

# Environmental Authorisation and Integrated Water Use Licence Application for Jelani Joint Venture (JV) Area Underground Mining Project, Free State Province

## Background Information Document

DMPR reference number: FS30/5/1/2/3/2/1(10098) EM

DWS reference number: WU50090

### Purpose of the Document

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

- Project background of the Jelani Joint Venture (JV) Underground Mining Project (“Project”), located in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality, under the jurisdiction of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State 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?
- Public review and comment period for the Draft Scoping Report.

### Project Background

Jelani Resources (Pty) Ltd is a joint venture (JV) company established by White Rivers Exploration (WRE) and Harmony Gold. The JV was formed to conduct underground mining operations within the Joint Venture (JV) area, which is made up of areas within the existing Harmony Target mining right (Harmony contribution) and Prospecting Rights (PR) areas to the west of Harmony Gold’s existing Target Mine (WRE contribution) in the Free State Province of South Africa. Following the exploration and licensing phases, Jelani intends to initiate underground mining operations within the same area.

The Proposed Project entails licensing the underground mining of the following potential mineral resources:

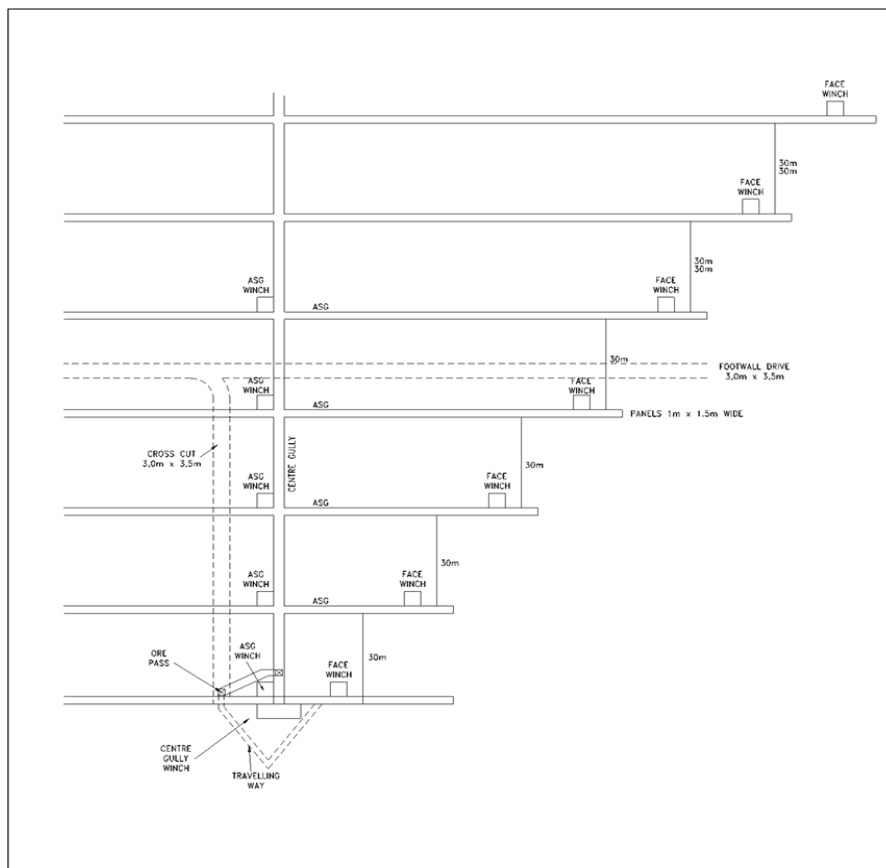
- Gold ore (primary target),
- Silver ore,
- Uranium ore,
- Sulphur,
- Platinum Group Metals,
- Rare earths,
- Diamonds (alluvial),
- Copper ore,
- Cobalt ore,
- Manganese ore,
- Molybdenum ore,
- Nickel ore,
- Lead ore,
- Tungsten ore,
- Zinc ore, and
- Iron ore.

Jelani’s underground mining operations initially will target shallower mineral resource deposits at the project site (approximately 1 200 mbs). As mine development progresses, new mining areas will be developed which will allow for the production rate to be steadily increased to the targeted full production rate of 60 000 tonnes of mined ore per month.

Two mining methods have been identified as the most practical for exploiting the mineral resources: conventional breast mining and shrinkage stoping. The selection of each method is primarily based on the dip of the mineralised reef, with the shrinkage stoping being used for the steeper slopes (3% of the total stope tonnage). Where the orebody dips below 55°, conventional breast mining will be used.

### Conventional Breast Mining

Where the orebody dips below 55°, conventional breast mining will be used. Footwall drives will be developed in the strike direction, between 40 to 48m below the mining horizon. Crosscuts will subsequently be developed perpendicularly to the footwall drives, towards the reef horizon. Access to the reef horizon will be by travelling way, developed from the crosscut. Ore passes will be developed between the reef horizon and the crosscut for the removal of blasted ore from the stope. On the stope horizon, a raise or centre gully will be developed between levels up the centre of the mining block. Breast mining panels will be established off the centre gully. The panels will be mined approximately in the strike direction away from the centre gully to the stope block limit. An advanced strike gully (ASG) will be carried on the down dip side of each mining panel for access to the stope face and for clearing of blasted ore from the face. Typically, two stope ore passes will be situated in the centre gully which will connect the stoping areas to the footwall infrastructure. All ore produced in the stopes will be scraped into the ore passes for loading in the crosscut. Figure 1 shows a plan of a typical stope block.



**Figure 1: Schematic plan view of a conventional stope block**

The breast faces will be drilled using hand-held, hydro-powered rock drills and airlegs. Blast holes will be charged with packaged emulsion explosives. Scraper cleaning will be used in the stope horizon. Ore will be scraped from the face, into the ASG and then into the centre gully. From the centre gully the rock is scraped over a stope grizzly into the ore pass. The bottom of the ore pass is equipped with a boxfront with a hydraulically operated gate.

Where multiple reefs occur, and both are payable and are planned to be mined, the order of mining will be to extract the uppermost reef first, working downwards.

### Shrinkage Stoping

Shrinkage stoping is an overhand mining method that relies on broken material being left in the stope to be used as the “working floor” and to support the walls. The shrinkage stope is accessed via a travelling way. The stope is established and accessed by the development of two raises, one on each end of the stope panel.

Two drives, separated by a sill pillar, are established at the bottom of the stope. Draw points are developed between the two drives for loading ore from the stope. Once the stope preparation development and equipping has been completed stoping commences by advancing the stope face up-dip from the sill drive. After each blast sufficient ore is drawn out to allow access between the new stope face and the top of the muckpile. Once the stope face reaches the upper limit, which is normally defined by a crown pillar, all men and equipment are withdrawn from the stope and the remaining ore is drawn from the stope. Ore is drawn out of the stope by operating the scraper winch in the reef drive. This clears rock from the draw points and allows the ore to continue to flow.

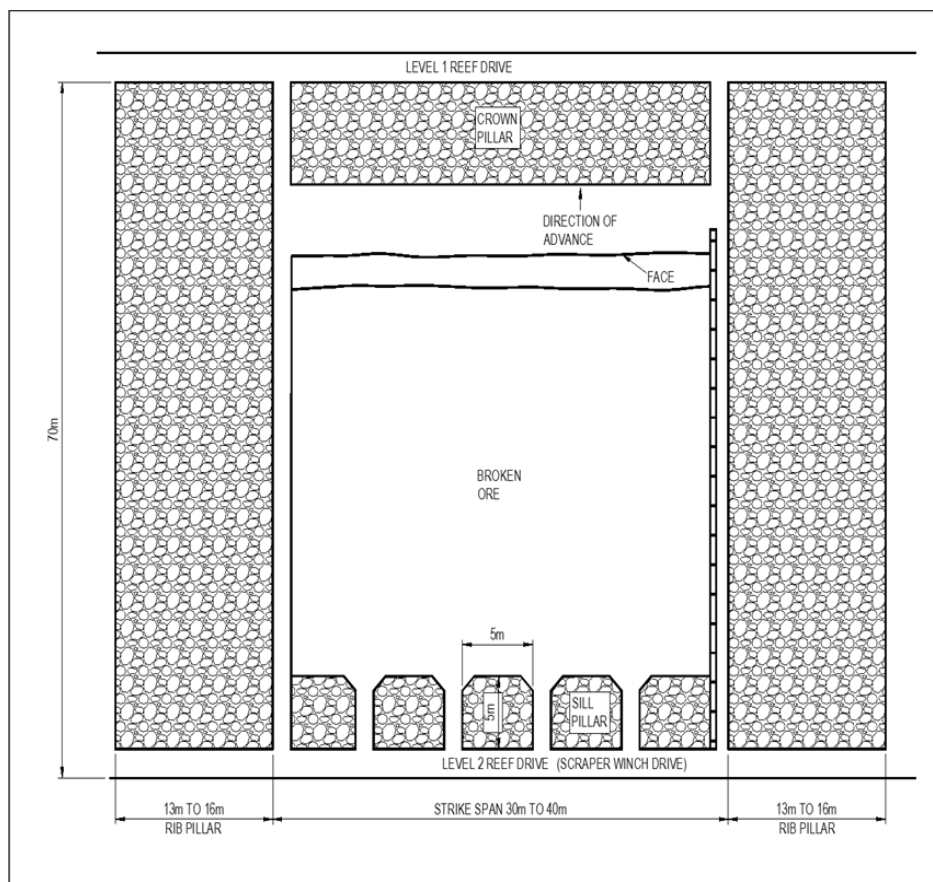


Figure 2: Schematic long section illustrating a typical shrinkage stope

Ore will be transported to the shaft ore pass system using a conveyor system loaded by a fleet of 30-tonne dump trucks which are loaded by 10-tonne loaders (LHD). Subsequently, the broken rock will be loaded into hoisting bins and will be hoisted to surface, where the rock will either be sent to the processing plant or to the waste rock dump.

Existing underground access (shafts and level access) will be refurbished and re-equipped. Target No 2 and Target No 3 shafts will, over the course of the mine’s life, be used for the movement of men, material and rock depending on which phase the mine is in.

### Infrastructure Requirements

All operational mining infrastructure required for the Proposed Project will be located within the existing Harmony Target Mine mining right area. No new operational mining infrastructure is planned within the project area. Underground access infrastructure will either consist of refurbished facilities at Target Shafts No. 3, 4 and 5 or newly constructed infrastructure at the Target No. 2 Shaft site, all within the existing mining right.

The infrastructure requirements are intended to support the managerial, supervisory, and operational functions associated with the respective underground mining operations/targets. A layout of the proposed Target 3 shaft surface infrastructure which either needs to be refurbished or constructed is presented in Figure 3. Target 3 shaft will be used to access the underground workings during Phase 1 of the project whilst Target 2 shaft is refurbished. Mining activities during this phase will take place between 57 Level and 48 Level (Figure 4).

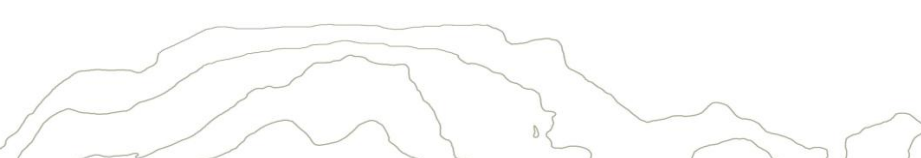


**Figure 3: Target No 3 shaft surface infrastructure layout**

**The No 3 shaft surface infrastructure will comprise of the following (as numbered):**

1. No 3 shaft
2. Shaft facilities
  - (a) Lamp repair
  - (b) Proto room
  - (c) Lamp room
3. Change house facilities
  - (a) Main laundry
  - (b) Main change house
4. Compressor house
5. Waste rock dump
6. Surface rock handling
7. Main substation
8. Parking area
9. Offices
  - (a) Management, administration and technical services
  - (b) Mining
  - (c) Engineering
10. Man winder
11. Barlow winder
12. Rock winder
13. Fridge plant
14. Store building
15. Services/fitting workshops
16. Dirty water dam & pump station
17. Sewerage plant
18. Evaporation plant
19. Change house
20. No 4 shaft ventilation fans
21. Security office
22. Explosives store
23. Conveyors
24. Laydown area and salvage yard
25. Walkway
26. Marshalling yard
27. Drop off area
28. Ablution block
29. Laundry
30. Change houses
31. Offices
32. Lapa
33. Parking
34. Parking
35. Turnstiles
36. Waiting area
37. Lean to roof
38. Underground store
39. Pump house
40. Service boiler shop
41. Services boiler store
42. Rail line
43. Pipeline
44. Security
45. Timber yard
46. Electrical workshop
47. Flammable store
48. Old oil store

An overview of the Target 3 Shaft with level elevations, is shown in Figure 4.



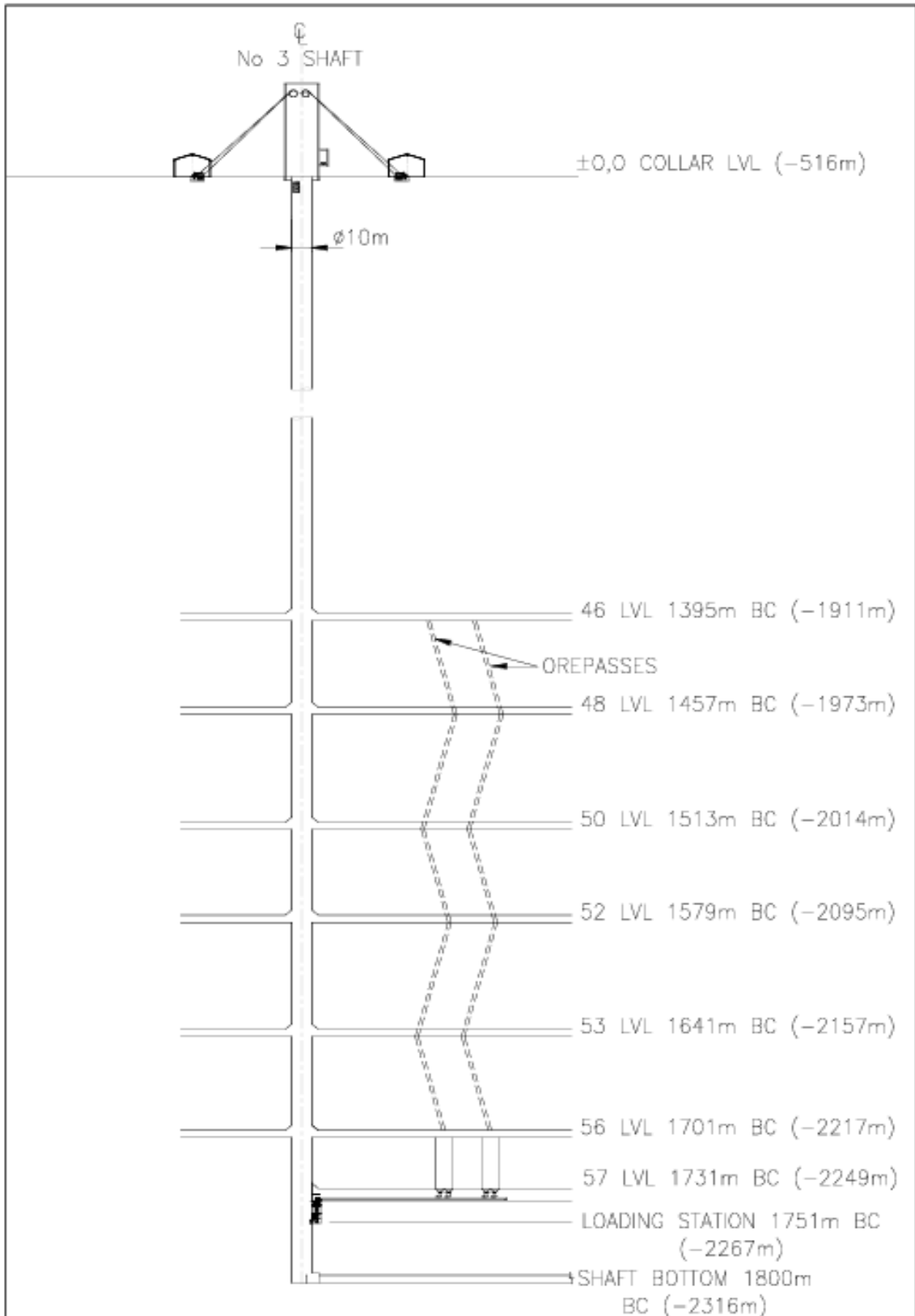


Figure 4: Target 3 shaft longitudinal arrangement



**Figure 5: Harmony Target No 3 Shaft**

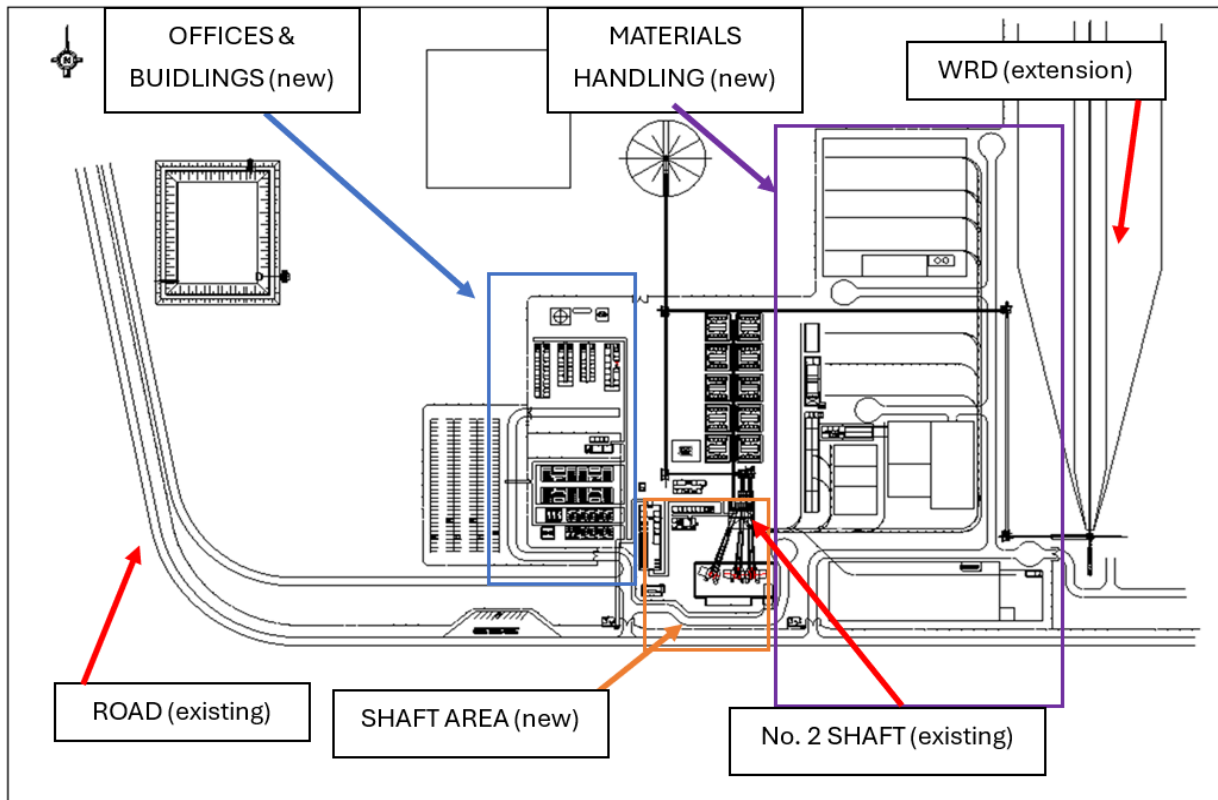
The Target No 2 shaft will be used as the main access to the underground orebody and workings in Phase 2, and Target No 3 shaft will be maintained as a second outlet. Mining activities in this phase are planned to occur above 48 Level and below 57 Level.

The Target No 2 shaft is currently not utilised for mining production activities. Instead, it acts as the emergency exit for Target No. 1 Shaft with only a limited amount of infrastructure remaining in place. Once the shaft has been refurbished and surface infrastructure is completed and the shaft commissioned, mining operations associated with the Proposed Project will be relocated to this shaft.



**Figure 6: Harmony Target No 2 Shaft**

A layout of the current Target No 2 Shaft surface infrastructure as well as the proposed new infrastructures which are required to be constructed are presented in Figure 7.



**Figure 7: Target No 2 Shaft new and existing infrastructure**

To monitor potential mining-induced seismicity and boundary interactions with the adjacent Harmony Gold operations, four seismographic monitoring stations will be installed, spread equally along the shared boundary, with short gravel access tracks provided for each station. These installations represent the only surface infrastructures on the JV project area.

Additionally, a new Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) will be constructed to the west of the existing Target metallurgical plant and north of the existing Target TSF. The total area required for this new facility is approximately 69 Hectares (Ha). This TSF is a separate project being undertaken by Harmony Gold.

### Project Location

The Proposed Project area is situated immediately adjacent to and west of the Harmony Gold Target Mine, approximately 11km northwest of Odendaalsrus, 1,5km west of Allanridge town, and 22km east of Wesselsbron, in the Free State Province of South Africa. It lies within Ward 36 of the Matjhabeng Local Municipality, under the jurisdiction of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality. Refer to Figure 8 for the Proposed Project local orientation. Below is a summary of the location of the Project Site (Table 1).

**Table 1: Summary of the Location of the Project Site**

<b>Province</b>	Free State Province
<b>Municipality</b>	Matjhabeng Local Municipality
<b>Ward Number</b>	36
<b>Nearest Town</b>	Allanridge

Table 2 below shows the properties that are directly affected by the Proposed Project.

**Table 2: Description of Directly Affected Properties**

Farm Name	Farm ID	Farm Portion	SG Code
Welvaart No. 63	RD	0 (RE)	F02400000000006300000
Welvaart No. 63	RD	1	F02400000000006300001
Welvaart No. 63	RD	2	F02400000000006300002
Diamant No. 37	RD	0	F02400000000003700000
Graspan No. 40	RD	0 (RE)	F02400000000004000000
Graspan No. 40	RD	1	F02400000000004000001
Swartpan No. 436	RD	0 (RE)	F02400000000043600000

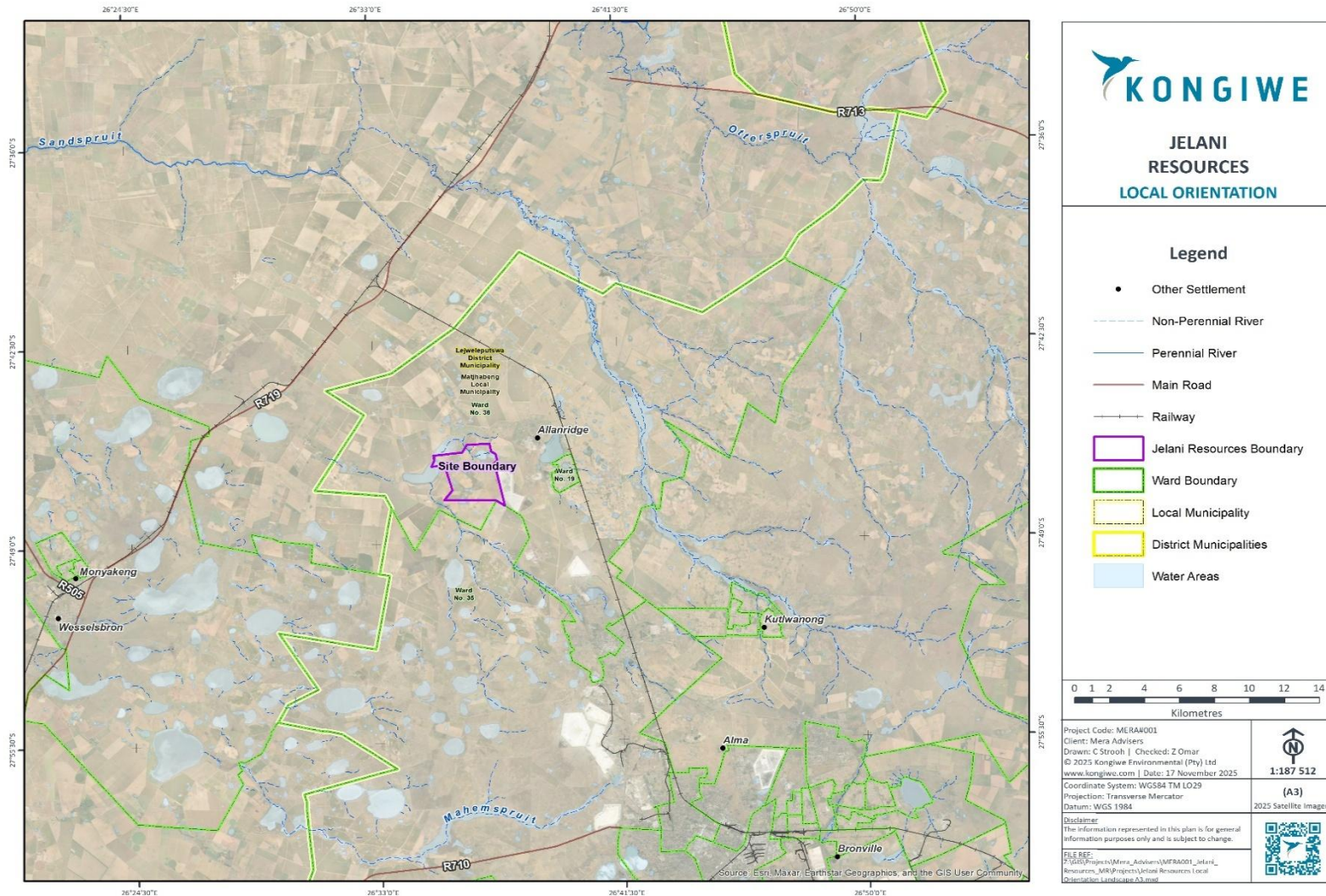


Figure 8: Local Orientation of the proposed JV Area Underground Mining Project

### Area Extent

The total extent of the application area is 956.76 hectares (ha).

### Depth of Mineral below Surface

The orebodies extend between 1 500m and 2 600m below surface.

### Proposed Beneficiation Process

All ore produced from the underground mining operations will be transported to the existing Target 1 metallurgical plant for processing.

### Life of Operation

10 340 Mt of ore is expected to be mined over the Life of Mine (LOM), which is 14 years.

### Project Schedule

Prior to the initiation of mine implementation and construction activities, various stages of design work will be required to be undertaken. It is expected that these activities will take approximately four years before implementation can be initiated. Active mining can commence during year 7. The key timelines are listed in Table below:

**Table 3: Project timelines**

Period	Description
Year 1 - 3	Site data gathering and feasibility studies
Year 4	Detailed engineering design
Year 5 - 8	Implementation and construction activities
Year 7	Hiring of employees
Year 7	Initiation of mining activities underground

#### The production build-up is planned to occur in two phases:

In Phase 1, which is planned to last for four years starting in Year 5, with construction and refurbishment with mining starting in Year 7. The first two years are required for level access and refurbishment, after which Target No 3 shaft will be used for hoisting of men, material and rock.

Phase 2 commences in Year 9, whereby access to the underground workings is via Target No 2 shaft, with Target No 3 shaft being reserved as a second outlet.

As mine development progresses over the first four years, new mining areas will be developed which will allow for the production rate to be steadily increased to the targeted full production rate of 60 000 tonnes of ore per month, which is achieved in Year 10.

10 340 Mt of ore is expected to be mined over the Life of Mine (LOM), which is 14 years.

## Access, Access Control and Security

The Proposed Project is located within an area served by an established road network. Public routes in close proximity to the site include existing roads currently used for Harmony Target Mine operations as well as gravel roads used by the local farmers.

Only the development of gravel access tracks to facilitate the monitoring of potential mining-induced seismicity and boundary interactions is anticipated at the project site.

Vehicle access to the shaft site is via the R30 public road, connecting to the existing mine access roads, that will continue to be used. No additional refurbishments are required on these roads other than possibly cutting back the overhanging branches of the two rows of trees that run along the entire length of the road.

The shaft site perimeter is already fenced and assumed to be according to the Harmony Standard, as no other security measures or devices were observed. Access to the shaft complex is controlled through the main access security gate. Provision has been made to refurbish the system.

## 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.
- The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).
- 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).
- 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 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

In addition to the above legislation, the PPP needs 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):

- Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

**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.

**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 9.

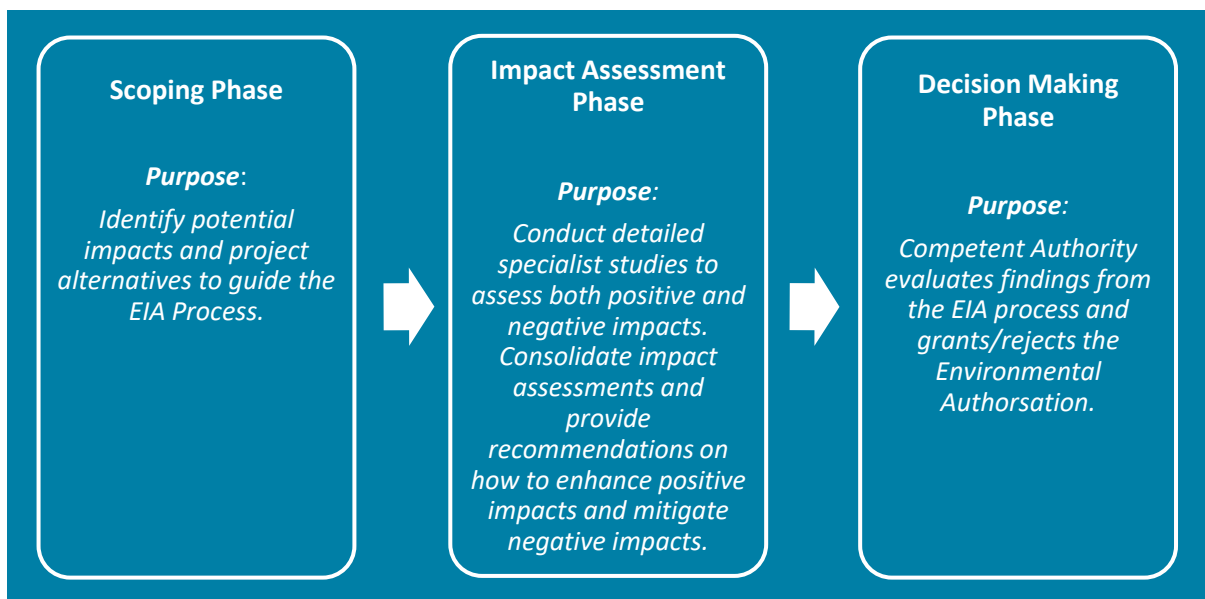


Figure 9: S&EIA Process

## INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENCE

An IWULA will be undertaken for water uses associated with Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998) (NWA). Section 21 (c) and (i) activities are activities that impede or divert the flow of water in a watercourse; or which alter the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

## 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:

- Social Impact Assessment
- Desktop Heritage/Cultural and Palaeontology Assessments
- Biodiversity, Freshwater, including a Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM,) Soils and Agricultural Potential
- Air Quality Impact Assessment
- Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Financial Provision Calculation, Environmental Risk and Final Rehabilitation and Closure Plan
- Hydrological Assessment
- Hydrogeological Assessment
- Blasting and Vibrations

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 **Thursday, 21 May 2026 to Monday, 22 June 2026**.

A notification of the availability of the DSR for public review and comment was distributed on **Thursday, 14 May 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/>.
- A hard copy at the **Allanridge Public Library**. Contact details are shown in Table 4.

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 4: Libraries with Hard Copies of the Draft Scoping Report**

Location	Physical Address	Contact Person
Allanridge Public Library	53 Caledon St, Allanridge	Ms Anna Matjelo, Librarian (078) 713 2063 Monday - Friday Open: 08:00 Close: 15:30

### 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 Days. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the Project and the contents of the Draft Scoping Report, and to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with the opportunity to raise their comments and to interact with the project team.

Table 5 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 5: Schedule of Stakeholder Meeting**

Proposed Dates	Available Time Slots	Method of Engagement
<b>Online Meeting</b>		
Wednesday, 27 May 2026	10H00 – 11H00	Microsoft Teams
<b>In-Person Meetings: Open Day</b>		
Saturday, 30 May 2026	11H00 – 13H00	S.A. Mokhothu Primary School 3073 Nyakallong, Allanridge, 9490

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

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

