

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Queenstown Quarry (Pty) Ltd –Application to Expand the existing Mining Right Area within the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province -(Ref. No: EC 009 MR/102)

1 Purpose Of This Document

This Background Information Document (BID) introduces all stakeholders to the Environmental Authorisation application process for the expansion of Queenstown Quarry mining operation to include additional resources adjacent to current mining right area. Queenstown Quarry is an existing open cast quartzite and dolerite mining operation (active since the 1970's) with Mining Right (Ref. No: EC 009 MR) issued in terms of the MPRDA, for 36.25 ha on the Farm Lesseyton 81 within the Chris Hani District Municipality and the Enoch Mgijima Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. 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.
 - ✔ Availability of the Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Environmental Management Programme and Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan for public review and comment.
 - ✔ How to access the Environmental Reports.
 - ✔ Invitation to Stakeholder Engagement Meetings.
- ✔ How the public can register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).
- ✔ Enclosed to 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.

2 Project Background

Queenstown Quarry (Pty) Ltd (hereafter Queenstown Quarry) is the holder of a Mining Right for quartzite and dolerite in respect of its Queenstown Quarry issued under the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) (Ref. No: EC 009 MR). The operation also has a mining permit Ref No. EC 10498 MP for 4.9 ha directly adjacent to the Mining Right that was granted to Komani Quarry (Pty). Both holders have entered into a mining offtake agreement with Raumix Aggregates (Pty) Ltd which is the entity responsible for the financial and technical aspects including the use of the existing equipment, infrastructure, labour force, and services at Queenstown Quarry.

Queenstown Quarry has identified additional resources adjacent to the current mining right and mining permit areas of their Queenstown Quarry operations. Queenstown Quarry therefore proposes to expand the mining right area to include the additional

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resources and extend the life of mine (LoM) for their operation to continue supplying an increasing demand for product in the local market. It is important to note that the infrastructure, equipment and work force will not change from the present. The application is to only extend the life of mine by including additional resources through expanding the mine.

In order to change the existing mining right area, Queenstown Quarry need to submit an application to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), No. 28 of 2002 as amended, and to submit applications for the relevant environmental and waste authorisations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), No. 107 of 1998 as amended. The environmental authorisation process must follow the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, which involves Public Participation.

Queenstown Quarry has appointed the following Project Team to undertake the necessary application process:

Role	Responsible Person	Organisation
NEMA Application	Marli Burger (Registered EAP)	Aquastrat Solutions (Pty) Ltd
MPRDA (S102) Application	Greg Coates	Umhlaba Environmental Consulting CC
Public Participation Process	Vumile Ribeiro	Nira Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

3 Locality

Farm: Remaining extent of Farm Lesseyton 81

Closest town: Queenstown

District Municipality: Chris Hani District Municipality

Local Municipality: Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality



4 Project Description

Key activities include:

- ✔ Expansion of the existing mining right area by including additional resources that will increase the area from 36.25 ha to 79.3270ha.
- ✔ The proposed expansion area is presented in the Figure below. This area takes into consideration the following;
 - ✔ Identified resource along the ridge to the south and west
 - ✔ Identified area for stockpiling to the north and east
 - ✔ 50m buffer from the N6
 - ✔ Inclusion of the mining permit held by Komani Quarry (Pty) Ltd which is to be closed when the S102 is approved
- ✔ The operation is an existing opencast mine. As this application is to simply expand the mining right area to include additional resources that will extend the life of mine, future activities will be a continuation of what is currently already being undertaken as below.

Current Activities

Site Preparation:

- Clearing of vegetation and topsoil
- Stockpiling of topsoil
- Placement of mobile equipment
- Establishment of stormwater and security controls

Mining and Processing:

- Drilling and blasting;
- Crushing, screening and washing using a fixed and mobile plant,
- Loading and hauling,
- Stockpiling of product and overburden

Rehabilitation:

- Removing all infrastructure and equipment and inspecting for signs of pollution
- Sloping high walls and backfilling overburden;
- Establishment of indigenous vegetation;
- Removal of alien vegetation

Supporting Services:

- Waste management
- Sanitation;
- Water supply and use; and
- Diesel

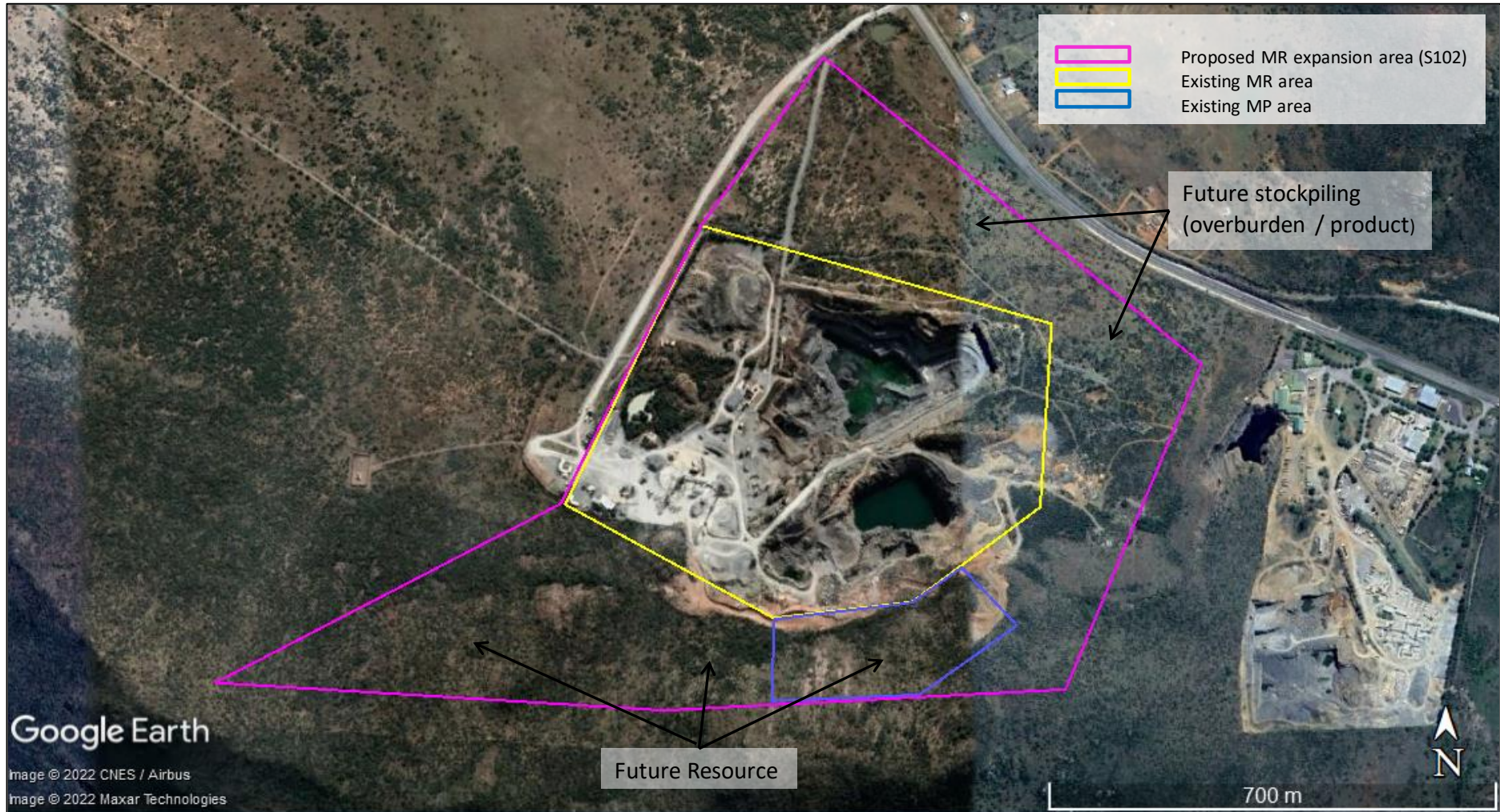


Figure 1: Proposed areas for S102 application at Queenstown Quarry

5 Legislative Framework

Queenstown Quarry need to submit an application to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), No. 28 of 2002 as amended, and to submit applications for the relevant environmental and waste authorisations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), No. 107 of 1998 as amended. An Environmental Authorisation (EA) application will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) as the Competent Authority for the proposed project.









6 Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports

The proposed project triggers listed activities of the Environmental Impact Assessment (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) that require a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Process to be undertaken and approval received prior to the commencement of expansion activities. This process requires a comprehensive public consultation process. In terms of the above-mentioned listed activities, a Scoping Report (SR), Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) 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 Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.

7 Approach to the Project process

The Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process will be conducted in 6 phases namely:

-  **Phase 1:** Project inception;
-  **Phase 2:** Scoping Report including Public Participation;
-  **Phase 3:** Authority review and decision making;
-  **Phase 4:** Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) including Public Participation;
-  **Phase 5:** Authority review and decision making, and
-  **Phase 6:** Notification of I&APs of Decision and appeal process.

8 Public Participation Process

The national South African Regulatory Framework requires a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken as part of an Environmental Authorisation application. A PPP involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed Project and providing Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with enough information to enable effective engagement. The PPP will form part of the Environmental Authorisation Application process. The PPP offers stakeholders the opportunity to be informed about the proposed project, to raise issues of concern, and to make suggestions for enhanced project benefits.

As part of the process stakeholders are notified of and are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties, they are also invited to participate in the environmental authorisation process by commenting on the project, asking questions, and raising issues/concerns that will be included in the project documents. In addition to this document, at various stages of the environmental authorisation process, information and reports will be made available for registered stakeholders to comment on. The EAP will document the views

and concerns of stakeholders and make the project team and relevant authority aware of issues that need to be considered during the compilation and evaluation of the potential risks and impacts associated with the proposed Project.

9 Availability of the Draft Reports for Comment

Niara hereby informs all Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) that the Draft Scoping Report will be available for public review and comment from **Monday, 13th May 2024 until Thursday, 13th June 2024** (30 days public review period based on the legislated timeframes) at the following locations:

- Soft copies (electronic copy) of the above-mentioned Report will be uploaded on the Niara website <https://niara.co.za/downloads/> and on the Umhlaba website <https://umhlaba.co.za/public-participation/>
- Hard copies at the Queenstown Library (Alexander Road, Queenstown, 5320) and at the Ekuphumleni Community Hall, Lesseyton near Komani

A physical stakeholder engagement meeting (Public Meeting) will be conducted at the Ekuphumleni Community Hall at a date which will be communicated to registered I&AP's. Online video conferencing tools such as Microsoft Teams, Skype; Hang Out, Zoom and GoToMeeting will be used to engage with stakeholders for online discussions if required. The purpose of these engagements will be to discuss the proposed Project, the Draft Scoping Report (DSR), as well as potential impacts and mitigation measures.

10 Comments and Queries

Should you wish to provide comments, you are welcome to contact Vumile Ribeiro at Niara Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (Project code/ Reference number UMH02).

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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 (i.e., by 13th June 2024)