

Environmental Authorisation and Integrated Water Use Licence Application for the Reclamation of the 6L14 Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) in the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality, Gauteng Province

Background Information Document

DMPR reference number: to be determined

Purpose of the Document

This Background Information Document aims to provide you with important information regarding:

- Project background of the Ergo Mining (Pty) Limited (Ergo) proposed Reclamation of the 6L14 Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) (“Proposed Project”), located in the in the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality, Gauteng Province.
- The independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken as part of the Environmental Authorisation process.
- Integrated Water Use Licence (IWUL) approval requirements.
- The Public Participation Process (PPP) that will be undertaken as part of the IWULA process.
- How can you register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and be kept informed about the Project’s developments?
- The public review and comment period for the Draft Scoping Report

Project Background and Motivation

Ergo a wholly owned subsidiary of DRDGOLD - within which the Group’s Eastern surface retreatment assets are consolidated, is a major surface gold tailings retreatment operation that focuses on old and abandoned TSFs.

Ergo Mining (Pty) Limited (Ergo) is the largest gold tailings retreatment company in South Africa. The surface deposits controlled by Ergo are waste products created from the historical processing of gold and uranium ores of the Witwatersrand Supergroup. Ergo has Mining Right (ERGO-GP158MR) over the dump, this facility was historically used previously as a mining waste deposition site and has been dormant for some time.

The dump will be reprocessed via the existing pipeline network through the 5L27 Transfer Pumpstation to the Ergo Beneficiation Plant (Ergo Plant) which is currently in operation, with ultimate residue deposition taking place on the Brakpan/Withok TSF and /or Daggafontein TSF. A new reclamation pumpstation will be developed for the Proposed Project.

As part of Ergo’s rehabilitation strategy, the removal of TSF’s like this will allow repurposing of the land in a more sustainable manner and ultimate offsetting of environmental impacts. The reclamation projects are in line with the objectives of the Gauteng Mine Residue Area Strategy (2012), which are to reclaim and/or rehabilitate TSFs to the point where they become safe for adjacent communities and land can be made available for other purposes.

Project Activities

Ergo aims to reclaim and reprocess the 6L14 TSF with the objective of recovering gold using hydraulic reclamation. Hydraulic reclamation is a largely mechanised process with a risk profile that is significantly lower than that of conventional mining. During hydraulic reclamation, a water monitor blasts the sides of the TSF, the process water mixes with the unconsolidated material, resulting in what is known as a 'slurry'. The slurry will report to a pumpstation, located at the lowest point of a TSF, where it will then be pumped and conveyed to Ergo Plant for reprocessing.

The Proposed Project will be consolidated into a single Environmental Authorisation (EA) application. This application will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Petroleum Resources (DMPR), which serves as the Competent Authority responsible for assessing and approving mining-related environmental projects in the Gauteng Province. In addition to the EA, a Water Use License (WUL) will be required for any activities that may impact water resources. The Integrated Water Use Licence Application (IWULA) will be reviewed and considered by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), ensuring that all water-related aspects of the Proposed Project comply with National Regulations.

Method of Reclamation

The proposed reclamation method which will be used to reclaim the TSF is referred to as top-down hydraulic reclamation. This technique uses high-pressure water monitors / cannons to deliver a high-pressure water jet to excavate unconsolidated tailings material within the TSF hydraulically. The water from the cannon mixes with the tailings and forms a slurry with a high solids content. The slurry then flows under gravity along trenches at the base of the TSF to a collection sump which is positioned at the lowest elevation of the bench being mined.

At the sump, finger screens remove any debris that may impact pumping operations, and the screened slurry then flows into the sump and is subsequently conveyed to the station. The position of the collection sump will change as the reclamation progresses. From the collection sump, the slurry reports to a reclamation station. To control the volume of water reporting to the reclamation station, flapper valves are used to hold, and release slurry contained in the collection sump. The slurry will then report to a pumpstation, located at the lowest point of a TSF, where it will then be pumped and conveyed to Ergo Plant for reprocessing.

Infrastructure proposed for the Project

The following infrastructure will be utilised:

- Reclamation infrastructure at each TSF consisting of a pump station which includes:
 - Slurry sump;
 - Vibrating Screen;
 - Water tank;
 - Motor control centre; and
 - Slurry and associated Pumps.
- Lined catchment paddocks;
- Stormwater management infrastructure including:
 - Water Pumpstation and PCD infrastructure and stormwater systems;
 - Existing paddocks on the TSF footprint; and
 - Pollution control paddock.

- 11 kV overhead powerlines capable of transmitting 3 kVA of electricity and electricity reticulation;
- Administration buildings, including change houses and ablution facilities;
- Access roads, routed from existing entry points;
- Construction contractors’ yards (temporary facilities); and
- Process water will be required for the 6L14 reclamation operations to support the Proposed Project via the existing pipeline network.

Project Location

The Proposed Project is located approximately 4 km north-east of Springs, in Ward 72 of the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality (CoE), Gauteng Province.

The Proposed Project activities will be undertaken within Farm Portion 6 of Grootvaly 124 IR, as well as Portions 84 and 192 of Geduld 123 IR. In addition, the proposed transfer pump station currently in operation is situated on Farm Portion 3 of Modderfontein 76 IR.

The Proposed Project is located approximately 1.4 km northwest of Everest and about 0.6 km west of Gugulethu Township. The Bakerton community situated to the south of the existing 6L14 TSF is located approximately 0.5 km from the proposed TSF footprint. The TSF is located approximately 0.9 km from R555 Road, while the reclamation area is primarily bordered by nearby townships and a main road. A river is situated to the northeast of the TSF project site.

The total footprint of the 6L14 TSF is approximately 63.21 hectares. Refer to Table 1 for a list of the directly affected properties, and Figure 1 for the project locality map.

Table 1: Directly Affected Property Details

| Farm Name | Farm ID | Farm Portion | SG Code | Property owner |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Reclamation Site | | | | |
| Geduld | 123 IR | 192 | TOIR00000000012300192 | Bharqat Prop Inv CC |
| Grootvaly | 124 IR | 6 | TOIR00000000012400006 | Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality |
| Geduld | 123 IR | 84 | TOIR00000000012300084 | Sappi Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd |
| Pumpstation | | | | |
| Geduld | 123 IR | 84 | TOIR00000000012300084 | Sappi Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd |
| Receiving Point 1 and 2 | | | | |
| Geduld | 123 IR | 192 | TOIR00000000012300192 | Bharqat Prop Inv CC |

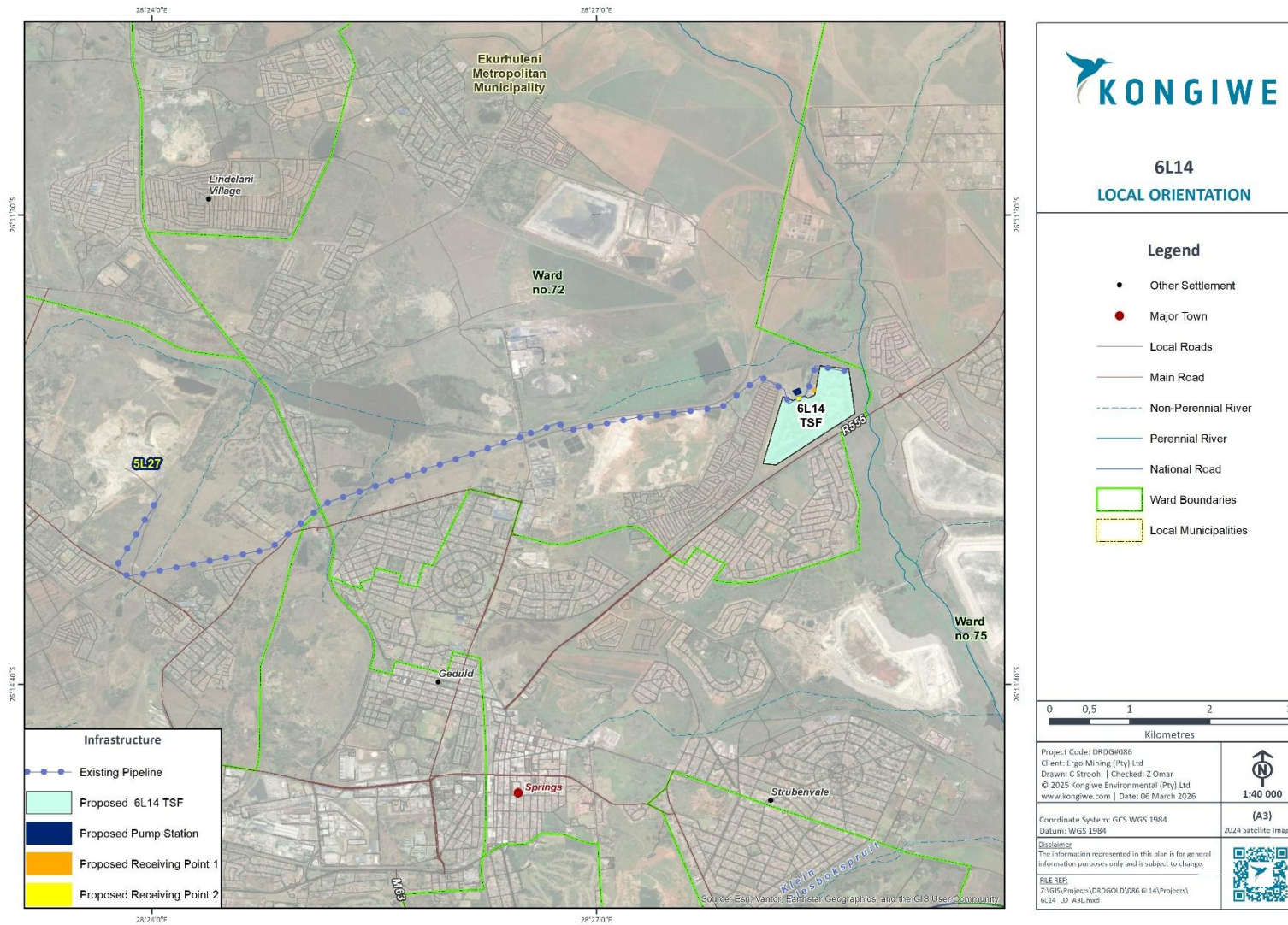


Figure 1: Locality Map

Land Use

The Proposed Project area is predominantly surrounded by mining areas, industrial areas, residential areas, railway infrastructure, and existing road networks. Most of the Proposed Project area has been subject to significant disturbance due to past mining activities and infrastructure, the presence of the existing TSF and problems arising from mining activities, and grazing cattle roaming throughout the area. Most of the land cover of the Proposed Project area is classified as mines dumps, grassland, townships residents and waterbodies.

Access

The major access routes in the vicinity of the 6L14 TSF include the N12, which provides connectivity to Welgedacht Road, R555 Road located to the west of the TSF, and the R29 on the western side, which links to Main Reef Road and provides access to the 5L27 transfer pump station currently in operation.

As far as possible, existing access roads will be utilised, and where this is not possible, these will be constructed. Where access roads are to be constructed, these will be 4m wide gravel roads with mitre drains to protect the road structure from flood damage. Intersections will be properly designed to provide safe entry and exit in and out of the reclamation area. Approvals from the provincial roads authorities will be obtained where necessary.

Power and Water Supply

The proposed reclamation activity will require 11 kV overhead powerlines capable of transmitting 3 kVA of electricity. Power will be supplied by Eskom.

Potable water will be purchased from the CoE with a contingency for portable JoJo tanks or connection to existing water pipeline infrastructure.

In terms of process water, the water cycle operates as a closed circuit, meaning that limited make-up water will be required for the reclamation of the TSF. Process water required for the reclamation activity will be sourced from the 5L27 Pumpstation and conveyed through existing and authorised process water pipelines to the project site for reuse in a closed-circuit system.

Life of Operation

The life of the Proposed Project is expected to be 12 years. An estimated maximum amount of 300 000 tons/month of slurry is expected to be pumped from 6L14 TSF via constructed pipelines to the Ergo Plant which is in Brakpan for beneficiation.

Rehabilitation

Once reclamation is completed, the areas will then be assessed for contamination (particularly in terms of radiation). Contaminated soils will be removed, and the land levelled to its original functioning topography levels.

Following rehabilitation, it is anticipated that the land will be returned to the landowner to use at their discretion. The Proposed Project is for the purpose of reclaiming the historic TSFs and removing a pollution source from the area, aiding in the rehabilitation of the mining legacy left behind in the area.

Legislative Requirements and Good-Practice Guidelines

Applicable Legislation and International Best Practice

The Public Participation Process (PPP), as required by the environmental law and regulations specified therein, is being undertaken in line with the statutory requirements for public participation. The following legislation was considered when developing and implementing the PPP:

- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) (EIA 2014 Regulations).
- Public Participation guideline in terms of NEMA.
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA) and the List of Waste Management Activities (GN R921 of 29 November 2013, as amended).
- NWA (Act No. 36 of 1998).
- Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA).
- Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000) (PAIA).

NEMA mandates public participation for environmental decision-making, ensuring affected communities have a voice in development projects through the EIA Regulations, 2014. The NEMA Public Participation Guideline (in terms of the EIA Regulations) is a mandatory part of the (EA process, aiming for transparent, informed decisions that promote sustainable development by integrating social, economic, and environmental factors.

The NWA is the primary law for the protection, management, and equitable use of the water resources. The NWA establishes the government's role in allocating water resources, promoting sustainable use of water resources, and preventing pollution.

The POPIA regulates the processing of personal information by both public and private bodies, aiming to protect individuals' constitutional right to privacy.

The PAIA gives effect to the constitutional right to access information held by both the state and private bodies. The Act establishes procedures for individuals to request information for the protection or exercise of their rights.

POPIA: Safeguarding Registered Person's Personal Information

In terms of section 19 of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA), a responsible party must, subject to Sections 9 and 11 of the Act, ensure the integrity and confidentiality of personal information in its possession or under its control by taking appropriate, reasonable technical and organisational measures to prevent loss of, damage to or unauthorised destruction of personal information, unlawful access to or processing of personal information. POPIA requires that personal information should be adequately protected to avoid unauthorised access. Therefore, Kongiwe continuously reviews security controls and procedures to ensure that personal information is secured. It should be noted that in terms of Section 11, personal information may be processed to the extent that this is necessary for pursuing the legitimate interests of the responsible party or parties to whom the information is supplied.

International Standards

In addition to the above legislation, the PPP is to be aligned to International good-practice guidelines for public participation, particularly in regard to the following Core Values of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2):

- To be based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- To include the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- To promote sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- To seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- To seek input from participants in designing how they participate.
- To provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- To communicate to participants how their input affected the decision.
- Development of a PPP also needs to align to any additional considerations noted in the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards (PSs), particularly in relation to stakeholder engagement aspects outlined in PS 1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts).

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Kongiwe Environmental (Kongiwe) has been tasked with conducting the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S& EIA)/Integrated Water Use Licence application (IWULA) process which is aimed at critically evaluating the potential environmental and social impacts of the Project.

The steps involved in the EIA process are outlined in Figure 2.

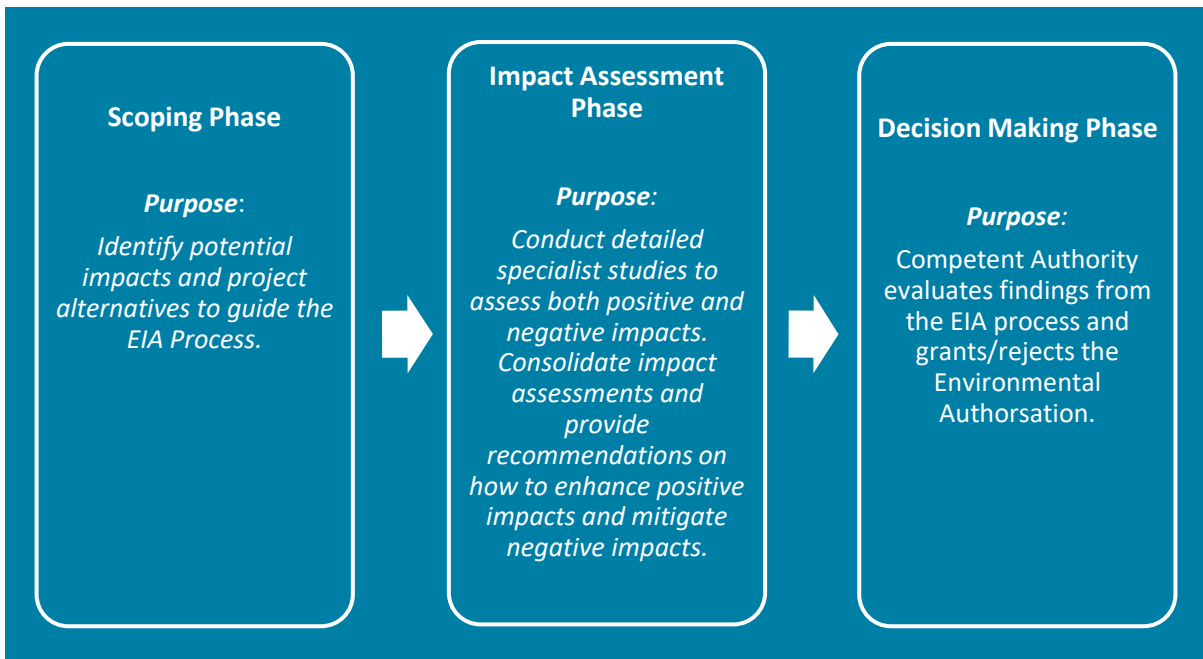
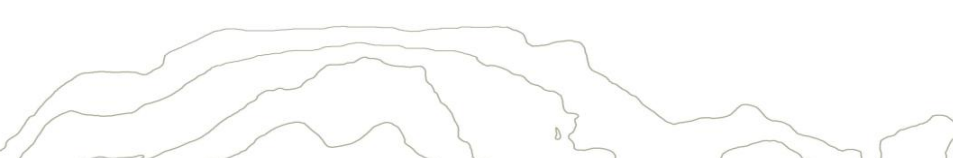


Figure 2: S&EIA Process



Summary of Listed Activities

| Applicable Listing Notice as Amended | Name of Activity & Description |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| GNR 984 – 21F | Reclamation of a Residue stockpile or a residue deposit |
| GNR 984 – 6 | Satellite pump station / Reclamation Station |
| GNR 983 – 13 | Slurry receiving facility |
| GNR 984 – 6 | Slurry receiving facility |
| GNR 984 – 6 | Screening facility at the pump station |
| GNR 984 – 6 | Storage |
| GNR 984 – 6 | Transfer pumps in series |
| WML Activities | |
| Category B, Activity 11 | The establishment or reclamation of a residue stockpile or residue deposit resulting from activities which require a mining right, exploration right or production right in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002). |
| Water Uses Activities | |
| 21(g) | Dust Suppression of access roads, Earth Materials and Gravel. |
| 21(g) | Disposing of excess stormwater and slurry during a stormwater event |
| 21 (c) and (i) | The construction, operation, and rehabilitation of the access road located within 500m of a wetland. |
| 21 (c) and (i) | The construction, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation of a lined catchment paddock, as well as the construction of the associated stormwater management infrastructure within 500 m of a wetland and within the 1:100-year floodline. |
| 21 (c) and (i) | The construction, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation of a Pumpstation within 500 m of a wetland. |
| 21 (c) and (i) | The construction, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation of a Slurry Receiving Point 1 and Slurry receiving Point 2 within a wetland and a 500 m of a wetland. |
| 21 (c) and (i) | Reclamation of the 6L14 TSF, as well as the operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation of the associated reclamation. |

INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENCE

An IWULA process will be undertaken in terms of Section 40 and 41 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998) (NWA). The Proposed Reclamation Project triggers Section 21 (c), (g) and (i) water uses of the NWA. Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses are triggered by activities that impede or divert the flow of water in a watercourse; or which alter the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse. These can be activities such as the stream diversion, crossing of watercourses by roads or pipelines, upgrading of the 6L14 attenuation dam wall, or any other infrastructure within 1:100-year floodline or 100m of a river/stream or 500m of a wetland. Section 21 (g) water uses are activities concerned with the disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource. These includes activities such as the disposal of tailings into the TSF, the disposal of effluent into a wastewater containment facility, dust suppression of roads with dirty water or water containing waste, etc.

Specialist Studies

Various specialist studies are being undertaken as part of the S&EIA/IWULA process to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project. Specialist studies being undertaken include:

- Air Quality Impact Assessment
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Wetland Impact Assessment
- Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Geohydrological impact Assessment (Groundwater)
- Hydrological Impact Assessment (Surface water)
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Closure and Rehabilitation Plan
- Dolomite Impact Assessment

The findings of the specialist studies will be incorporated into the EIA/EMPr and the IWWMP.

Public Participation Process

The Public Participation Process (PPP) will form part of the EIA/EMPr and IWULA process. The PPP offers stakeholders an opportunity to be informed about the Project, to raise issues and to make suggestions for enhanced Project benefits. It also outlines the ways in which the Project team will communicate with stakeholders.

The PPP has been developed to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and facilitate meaningful stakeholder engagement for the EIA/EMPr and IWULA process.

Availability of the Draft Scoping Report for Public Review and Comment

As part of the Scoping Process, the applicant is required to compile a **Draft Scoping Report (DSR)** for mining-related activities. The DSR will be available for public review and comment for a period of **30 days** from **Wednesday, 6 May 2026 to Thursday, 4 June 2026**.

A notification of the availability of the DSR for public review and comment was distributed on **Wednesday, 29 April 2026** to all stakeholders on the database.

The DSR will be made available as follows:

- An electronic copy on Kongiwe's website: <https://kongiwe.com/projects/>.
- Hard copies at the **Bakerton Public Library** and **Springs Public Library**. Contact details are shown in Table 2.

The non-technical summaries of the **DSR** will be available electronically to all stakeholders on the stakeholder database and distributed in hard copy at the Open Day (discussed below).

Table 2: Libraries with Hard Copies of the Draft Scoping Report

| Location | Physical Address | Contact Person |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Bakerton Public Library | Cnr 1st Avenue and Teabush Avenue, Bakerton. | Ms Sive Gaqa, Librarian (011) 999 8826 Monday – Friday Open: 08H00 Close: 15H30 |
| Springs Public Library | 55 5th St, Springs New, Springs, 1560 | Ms Tebogo Kekana (011) 999 8814 Monday – Friday Open: 08H00 Close: 16H30 |

Availability of the EIA/EMPr and IWWMP for Public Review and Comment

During the EIA phase of the project, the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment and Draft Environmental Management Programme (DEIA/EMPr) will be made available for public review for **30 days**.

Once the information required for the IWULA has been finalised, a technical report, in support of the IWULA process, will be made available for a public review and commenting period of **60 days**. It is anticipated that the IWULA report will be made available during the impact assessment phase. Information regarding the availability of the IWULA technical report and how stakeholders can provide their comments will be communicated to all stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

Stakeholders are invited to participate through online and in-person engagements. Consultation meetings will be held using platforms like Microsoft Teams, and Open Day. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the Project and the contents of the **DSR**, and to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with the opportunity to raise their comments and to interact with the project team.

Table 3 provides details of the proposed stakeholder meetings. Please confirm your attendance for the meeting (*Confirmation of attendance may be submitted via the stakeholder’s email address or telephonically*).

Table 3: Schedule of Stakeholder Meetings

| Proposed Dates | Available Time Slots | Method of Engagement |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Online Meeting | | |
| Wednesday, 20 May 2026 | 10H00 – 11H00 | Microsoft Teams |
| In-Person Meetings: Open Day | | |
| Thursday, 21 May 2026 | 10H00 – 12H00 | Broader Stakeholders Meeting: Open Day Bakerton Community Hall First Ave, Bakerton, Springs, 1559 |

Invitation to be Involved as a Stakeholder

Kongiwe has put measures in place to ensure that all stakeholders are meaningfully consulted by using a wide range of media, documents and online tools. The proposed methods of engagement for the Project are as follows:

- Telephonic consultations.
- Short Message Services (SMSes).
- Email correspondence:
 - Stakeholders with access to emails are requested to send their comments/queries via email.
 - Stakeholders can email their Registration and Comment Forms.
- Online engagements:
 - Project information will be timeously uploaded on Kongiwe’s website.
 - Microsoft Teams meetings.
- In-person Engagements:
 - One-on-one consultation meetings.
 - Open Day.

The purpose of the above-mentioned methods of engagement is to encourage dialogue with stakeholders and provide stakeholders with opportunities to raise their comments. Minutes of all meetings with stakeholders will be compiled and recorded in the Comments and Responses Report (CRR). Stakeholders are encouraged to indicate their preferred method of engagement on the Registration Form below the BID.

For consultation to be Inclusive, it is the Responsibility of Stakeholders to

- Register or ensure you are registered as an I&AP.
- Inform others whom you think may be interested and/or affected by the Project.
- Provide comments on the Project.
- Ensure comments are submitted within the allowed timeframes and received by the Stakeholder Engagement office.
- Contribute information and/or knowledge of the Project area’s environment.
- Attend meetings that are scheduled throughout the process to participate and access information.

Comments and Queries

Any person affected by or who may be interested in the Project are encouraged to complete the Registration and Comments Form provided below this document (BID) should they have any comments / queries.

Contact Details

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Ms Vanessa Viljoen | +27 (10) 140 1725 | stakeholders@kongiwe.com |
| Ms Jean-Mari Williams | +27 (10) 140 1726 | stakeholders@kongiwe.com |

**Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward
 to your involvement throughout this process**