 845, WELTEVREDE NO.540, WAGENDRIFT NO.541, ONGEMAAKT NO. 301, ZALFLAGER NO. 525, FRISCHGEWAAGD NO. 401, MISTY VALLEY NO. 831, TOOVERNAARS RUST NO.518 AND SPITSKOP NO 70, FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948PR

I-Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd lapha inikeza isaziso sesicelo sayo seLungelo Lokuhlola ngokweSigaba 16 kanye nesama-20 soMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa Kwezimbiwa kanye Nophethiloli, 2002 (uMthetho No. 28 ka-2002) (MPRDA). Lolu hlelo lokusebenza futhi luvusa isidingo sokugunyazwa kweNdawo ngokuhambisana neSigaba 24 soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) kanye Nezimiso Zokuhlola Umthelela Wendawo (EIA).

Imisebenzi ehlongozwayo yokuhlola izobandakanya ukuhlolwa kwamalahle, amalahle mbumbulu, kanye ne-torbanite/oil shale kuzo zonke izingxenyane zepulazi. Lezi zihlanganisa iNkathi Esole Yesihlengi No. 689; Isigaba Esisele seDemonia No. 830; Izingxenyane 4 no-5 ze-Wonderfontein No. 560; Ingxenyane yesi-5 ka-Mariantha No. 845; Ingxenyane 1 ye-Weltevrede No. 540; Isigaba Esisele kanye Nengxenyane 1 ye-Wagendrift No. 541; Isigaba Esisele kanye Nengxenyane 1 ye-Ongemaakt No. 301; Isigaba Esisele, Ingxenyane 1, kanye Nengxenyane 2 ye-Zalflager No. 525; Ingxenyane yesi-8 ye-Frischgewaagd No. 401; Ingxenyane 1 ye-Misty Valley No. 831; Izingxenyane 0, 1, 3, 4, no-6 ze-Toovernaars Rust No. 518; kanye neNgxenyane 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, kanye ne-19 ye-Spitzkop No. 70.

Indawo okubhekwa kuyo imboni ihlanganisa cishe amahlekha ayi-2,357 futhi itholakala endaweni engamakhilomitha amathathu eningizimu yeNgenetseni kanye namakhilomitha angama-23 eningizimu yeLouwsburg, phakathi kukaMasipala Wendawo YaBaqulusi, ngaphansi kolawulo lukaMasipala wesiFunda saseZululand esiFundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali. I-Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd iqokwe njengomsebenzi ozimele wokuhlola imvelo (EAP) obhekele ukwenza uhlelo lokugunyazwa kwezemvelo.

UKUTHOLAKALA KOMBIKO: Ngakho-ke i-Temvelo yazisa wonke amaQembu Anentshisekela Nathintekayo ukuthi Uhlaka Lombiko Wokuqoqwa Kwezimvo (i-DSR) ngokweseka isicelo selungelo lokubhekwa luzotholakala ukuze umphakathi ubuyekezwe futhi uphawule ngalo kusukela mhla zi-12 kuJuni 2025 kuya kuJulai 12, 2025 (isikhathi sokubuyekezwa komphakathi esiyizinsuku ezingu-30) kulezi zindawo ezilandelayo:

Indawo	Umuntu othintwayo
Isizindalwazi seTemvelo: www.temveloconsultants.co.za ngaphansi kokuthi 'Downloads'	Nolwazi Dlamini

Imihlangano yokubandakanya ababambiqhaza kanye namathuluzi enkomfa ngevidiyo aku-inthanethi njenge-Microsoft Teams, i-Skype; I-Hang Out ne-Zoom izosetshenziselwa ukuhlanganyela nababambe iqhaza ezingxoxweni eziku-inthanethi uma kudingeka. Inhloso yenkomfa ngevidiyo ku-inthanethi ukuxoxa ngeprojekthi ehlongozwayo, uMbiko Osalungiswa Wokuhlela, imithelela engaba khona kanye nezinyathelo zokunciphisa.

IMIBONO NEMIBUZO: Uma ufisa ukubhaliswa njenge-I&AP, ukuze uthole ulwazi olwengeziwe noma uphawule ngeprojekthi ehlongozwayo, sicela usebenzise imininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi, usebenzisa inombolo yereferensi yeTemvelo **NIA02**.

- Umuntu othintwayo: **Nolwazi Dlamini** • Ucingo: + 27 66 526 5099
• I-imeyili: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za •
Ikhele leposi: 38 Summer rain estate, Karino,1204



Appendix 3D: I&APs Database

DATABASE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS PORTIONS OF FARMS INCLUDING ISHLENGI, DEMONIA, WELTEVREDE, MISTY VALLEY, TOOVERNAARS RUST FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR

STATE ORGANS

Title	NAME OF THE OFFICIAL	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Ms	Sandisiwe Qashsne	Amafa research institute		
	Busi Msinga	Amafa research institute		
Ms	Nolwazi Nkosi	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife		
Ms	Dlamini SP	Abaqulusi Local Municipality		
	Hon. Cllr. Nonkululeko P. Ndlela	Abaqulusi Local Municipality		
Ms	Nompumelelo Lekalaka	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment		
Mrs	M Rabothata	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment		
Ms	Khuliso Khomari	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment		
	Angela Masefield	Department of Water and Sanitation		
Mr	Bester Kobus	Department of Water and Sanitation		

LANDOWNER

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT PERSON	FARM
Ogwini Community Trust	Petros Nhlahla Mthethwa	Toovernaars Rust 518 and Misty Valley 831
	Ndwanwe Jabu	
Impumelelo Community Trust	Buthelezi	Toovernaars Rust 518 and Demoina 830

ADJACENT LANDOWNERS

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT PERSON	FARM
NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited	Natasha Cluckie	Spitzkop 70
	Richard Liversage	
NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited Representative		

I&APS

SURNAME	NAME	COMMUNITY	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Mthethwa	Ephraim	Induna
Khumalo	MR	
Buthlezi	EN	Esihlengeni
Shabangu	NJ	Mthumeni
Shabangu	ZZ	Mthumeni
Khumalo	MM	Esihlengeni
Nkosi	EB	Esihlengeni
Ndwandwe	BJ	Mthumeni
Ndwandwe	LH	Mthumeni
Sbiya	TM	Bhukubhu
Khumalo	S	Esihlengeni
Ndlovu	MS	Esihlengeni
Khumalo	SA	Esihlengeni
Kunene	S	Bhukubhu
Nxumalo	M	Sihlengeni
Dlakude	MS	Bhukubhu
Khumalo	LB	Sihlengeni
Nkosi	ZC	Bhukubhu
Sbiya	MS	Sihlengeni
Lvano	A	Jan
Buthlezi	SR	Sihlengeni
Shabangu	NE	Misty Velley
Shabangu	T	Misty Velley
Buthlezi	Mganeni	Sihlengeni
Jiyane	T Thanda	Sihlengeni
Mtshali	MM	Sihlengeni
Nxumalo	Bonginkosi	Sihlengeni
Nxumalo	Phakamani C	Sihlengeni
Ntshangase	Thabiso	Sihlengeni
Shabangu	Bonisile	Misty Velley
Sibisi	Bongani	Community member
Shabangu	Zeblon Zwelenkosi	Community member
Buthlezi	Sibusiso	Community member
Mthethwa	Njabulo	Community member
Sibisi	Mitton	Community member
Sibisi	sabelo	Community member
Sibisi	Bonginkosi	Trust member
Mtshali	JM	Community member
Sibisi	Mbongiseni	Community member
Shabangu	Jetro	Community member
Ndwandwe	BJ	Community member
Skhonde	Johannes	Community member
Mthethwa	July Nicholas	Community member
Mthethwa	Ephraim Hlahli	Induna
Misibi	Thembekile	Ogwini Trust
Mtshali	Sphiwe	O-CIT

Nkwanyana	Nothando	Community member	
Mtshali	Nothando	Community member	
Mthethwa	Nobuhle	Community member	
Mthembu	Snenhlahla	Community member	
Masondo	Mbali	Community member	
Mtshali	Nkosimele	Community member	
Sibisi	Asanda	Community member	
Mthembu	Nkosingiphile	Community member	
Mthembu	Nonkuphiwa	Community member	
Buthelezi	Sphesihle	Ogwini Trust	
Mthethwa	Sinethemba	Ogwini Trust	
Mthembu	Londiwe	Ogwini Trust	
Masondo	Snethemba	Ogwini Trust	
Mtshali	Jabelo	Ogwini Trust	
Mtshali	RM	Ogwini Trust	
Sibisi	Mondli B	Ogwini Trust	



Appendix 3E: Comments and Response Report (CRR)

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025				
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant	
AFFECTED PARTIES				
Landowner/s				
Khambi tribal authority meeting with Chief Kusakhanya Zulu	x	21 June 2025	<p>"What Farms are affected"</p> <p>"Has an application been lodged"</p>	<p>The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengi No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; and Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518.</p> <p>Yes, Niara minerals has lodged an application at the DMRE and are currently doing public participation for the project in accordance with NEMA laws</p>
		01 July 2025	<p>"Chief Buthelezi asked how we found out about him being the chief in the area? and how we got his contact details?"</p> <p>"Thabo Mtshali asked if we had put in an application at the DMRE as yet?"</p> <p>"What steps would we take if the chief of the designated area doesn't agree with the said project?"</p> <p>"We were informed that usually we start contacting the chief in the affected areas before consulting DMRE as a sign of respect"</p>	<p>Thank you, Chief Buthelezi. We were informed about your leadership through local community contacts who spoke highly of you. Your contact details were shared with us by those same local stakeholders to ensure we engaged with the appropriate authority in the area</p> <p>Thank you, Thabo. Yes, we've submitted our application to the DMRE and are currently in the process of the Public Participation Process for the PRA.</p> <p>If the chief doesn't agree with the project, our first step would be to engage with him directly to understand his concerns and provide full clarity on the project. We'd also involve broader community structures to ensure all voices are heard and considered. If needed, we're open to facilitation or mediation to find common ground. Any objections would be formally documented as part of the Public Participation Report submitted to the DMRE. Where possible, we would also look at adapting aspects of the project to address valid concerns, while ensuring compliance with all DMRE and MPRDA guidelines. Open, respectful communication remains a priority throughout the process.</p> <p>Thank you for that guidance. We acknowledge and respect that custom. In this case, we initiated the DMRE process early to ensure compliance, but we fully recognize the importance of engaging the chief and community as a priority. We're committed to following proper protocols and showing due respect to traditional leadership moving forward.</p>
Ogwini Community Trust				

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
July Mthethwa	x	26 July 2025(public meeting)	After being registered as rightful owners of the land, we had other PRA from other companies, why can't you use their findings instead of doing your own?
			How can we be sure that Niara will rehabilitate our land
Zephlon Shabangu	x	26 July 2025(public meeting)	if you get the PRA, how do you see where to drill your borehole

Each Prospecting Right is issued to a specific applicant under the MPRDA, and holders are legally required to carry out their own independent prospecting work to verify the presence, quality, and extent of the minerals. While historical data from other companies can provide useful context, it is not sufficient on its own to support a new prospecting application. Niara Minerals must collect its own data to ensure the accuracy, integrity, and compliance of their prospecting results under their specific work programme.

Rehabilitation is a legal obligation under several environmental laws, including the MPRDA (Section 38 and 41) and NEMA (1998). Before any drilling begins, Niara Minerals is required to make a financial provision—essentially a guarantee—set aside specifically for rehabilitation purposes. This money is held independently and cannot be used for any other purpose. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which must be approved by the authorities, outlines rehabilitation measures, and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) monitors compliance. Furthermore, Temvelo Consultants will ensure that rehabilitation commitments are clearly defined, implemented, and audited throughout and after the project. Landowners and stakeholders will also have access to regular updates and can raise concerns at any point during the process.

The exact locations for boreholes are determined through a step-by-step technical process that takes place before any drilling begins. This process includes:

- Desktop studies - reviewing existing geological maps, mineral records, and prior exploration data.
- Field mapping - on-the-ground surveys to observe visible geological features.
- Geophysical surveys - using non-invasive equipment to detect underground structures and mineral patterns.

Only after analyzing all this data do geologists select borehole positions that are most likely to yield useful samples while avoiding

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
			sensitive or protected areas. Final borehole locations are also adjusted based on environmental sensitivity and community concerns, to minimize impact. These locations are then mapped and submitted to authorities as part of the operational plan.
Sabelo Sibisi	x	26 July 2025(public meeting)	
		Is this your first time here doing consultation	No, we've had consultations before, from the 25th of July to date. This meeting forms part of the Environmental Authorizations process required by law to ensure that all landowners are consulted before any activity takes place. We are committed to ongoing engagement throughout the project lifecycle.
		Does DMRE already have your mapping because when I check with them they did	Yes, a basic map and coordinates of the application area are submitted to the DMRE at the time of the Prospecting Right Application. This is standard procedure. However, these maps only show the overall boundary of the area applied for, not the final borehole locations. The detailed technical planning—including where boreholes will be drilled—comes later and is still being developed based on environmental studies and community input.
		we've had other applicants/companies use our land and we were never compensated, nor did they rehabilitate	We understand and acknowledge this concern. Unfortunately, there have been instances in the past where some companies did not comply with legal obligations. However, under current laws—particularly the MPRDA and NEMA—companies are legally required to rehabilitate land and make financial provision in advance to do so. Niara Minerals is committed to full compliance and transparency, and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has enforcement powers to hold them accountable. This consultation process is part of ensuring you are informed and protected from the start.
		won't your boreholes affect our water	This is an important concern. A Hydrological Impact Assessment was conducted by a qualified water specialist as part of the environmental authorisation process. The purpose of this study was to understand the local groundwater systems and identify any potential risks to water resources before any prospecting begins. The findings of the assessment include site-specific recommendations and guidelines to ensure water protection during all prospecting activities. These recommendations are built into the Environmental

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
			Management Programme (EMPr), which is a legally binding document that Niara Minerals must follow. Compliance will also be overseen by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) where applicable, and by the DMRE. The project is designed to minimise risk to water resources, and ongoing monitoring will ensure that any potential impacts are detected early and addressed immediately.
Bonginkhosi Sibisi	x	26 July 2025(public meeting)	<p>Since there's two companies requesting prospecting from us (incl. Niara), are you sharing boreholes</p> <p>Pour land has been severely damaged by previous activities like commercial forestry, how will Niara minerals cover rehabilitation for their prospecting activities</p>
			<p>No, Niara Minerals will not share boreholes with any other company. Each company that applies for a Prospecting Right is required by law to conduct its own independent exploration programme, including drilling, sampling, and analysis. Even if another company is working in a nearby or overlapping area, Niara must carry out its own controlled and approved borehole drilling, based on its specific exploration objectives and environmental commitments. Borehole sharing is not allowed under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), as it could compromise data integrity and environmental accountability</p> <p>Niara Minerals will be responsible for rehabilitating only the areas they disturb during their prospecting operations. This includes all borehole sites, temporary roads, laydown areas, and any other project-related infrastructure. To ensure this, Niara is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a detailed Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that outlines how all disturbed areas will be rehabilitated • Make a financial provision upfront, specifically earmarked for rehabilitation, which is a legal requirement under Section 41 of the MPRDA • Implement progressive rehabilitation, meaning restoration begins as soon as each phase or activity is completed, rather than waiting until the end of the entire project • Follow all guidance provided by specialists (e.g. soil, vegetation, and hydrology experts) and comply with national environmental legislation <p>While Niara cannot be held responsible for damage caused by other historical land uses (e.g. forestry), it is committed to ensuring that its</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
			own activities do not contribute further degradation and that any impacted areas are properly restored to a stable and safe condition.
Jeto Shabangu	x 26 July 2025(public meeting)	I was present during your previous consultation on the 28th at Sihlengeni, some of the land you want to prospect on belongs to us as the trust, however there is a current land user with a lease with us for commercial forestry, how do you co-exist should we grant you permission to prospect.	Thank you, and we appreciate your continued participation. We are aware that some of the land within the application area is currently leased for commercial forestry operations. We want to assure you that the planned prospecting activities are designed to be minimally invasive and can co-exist with existing land uses such as forestry. The work is temporary, and once drilling is complete at a site, the area will be rehabilitated to its original condition, in line with the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Niara Minerals is committed to working respectfully alongside the current land user, and where necessary, will coordinate directly with the leaseholder to avoid any disruption to forestry operations. The nature of prospecting work—particularly during early phases—is such that multiple land uses can co-exist without conflict, provided there is clear communication and responsible planning.
Petros Mthethwa	x 26 July 2025(public meeting)	How do you as the applicant know our farm names	When applying for a Prospecting Right, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) requires applicants to clearly define the exact boundaries and locations of the proposed prospecting area. This includes specifying the farm names and portion numbers involved. Niara Minerals obtained the farm names and details from official land records, registries and GIS mapping, which are publicly accessible and form part of the legal process to identify the specific land parcels under application. This ensures clarity about the exact areas covered and helps identify all the relevant landowners and stakeholders who need to be consulted. Using these official farm names allows us to engage directly and respectfully with the correct communities and landowners during the consultation process, as part of our commitment to transparency and legal compliance.
Mondli Sibisi	x 26 July 2025(public meeting)	How many applications does Niara have	Currently, Niara Minerals has submitted this one Prospecting Right Application for the specific area described in this meeting. If additional applications are submitted in the future, those will also require separate environmental and community consultation

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
			processes. We will keep the community informed of any new applications affecting your area.
		Will the trust be compensated for each borehole you will dig?	Compensation arrangements depend on the agreements made between Niara Minerals and the landowners or lawful land users such as the Trust. If the Trust grants permission for prospecting, compensation is typically negotiated and agreed upon before any drilling takes place. The compensation covers temporary land use and any disturbance caused by borehole drilling. This is separate from the legal requirement for rehabilitation, which Niara Minerals must undertake regardless. We encourage open dialogue to ensure fair and transparent agreements
		Will you give us coordinates of each borehole you will drill?	Yes, once the final borehole locations are determined after the desktop study, field mapping, and geophysical surveys, Niara Minerals will share the exact coordinates with the Trust and other relevant stakeholders. This transparency helps ensure that you are fully informed about where prospecting activities will take place and provides an opportunity to discuss any concerns or access arrangements before drilling begins.
Thembekile Msibi	x	26 July 2025(public meeting)	Has Niara minerals started working?
			No, Niara Minerals has not yet started any prospecting activities on the land. At this stage, we are still in the environmental authorization process, which includes consultation with landowners, communities, and regulatory authorities. No drilling or ground disturbance will take place until all necessary permits and approvals are granted.
			Who is the owner
			The owner of Niara Minerals is Vumile Ribeiro
Bongani Sibisi	x	26 July 2025(public meeting)	I was present during your engagement meeting on the 28th of June, you mentioned that a heritage impact assessment I appreciate you did that because graves are very important to us culturally.
			Thank you for acknowledging the heritage impact assessment. Niara Minerals takes cultural heritage very seriously. The assessment was conducted by qualified specialists to identify any heritage sites, including graves, and to ensure these areas are protected and respected throughout the prospecting process. If any sites of cultural significance are found, Niara Minerals will work closely with the community and relevant authorities to avoid disturbance and implement any necessary protective measures.
			Who is the owner
			The owner of Niara Minerals is Vumile Ribeiro

0COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025

Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
		I was present during your engagement meeting on the 28th of June, you mentioned that a heritage impact assessment I appreciate you did that because graves are very important to us culturally.	Thank you for acknowledging the heritage impact assessment. Niara Minerals takes cultural heritage very seriously. The assessment was conducted by qualified specialists to identify any heritage sites, including graves, and to ensure these areas are protected and respected throughout the prospecting process. If any sites of cultural significance are found, Niara Minerals will work closely with the community and relevant authorities to avoid disturbance and implement any necessary protective measures.
		We have youth here, what job opportunities can they expect?	<p>Niara Minerals is committed to supporting local communities, including youth, through employment and skills development where possible. Although the prospecting phase is relatively small-scale and technical, there will be opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General labor and site support roles during drilling and site establishment • Training and skills transfer in environmental monitoring, equipment handling, and safety practices • Potential employment through contractors and suppliers involved in the project <p>Niara Minerals encourages youth to express interest and engage with local leadership so we can identify and facilitate opportunities. We also aim to comply with any local employment and procurement policies set by the DMRE and local authorities.</p>
Sibusiso Buthelezi	x	26 July 2025(public meeting) How does the Niara know what is beneath our land before us	Niara Minerals relies on a combination of existing geological data, desktop studies, and specialist surveys to get an initial understanding of what might be beneath the land. However, the most accurate information comes from the actual drilling and sampling during prospecting, which provides direct evidence of the underground formations. This process is necessary because every area can be different, and previous data may be limited or outdated. Prospecting helps us to better understand the mineral resources while carefully managing the environmental and cultural sensitivities of the land.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
		Should the trust grant you permission, we ask that you have a person from the community to assist in grave identification during your prospecting for local knowledge as well.	We appreciate and fully support this important request. Niara Minerals is committed to working in close collaboration with the local community to respect cultural heritage sites, including graves. Having a knowledgeable person from the community assist during the prospecting activities is valuable and will help ensure that graves and other culturally significant sites are identified and protected. We will work with the Trust and community representatives to identify suitable individuals who can assist as part of the heritage protection measures during the project.
Sinethemba Mthethwa	x 26 July 2025 (public meeting)	Will the youth be employed?	Yes, Niara Minerals is committed to supporting local youth through employment and skills development opportunities during the prospecting phase wherever possible. While prospecting work is specialized and limited in scale, there will be roles in site support, general labor, and environmental monitoring that local youth can be trained for and employed in.
Lawful occupier/s of the land			
No comments received			
Landowners or lawful occupiers on adjacent properties			
NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative	x 30 June 2025 (email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We look forward to receipt of the screening report and confirmation regarding the due date for the comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. We are taking instructions from our client in this regard and will revert. Please keep us updated of any communication with the DMR regarding the Spitskop properties. 	<p>Following our telephonic discussion Friday 4 July 2025, I would like to summarize the key points for clarity and record purposes.</p> <p>The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has accepted our prospecting right application for the following properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689 Remaining Extent of Demoina No. 830 Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540 Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831 Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518 <p>However, other portions were rejected due to either pending applications or existing rights. We are currently seeking clarification from the DMRE regarding the status of Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,</p>

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			<p>12, 13, and 19 of Spitzkop No. 70, which were not addressed in their correspondence.</p> <p>Initially, the acceptance of the broader application area triggered a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA), and Temvelo had already commenced work on the scoping phase. However, due to the reduction in the application area, the project now qualifies for a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) process instead. This change necessitates that certain specialist studies originally planned for the EIA phase now be integrated into the BAR.</p> <p>We have formally requested and been granted an extension until 31 July 2025 by the DMRE to accommodate this adjustment. However, they have not yet acknowledged the omission of the Spitzkop portions, which we understand are directly relevant to your client's interests.</p> <p>Regarding NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited, we had initially delayed consultation pending confirmation from the DMRE as to whether NCT qualifies as a directly or indirectly affected Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). We remain committed to full transparency and engagement, and thus have included the following documentation for your reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMRE's acceptance letter • Revised Screening Report (tentatively including the Spitzkop portions) • Revised Locality Map (also tentatively including Spitzkop) <p>Given the delays in DMRE responses and the importance of timely submission, we kindly request that any comments on the draft BAR be submitted by 18 July 2025. This will allow us adequate time to respond and finalise documentation ahead of the 31 July 2025 deadline.</p>

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			<p>We refer to the site notice published under reference number DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR and in respect of the public participation for a prospecting right in respect of various farms.</p> <p>We confirm that we, as the registered landowners, were not provided with notice of the above-mentioned application and did not receive the site notice and/or any other notification as the landowner.</p> <p>Our properties are directly impacted by the application, as any prospecting (if granted), will take place on these farms and have significant implications for our operations.</p> <p>Please register NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd as I&AP with the following contact details:</p> <p>c/o: NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited (Head office):</p> <p>Reg. No. 1949/000002/24</p> <p>P O Box 13363 Cascades, 3202</p> <p>37 McCarthy Drive Montrose, Pietermaritzburg, 3201</p> <p>Email addresses: Natasha Cluckie – natasha@nctforest.com / Richard Liversage - richardl@nctforest.com</p> <p>Telephone: 033 897 8500</p> <p>Please also provide us with a copy of the prospecting application and any and all other documentation relating thereto, as available, for review and comment. Alternatively, the link to access same.</p>	<p>Thank you for your correspondence dated 30th of June regarding the prospecting right application by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd (DMRE Ref: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR) and your registration as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on behalf of NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd.</p> <p>We acknowledge your concern that, as the registered landowner of the affected properties, you were not directly notified of the application or provided with the site notice. We sincerely apologize for any oversight in the notification process. Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd is committed to ensuring full compliance with the public participation requirements under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).</p> <p>We confirm that NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd has been registered as an I&AP for the above-referenced prospecting right application. Your contact details, as provided, have been noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization: NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited • Registration Number: 1949/000002/24 • Address: P O Box 13363, Cascades, 3202, 37 McCarthy Drive, Montrose, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 • Email Addresses: natasha@nctforest.com, richardl@nctforest.com • Telephone: 033 897 8500 <p>Please note that the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has accepted our application for certain properties (Remaining Extent of Isihlengi No. 689, Remaining Extent of Demoina No. 830, Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540, Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831, and Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No.</p>

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				<p>518) and rejected others due to pending applications or existing rights. We are currently seeking clarification from the DMRE regarding the status of Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19 of Spitzkop No. 70, which were not addressed in their response. We will keep you informed of any updates regarding the application status, particularly for properties owned by NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd.</p> <p>Should you have any further questions, require additional information, or wish to discuss the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us or reply to this email. We value your input as a landowner and I&AP and are committed to engaging transparently throughout this process.</p> <p>Thank you for your engagement, and we look forward to your comments and participation.</p>
		18 July 2025 (email)	<p>COMMENTS ON THE EA APPLICATION DOCUMENTS</p> <p>Inconsistencies regarding the form of the EA Application documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EA Application documents are referred to inconsistently in various places. In this regard, our client notes that it had sight of a notification contained in the Vryheid Herald, dated 13 June 2025, which provided that: <p><i>"Temvelo hereby informs all Interested and Affected Parties that the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) in support of the prospecting right application will be made available for public review and comment from June 12, 2025, to July 12, 2025...</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of video conferencing is to discuss the proposed project, the Draft Scoping Report, potential impacts and mitigation measures."</i> [emphasis added]</p> <p>However, the document received from the environmental assessment practitioners (Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd) ("EAP") is titled "<i>Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Programme Report for the Proposed Prospecting Right Application for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd</i>" [emphasis added].</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Inconsistencies regarding the form of the EA Application documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 – 5.4: <p>We acknowledge that inconsistencies occurred in the naming of the environmental assessment documentation, with reference being made interchangeably to the Draft Scoping Report (DSR), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, and Basic Assessment Report (BAR). These inconsistencies were the result of procedural uncertainty and shifting instruction received from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) regarding the scope of the accepted prospecting right application.</p> <p>To clarify, the original application submitted by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd covered a broad geographic area, including portions of the farm Spitzkop No. 70 HU. The initial acceptance letter from the DMRE (dated May 2025) did not specify a reduced application area and therefore triggered a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process in terms of Regulations 21 to 24 of the</p>

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		<p>The document then refers to itself as a "draft BAR" in various places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is accordingly unclear whether the Proposed Project is undertaking a basic assessment process or a scoping and environmental impact assessment process, and what the EA Application document constitutes in this regard. The EA Application document only contains listed activities under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GNR 983 of 4 December 2014) ("Listing Notice 1"), which requires that a basic assessment process is undertaken in terms of regulations 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982 of 4 December 2014) ("EIA Regulations"). <p>We also note the EAP's email correspondence dated 7 July 2025, which states: <i>"The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has accepted our prospecting right application for the following properties:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689</i> <i>Remaining Extent of Demoina No. 830</i> <i>Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540</i> <i>Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831</i> <i>Portions 0, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518</i> <p><i>However, other portions were rejected due to either pending applications or existing rights. We are currently seeking clarification from the DMRE regarding the status of Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19 of Spitzkop No. 70, which were not addressed in their correspondence.</i></p> <p><i>Initially, the acceptance of the broader application area triggered a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA), and Temvelo had already commenced work on the scoping phase. However, due to the reduction in the application area, the project now qualifies for a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) process instead. This change necessitates that certain specialist studies originally planned for the EIA phase now be integrated into the BAR."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our client has not received any further correspondence regarding confirmation from the DMRE in respect of whether the Properties owned by NCT are included in the PR Application. However, out of an abundance of caution and based on the fact that many 	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982 of 4 December 2014), as amended.</p> <p>Based on that instruction, work commenced on the scoping phase and was communicated as such in early public notices, including the Vryheid Herald notice dated 13 June 2025, which referred to a "Draft Scoping Report." However, the DMRE subsequently issued a revised acceptance letter which excluded the disputed properties, notably the Spitzkop portions, and materially reduced the scope of the proposed project area.</p> <p>This necessitated a reassessment of the applicable environmental authorisation process. The revised list of properties aligns only with activities listed under Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983 of 4 December 2014), thereby triggering only a Basic Assessment Process as required in terms of Regulations 19 and 20 of GNR 982. Accordingly, the EIA and EMP report was reformatted and titled as a Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). We regret that earlier documentation may still reflect terminology used before this reclassification was made clear by the competent authority.</p> <p>The correct form of the report as of the current public participation round is indeed a Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR), in terms of a Basic Assessment Process as set out under Chapter 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982, as amended).</p> <p>We take full responsibility for the administrative oversight in the inconsistent use of terminology across the DBAR and associated communication, and confirm that these errors will be rectified in the Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) to be submitted to the DMRE. We affirm that all substantive components required under Appendix 1 of GNR 982 for a DBAR have been included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.5:

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		<p>of the properties which have been accepted as part of the PR Application directly neighbour the Properties owned by NCT, NCT has elected to submit these comments on the DBAR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of clarity regarding which process is being followed by the Applicant renders the DBAR fatally flawed and deficient. In the circumstances, our client submits that the EA Application ought to be rejected by the Competent Authority. <p>Listed Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our client notes that, on page 1 of the DBAR, the EAP states "The proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed in Listing Notice 2 of the NEMA, and Environmental Impact Assessment processing terms of NEMA Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982 (as amended) is required." However, the table titled "Table 6: Listed Activities" on page 10 of the DBAR refers only to activities under Listing Notice 1. On the face of the EA Application, it is unclear whether the Applicant intends to conduct any activities in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GNR 984 of 4 December 2014) ("Listing Notice 2"), and if so, what activities are proposed. Accordingly, it is not apparent whether the Applicant is conducting a basic assessment process or a scoping and environmental impact assessment process. This, coupled with the confusion resulting from the conflicting description of the DBAR, negatively impacts the ability of I&APs to properly consider and comment on the EA Application, as I&APs are unable to determine the nature of the process being followed in terms of the EIA Regulations. We note that the EAP subsequently clarified via the email dated 7 July 2025 that "the project now qualifies for a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) process instead". The EA Application must be amended to reflect this. In the circumstances, our client submits that the EA Application ought to be rejected by the Competent Authority. <p>Absence of specialist studies</p>	<p>You are correct in observing that the listed activities applicable to the proposed project are exclusively those found under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GNR 983). As such, a Basic Assessment Process is applicable, not a full S&EIA process. This has since been confirmed with the DMRE.</p> <p>We confirm that the only listed activities applicable to the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 20 of GNR 983: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the prospecting right. Activity 27 of GNR 983: The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. <p>All references to the project undergoing an EIA process were made prior to the DMRE issuing its revised acceptance letter. This has since been corrected in internal and external project documents, and the current report is submitted under the correct regulatory track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.6: <p>The email dated 7 July 2025, which your office referenced, accurately reflects the position at the time: the application had been accepted for a reduced list of properties, which excluded the NCT-owned Spitzkop portions. The confusion was caused by the initial</p>

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		<p>The Screening Report provided by the EAP prescribes that the following specialist studies should be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural Impact Assessment; ▪ Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment; ▪ Palaeontology Impact Assessment; ▪ Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment; ▪ Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment; ▪ Noise Impact Assessment; ▪ Radioactivity Impact Assessment; ▪ Plant Species Assessment; and ▪ Animal Species Assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Screening Report also categorises the Agriculture, Aquatic Biodiversity, Palaeontology and Terrestrial Biodiversity themes as "very high" sensitivity and the Animal Species theme as "high" sensitivity. <p>In this regard, the EAP states that:</p> <p><i>"The following Specialist Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the EIA Phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Archaeology and Heritage Impact Assessment.</i> • <i>Fauna and Flora Impact Assessment; and</i> • <i>Wetland Impact Assessment</i> • <i>Hydrological Investigations (including Flood line delineation)".</i> <p>Our client notes that no specialist studies have been provided with the DBAR. In this regard, the EAP states:</p> <p><i>"This Draft BAR has been compiled primarily using available desktop information, literature reviews, and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tools. As such, the current assessment is based on secondary data sources and existing environmental information relevant to the project area.</i></p> <p><i>A key limitation at this stage is the absence of site-specific specialist studies, which are scheduled to be undertaken during the final BAR phase. These studies will provide detailed, field-based data necessary to verify assumptions made in this report and to comprehensively assess potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.</i></p>	<p>acceptance letter, which was silent on several properties, necessitating further clarification from the DMRE. This caused an unfortunate overlap of procedural frameworks during the drafting and circulation of the early versions of the EA documentation.</p> <p>As of 17 July 2025, a revised acceptance letter has been received from the DMRE, officially confirming that the Spitzkop properties are excluded from the accepted application area. This has been communicated to NCT via written notification dated 18 July 2025, accompanied by the revised acceptance letter issued by the DMRE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7: <p>We appreciate that your client has chosen to submit comments out of caution and as a neighbouring landowner. We confirm that NCT has been retained as a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in accordance with Regulation 41(2)(a) and (b) of GNR 982, and all correspondence and updated information will continue to be made available to NCT via your offices.</p> <p>We trust the above responses provide clarity and confirm our commitment to maintaining procedural integrity and compliance in terms of:</p> <p>The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982, as amended)</p> <p>The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.8 – Allegation that the DBAR is fatally flawed and should be rejected <p>We respectfully disagree that the Draft Basic Assessment Report ("DBAR") is fatally flawed. The confusion raised regarding the naming and process designation within the report has already been acknowledged in our response to sections 5.1 to 5.7. As clarified, the</p>

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		<p><i>Therefore, the findings and assessments presented in this draft BAR should be regarded as preliminary, with several assumptions made regarding site conditions, environmental sensitivities, and potential impacts. These assumptions will be tested and refined through field investigations and specialist input during the forthcoming phase. Additionally, uncertainties related to seasonal variations, subsurface characteristics, and stakeholder-specific concerns will be addressed more thoroughly as further information becomes available."</i>² [emphasis added]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the circumstances, it is evident that the Applicant has not conducted any of the specialist studies as required by the Screening Report and has not provided same to I&APs and only aims to conduct same to be provided with the final basic assessment report. It is also unclear whether the Applicant intends to submit these specialist studies to the public participation process. This is in contravention of regulation 19(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982 of 4 December 2014) ("EIA Regulations"), which provides that "[w]here basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority— <p><i>(a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMP, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"</i> [emphasis added].</p> <p>It is, therefore, concerning that no specialist studies have been undertaken by the EAP prior to the public participation process. The absence of specialist reports indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DBAR is incomplete, and that the Applicant has not undertaken sufficient studies to inform the contents of the DBAR. The information contained therein therefore cannot be considered as up to date and accurate; and If submitted in its current form, the EA Application will fail to comply with regulation 19(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations. 	<p>project initially proceeded under the assumption of a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process based on the original acceptance letter from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy ("DMRE"), issued in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).</p> <p>However, after the DMRE's revised correspondence clarified that the area of acceptance had been narrowed to include only activities listed under Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), the process was realigned to a Basic Assessment, in accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982), as amended.</p> <p>The EAP is in the process of correcting all residual misreferences in the final version of the BAR to be submitted. As such, we submit that this administrative oversight does not constitute a fatal flaw nor a basis for the rejection of the EA application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Listed Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 – 6.4: Conflicting statements regarding Listing Notice 2 <p>We acknowledge that there was a reference to Listing Notice 2 of GNR 984 of 4 December 2014 on page 1 of the DBAR, which was included in error. Upon thorough review of the accepted properties and associated project activities, it has been confirmed that no activities listed under GNR 984 (Listing Notice 2) are applicable to the proposed prospecting right.</p> <p>The applicable activities are solely those listed under Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983), and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 20 of GNR 983: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition, regulation 40 of the EIA Regulations provides "[t]he public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision...". Further, regulation 43(1) provides that: <i>"[a] registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application..."</i> [emphasis added]. The Applicant's failure to provide specialist studies contravenes the provisions of regulation 40 and 43(1) of the EIA Regulations. Our client submits that the failure to conduct any specialist assessments and provide such reports to I&APs is a fatal flaw in the EA Application process which also negatively impacts the ability of I&APs to properly consider and comment on the current EA Application. Specialist reports are an essential consideration in an application for environmental authorisation, particularly in the context of coal mining, which is infamous for having significant, negative environmental impacts. The failure to conduct any specialist studies therefore renders the DBAR deficient, incomplete, and non-compliant with the provisions of the EIA Regulations. In the circumstances, our client submits that the EA Application ought to be rejected by the Competent Authority. <p>Critical Biodiversity Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Proposed Project's impacts on biodiversity are not properly considered in the DBAR. The EAP acknowledges that the Proposed Project Area is within a critical biodiversity area ("CBA") and states in this regard that <i>"The project area falls within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), specifically classified as KZN CBA Irreplaceable and KZN CBA Optimal, with important wetlands and rivers also present..."</i>³ this is supposedly to be mitigated by the recommendation to <i>"Prioritize avoidance of sensitive ecological</i> 	<p>in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the prospecting right.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 27 of GNR 983: The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. <p>No activities under Listing Notice 2 or Listing Notice 3 are triggered by the proposed project. This will be corrected in the final BAR. The references to Listing Notice 2 on page 1 of the DBAR were a typographical error, carried over from the initial drafting phase when a full S&EIA was anticipated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.5 – 6.6: Clarification on assessment process and recommendation for rejection <p>The email dated 7 July 2025 clearly confirms that the project now falls within the scope of a Basic Assessment Process, and this position is being rectified throughout the report. In line with Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations (GNR 982), the final BAR will reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only applicable listed activities under Listing Notice 1, Correct references to the Basic Assessment process, Specialist studies and additional information as required. <p>We respectfully submit that while there were administrative errors in the draft, the EAP has acted in good faith in accordance with Section 240(1)(b)(ii) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), which requires that all information submitted to the competent authority be accurate and complete. The</p>

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		<p><i>areas, especially those within the Critical Biodiversity Area and vulnerable vegetation types, through site layout planning and minimization of footprint."</i>⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversely however, the EAP states on page 17 of the DBAR that "Preliminary environmental screening has been conducted, indicating that the site is not home to critical biodiversity areas or significant social conflicts." Other than this, the EAP does not provide further information on the mitigation of the impacts of the Proposed Project on the CBA. In addition, it is unclear how the EAP is able to determine the impacts of the Proposed Project on the CBA without having conducted any specialist studies. Without these studies, it is impossible to accurately predict and consider the impacts of the Proposed Project on biodiversity, flora, and fauna on and within the vicinity of the Proposed Project Area. Considering the significance of CBAs and thus the high sensitivity of the Proposed Project Area, it is untenable that no specialist biodiversity assessments have been undertaken and therefore no meaningful engagement has occurred regarding the unique site sensitivities. Accordingly, our client submits that the failure to conduct the required specialist assessments (or adequately motivate why such reports are not required), and subject these assessments to public participation, is non-compliant with regulations 19(1)(b), 40 and 43 of the EIA Regulations. If the EA Application is submitted in its current form, the only reasonable and lawful decision available to the Competent Authority will be to reject the application. <p>Impacts on water resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our client submits that the Applicant does not adequately consider the impacts of the Proposed Project on the wetlands and watercourses within the Proposed Project Area and simply states the following: <p><i>"Wetlands will be avoided as part of the site selection process for trenching and infrastructure. Where proximity to wetlands is unavoidable, buffer zones will be enforced, and activity-specific mitigation measures (e.g. sediment control, no-go zones) will be implemented in line with the National Water Act and wetland delineation protocols."</i></p>	<p>necessary corrections will be included in the final submission, and do not, in our opinion, warrant a rejection of the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Absence of Specialist Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 – 7.4: Screening tool results vs current content of the DBAR <p>We acknowledge that the Screening Report, generated from the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) online tool, recommends several specialist studies due to high or very high environmental sensitivity ratings for themes such as agriculture, palaeontology, biodiversity, and heritage.</p> <p>However, as noted in the DBAR, the EAP has clearly communicated that this Draft BAR was prepared using desktop data and existing environmental information to allow for an early-stage, public-facing draft, and that site-specific specialist studies have since been conducted. These will be appended to the Final BAR, which will be subjected to a second round of public participation, in compliance with the principles set out in Regulation 19(a) and Regulation 23(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982).</p> <p>It is not uncommon—particularly in Basic Assessment Processes dealing with revised scopes or late DMRE communication—for the Draft BAR to precede fieldwork, where preliminary data is used to identify key impact areas and inform stakeholders of the baseline assessment framework. This practice ensures early stakeholder involvement, in line with the spirit of Sections 2(4)(f) and 2(4)(i) of NEMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.5 – 7.9: Alleged non-compliance with public participation regulations <p>While we acknowledge that Regulation 19(a) states the BAR must be "inclusive of any specialist reports... which have been subjected to a public participation process," we note that Regulation 23(2) of the same regulations allows for a second public participation process if</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EAP does not provide any further details regarding the impacts of the Proposed Project on wetlands and in what instances "<i>proximity to wetlands is unavoidable</i>", nor does the EAP provide any further information regarding the buffer zones to be established in relation to the wetlands. In addition, as there is no accepted standard buffer zone from the edge of a wetland, an assessment of the wetland and any other watercourses on or near to the Proposed Project Area must be conducted by an aquatic specialist utilising the Department of Water and Sanitation's Buffer Zone Guidelines for Wetlands, Rivers and Estuaries, 2017. This assessment has not been undertaken. Therefore, it is impossible to conclude that a water use licence will not be required or whether the proposed buffers are sufficient. A water use licence is required to undertake water uses listed under the National Water Act, 1998 ("NWA"). Water uses listed in sections 21(c) and (i) of the NWA relate to "<i>impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse</i>" and "<i>altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse</i>", respectively. Any such activities within a watercourse (including a wetland) or the regulated area of a watercourse or delineated boundary of any wetland will trigger the need for a water use licence (or other form of entitlement to undertake a water use, such as a General Authorisation). Apart from the wetlands in the Proposed Project Area, the Screening Report highlights multiple other site sensitivities, including a river, a Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area ("FEPA") subcatchments and a Strategic Water Source Area ("SWSA"). The DBAR contains little to no mention of these features. This demonstrates that the EAP and the Applicant have not adequately engaged with the site sensitivities as identified in the Screening Report. This hinders meaningful engagement by I&APs with the DBAR, as it renders it impossible for our client, other I&APs, and Competent Authorities to effectively evaluate and provide informed comments on the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and its effects on their interests. This renders the public participation ineffective and non-compliant with regulations 40 and 43 of the EIA Regulations. If the EA Application is submitted in its current form, the only reasonable and lawful decision available to the Competent Authority will be to reject the application on 	<p>the report is materially revised or if significant new information becomes available.</p> <p>Accordingly, our approach is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final BAR will include all relevant specialist studies which have now been completed (Fauna and Flora, Wetland and Hydrological Studies, Heritage amongst others). These reports will be subjected to a second 30-day public participation round, ensuring that Regulation 19(a) and Regulations 40 and 43 are fully complied with prior to submission to the competent authority. <p>Stakeholders will therefore be afforded a full opportunity to comment on the findings of specialist assessments and provide informed input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.10 – 7.11: Concerns regarding completeness and legality of the DBAR <p>We submit that the Draft BAR was issued in line with a transparent and iterative process and that it explicitly states its limitations and planned updates. This ensures that Interested and Affected Parties are aware of the preliminary nature of the assessment and are invited to provide early input before final decisions are made.</p> <p>The Final BAR will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate field-based, site-specific specialist studies in line with the sensitivity ratings identified in the Screening Report; Address seasonal variations and on-site verification; Reflect stakeholder input received during the current and subsequent public participation processes.

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			<p>the basis that the Applicant has failed to comply with regulations 40 and 43 of the EIA Regulations, the NWA and NEMA.</p> <p>Inadequate consideration of the impacts of the Proposed Project on forestry and our client</p> <p>The DBAR states:</p> <p><i>"The predominant land use within the project boundary consists of commercial plantations, which form extensive, managed forestry areas. These are interspersed with scattered woodlands, adding to the area's ecological diversity and contributing to natural habitat connectivity.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, to forestry, there are patches of cultivated land used for agricultural purposes, primarily located near the periphery of the project area;</i></p> <p>However, other than this, the DBAR contains no mention of the impacts of the Proposed Project on forestry or on our client, who conducts forestry operations in the Proposed Project Area.</p> <p>The DBAR states the following:</p> <p><i>"The excavation will involve the trenching of five trenches, each with dimensions of 50 meters by 20 meters by 4 meters. Trenching locations cannot be considered at this stage because prospecting trenches can only be sited after desktop assessment, field mapping, and geophysical survey have been completed."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that the trenching sites have not been determined and that our client's forestry operations extend over the Properties in that large areas of the Properties are populated with its plantations of varying age classes, any trenches of the size and extent as recorded in the DBAR would have a significant impact on our client's operations, which may involve mass harvesting of trees and destruction of the surrounding environment. Please note that our client's Forestry Stewardship Council ("FSC") certification may be impacted or revoked by the Applicant's proposed prospecting activities. Our client is especially concerned about this from the perspective that the proposed prospecting activities (and potential mining activities in the long term) may result in water and soil contamination that may contaminate 	<p>We therefore submit that the DBAR is procedurally and legally not fatally flawed, and that Temvelo Consultants is acting within the bounds of Regulations 19, 23, 40 and 43 of the EIA Regulations and the obligations under Section 24N and 24O of NEMA. A staged, transparent release of data—with appropriate public participation—is both a reasonable and defensible approach, particularly under the current constraints and procedural complexities caused by the DMRE's late clarification of the application area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 – 8.4: We acknowledge that the project area overlaps with mapped Critical Biodiversity Areas, including KZN CBA Irreplaceable and CBA Optimal zones, as identified in provincial conservation planning tools. The presence of these CBAs was recognised in the Screening Report and discussed in the DBAR on pages 35 and xiii. It is true that an inconsistency exists between page 17 (desktop preliminary scan) and the more detailed discussion on page 35. This was due to the incorporation of updated spatial layers after the initial text was drafted. This inconsistency will be corrected in the Final BAR. 8.5: A Fauna and Flora Assessment, which includes a focused CBA sensitivity analysis, is has been completed and will be appended to the Final BAR. The fieldwork for this assessment has been completed, and the report is being finalised in line with the Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Terrestrial Biodiversity (GN 320 of 20 March 2020, as amended). This will also address the requirements of Regulations 19(1)(b), 40, and 43 of the EIA Regulations. Therefore, this is not a case of neglect or omission, but of phased disclosure, which is

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			<p>our client's water source and soil and have an adverse impact on our client's trees. If our client's FSC certification is lost or revoked because of the Applicant's proposed prospecting activities, our client will suffer catastrophic damage to its business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, the locations of the trenches may impact on our client's access to and across its plantations and/or obstruct its road access and pose potential fire risks to our client's operations, which may, in turn, jeopardise its insurance coverage. • The Applicant has therefore not provided information relating to, among other things, how the Proposed Project will impact our client's operations, plantations, access to water and the quality and quantity thereof and business/economics. • It is submitted that the failure by the Applicant to consider the potential impacts that the Proposed Project may have on forestry and our client renders the DBAR deficient, • Especially considering that it is one of the dominant land uses of the Proposed Project Area. This information must be provided to contextualise the impacts of the Proposed Project on forestry for both the Competent Authority and I&APs. • It is therefore submitted that the DBAR is fatally flawed as it fails to provide all of the relevant information to the Competent Authority and I&APs in contravention of regulations 19, 40 and 43 of the EIA Regulations. The EA Application should therefore be rejected by the Competent Authority. <p>Final site map 11.1 Regulation 3(1)(I) of the EIA Regulations requires that a basic assessment report must include:</p> <p><i>"a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DBAR, although it purports to attach a "Site plan map" and "Composite map" in Appendix 2, contains no such maps. • The DBAR thus does not provide adequate and detailed information to I&APs regarding the Proposed Project and the unique features of the site which would allow them to meaningfully participate in the public participation process as required by regulations 40 and 43 of the EIA Regulations. Without being provided with a site map, 	<p>permissible under Regulation 23(2), provided that the final submission is subjected to full public participation with adequate opportunity for review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9. Impacts on Water Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.1 – 9.5: <p>The DBAR acknowledges the presence of wetlands and rivers within or near the application area and proposes a "no-go" and buffer zone strategy for infrastructure placement. However, we concur that this requires substantiation through site-specific investigation.</p> <p>A Wetland and Hydrological Assessment, that was conducted in accordance with the DWS 2020 Updated Wetland Delineation Guidelines and the 2017 Buffer Zone Guidelines for Wetlands, Rivers and Estuaries, has been completed. The specialist team has delineated the wetlands and rivers and is preparing a report to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map all watercourses and regulated areas; • Assess risk significance using the Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) tool; • Recommend buffer widths and site-specific mitigation; • Assess potential water use triggers under Section 21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). <p>The findings have informed that neither a Water Use Licence (WUL) or General Authorisation (GA) is applicable. This information has been included in the Final BAR for public review in compliance with the EIA Regulations, and Regulation 41(2)(c)(ii).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10. Inadequate Consideration of Impacts on Forestry and Affected I&AP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.1 – 10.7: <p>We confirm that commercial forestry plantations form a significant land use on the project site. This is acknowledged in the DBAR, and desktop land use mapping reflects these features.</p>

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		<p>I&APs are unable to determine the location of the proposed activities in the Proposed Project Area and are accordingly unable to consider the impacts of the Proposed Project on themselves and on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DBAR is accordingly non-compliant with regulation 3(1)(l) of the EIA Regulations. If submitted in its current form, the only reasonable and lawful decision available to the Competent Authority will be to reject the application on this basis. <p>Financial Provisioning</p> <p>Under regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, where an environmental authorisation application relates to a prospecting activity (among others), the BAR must include <i>"the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations"</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DBAR does not contain any indication as to the quantum or calculations of financial provision and provides no information in this regard. In addition, no financial provision has been made for the significant impact of the Proposed Project on our client's operations, loss of trees and financial costs to our client from an environmental and operational perspective. This is in direct contravention of the requirements contained in the EIA Regulations. In addition, Regulation 10 of the Regulations pertaining to the Financial Provisioning for Prospecting, Exploration, Mining or Production Operations (GNR 1147 of 20 November 2015) ("Financial Provisioning Regulations") provides that the Applicant must <i>"ensure that a determination is made of the financial provision and the plans contemplated in regulation 6 are submitted as part of the information submitted for consideration by the Minister responsible for mineral resources of any application for environmental authorisation..."</i>. These reports are the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Rehabilitation Plan; Mine Closure Plan; and Environmental risk assessment report. 	<p>However, specific concerns raised by your client regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSC certification risks, Road access, Fire hazards, Economic and insurance implications, are noted and will be addressed in an updated land use conflict section in the Final BAR. <p>We are currently engaging directly with your client to obtain detailed spatial data on plantation extent, internal roads, and management boundaries to ensure this is accurately reflected in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site sensitivity overlay map (Section 11), The updated impact assessment, The EMPr (Appendix 4). <p>A site-specific Land Use Compatibility Matrix will be prepared to assess the significance of potential disruption to forestry operations and propose mitigatory options including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borehole relocation outside of active plantation blocks; Fire risk controls; Notification protocols; and Ongoing liaison with the landowner during implementation. <p>These issues will also be flagged for potential compensation, access agreements, or co-existence planning, which lie beyond the BAR scope but are critical to environmental and stakeholder management post-approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Final Site Map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1 - 11.4: <p>The omission of Appendix 2 maps in the publicly circulated DBAR is regrettable and was due to a formatting issue during PDF compilation. The following maps will be included in the Final BAR, in compliance with Regulation 3(1)(l) of GNR 982:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The above reports have not been included with the DBAR. Our client therefore submits that the EAP must provide it, and other I&APs, with these reports. Furthermore, regulation 5 of the Financial Provisioning Regulations requires that the EAP must provide our client with a description of how the "latent or residual environmental impacts which may become known in the future" have been financially provided for. No information is provided in this regard. Consequently, it is submitted that the lack of information in the DBAR as provided to IAPs regarding the financial provisioning for the Proposed Project is non-compliant with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and the Financial Provisioning Regulations. The EA Application should therefore be rejected by the Competent Authority. <p>Environmental Management Programme</p> <p>Item 1(1)(d) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations states that:</p> <p><i>"An EMPr must comply with section 24N of the Act and include— a description of the impact management outcomes, including management statements, identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided managed and mitigated as identified through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the development including—</i></p> <p><i>(i) planning and design;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) preconstruction activities;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) construction activities;</i></p> <p><i>(iv) rehabilitation of the environment after construction and in the case of a closure activity, closure;and</i></p> <p><i>(v) where relevant, operation activities".</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thus, an EMPr must be informed by the EIA process. However, as the DBAR lacks, inter alia, a thorough assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Project, the EMPr itself is based on and informed by this shortcoming. For instance, the EMPr does not consider forestry and the impacts that the Proposed Project will have thereon. Thus, no mitigation measures and monitoring and reporting procedures are prescribed. In 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Plan Map with project infrastructure overlay; Composite Map showing CBA, wetland buffers, land uses; Environmental Sensitivity Map (based on the Screening Tool); Tentative Borehole locations subject to revision once geophysical surveys are completed during prospecting <p>All these maps will be geo-referenced and prepared at appropriate scales to support informed decision-making and meaningful stakeholder engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Financial Provisioning <p>12.1 – 12.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Financial Provisioning Regulations, 2015 (GNR 1147) apply to the proposed prospecting activity. We confirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Rehabilitation Plan, Mine Closure Plan, and Environmental Risk Assessment Report are currently being finalised; Preliminary financial provisioning has been calculated using the DMRE's Financial Provisioning Calculator; Latent and residual risks will be addressed in the EMPr in line with Regulation 5 of GNR 1147. <p>These documents will be provided with the Final BAR and included in the second round of public participation, in compliance with Regulation 19(1)(a) of GNR 982. An overview of financial provision will be summarised in the main body of the report for transparency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) 13.1 – 13.3: <p>The current EMPr is a draft, informed by desktop-level impact predictions. As previously stated, this is being updated to:</p>

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		<p>addition, the entirety of the DBAR is unsupported and unsubstantiated by any specialist assessments, which leads to the EMPr being similarly insufficient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequently, the EMPr is insufficient and flawed. It is submitted that the only way of remedying this is for the EAP to complete a thorough and accurate environmental impact assessment from which a compliant and robust EMPr can flow. <p>Positive and Negative Impacts</p> <p>Table 10 of the DBAR provides the EAP's views of the positive and negative impacts of the Proposed Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is submitted that the list of positive and negative impacts outlined in the DBAR is fundamentally flawed and lacks credibility. It is not informed by any specialist studies and merely makes vague assertions, without quantifying the magnitude of these impacts or exploring critical implications. For example, there is no analysis of how these impacts might influence food security or the livelihoods of affected farmers. Furthermore, the list entirely overlooks the potential impact on forestry activities, further highlighting its lack of depth and completeness. In addition, our client is of the view that the alleged "positive impacts" are not positive impacts at all as it provides no benefits to the surrounding environment. For instance, the EAP provides that positive impacts include "<i>temporary vegetation clearance will be minimal and conducted in a controlled manner</i>", "<i>minimal disturbance to wildlife, with efforts to avoid critical habitats</i>", "<i>low impact on surface water, with no permanent water usage or discharge</i>" and "<i>no significant impact on groundwater as no permanent water usage is required</i>". These offer no benefit to the surrounding environment and are rather just mitigation of the negative impacts. Further, these are not informed by any specialist studies. Further, these benefits are highly unlikely, given the size and magnitude of the proposed trenches. Accordingly, the stated positive and negative impacts are materially flawed and cannot support the EA Application. In the circumstances, our client submits that the EA Application ought to be dismissed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate impact management outcomes for all phases of the project (planning to closure); Include site-specific mitigation from specialist studies; Address forestry and landowner-specific risks, including access, soil, water quality, and fire. The updated EMPr will comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations and will be made available for further I&AP comment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Positive and Negative Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.1 – 14.4: <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the nature and classification of the identified positive impacts within the updated Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the proposed prospecting activities. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) respectfully submits that these concerns are not substantiated and offers the following consolidated clarifications:</p> <p>Positive Impacts Are Legitimate and Evidence-Based</p> <p>It is important to distinguish between mitigation strategies and their resultant environmental outcomes. While certain cited examples—such as the avoidance of critical habitats, minimal vegetation clearance, and the absence of permanent water abstraction—originate from mitigation, their successful implementation results in a significantly reduced environmental footprint. In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, rehabilitate, offset), achieving negligible or no harm in sensitive environments such as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) is, in itself, a materially positive outcome.</p> <p>This approach aligns with Section 2(4)(a)(viii) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), which promotes decision-making that reduces environmental risks to ecosystems and people. In this context, the identification of low-impact outcomes is both a compliance and sustainability achievement, particularly when</p>

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		<p>Reasoned opinion as to whether the Proposed Project should or should not be authorised</p> <p>It is our client's view that the EAP is not in a position to motivate that the Proposed Project be authorised as provided on page 103 of the DBAR as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of instances of non-compliance with NEMA and the EIA Regulations and the Financial Provisioning Regulations; • The information contained in the EA Application is inconsistent, unsubstantiated and, consequently, it is impossible to determine what the impacts of the Proposed Project may be on the environment, our client's operations, or the operations of other I&APs; • No specialist assessments were undertaken in respect of the multiple significant environmental sensitivities identified; and • The lack of adequate information in the DBAR prevents I&APs from meaningfully engaging and participating the EA Application process. • It is therefore submitted that the EA Application cannot lawfully be granted as the applicable laws have not been complied with. • The lack of adequate information in the DBAR prevents I&APs from meaningfully engaging and participating the EA Application process. • It is therefore submitted that the EA Application cannot lawfully be granted as the applicable laws have not been complied with. 	<p>compared to standard prospecting practices known for more intensive disturbance.</p> <p>Impact Assessment Is Fully Informed by Specialist Studies</p> <p>Since the release of the initial Draft BAR (DBAR), the project's impact assessment has been substantially refined. The updated BAR is no longer based on preliminary desktop review but is now underpinned by a comprehensive suite of independent specialist studies, each conducted in accordance with the prescribed protocols under GN 320 of 2020. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment • Wetland Delineation and Functional Assessment • Hydrology and Floodline Studies • Agricultural Potential and Soil Assessment • Palaeontological and Heritage Impact Assessments • Social Impact Assessment (SIA) <p>These studies consider both potential negative impacts (e.g., species disturbance, watercourse proximity, habitat fragmentation) and any beneficial or residual environmental outcomes. As required by Appendix 1(3)(h) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the BAR objectively describes the nature, extent, duration, probability, and reversibility of all likely positive and negative impacts</p> <p>Shift from Trenching to Drilling: Significant Reduction in Environmental Risk</p> <p>One of the most consequential amendments to the project since the original BAR submission is the replacement of trenching with non-invasive core drilling. This change significantly lowers the project's environmental footprint due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mass soil displacement or vegetation clearance • Smaller, localised surface disturbance

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier and faster site rehabilitation • Micro-siting of boreholes to avoid sensitive ecological features <p>This refinement directly addresses prior concerns regarding impact severity and is now reflected in improved impact ratings. The updated methodology is also more consistent with the sustainability principles of Section 2(4)(a)(i)–(viii) of NEMA.</p> <p>Impacts Have Been Objectively Characterised</p> <p>Contrary to claims of a “materially flawed” impact discussion, the BAR presents an evidence-led and balanced risk-benefit analysis. The EAP has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified and assessed all likely negative impacts (e.g., on biodiversity, land use, visual landscape, and hydrology) • Evaluated the significance of those impacts both pre- and post-mitigation • Identified positive outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of long-term ecological degradation • Avoidance of groundwater and wetland impacts • Preservation of intact vegetation through site selection • Improved geotechnical and land-use planning data <p>These outcomes are not overstated benefits, but relevant, regulation-aligned findings under the EIA framework.</p> <p>No Legal or Procedural Basis for Dismissal</p> <p>The assertion that the EA application “ought to be dismissed” does not meet the legal threshold under NEMA or the EIA Regulations. Section 24 of NEMA requires that all submitted documentation—including the updated BAR, specialist inputs, and public comments—be duly considered by the competent authority. Given that:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project scope has been revised to reduce environmental impact • All specialist studies are complete and publicly available • Impacts have been transparently and systematically assessed • Public participation opportunities have been extended (until 14 August 2025) <p>There is no procedural or substantive legal basis for rejecting the application based on unsubstantiated critiques of the impact summary. The updated BAR is scientifically robust, legally compliant, and responsive to public and regulatory input. It reflects a meaningful evolution in both project design and environmental stewardship. The classification of positive impacts—such as minimized footprint, risk avoidance, and compliance with environmental best practices—is consistent with applicable legislation and impact assessment norms. We respectfully submit that the current application provides a sound basis for informed, lawful decision-making by the competent authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15. Reasoned Opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.1 – 15.2: <p>The current DBAR is a draft. It was never intended to represent the final position of the EAP. The opinion that the project is “likely to be authorised” was based on preliminary findings and will be revisited in light of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final specialist studies, • Updated spatial mapping and sensitivities, • Stakeholder comments including those submitted by NSDV Law Inc. <p>A revised reasoned opinion, accompanied by an updated summary of alternatives and mitigation measures, will be included in the Final BAR as per Section 240(1)(b) of NEMA.</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16–19. Conclusion <p>We appreciate your client's detailed submission and have taken each point seriously. The final version of the Basic Assessment Report will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate all specialist studies and site-specific assessments; Address the gaps and inconsistencies identified in the draft; Be made available for a full second round of public participation in terms of Regulation 23(2) of the EIA Regulations. <p>We therefore respectfully submit that there is no basis for rejecting the EA Application at this stage, as the process remains active, and the identified deficiencies will be addressed within the legally prescribed framework.</p>
Ward councillor				
No comments received				
Municipal councillor				
No comments received				
Zululand District Municipality/ Abaqulusi Local Municipality				
No comments received				
Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected Roads Department, Eskom, Telkom, DWS)				
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	x	22 July 2025 (email)	Proximity to a National Protected Area Ezemvelo is highly concerned with the proximity of the proposed site i.e. 431. to the Ntendeka Wilderness Protected Area (NWPA) which is declared under the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003). The Nature Conservation Services Board recognises that mining (and heavy industry) is an incompatible land-use activity adjacent to protected areas as the impacts of mining (and the associated feasibility phase of prospecting) threaten the very purpose and value of protected areas and biodiversity. Given the proximity of the application area to the NWPA, proposed prospecting activities and any future mining will negate the very purpose of this sensitivity. This will likely result in concomitant negative impacts to linked ecological goods and services and affect key conservation goals and targets.	Proximity to Ntendeka Wilderness Protected Area (NWPA) Concern: The proposed site lies in proximity to the Ntendeka Wilderness Protected Area (NWPA), and mining is considered an incompatible land use adjacent to protected areas. Response: We confirm that the Ntendeka Wilderness Protected Area, declared in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), was identified during the desktop and field phases of the project. A 5 km buffer has been

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		<p>Future mining in and around the proposed site, would also foreclose on opportunities for Protected Area Expansion. Furthermore, the report lacks critical locality information, and it is thus unknown how close the proposed trenches are to the NWPA. Therefore, Ezemvelo cannot support prospecting and future mining activities, within and close to the NWPA and its associated buffer.</p> <p>Critical Biodiversity Areas</p> <p>It is brought to your attention that the proposed site supports Critical Biodiversity Areas categorised as Irreplaceable and Optimal. Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) categorised as Irreplaceable, are natural or near-natural features, habitats or landscapes that include terrestrial, aquatic and marine areas that are considered critical for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Achieving the national and provincial biodiversity targets and thresholds; (ii) Safeguarding areas required to ensure the persistence and functioning of species and ecosystems, including the delivery of ecosystem services; and or (iii) Conserving important locations for biodiversity features or rare species. These CBAs must be avoided; if these areas are not maintained in a natural or near-natural state, biodiversity conservation targets cannot be met. Optimal CBAs are areas that represent an optimised solution to meet the required biodiversity conservation targets while avoiding areas where the risk of biodiversity loss is high. The conservation of CBAs is crucial, in that if these areas are not maintained in a natural or near-natural state, biodiversity conservation targets cannot be met. The significance and importance of CBAs are further outlined in the Mining and Biodiversity Guideline¹, which highlights that CBAs must be afforded special attention when assessing and evaluating the impacts of prospecting and mining. Ezemvelo is concerned that the proposed activities, and potential mining in and around the application area, have the potential to cause fragmentation impacts on the CBAs and the biodiversity driving features listed above. Prospecting and associated activities, such as the construction and operation of access routes, vehicle and machinery maintenance, operational ablution facilities, and laydown areas, are likely to result in habitat fragmentation, pollution of the receiving environment, and disturbances to local fauna and flora. The population dynamics of faunal species, including those mentioned above, may be negatively affected, particularly in terms of breeding and foraging. Overall, the proposed activities and future mining would disrupt ecological linkages, reduce habitat availability, and lead to a general loss 	<p>mapped around the NWPA, and no prospecting activities (boreholes or infrastructure) are proposed within this buffer.</p> <p>The updated prospecting method has shifted from trenching to borehole drilling, a change which significantly reduces surface disturbance, vegetation clearance, and risks to adjacent protected areas.</p> <p>This aligns with Section 17(1)(d) of NEM:PAA, which promotes the protection of ecological corridors and buffer zones. The borehole siting, as per the updated biodiversity and hydrological assessments, ensures that no activities will occur within proximity that would pose a risk to the integrity of the NWPA.</p> <p>Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs – Irreplaceable and Optimal)</p> <p>Concern: The project overlaps with mapped CBAs, which must be retained in a natural or near-natural state to meet biodiversity conservation targets.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>We acknowledge the site overlaps with mapped CBAs (both Irreplaceable and Optimal), which are critical for achieving conservation targets as outlined in the Mining and Biodiversity Guideline (DEA et al., 2013).</p> <p>The Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (2025) conducted by Arid Cactus Consulting has mapped CBAs and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) at a fine scale and confirmed that all boreholes have been sited outside of intact CBA habitat. In fact, drilling will only occur in transformed plantation areas, aligning with the precautionary principle in Section 2(4)(a)(vii) of NEMA.</p> <p>Furthermore, no new access roads are proposed. Existing forestry roads will be utilised, thus minimising fragmentation and reducing edge effects.</p>

OCOMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
		<p>of local biodiversity. It is therefore imperative that appropriate, site-specific mitigation measures be thoroughly investigated as part of this application.</p> <p>Threatened Ecosystem</p> <p>It is brought to your attention that the application area is within the Ngome Mistbelt Grassland and Forest which is a National Threatened Ecosystem. The primary aim of listing threatened ecosystems is to mitigate the rate of extinction among ecosystems and species. This entails the prevention of further degradation, as well as the loss of structural integrity, ecological functionality, and biodiversity within threatened ecosystems, which in turn supports the achievement of provincial conservation objectives and targets. Ezemvelo is highly concerned that prospecting and associated activities within this ecosystem (as well as future mining) could disrupt this habitat and compromise its ecological and biodiversity values. Without suitable mitigation measures, including avoidance, cumulative impacts could exacerbate the current threats to this ecosystem.</p> <p>National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy and Key Biodiversity Area</p> <p>The proposed site is within a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area. The goal of the NPAES is to achieve cost-effective expansion of protected areas for ecological sustainability and enhanced resilience to climate change. It establishes targets for protected area expansion, provides maps of the most significant areas for such expansion, and offers recommendations on mechanisms to reach these objectives. The proposed site also supports a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) known as Ngotshe. This site qualifies as a KBA of international significance that meets the thresholds for 3 criteria described in the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs. Based on current available information, 8 species meet one or more KBA. The proposed prospecting activities and future mining are likely to cause fragmentation impacts to the both the NPAES Focus Areas and KBA, resulting an overall loss of biodiversity. Furthermore, prospecting and mining could foreclose opportunities for protected area expansion within this area, thereby limiting biodiversity linkages in and around the proposed site. It is thus imperative that prospecting and associated activities remain outside of these sensitivities.</p> <p>Freshwater Habitats</p>	<p>Threatened Ecosystem – Ngome Mistbelt Grassland</p> <p>Concern: The site overlaps with a nationally listed Threatened Ecosystem, which is at risk from transformation and fragmentation.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The presence of Ngome Mistbelt Grassland, a nationally listed Vulnerable Ecosystem in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), was noted and carefully integrated into the planning process.</p> <p>All intact grassland patches and their recommended 100m buffer zones have been mapped and designated as no-go areas. Drilling will not occur within these ecosystems or their buffers.</p> <p>This is consistent with the mitigation hierarchy outlined in the 2013 Listing Notice protocols and the Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN, 2016), which promotes avoidance as the first step in impact mitigation.</p> <p>NPAES and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA – Ngotshe)</p> <p>Concern: The proposed site falls within a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) of international significance (Ngotshe), both of which are critical for biodiversity conservation and ecological connectivity. Prospecting and future mining activities risk causing habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and the potential foreclosing of opportunities for protected area expansion in this sensitive landscape.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The site does fall within a National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area and overlaps partially with the Ngotshe KBA, a site of international biodiversity importance.</p> <p>However, the updated site plan and sensitivity map (Appendix 1, Amended DBAR) demonstrate that no prospecting activities will take place within intact KBA habitat or NPAES focus nodes. A strategic</p>

OCOMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
		<p>The proposed application area supports National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas i.e., the Sihlengeni River, the Sikwebezi River (both categorised as Class A: Unmodified), and associated wetland habitats. National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas are strategic spatial priorities for conserving freshwater ecosystems and supporting the sustainable use of water resources². These priority areas are often tributaries and wetlands (such as those in and around the proposed site) that support hard-working large rivers and need to stay in good condition to manage and conserve freshwater ecosystems, as well as protect water resources for human use. The proposed site also supports numerous perennial and non-perennial watercourses. It is emphasised that watercourses and wetlands are considered globally threatened ecosystems and have been recognised in both national and provincial environmental legislation as important resources that need to be safeguarded, from activities such as those proposed. In light of the above, Ezemvelo is concerned with potential direct and indirect negative impacts on these systems through pollution, wastewater, fuel spillages and future mining activities. In the absence of site-specific mitigation measures, the proposed prospecting and any future mining could adversely affect both the ecological processes of these aquatic ecosystems, and the ecosystem services rendered by these catchments to downstream biodiversity. This could result in a downgrade of the NFEPAs status of the abovementioned freshwater habitats, and as such, appropriate mitigation measures must be investigated and implemented.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Whilst Ezemvelo would not object to proposed prospecting provided that the recommendations below are strictly adhered to mining activities have the potential to result in severe direct, indirect and residual impacts to the abovementioned features of biodiversity concern. Given the presence of the NWPA, mining would not be supported within these areas. To safeguard the abovementioned features from potential negative prospecting activities, Ezemvelo strongly recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A composite map depicting the localities of the proposed trenches, access roads, laydown areas and any additional activities, must be provided to Ezemvelo for review and comment. The map must include the sensitivities highlighted above and their buffers. • No prospecting activities are to be undertaken within the sensitive terrestrial sensitivities above and their buffers i.e. the NWPA, CBAs, NPAES, KBA, and the 	<p>offset proposal is also under consideration for any future mining application that may arise, which will include grassland restoration in line with SANBI guidelines on Biodiversity Offsets (2014).</p> <p>Freshwater Ecosystems – FEPA Rivers and Wetlands</p> <p>Concern: The site supports unmodified (Class A) FEPA rivers (Sihlengeni and Sikwebezi) and valley-bottom wetlands.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Freshwater Habitats were identified at desktop level and included the identification of two FEPA rivers, namely the Sihlengeni and Sikwebezi Rivers which were rated as Class A rivers, indicating a near natural or unmodified state. A 500m minimum buffer zone was designated for these rivers to ensure no impacts arising from the proposed activities affects the river habitats.</p> <p>Further infield investigations identified several wetland and drainage line features within the proposed target area with a minimum buffer zone of 100m applied for the wetland and drainage lines, in particular due to the topography of the area.</p> <p>In summary, the Biodiversity Study (2025) have identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands and non-perennial streams • 30 m and 100 m buffers, respectively • 500 m buffer applied to FEPA rivers to ensure hydrological and ecological integrity <p>All boreholes are located outside of delineated aquatic buffers, and no water abstraction, discharge, or infrastructure will be placed within these features. This is compliant with Section 21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).</p> <p>Composite Maps and Specialist Assessments</p> <p>We confirm the submission of the following, per your recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Composite Sensitivity Map (Appendix 2)

OCOMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
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		<p>threatened ecosystem. The proposed trenches must be restricted to transformed sites such as the plantation areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the biodiversity sensitivities be unavoidable, Ezemvelo strongly recommends that detailed investigations be undertaken by a suitably qualified specialist (or specialists) to assess and quantify the potential prospecting impacts to these areas, as well as identify the appropriate mitigation measures required to safeguard these areas and associated features of biodiversity concern. The Plan of Study must then include a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment. The terms of reference for the specialist assessments must be informed by Ezemvelo's Handbook for Biodiversity Assessments in KZN (attached to this email correspondence). The specialist assessments must comply with the Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity (Government Notice No. 320, Government Gazette No. 43110). Should it be determined through the assessments that significant negative residual impacts are likely to occur, the option of offsets, as per the mitigation hierarchy, must be pursued. The FEPA Guidelines and mitigation measures including appropriate riverine and wetland buffer recommendations, must be included in the Environmental Management Programme. No prospecting and associated activities are to be undertaken in and around the ecologically sensitive areas including inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands, springs and pans, and their 30m ecological buffer (where the outer edge of the hydromorphic zone has been delineated by a suitably qualified specialist). Streams, rivers and dams, and their 20m ecological buffer (where the outer edge of the hydromorphic zone has been delineated by a suitably qualified specialist); and; Wetlands, streams, rivers, springs, dams or pans and their 50m ecological buffer (where the outer edge of the hydromorphic zone and floodline is unknown). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity, Aquatic, Hydrological, and Wetland Assessments informed by GN 320 of 2020 and Ezemvelo's Handbook for Biodiversity Assessments in KZN Proof of SACNASP registration for all specialists Specialist Declarations of Interest Mitigation measures and buffers per the FEPA Implementation Manual (Driver et al., 2011) <p>Commitment to No-Go Areas and Mitigation</p> <p>All no-go areas have been firmly demarcated, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBAs (Irreplaceable and Optimal) Ngome Mistbelt Grassland (100m buffer) FEPA Rivers (500m buffer) Wetlands and drainage lines (100m buffer) NWPA (5 km buffer) <p>This approach reflects compliance with the mitigation hierarchy and upholds the duty of care in Section 28(1) of NEMA, which obliges all persons to take reasonable measures to prevent pollution and ecological degradation.</p> <p>Prior to field work, several areas were identified and designated as no-go zones (Error! Reference source not found.) these include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened Ecosystems and their 100m buffer zones; CBA areas and 100m buffer zone, The FEPA Rivers and their 500m buffer zones; The 5km buffer area of the Protected Ntendeka Wilderness Area <p>Field Survey</p> <p>The field survey focused on possible sites for prospecting that were beyond the excluded areas. Various habitat types were identified which included modified grasslands, forestry plantations and</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025				
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation		Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing access routes must be used as far as possible. New access routes should avoid all sensitive areas and their ecological buffer. <p>Ezemvelo will await the Amended DBAR, which must include the specialist assessments and recommendations mentioned above, as well as the DFFE Screening Tool Report, for review and comment. Should any biodiversity issues arise, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.</p>	<p>freshwater habitats. From the field survey the following were exclusions:</p> <p>Identified freshwater habitats and 100m buffer zones Modified grassland areas.</p> <p>To mitigate against further habitat deterioration and loss, it was recommended that borehole locations be within the forestry areas adjacent to existing roads. This limits the need for establishment of access road which could lead to increased impacts. The recommended borehole locations are beyond all sensitive habitat features.</p> <p>Closing Statement</p> <p>Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd acknowledges the valuable insights and detailed input provided by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The concerns raised regarding ecological sensitivities, biodiversity priorities, and potential cumulative impacts have been received with the seriousness they deserve, and we are fully committed to ensuring that environmental protection and sustainability remain at the core of the project design and implementation.</p> <p>In line with the principles of responsible environmental management as outlined in the NEMA, the revised BAR has incorporated all necessary refinements to align with both the precautionary principle and the duty of care imposed by Section 28 of NEMA. All fieldwork, site selection, and mitigation planning have been executed to ensure the prospecting activities avoid direct impacts on CBAs, ESAs, Threatened Ecosystems, FEPA rivers, wetlands, and the NPAES Focus Area. Where necessary, scientifically defensible buffer zones of up to 500 meters have been incorporated into the planning framework, ensuring that prospecting activities are located in transformed or low-sensitivity areas only, such as existing forestry blocks and adjacent disturbed zones.</p> <p>Furthermore, the prospecting methodology has been revised from trenching to low-impact borehole drilling. This significantly reduces</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025

Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
			<p>the physical footprint of activities, limits habitat disturbance, and eliminates the need for the construction of new access roads or large-scale earthworks.</p> <p>The revised prospecting approach, based on 10–15 carefully sited boreholes, reflects:</p> <p>A highly reduced, reversible footprint;</p> <p>A no-go policy for intact sensitive habitats;</p> <p>Alignment with national biodiversity protocols, provincial conservation plans, and the Ezemvelo Handbook.</p> <p>These adjustments are consistent with global best practice in biodiversity-sensitive areas and align with the mitigation hierarchy endorsed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and outlined in the National Biodiversity Framework (2023).</p> <p>All specialist studies referenced in the DBAR, including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, wetlands, hydrology and floodlines, paleontology, heritage, and social assessments, have been completed in accordance with the applicable protocols published under Section 24J of NEMA and are publicly available for review until 14 August 2025, following a formally granted extension by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). These studies serve to strengthen the scientific rigour of the report and allow Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), including Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, to provide further meaningful comment.</p> <p>We trust that the extensive avoidance measures, scientifically grounded mitigations, and transparent engagement process demonstrated thus far affirm our commitment to ensuring that the prospecting activities are undertaken in a manner that is not only legally compliant, but ecologically responsible and aligned with long-term conservation goals in KwaZulu-Natal. We remain open to further dialogue and collaboration with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025				
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation		Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant
				<p>look forward to your continued involvement in the environmental authorisation process.</p> <p>Every attempt has been made to avoid sensitive natural habitats and freshwater habitats within the proposed project area. All proposed borehole locations are beyond CBA, KBA, FEPA and Protected areas. Any possible future mining will follow a similar path of responsible and sustainable thinking taking note the current land use (forestry); mining would consider directing some of the area to grassland restoration in line with NPAES in a biodiversity offset strategy.</p>
NGO's				
No comments received				
Other Competent Authorities Affected				
			No comments received	
Interested and Affected Parties				
Zeblon Shabangu (Emchunwini)	X	28 July 2025 - Open day meeting	As you inspect and get what your company is looking for, will it affect the community in any way? In terms of our lifestyle and livestock?	The proposed prospecting activities are designed to have minimal impact on the surrounding community and environment. Site establishment will involve limited vegetation clearance, and existing roads will be used where possible to avoid disrupting community land. No blasting or large-scale mining will occur at this stage. Environmental management plans and mitigation measures—such as dust suppression, noise control, and erosion prevention—will be implemented to ensure livestock and lifestyle are not adversely affected. Additionally, rehabilitation of disturbed areas will be conducted progressively.
Jethro Shabangu (Mistyvalley)	X	28 July 2025 - Open day meeting	As you inspect the area, do you also get permission from landowners or is it just the community that is affected?	Yes, permission must be obtained from landowners before access is granted to any private property. The applicant, Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd, is required to consult with both landowners and interested and affected parties, as per the requirements of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and the National

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025				
Interested and Affected Parties "X" indicate actual consultation	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant	
			Environmental Management Act (NEMA). No prospecting activities will commence on any land without appropriate agreements and permissions.	
		How do you do the inspections? How do you reach the coal?	Inspections and prospecting will be done in phases. Initially, non-invasive methods such as desktop studies, geophysical surveys, and field mapping will be conducted. Thereafter, targeted trenching will be undertaken to access and sample subsurface coal seams. Each trench will be approximately 50 metres long, 20 metres wide, and 4 metres deep. Excavation will be carried out using machinery, and the collected material will be screened and analysed to determine the presence and quality of coal and related minerals.	
Fred Mthethwa (Induna)	X	28 June 2025 - Open day meeting	Clarifying that the area is under the Ugu Trust	Noted
			Majority of the land is owned by people that rent the land out to companies that plant trees' Mondi Paper	Noted
			All these people must be contacted as well as it may affect people's land and businesses	Noted
			The Nduna further elaborated what Temvelo was there to do and explained this carefully to the community	Noted
			The Nduna offered to look at list of Trusts in the area and to add more that were missing.	Noted
Milton Khumalo	X	28 June 2025 - Open day meeting	Appreciated the presentation	Noted
			As there are two owners, what means are made to neighbours of that place? Are they being compensated if they find that they must move? What about when good coal is found right next to your property?	At the prospecting stage, there is no need for anyone to relocate, as no mining will take place. The activities are limited to short-term exploration, not extraction. If, in the future, a viable mining operation is proposed, further public consultation and negotiation will occur, and legal provisions regarding compensation and land use will apply. All affected landowners will be fully consulted, and no displacement can occur without a formal agreement and relevant approvals under South African law.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY 2025			
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		Did you earmark the areas?	Yes, the application area has been clearly defined and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). The prospecting area covers specific farm portions within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality. The final locations for trenching and sampling within these portions will be selected based on environmental sensitivity assessments, landowner agreements, and desktop studies. This ensures that high-risk or protected areas are avoided, and that all legal and environmental guidelines are followed.
Jani Luvuno	X 28 June 2025- Open day meeting	Will community members get any employment if your inspection come out positive and mining begins, or will you be coming with your own employees?	Local employment will be prioritised for all employment opportunities
Bonginkosi Khumalo	x 28 June 2025- Open day meeting	Please may the community get promotional materials like jerseys or T-shirts if the project is successful.	Noted



Appendix 3F: Landowners Representatives Consultation Meeting Documentation



Date	21 June 2025	Time:	11:00 -12:00
Project No:	NIA02	Facilitator:	Nolwazi Dlamini
Project Name:	Environmental Impact Assessment for The Proposed Prospecting Right in Respect of Various Portions of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd	Minute Taker:	Feziwe Mntungwa

Public Participation Meeting : Environmental Impact Assessment For The Proposed Prospecting Right In Respect Of Various Portions Of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd.

1 Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was convened to inform and engage with members of the Khambi Tribal Council regarding the Prospecting Right application submitted by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The application was made in accordance with Sections 16 and 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). The aim was to present details of the proposed prospecting activities and provide a platform for stakeholders to raise concerns, seek clarifications, and offer input.

2 Attendance and apologies

- Representatives from Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd
- Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) – Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd
- Khambi Tribal Council
- Local community members

3 Presentation Summary

Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd provided an overview of the proposed prospecting activities, including:

- Location and extent of the application area
- Minerals targeted (e.g., coal)
- Duration and phases of the prospecting process



- Environmental considerations and legal compliance
- Opportunities for public involvement

4 Key Questions and Concerns Raised with responses

- *“what Farms are affected”*

Response:

The application area spans various farm portions, namely the Remaining Extent of Isihlengeni No. 689; the Remaining Extent of Demoina; Portion 1 of Weltevrede No. 540; Portion 1 of Misty Valley No. 831; Portions 0, 1, 3, 4, and 6 of Toovernaars Rust No. 518; and Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19 of Spitzkop No. 70.

- *“Has an application been lodged”*

Response:

Yes, Niara minerals has lodged an application at the DMRE and are currently doing public participation for the project in accordance with NEMA laws

5 Next Steps

Chief Kusakhanya Zulu requested that a public meeting be held with members of his community to formally inform them about the proposed project, as they are the primary affected parties. He advised that, following the meeting, Temvelo should return with the meeting minutes and attendance register, after which the Tribal Authority would issue a consent letter in support of the application.

6 Closure

The meeting concluded with a commitment from Niara Minerals and Temvelo consultants to continue engaging with all stakeholders transparently and to ensure that the rights and concerns of affected parties are considered throughout the prospecting process.

7 Closing Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person	Deadline
Provide Meeting minutes	ND	07 July 2025

Meeting adjourned



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nolwazi Dlamini".

Nolwazi Dlamini



Date	01 July 2025	Time:	12:00 -13:00
Project No:	NIA02	Facilitator:	Nolwazi Dlamini
Project Name:	Environmental Impact Assessment for The Proposed Prospecting Right in Respect of Various Portions of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd	Minute Taker:	Feziwe Mntungwa

Public Participation Meeting : Environmental Impact Assessment For The Proposed Prospecting Right In Respect Of Various Portions Of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd.

1 Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was convened to inform and engage with members of the public regarding the Prospecting Right application submitted by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The application was made in accordance with Sections 16 and 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). The aim was to present details of the proposed prospecting activities and provide a platform for stakeholders to raise concerns, seek clarifications, and offer input.

2 Attendance and apologies

- Representatives from Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd
- Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) – Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd
- Local community members and landowners

3 Presentation Summary

Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd provided an overview of the proposed prospecting activities, including:

- Location and extent of the application area
- Minerals targeted (e.g., coal)
- Duration and phases of the prospecting process
- Environmental considerations and legal compliance



- Opportunities for public involvement

4 Key Questions and Concerns Raised with responses

- “Chief Buthelezi asked how we found out about him being the chief in the area? and how we got his contact details?”

Response:

Thank you, Chief Buthelezi. We were informed about your leadership through local community contacts who spoke highly of you. Your contact details were shared with us by those same local stakeholders to ensure we engaged with the appropriate authority in the area.

- *“Thabo Mtshali asked if we had put in an application at the DMRE as yet?”*

Response:

Thank you, Thabo. Yes, we’ve submitted our application to the DMRE and are currently in the process of the Public Participation Process for the PRA.”

- *“What steps would we take if the chief of the designated area doesn’t agree with the said project?”*

Response:

If the chief doesn’t agree with the project, our first step would be to engage with him directly to understand his concerns and provide full clarity on the project. We’d also involve broader community structures to ensure all voices are heard and considered.

If needed, we’re open to facilitation or mediation to find common ground. Any objections would be formally documented as part of the Public Participation Report submitted to the DMRE.

Where possible, we would also look at adapting aspects of the project to address valid concerns, while ensuring compliance with all DMRE and MPRDA guidelines. Open, respectful communication remains a priority throughout the process.

- *We were informed that usually we start contacting the chief in the affected areas before consulting DMRE as a sign of respect*

Response:

Thank you for that guidance. We acknowledge and respect that custom. In this case, we initiated the DMRE process early to ensure compliance, but we fully recognize the importance of engaging the chief and community as a priority. We're committed to following proper protocols and showing due respect to traditional leadership moving forward.

5 Next Steps

- Public comments and objections will be accepted until 18 July 2025.
- Further environmental and social impact assessments may be conducted, depending on the outcome of prospecting activities.
- All stakeholders will be kept informed of any material developments or changes in the application process.

6 Closure

The meeting concluded with a commitment from Niara Minerals and Temvelo consultants to continue engaging with all stakeholders transparently and to ensure that the rights and concerns of affected parties are considered throughout the prospecting process.

7 Closing Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person	Deadline
Chief Buthelezi to provide consent letter from the Tribal authority	ND	18 July 2025
Provide Meeting minutes	ND	07 July 2025

Meeting adjourned



Nolwazi Dlamini



Date	26 July 2025	Time:	11:00 -13:00
Project No:	NIA02	Facilitator:	Nolwazi Dlamini
Project Name:	Environmental Impact Assessment for The Proposed Prospecting Right in Respect of Various Portions of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd	Minute Taker:	Trauye Ribeiro

Public Participation Meeting : Ogwini Trust Members

1 Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was convened to inform and engage with members of the Ogwini Trust regarding the Prospecting Right application submitted by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The application was made in accordance with Sections 16 and 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). The aim was to present details of the proposed prospecting activities and provide a platform for stakeholders to raise concerns, seek clarifications, and offer input.

2 Attendance and apologies

- Representatives from Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd
- Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) – Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd
- Ogwini Trust members

3 Presentation Summary

Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd provided an overview of the proposed prospecting activities, including:

- Location and extent of the application area
- Minerals targeted (e.g., coal)
- Duration and phases of the prospecting process
- Environmental considerations and legal compliance
- Opportunities for public involvement

4 Key Questions and Concerns Raised with responses

- **July Mthethwa- After being registered as rightful owners of the land,we had other PRA from other companies, why cant you use their finings instead of doing your own?**

Response: Each Prospecting Right is issued to a specific applicant under the MPRDA, and holders are legally required to carry out their **own independent prospecting work** to verify the presence, quality, and extent of the minerals. While historical data from other companies can provide useful context, it is **not sufficient on its own** to support a new prospecting application. Niara Minerals must collect its own data to ensure the accuracy, integrity, and compliance of their prospecting results under their specific work programme.

-how can we be sure that Niara will rehabilitate our land

Response: Rehabilitation is a legal obligation under several environmental laws, including the MPRDA (Section 38 and 41) and NEMA (1998). Before any drilling begins, Niara Minerals is required to make a financial provision—essentially a guarantee—set aside specifically for rehabilitation purposes. This money is held independently and cannot be used for any other purpose. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which must be approved by the authorities, outlines rehabilitation measures, and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) monitors compliance.

Furthermore, Temvelo Consultants will ensure that rehabilitation commitments are clearly defined, implemented, and audited throughout and after the project. Landowners and stakeholders will also have access to regular updates and can raise concerns at any point during the process.

- **Zephlon Shabangu – if you get the PRA, how do you see where to drill your borehole**

Response: The exact locations for boreholes are determined through a step-by-step technical process that takes place before any drilling begins. This process includes:

- Desktop studies – reviewing existing geological maps, mineral records, and prior exploration data.
- Field mapping – on-the-ground surveys to observe visible geological features.
- Geophysical surveys – using non-invasive equipment to detect underground structures and mineral patterns.

Only after analyzing all this data do geologists select borehole positions that are most likely to yield useful samples while avoiding sensitive or protected areas. Final borehole locations are also adjusted based on environmental sensitivity and community concerns, to minimize impact. These locations are then mapped and submitted to authorities as part of the operational plan.

- **Sabelo Sibisi- is this your first time here doing consultation**

Response: No we've had consultations before, from the 25th of July to date. This meeting forms part of the Environmental Authorizations process required by law to ensure that all landowners are consulted before any activity takes place. We are committed to ongoing engagement throughout the project lifecycle.

-Does DMRE already have your mapping because when I check with them they did

Response: Yes, a basic map and coordinates of the application area are submitted to the DMRE at the time of the Prospecting Right Application. This is standard procedure. However, these maps only show the overall boundary of the area applied for, not the final borehole locations. The detailed technical planning—including where boreholes will be drilled—comes later and is still being developed based on environmental studies and community input.

- we've had other applicants/companies use our land and we were never compensated nor did they rehabilitate

Response: We understand and acknowledge this concern. Unfortunately, there have been instances in the past where some companies did not comply with legal obligations. However, under current laws—particularly the MPRDA and NEMA—companies are legally required to rehabilitate land and make financial provision in advance to do so. Niara Minerals is committed to full compliance and transparency, and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has enforcement powers to hold them accountable. This consultation process is part of ensuring you are informed and protected from the start.

- wont your boreholes affect our water

Response: This is an important concern. A Hydrological Impact Assessment was conducted by a qualified water specialist as part of the environmental authorisation process. The purpose of this study was to understand the local groundwater systems and identify any potential risks to water resources before any prospecting begins. The findings of the assessment include site-specific recommendations and guidelines to ensure water protection during all prospecting activities. These recommendations are built into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which is a legally binding document that Niara Minerals must follow. Compliance will also be overseen by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) where applicable, and by the DMRE. The project is designed to minimise risk to water resources, and ongoing monitoring will ensure that any potential impacts are detected early and addressed immediately.

- **Bonginkhosi Sibisi- since there's two companies requesting prospecting from us (incl. Niara) , are you sharing boreholes**

Response: No, Niara Minerals will not share boreholes with any other company. Each company that applies for a Prospecting Right is required by law to conduct its own independent exploration programme, including drilling,

sampling, and analysis. Even if another company is working in a nearby or overlapping area, Niara must carry out its own controlled and approved borehole drilling, based on its specific exploration objectives and environmental commitments. Borehole sharing is not allowed under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), as it could compromise data integrity and environmental accountability

-Pour land has been severely damaged by previous activities like commercial forestry, how will Niara minerals cover rehabilitation for their prospecting activities

Response: Niara Minerals will be responsible for rehabilitating only the areas they disturb during their prospecting operations. This includes all borehole sites, temporary roads, laydown areas, and any other project-related infrastructure. To ensure this, Niara is required to:

- Submit a detailed Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that outlines how all disturbed areas will be rehabilitated
- Make a financial provision upfront, specifically earmarked for rehabilitation, which is a legal requirement under Section 41 of the MPRDA
- Implement progressive rehabilitation, meaning restoration begins as soon as each phase or activity is completed, rather than waiting until the end of the entire project
- Follow all guidance provided by specialists (e.g. soil, vegetation, and hydrology experts) and comply with national environmental legislation

While Niara cannot be held responsible for damage caused by other historical land uses (e.g. forestry), it is committed to ensuring that its own activities do not contribute further degradation and that any impacted areas are properly restored to a stable and safe condition.

- **Jeto Shabangu – I was present during your previous consultation on the 28th at Sihlengeni, some of the land you want to prospect on belongs to us as the trust, however there is a current landuser with a lease with us for commercial forestry, how do you co-exist should we grant you permission to prospect.**

Response: Thank you, and we appreciate your continued participation. We are aware that some of the land within the application area is currently leased for commercial forestry operations. We want to assure you that the planned prospecting activities are designed to be minimally invasive and can co-exist with existing land uses such as forestry. The work is temporary, and once drilling is complete at a site, the area will be

rehabilitated to its original condition, in line with the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Niara Minerals is committed to working respectfully alongside the current land user, and where necessary, will coordinate directly with the leaseholder to avoid any disruption to forestry operations. The nature of prospecting work—particularly during early phases—is such that multiple land uses can co-exist without conflict, provided there is clear communication and responsible planning.

- **Petros Mthethwa – how do you as the applicant know our farm names**

Response: When applying for a Prospecting Right, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) requires applicants to clearly define the exact boundaries and locations of the proposed prospecting area. This includes specifying the farm names and portion numbers involved. Niara Minerals obtained the farm names and details from official land records, registries and GIS mapping, which are publicly accessible and form part of the legal process to identify the specific land parcels under application. This ensures clarity about the exact areas covered and helps identify all the relevant landowners and stakeholders who need to be consulted. Using these official farm names allows us to engage directly and respectfully with the correct communities and landowners during the consultation process, as part of our commitment to transparency and legal compliance.

- **Mondli Sibisi- how many applications does Niara have**

Response: Currently, Niara Minerals has submitted this one Prospecting Right Application for the specific area described in this meeting. If additional applications are submitted in the future, those will also require separate environmental and community consultation processes. We will keep the community informed of any new applications affecting your area.

- **Will the trust be compensated for each borehole you will dig?**

Response: Compensation arrangements depend on the agreements made between Niara Minerals and the landowners or lawful land users such as the Trust. If the Trust grants permission for prospecting, compensation is typically negotiated and agreed upon before any drilling takes place. The compensation covers temporary land use and any disturbance caused by borehole drilling. This is separate from the legal requirement for rehabilitation, which Niara Minerals must undertake regardless. We encourage open dialogue to ensure fair and transparent agreements

- **Will you give us coordinates of each borehole you will drill?**

Response: Yes, once the final borehole locations are determined after the desktop study, field mapping, and geophysical surveys, Niara Minerals will share the exact coordinates with the Trust and other relevant



stakeholders. This transparency helps ensure that you are fully informed about where prospecting activities will take place and provides an opportunity to discuss any concerns or access arrangements before drilling begins.

- **Thembekile Msibi- has Niara minerals started working?**

Response: No, Niara Minerals has not yet started any prospecting activities on the land. At this stage, we are still in the environmental authorization process, which includes consultation with landowners, communities, and regulatory authorities. No drilling or ground disturbance will take place until all necessary permits and approvals are granted.

- **Who is the owner**

Response : The owner of Niara Minerals is Vumile Ribeiro

- **Bongani Sibisi- I was present during your engagement meeting on the 28th of June, you mentioned that a heritage impact assessment I appreciate you did that because graves are very important to us culturally.**

Response: Thank you for acknowledging the heritage impact assessment. Niara Minerals takes cultural heritage very seriously. The assessment was conducted by qualified specialists to identify any heritage sites, including graves, and to ensure these areas are protected and respected throughout the prospecting process. If any sites of cultural significance are found, Niara Minerals will work closely with the community and relevant authorities to avoid disturbance and implement any necessary protective measures.

- **We have youth here, what job opportunities can they expect**

Response: Niara Minerals is committed to supporting local communities, including youth, through employment and skills development where possible. Although the prospecting phase is relatively small-scale and technical, there will be opportunities for:

- General labor and site support roles during drilling and site establishment
- Training and skills transfer in environmental monitoring, equipment handling, and safety practices
- Potential employment through contractors and suppliers involved in the project

Niara Minerals encourages youth to express interest and engage with local leadership so we can identify and facilitate opportunities. We also aim to comply with any local employment and procurement policies set by the DMRE and local authorities.

- **Sibusiso Buthelezi- How does the Niara know what is beneath our land before us**

Response: Niara Minerals relies on a combination of existing geological data, desktop studies, and specialist surveys to get an initial understanding of what might be beneath the land. However, the most accurate information comes from the actual drilling and sampling during prospecting, which provides direct evidence of the underground formations. This process is necessary because every area can be different, and previous data may be limited or outdated. Prospecting helps us to better understand the mineral resources while carefully managing the environmental and cultural sensitivities of the land.

- **Should the trust grant you permission, we ask that you have a person from the community to assist in grave identification during your prospecting for local knowledge as well.**

Response: We appreciate and fully support this important request. Niara Minerals is committed to working in close collaboration with the local community to respect cultural heritage sites, including graves. Having a knowledgeable person from the community assist during the prospecting activities is valuable and will help ensure that graves and other culturally significant sites are identified and protected. We will work with the Trust and community representatives to identify suitable individuals who can assist as part of the heritage protection measures during the project.

- **Sinethemba Mthethwa – will the youth be employed?**

Response: Yes, Niara Minerals is committed to supporting local youth through employment and skills development opportunities during the prospecting phase wherever possible. While prospecting work is specialized and limited in scale, there will be roles in site support, general labor, and environmental monitoring that local youth can be trained for and employed in.

5 Next Steps

Members of the Ogwini Trust advised that, following the meeting, Temvelo Consultants should provide the meeting minutes and attendance register to the Trust. The Trust will then discuss the matter internally and, if agreeable, provide Niara Minerals with a landowner consent letter in support of the Prospecting Right application.



6 Closure

The meeting provided a valuable platform for open dialogue between Niara Minerals, Temvelo Consultants, and the Ogwini Trust community members. Key concerns regarding environmental protection, cultural heritage, rehabilitation, and community benefits were addressed. Niara Minerals committed to transparency, responsible prospecting, and collaboration with the community throughout the process. The Ogwini Trust will review the information shared and decide on the provision of a landowner consent letter. Further engagement will continue as the project progresses.

7 Closing Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person	Deadline
Provide Meeting minutes	ND	28 July 2025
Provide landowner consent letetr	Ogwini Trust	29 July 2025

Meeting adjourned

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolwazi Dlamini".

Nolwazi Dlamini



ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Date:	26 July 2025	Project No:	NAI02
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Public Consultation Meeting : Ogwini Trust

No	Name	Surname	Organisation Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign
1	Bongani	Sibi S:	Community member			B.S.B.S.
2	SHABANGU	ZEBLON ZWELINKO	ILUNGA LOMPHAKA			
3	BUTHLEZI	SIBUSISO				
4	Mthetwa	Njabulo				
5	MITTON	SIBISI	!			M.S.I.B.S.I
6	Sabelo	Sibisi				
7	Bongkosi	Sibisi	Trust member			
8	mTshali Jm					Jm
9	Mbongiseni	Sibisi				
10	Jetro	Shabangu				Jetro Shabangu
11	B.J. Mthetwa	Nalwanda				

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

No	Name	Surname	Organisation / Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign	
12	Johannes	Skhonde	11	[REDACTED]		X	
13	July Nicholas	Mthethwa				a@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Ephraim Mkhazi	Mthethwa	Irindwa				<i>[Signature]</i>
15							
16							
17							
18							
19	Mthethwa	Mthethwa					
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21							
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ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Date:	26 July 2025	Project No:	NAI02
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Public Consultation Meeting : Ogwini Trust

No	Name	Surname	Organisation / Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign
1	Thembekile	Misibi	Ogwini Trust			T-Misibi
2	Siphwe	Mkshali	O-CIT			X
3	Nothando	Nkwanqo				Nkwanqo
4	Nothando	Mtsai				Mtsai
5	Nokuthip	Mthethwa				Mthethwa
6	SWENHLAHLA	MTHEMBU				Mthembu
7	MBALI	MASONDO				Mthembu
8	Nkosisimele	Mkshali				N/N Mkshali
9	ASANDA	SIBISI				SIBISI
10	Nkosingiphile	Mthembu				Mthembu
11	Nokuphina	Mthembu				Mthembu

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

No	Name	Surname	Organisation Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign
12	Sphesihle	Bushlezi	Ogwini			S. BDA
13	Sinethemba	Mthethwa	Ogwini			S. BDA
14	Londiwe	Mthembu	Ogwini			L.A. N. P.
15	Sinethemba	Masondu	Ogwini			S. BDA
16	Labelo	Mshali	Ogwini			
17	R.M	MTHALI	Ogwini			R.O.
18	PETROS N.	Mthethwa	Ogwini			P. M. M.
19	S. MONDLI. B	SIBISI	Ogwini			S. BDA
20						
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Appendix 3G: Public Consultation

Meeting Documents



Date	28 June 2025	Time:	11:00 -12:00
Project No:	NIA02	Facilitator:	Nolwazi Dlamini
Project Name:	Environmental Impact Assessment for The Proposed Prospecting Right in Respect of Various Portions of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd	Minute Taker:	Feziwe Mntungwa

Public Participation Meeting : Environmental Impact Assessment For The Proposed Prospecting Right In Respect Of Various Portions Of Farms Including Isihlengeni No. 689, Demoina No. 830, Weltevrede No.540, Misty Valley No. 831 And Toovernaars Rust No.518 For Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd.

1 Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was convened to inform and engage with members of the public regarding the Prospecting Right application submitted by Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The application was made in accordance with Sections 16 and 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). The aim was to present details of the proposed prospecting activities and provide a platform for stakeholders to raise concerns, seek clarifications, and offer input.

2 Attendance and apologies

- Representatives from Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd
- Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) – Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd
- Local community members and landowners

3 Presentation Summary

Temvelo Consultants (PTY) Ltd provided an overview of the proposed prospecting activities, including:

- Location and extent of the application area
- Minerals targeted (e.g., coal)
- Duration and phases of the prospecting process
- Environmental considerations and legal compliance

- Opportunities for public involvement

4 Key Questions and Concerns Raised with responses

- “As you inspect and get what your company is looking for, will it affect the community in any way — in terms of our lifestyle and livestock?”

Response:

The proposed prospecting activities are designed to have minimal impact on the surrounding community and environment. Site establishment will involve limited vegetation clearance, and existing roads will be used where possible to avoid disrupting community land. No blasting or large-scale mining will occur at this stage. Environmental management plans and mitigation measures—such as dust suppression, noise control, and erosion prevention—will be implemented to ensure livestock and lifestyle are not adversely affected. Additionally, rehabilitation of disturbed areas will be conducted progressively.

- *“As you inspect the area, do you also get permission from landowners or is it just the community that is affected?”*

Response:

Yes, permission must be obtained from landowners before access is granted to any private property. The applicant, Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd, is required to consult with both landowners and interested and affected parties, as per the requirements of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). No prospecting activities will commence on any land without appropriate agreements and permissions.

- *“How do you do the inspections? How do you reach the coal?”*

Response:

Inspections and prospecting will be done in phases. Initially, non-invasive methods such as desktop studies, geophysical surveys, and field mapping will be conducted. Thereafter, targeted trenching will be undertaken to access and sample subsurface coal seams. Each trench will be approximately 50 metres long, 20 metres wide, and 4 metres deep. Excavation will be carried out using machinery, and the collected material will be screened and analysed to determine the presence and quality of coal and related minerals.

- *“As there are two owners, what means are made to neighbours of that place? Are they being compensated if they find that they must move? What about when good coal is found right next to your property?”*



Response:

At the prospecting stage, there is no need for anyone to relocate, as no mining will take place. The activities are limited to short-term exploration, not extraction. If, in the future, a viable mining operation is proposed, further public consultation and negotiation will occur, and legal provisions regarding compensation and land use will apply. All affected landowners will be fully consulted, and no displacement can occur without a formal agreement and relevant approvals under South African law.

- *“Will community members get any employment if your inspection comes out positive and mining begins, or will you be coming with your own employees?”*

Response:

While the prospecting phase itself is short-term and requires a limited workforce, Niara Minerals is committed to prioritising local employment wherever possible. Should the prospecting results be positive and lead to a mining application, a broader economic development plan—including local employment, skills development, and community upliftment—will be developed and shared with stakeholders during future consultations.

- *“Did you earmark the areas?”*

Response:

Yes, the application area has been clearly defined and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). The prospecting area covers specific farm portions within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality. The final locations for trenching and sampling within these portions will be selected based on environmental sensitivity assessments, landowner agreements, and desktop studies. This ensures that high-risk or protected areas are avoided, and that all legal and environmental guidelines are followed.

5 Next Steps

- Public comments and objections will be accepted until 18 July 2025.
- Further environmental and social impact assessments may be conducted, depending on the outcome of prospecting activities.
- All stakeholders will be kept informed of any material developments or changes in the application process.



6 Closure

The meeting concluded with a commitment from Niara Minerals and Temvelo consultants to continue engaging with all stakeholders transparently and to ensure that the rights and concerns of affected parties are considered throughout the prospecting process.

7 Closing Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person	Deadline
Chief Langelihle Zulu to provide consent letter from the Tribal authority	ND	18 July 2025
Provide Meeting minutes	ND	07 July 2025

Meeting adjourned

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nolwazi Dlamini".

Nolwazi Dlamini





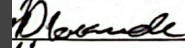
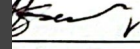
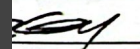
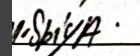

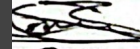
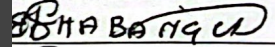

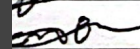


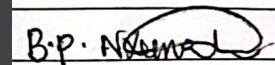
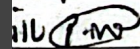

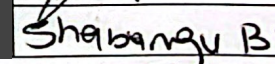
ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Date:	28 June 2025	Project No:	NIA02
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STAKEHOLDER MEETING: Application for Environmental Authorization for Prospecting for Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil shale situated on various Far in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Mpumalanga (KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PE

No	Name	Surname	Organisation / Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign
1	M.R	Khumalo				
2	EPHUMENI Mthumeni	Mthumeni	Irdana			
3	E.N BUTHELLA	BUTHELLA	ESITLHENGENI			
4	N.J. Shabangu	Shabangu	Mthumeni			
5	Z.Zi	Shabangu	Mthumeni			
6	M.M.	Khumalo	ESihlengeni			
7	E.B.	Nkosi	ESihlengeni			
8	B.J.	Ndwardwe	Mthumeni			
9	L.H.	Ndwardwe	Mthumeni			
10	S.M.	SBiyo	BhukuBhu			
11	S. Khumalo	Khumalo	ESihlengeni			
12	Ms. Ndlovu	Ndlovu	ESihlengeni			
13	S.A	Khumalo	ESihlengeni			

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

No	Name	Surname	Organisation / Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign
14	S	KUMENE	BHUKUBHU			
15	M	NXBUMALO	Sihlengeni			
16	M.S	Dlankude	Bhukubhu			
17	LB	KHUMALO	Sihlengeni			
18	Z.C	NKOZI	Bhukubhu			
19	M.S	SHIYA	Sihlengeni			
20	L	ZKUMALO	Jani			
21	S.R	BUTHEZI	Sihlengeni			
22	M.E	SHABANGU	MISTY VELLY			
23	T	SHABANGU	Misty Velly			
24	Mgcineni	Buthezi	Sihlengeni			
25	F Thanda	Jiyane	Sihlengeni			
26	M.M. Mtshali	Mtshali	Sihlengeni			
27	Bon Ginkosi	Nxumalo	Sihlengeni			
28	PHAKAMANI C	NXUMALO	SIHLENGENI			
29	Thabiso	Ntshongase	Sihlengeni			
30	Bonisile F.	Shabangu	MIST VALLEY			

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Date:	28 June 2025	Project No:	NIA02
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STAKEHOLDER MEETING: Application for Environmental Authorization for Prospecting for Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil shale situated on various in the Magisterial District of Vryheid, Mpumalanga (KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 1194

No	Name	Surname	Organisation / Designation	Telephone Number	Email Address	Sign
1	Sphumlile	Buthelezi	Sihlengeni	[REDACTED]		S.T. Bu
2	Mondumiso	Zungu	Sihlengeni			M.L. Zu
3	Jabulile	Zungu	Sihlengeni			J.S. Zu
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Appendix 3H: Proof of Consultation with State Departments



**INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA
MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR**

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Thu 6/19/2025 19:04

To municipalmanager@abaqulusi.gov.za <municipalmanager@abaqulusi.gov.za>

Cc lixulu@abaqulusi.gov.za <lixulu@abaqulusi.gov.za>; speaker@abaqulusi.gov.za
<speaker@abaqulusi.gov.za>

Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng'
<olebogeng@niara.co.za>; olebogeng@niara.co.za <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

2 attachments (151 KB)

Abaqulusi Local Municipality letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf; Niara Minerals 11948_PR.kmz;

Dear Municipal Manager,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your Municipality to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project, Kmz displaying project site and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)
http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-SR_18062025_ND.pdf available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your municipality's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



www.temveloconsultants.co.za



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INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REF NO 11948 PR

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Wed 7/16/2025 22:20

To nokukhanya.mkhize@amafainstitute.org.za <nokukhanya.mkhize@amafainstitute.org.za>;
thilogran.pillay@amafainstitute.org.za <thilogran.pillay@amafainstitute.org.za>;
busi.msinga@amafainstitute.org.za <busi.msinga@amafainstitute.org.za>

Bcc 'Nolwazi Dlamini' <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>

3 attachments (9 MB)

Amafa letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf; Niara Minerals_Draft BAR.pdf; Niara Minerals_11948 PR_PPP.pdf;

Dear Nokukhanya Mkhize,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Basic Assessment Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd in respect of various farms including Isihlengeni no.689 Hu, Démonia no.830 Hu, Weltevrede No. 540 Hu, Misty Valley No.831, Toovernaars Rust No.518 Hu and Spitskop no 70 Hu, in the administrative district of Vryheid, Kwazulu-Natal Province.

We would like to invite your Amafa Research Institute to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project, public meeting documents and the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your department's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



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**INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
SUBJECT TO BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR
NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR**

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>
Date Wed 6/25/2025 21:16
To mnyamezeli.dlamini@dalrrd.gov.za <mnyamezeli.dlamini@dalrrd.gov.za>
Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>

3 attachments (5 MB)

Land Claim Letter_NIA02.pdf; Niara Minerals_Draft BAR.pdf; Niara Minerals_11948 PR;

Dear Mr Dlamini,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Basic Assessment Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your department to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project, Kml displaying project site and the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). We would appreciate your department's input and comments on the DBAR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



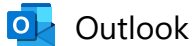
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**INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA
MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR**

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Thu 6/19/2025 19:44

To bcadmin@dffe.gov.za <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>

Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng' <olebogeng@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; olebogeng@niara.co.za <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

1 attachment (147 KB)

DFFE letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf;

Dear Mmatlala Rabothata,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your department to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-SR_18062025_ND.pdf available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your department's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team

+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za

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**INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA
MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR**

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Thu 6/19/2025 19:01

To bcadmin@dffe.gov.za <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>

Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng' <olebogeng@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; olebogeng@niara.co.za <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

 1 attachment (148 KB)

DFFE letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf;

Dear Mmatlala Rabothata,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your department to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-SR_18062025_ND.pdf available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your department's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team

 +27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za

 138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



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**INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA
MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR**

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Thu 6/19/2025 18:56

To masefielda@dwa.gov.za <masefielda@dwa.gov.za>; masefielda@dws.gov.za <masefielda@dws.gov.za>;
Niekerk@dws.gov.za <Niekerk@dws.gov.za>; besterk@dws.gov.za <besterk@dws.gov.za>;
wardn@dws.gov.za <wardn@dws.gov.za>

Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng'
<olebogeng@niara.co.za>; olebogeng@niara.co.za <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

2 attachments (151 KB)

Department of Water & Sanitation letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf; Niara Minerals 11948_PR.kmz;

Dear Angela Masefield,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your Department to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project, Kmz displaying project site and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)
http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-SR_18062025_ND.pdf available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your department's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



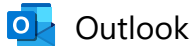
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Re: REQUEST FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR.

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Mon 7/7/2025 18:39

To khambitc@gmail.com <khambitc@gmail.com>; zululangelethu@gmail.com <zululangelethu@gmail.com>

Cc vumile@niaraminerals.co.za <vumile@niaraminerals.co.za>

Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng' <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

NAI02_Public meeting minutes_28 July 2025.pdf; Attendance Register 28 June 2025 Isihlengeni.pdf;

Dear Honourable Members of the Khambi Tribal Council,

I trust this email finds you well.

On behalf of Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and Temvelo Consultants (Pty) Ltd, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for the opportunity to engage with the Council on **21 June 2025** regarding the proposed prospecting right application and associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

As requested by Chief Zulu, a **public meeting** with community members was held on **28 June 2025**. Please find attached the **meeting minutes** and **attendance register** for your reference.

We kindly write to request the **Landowner Consent Letter** from the Khambi Tribal Authority for the affected portions of land within your jurisdiction. This letter is a necessary requirement for the continued processing of the prospecting right application in accordance with the MPRDA and related environmental legislation.

Thank you once again for your valued support and cooperation. We look forward to your positive response.

Warm regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



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From: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 June 2025 21:23
To: khambitc@gmail.com <khambitc@gmail.com>
Cc: nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng' <olebogeng@niara.co.za>
Subject: REQUEST FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR.

Dear Honourable members of Khambi Tribal Council,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to request a meeting with the Tribal Council to discuss the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right application for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd, a letter detailing the purpose of the meeting is attached.

We kindly request that you meet with us on June 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in your offices, as agreed.

Thank you for considering our request, we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



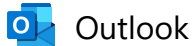
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**INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA
MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948**

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Thu 6/19/2025 18:43

To nhlahla.khumalo@kzncogta.gov.za <nhlahla.khumalo@kzncogta.gov.za>

Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng' <olebogeng@niara.co.za>; olebogeng@niara.co.za <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

2 attachments (151 KB)

Niara Minerals 11948_PR.kmz; COGTA letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf;

Dear Nhlahla Khumalo,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your Department to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project, Kmz, and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-SR_18062025_ND.pdf available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your Department's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



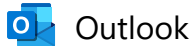
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RE: NIA02_INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SUBJECT TO BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>
Date Wed 6/25/2025 20:40
To 'IEM App' <iem.app@kznwildlife.com>
Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>

3 attachments (5 MB)

KZN Wildlife letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf; Niara Minerals_Draft BAR.pdf; Niara Minerals_11948 PR;

Dear Nolwazi Nkosi,

Thanks for your prompt response.

Due to changes in the proposed project, the Environmental Authorisation triggers Basic Assessment Report in terms of regulation 19 of the EIA regulations, 2014. As a result, a draft BAR is provided for your review and comments.

Looking forward to your comments.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



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From: IEM App <iem.app@kznwildlife.com>
Sent: Monday, 23 June 2025 15:58
To: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
Subject: RE: NIA02_INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR

Dear Nolwazi Dlamini

I am well thanks, and hope that you are too. Thank you for your email and the documents provided.

Please note that while Ezemvelo accepts the electronic submission of applications, **we cannot accept weblinks that either expire, have multiple downloads required, or for us to register**

and/or access reports on a website. If the document is too large to be emailed as an attachment, please provide a link that is in consolidated format and **does not expire** (i.e., a zipped file) to retrieve the documents being submitted (i.e., the DSR). This will assist in finalising the processes required for this application to be presented and assigned at this week's Internal Review Committee, thereafter a response/comment will be provided.

Kind regards

Nolwazi V Nkosi (Miss)
EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE
 IEM Technician | Conservation and Planning

Queen Elizabeth Park | 1 Peter Brown Drive | Montrose | Pietermaritzburg | 3201
 PO Box 13053 | Cascades | 3202 | Republic of South Africa |
 Tel: 033 845 1363 Email: IEM.App@kznwildlife.com



From: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Sent: 19 June 2025 21:23

To: IEM App <iem.app@kznwildlife.com>

Subject: INVITATION TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SUBJECT TO SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD_DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER 30/5/1/1/2/ 11948 PR

Dear Nolwazi Nkosi,

I hope this email finds you well. We are conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd and would like to invite your department to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report in terms of section 24k of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Please find attached formal letter invitation with more details about the project, Kmz displaying project site and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)
http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-SR_18062025_ND.pdf available on WWW.Temveloconsultants.co.za under Downloads. We would appreciate your department's input and comments on the DSR.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



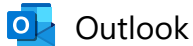
138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



www.temveloconsultants.co.za



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RE: REFERENCE NO. NIA 02 _ Registration as I&AP - NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd (DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR)

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>
Date Tue 7/1/2025 21:10
To 'Natasha Cluckie' <natasha@nctforest.com>
Cc 'Richard Liversage' <richardl@nctforest.com>
Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>

1 attachment (166 KB)
Spitzkop landowners Letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf;

Dear Natasha Clurkie,

Your registration as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) is hereby acknowledged.

Please find attached letter and the draft BAR: http://temveloconsultants.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NIA02_Draft-BAR_18062025_ND.pdf, further information will be provided accordingly.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



www.temveloconsultants.co.za



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From: Natasha Cluckie <natasha@nctforest.com>
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2025 10:57
To: stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za
Cc: Richard Liversage <richardl@nctforest.com>
Subject: REFERENCE NO. NIA 02 _ Registration as I&AP - NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd (DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR)

RE: APPLICATION FOR A PROSPECTING RIGHT BY NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD (DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR) - REFERENCE NO. NIA 02 Registration as I&AP - NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd

We refer to the site notice published under reference number DMRE REF: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR and in respect of the public participation for a prospecting right in respect of various farms.

We confirm that NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative is the registered landowner of the following properties:

ESTATE	ESTATE (Farm)	FARM NAME	FARM NO.	FARM PTN	REG DIV.
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	4	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	6	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	9	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	2	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	5	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	7	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	8	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	10	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Tygerskloof	Spitzkop	70	3	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Tygerskloof	Spitzkop	70	12	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Ongemaakt	Ongemaakt	301	0	HU
NCT ENYATHI	Spitzkop	Spitzkop	70	19	HU

We confirm that we, as the registered landowners, were not provided with notice of the above-mentioned application and did not receive the site notice and/or any other notification as the landowner. Our properties are directly impacted by the application, as any prospecting (if granted), will take place on these farms and have significant implications for our operations.

Please register **NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Ltd** as I&AP with the following contact details:

c/o: NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited (Head office):
 Reg. No. 1949/000002/24
 P O Box 13363 Cascades, 3202
 37 McCarthy Drive Montrose, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Email addresses: Natasha Cluckie – natasha@nctforest.com / Richard Liversage - richardl@nctforest.com
 Telephone: 033 897 8500

Please also provide us with a copy of the prospecting application and any and all other documentation relating thereto, as available, for review and comment. Alternatively, the link to access same.

Kind regards

NCT

NCT FORESTRY AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Natasha Cluckie

Senior Legal Counsel



+27 33 897 8588



www.nctforest.com

P O Box 13363 Cascades . 37 McCarthy Drive Montrose Pietermaritzburg 3201 South Africa
 Reg.No 1949/000002/24

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use by the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error, please notify us by return email. If this email seems suspicious or it is not sent from the "nctforest" domain, kindly contact our IT Department at the Pietermaritzburg head office for confirmation. The exchange of electronic messages is subject to the NCT General Terms and Conditions and the NCT Privacy Statements and NCT Processing Notices contained therein.

By receiving this information, you as Recipient, shall become a Responsible Party as defined by the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (POPIA) and you are bound by the provisions of POPIA for lawful processing. NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited, its subsidiaries and its employees (jointly referred to as NCT), shall not be held liable for any loss or damage to a data subject that may arise for the Recipient's failure to comply with POPIA and the Recipient of this information indemnifies and holds NCT harmless against any loss or damage including any fines and penalties and legal costs which may arise in any proceedings or imposed by the Information Regulator.

We have not changed our banking details recently. We will follow very strict protocols, which will include official notification from our bank, to notify you of any changes. Please ensure that you verify telephonically with us and make use of your online banking verification platform before effecting any changes. We will not be held liable for any damages caused by third party fraudsters.

[Full Terms and Conditions](#) [NCT Privacy Statement](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD, DMRE REFERENCE KZN 30/5/

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>
Date Sun 6/29/2025 19:13
To pnmthethwa0606@gmail.com <pnmthethwa0606@gmail.com>
Bcc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>

2 attachments (5 MB)

Misty Valley landowners Letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf; Niara Minerals_Draft BAR.pdf;

Dear Mr Mthethwa,

I hope this email finds you well.

We are writing to inform you about the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed prospecting right in your area. As a landowner in the vicinity of the project, we request a meeting to discuss the project in detail. Please find attached letter and draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR), consisting of the preliminary findings of the project.

Looking forward to your response.

Kind regards

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



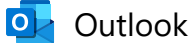
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REQUEST FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION_DMRE REFERENCENUMBER KZN 30/5/1//1/2/11948 PR

From stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za <stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za>

Date Wed 6/18/2025 21:11

To bhekamevandlela07@gmail.com <bhekamevandlela07@gmail.com>

Cc nolwazi@niara.co.za <nolwazi@niara.co.za>; 'Vumile Ribeiro' <vumile@niara.co.za>; 'Olebogeng' <olebogeng@niara.co.za>

 1 attachment (167 KB)

Ward Councillor Letter_NIA02_ND_OM.pdf;

Dear Councillor Ndlela,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to request a meeting with you and the committee to discuss the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) subject to a Scoping Report for the proposed prospecting right application for Niara Minerals (Pty) Ltd, attached is a letter detailing the purpose of the meeting.

We kindly request that you meet with us on June 25, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. and the community on June 28, 2025, as previously discussed and agreed. Could you please confirm and let us know which venue works best for you.

Thank you for considering our request, we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



+27 (0) 63 585 2145



stakeholder@temveloconsultants.co.za



138 Summer Rain Estate, Karino, Mbombela, 1204



www.temveloconsultants.co.za



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Appendix 3I: DMRE Correspondence



mineral resources & energy

Department
Minerals Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 54307, Durban, 4000, 12 Joe Slovo Street, 5th Floor Mansion House, Durban, Tel (031) 335 9600, Fax (031) 305 5801 Reference: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948 PR Enquiries: Mrs Nontobeko Ncama Email address: nontobeko.ncama@dmre.gov.za,

REGISTERED MAIL

THE MANAGER

NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD

P.O BOX 211144

DURBAN

4036

Email: vumile@niara.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHT IN TERMS OF SECTION 16(4) OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT 28 OF 2002)

1. Please be informed that your application for Prospecting for **Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil shale** situated in the Magisterial District of **Vryheid**, is hereby accepted on **Re of Isihlengeni 689, Re of Demoina, Portion 1 of Weltevrede 540, Portion 1 of Misty Valley 831 and Portions 0, 3, 4 & 6 of Toovernaars Rust 518**, in terms of section 16 (2) of the Act.
2. This application is rejected on **Portions 4 and 5 of Wonderfontein 560, RE of Mariantha 845, RE of Wagendrift 541, Portion of RE and 1 of Ongemaakt 301, Portions 1, 2 and RE of Zalflager 525, Portion 8 of Frischgewaagd 401, Portion 1 of Misty Valley 831, and Portions 0, 3, 4 & 6 of Toovernaars Rust 518** since there are pending applications **Nqubeko Rendering Services (Pty) Ltd, Samxon Mining and Engineering (Pty) Ltd, Afri Transit (Pty) Ltd** and issued mining right to **Barmin Mining (Pty) Ltd**
3. Take note that in light of the minimum requirements as stipulated on regulation 16 (1) and 16 (2) of the EIA Regulations, your application for an Environmental Authorisation was deemed incomplete as it was not accompanied by this acceptance letter as per Su Regulation 16 (1) (ix) and considering that it is now

completed by this acceptance letter, you are hereby required to submit the documents as stipulated on Regulation 19 (1) to 19 (8) of the EIA Regulation (only in cases where Basic Assessment Report is applicable or Regulation 21 (Scoping Report and Regulation 23 (Environmental Impact Report) (only in cases where applicable). All submission timeframes are effective from the dates of this acceptance letter.

4. Please take further note that in terms of section 16 (4) of the Act, you are required to:-

4.1 Upload unto the SAMRAD system one copy and submit three (03) hard copies of the requisite environmental reports as required by section 16 of the MPRDA within **ninety (90) days** from the date of this letter. (2025/09/18)

4.2 to consult in the prescribed manner with the landowner, lawful occupier and any interested and affected party including the Land Restitution Commission and include the result of such consultation in the relevant environmental reports to be submitted and uploaded on the SAMRAD system on or before 2025/06/26 **(within 30 days from the date of this letter)**

Please note that the consultation process referred to in paragraph 2.2 above does not imply issuing letters and requesting the affected parties to indicate whether they support your proposed project or not.

*It includes among others an extensive process of giving and discussing the specific details of the proposed project, giving the I & A Parties an opportunity to table their comments, objection and support, it also involves **your written responses and specific commitments made** in dealing with the issues raised during the consultation.*

Note that it is important to ensure that your consultation process is comprehensive so that your Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan can be informed by all potential impacts that your project may have.

5. Should the land be owned by the communities or a Trust on behalf of the community, a proper and thorough consultation process must be engaged upon

and a legitimate Tribal Resolution or consent must be obtained from the Traditional Authority / Council or Trust and be submitted with the results of consultation. *Should you need any assistance or guidance relating to the required consultation process & procedure in traditional institutions, please contact the District office of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in **Zululand District Municipality**.*

6. Further note that the acceptance of your application does not grant you the right to commence with **prospecting activities**. It only signifies that your application will be processed and evaluated. The Minister or his delegate will make a decision once the process of the evaluation and appeal on the Environmental Authorization application has been finalized.

7. You are in terms of Section 17(1) of the Act required to give effect to the objects referred to in Section 2 (d) of the Act. Therefore please submit on or before 2025/08/07 (within 60 days from the date of this letter) to this office for the attention of Regional Manager any documentation proving such including but not limited to:-
 - 7.1 Duly signed shareholders agreements with your empowerment partner in which provision **shall** be made for entrepreneurs, local community and employees,
 - 7.2 Share certificates,
 - 7.3 Details relating to the equity by the BEE shareholders, Any other agreement relating to the BEE shareholding including the voting pool agreement where applicable,
 - 7.4 Articles and memorandum of association of the company.
 - 7.5 Any other information that may be necessary to explain and serve as evidence that the applicant meets the appropriate HDSA ownership and/or compliance requirements of the aforesaid Act and Mining Charter.

8. Please submit within 60 days (2025/08/07) from date of this letter for the attention of Regional Manager a complete prospecting work programme prepared in terms of Regulation 7 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act no 28 of 2002): Mineral and Petroleum Development Regulation.

9. You are also required to adhere with the requirements of Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate and upload on system the required information and details on 2025/06/26 (within 30 days from the date of this letter).
10. Please be advised that your application might be processed in terms of section 9 (1) (b) of the Act. If this office discovers that there is an existing or pending application on the same properties and for the same mineral, this application shall discontinue.
11. Please take note that failure to adhere to the timeframe stipulated above and to submit any documentation required in terms of this notice will result into non-compliance with the provision of the Act and the Amendment Act and will result in the refusal of your application.

Yours faithfully



REGIONAL MANAGER

KWAZULU NATAL REGION

DATE: 14/05/2025



mineral resources & energy

Department
Minerals Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 54307, DURBAN, 4000, 12 Joe Slovo Street, 5th Floor Mansion House, DURBAN Tel (031) 335 9600, Fax (031) 305 5801 Reference: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11948PR Enquiries: Mrs Nontobeko Ncama Email: nontobeko.ncama@dmre.gov.za

REGISTERED MAIL

THE MANAGER

NIARA MINERALS (PTY) LTD

P.O BOX 211144

DURBAN

4036

Email: vumile@niara.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

AMENDMENT OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PROSPECTING RIGHT IN TERMS OF SECTION 16 (4) OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT 28 OF 2002) [HEREIN AFTER REFERRED TO AS THE ACT] AS AMENDED, TO PROSPECT FOR COAL, PSEUDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OIL SHALE ON RE OF ISIHLENGENI 689, RE OF DEMOINA 830, PORTION 1 OF WELTEVREDE 540, PORTION 1 OF MISTY VALLEY 831 AND PORTIONS 0, 3, 4 & 6 OF TOOVERNAARS RUST 518: MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF VRYHEID

1. Reference is made to our acceptance letter dated 14th May 2025.

: KZN30/5/1/1/11948PR

Application for Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 Of 2002) To Prospect for Coal, Peudocoal and Torbanite/Oil shale on RE of Isihlengeni 689, RE of Demoina 830, Portion 1 of Weltevrede 540, Portion 1 of Misty Valley 831 and Portions 0, 3, 4 & 6 of Toovernaas Rust 518: magisterial district of Vryheid : Niara Mineals (Pty) Ltd

2. We confirm that in the acceptance letter we omitted to address you on portions of Spitzkop No. 70 (Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19) included in your application.

3. Please take note the there is a mining right issued over portions of Spitzkop No. 70 (Portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 19, issued to Barmin Mining CC.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused by this administrative error.

Yours faithfully



REGIONAL MANAGER

KWAZULU NATAL

DATE: 21/07/2025

: KZN30/5/1/1/11948PR

Application for Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 Of 2002) To Prospect for Coal, Peudocoal and Torbanite/Oil shale on RE of Isihlengeni 689, RE of Demoina 830, Portion 1 of Weltevrede 540, Portion 1 of Misty Valley 831 and Portions 0, 3, 4 & 6 of Toovernaas Rust 518: magisterial district of Vryheid : Niara Mineals (Pty) Ltd