

PROPOSED HARMONY NOOITGEDACHT TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY PROJECT

SCOPING PHASE PUBLIC MEETING





AGENDA

- Introductions
- Purpose of Meeting
- Presentation: Nooitgedacht TSF Project description and overview
- EIA and Water Use Licensing Application Processes
- Key Findings from Scoping Phase
- Way Forward and Timeframes
- Discussion / Questions

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Official opening of the public meeting
- PP Meeting as part of the Nooitgedacht TSF EIA and Water Use License Applications – **New 2025 Application due to changes in project scope**
- What is a PP Meeting and what is its purpose?
 - Gathering of I&APs to share information, discuss issues and provide insight on an intended project
- When is PP meeting held?
 - For contentious projects or within sensitive environments / communities; OR
 - When the need arises as determined by the EAP / Developer / I&APs
- What guides PP meetings?
 - DFFE minimum guidelines for PPP
 - Chapter 6 of NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 as amended (Section 41 – 44)



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Project Team Involved:

- Independent EAP: Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
- Developer / Applicant: Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited
- Competent Authority for EIA: Free State Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR)
- Competent Authority for WUL: Free State Region Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)



PURPOSE OF MEETING

- Present and contextualize the proposed development to the I&APs
- Outline the licensing requirements
- Outline the involvement of Interested and Affected Parties
- Provide update on project progress
- Highlight the way forward and key next phases in the project
- Address issues raised by I&APs

PROJECT OVERVIEW

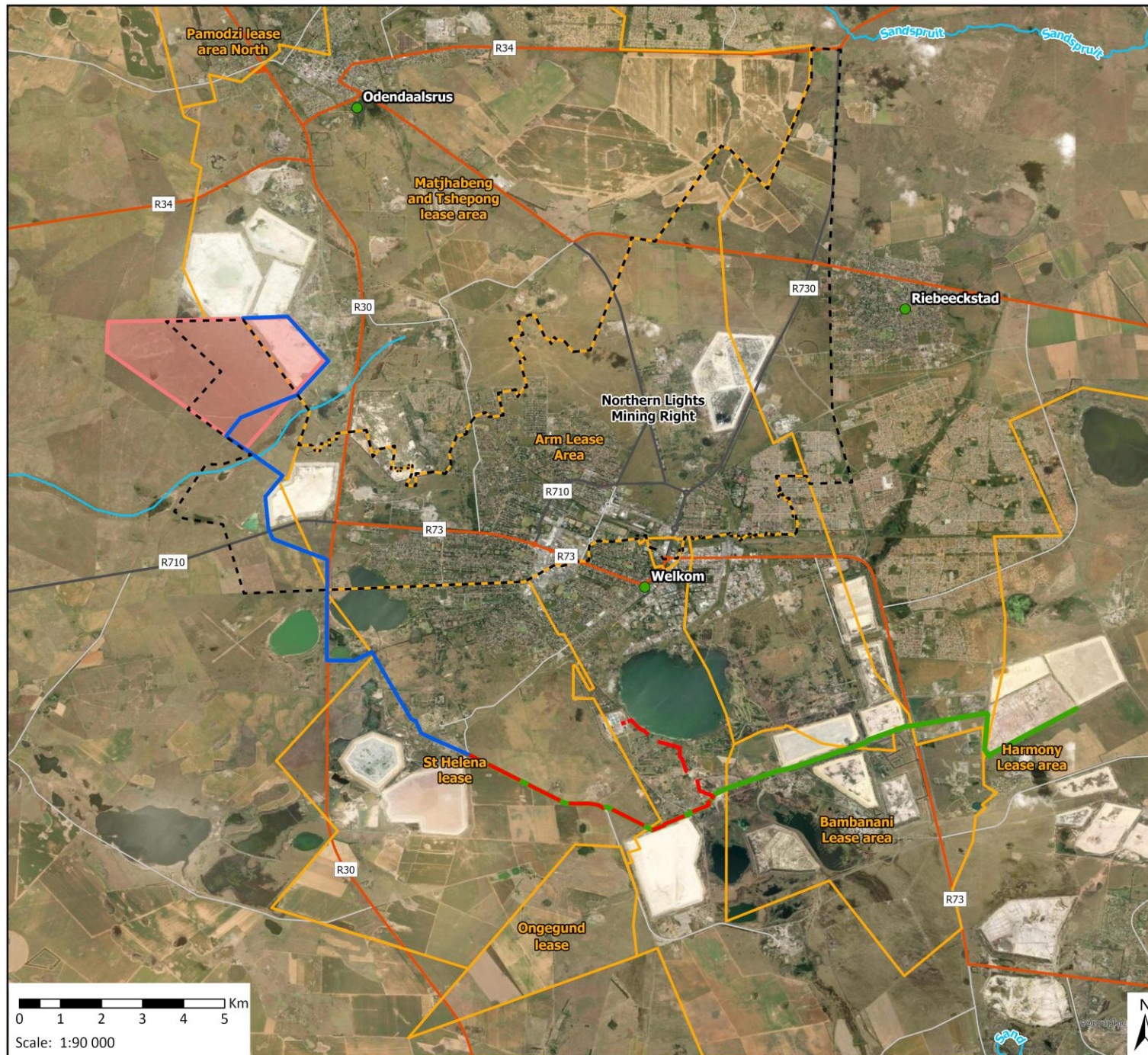
- **Client/ Applicant:** Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited.
- **Project Location:** The proposed TSF will be located on various farm portions near Welkom, Matjhabeng Local Municipality.
- **Project Description:**
 - The applicant owns and operates a number of gold mines and plants in the Welkom region in the Free State and currently deposits tailings onto the Free State South 2 Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), St. Helena 4 TSF, St. Helena 123 TSF, Dam 23 TSF, Brand D TSF and Target 1&2 TSF.
 - The current planned Life of Mine (LOM) of the Free State operations exceed the available deposition capacity of these TSFs and the applicant is therefore proposing to construct the proposed Nooitgedacht TSF to cater for this additional capacity.
 - Nooitgedacht will cater for both the LoM as well as the reclamation of 23 additional TSFs over an approximate LoM of up to 2050 (commissioning of the last reclamation station).
 - This Free State Reclamation project will be for the reclamation of up to 3 older TSFs at any one time. This will allow for the continuation of jobs and investment into the Welkom area.
 - Further thereto, the reclamation will result in the removal and cleaning of old historic tailings facility and placing it on one consolidated facility which is well managed and is lined in accordance too the new waste legislation and regulations, thereby removing potential sources of pollution from these old areas and allowing Harmony to rehabilitate the old footprints and open them to other land uses.
- Existing Mining Right Reference Number: MR85.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- **TSF:** The TSF will cover an area of approximately 895 ha
- The maximum **height** of the TSF will be 93m, with a total **capacity** of 804 million tonnes. Deposition period at 2 000 0000 tpm over a 34-year lifespan.
- Infrastructure will include the TSF and associated infrastructure including possible access roads and water management infrastructure including **pipelines** and a **return water dam** and **40 Megalitre (ML) low pressure water storage facility**.
- Tailings **deposition method** to be used: cyclone deposition.
- The TSF **barrier** system has been designed, utilising an inverted barrier system design in conjunction with Legge and Associates.
- **Pipelines:** In addition, three new pipelines are required to be constructed:
 - Two 10km long slurry lines from Harmony One Plant to the St Helena Booster Pump Station;
 - One 16k long slurry line from Brand A TSF to the St Helena Booster Pump Station; and
 - One 17km slurry line from the St Helena Booster Pump Station to FSN 1 TSF.

The pipelines will be flanged steel pipelines of over 0,36m in diameter and installed above-ground on pre-cast concrete plinths and a 3.5m wide access road, adjacent to the pipelines, will be cleared/graded to provide access for construction, maintenance and inspections.



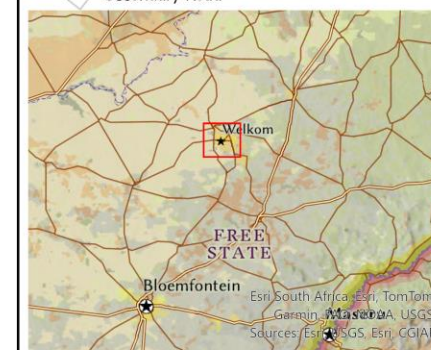


Harmony Mining Rights Map

1565 Harmony Nootgedacht TSF EIA WUL

Legend

- Northern Lights Mining Right
- Harmony Mining Right
- Proposed Tailings Storage Facility
- Pipelines from One Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from Central Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from St. Helena Booster Pump Station to FSN1
- Rivers
- Places
- Arterial Route
- Main Road
- Secondary Road



Data Sources:

CSG; ESRI; SANBI
 Coord System: GCS WGS 1984
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 Units: Degree
 Ref: 1565_MiningRights

Date: 2024/07/29

EIMS Ref: 1565

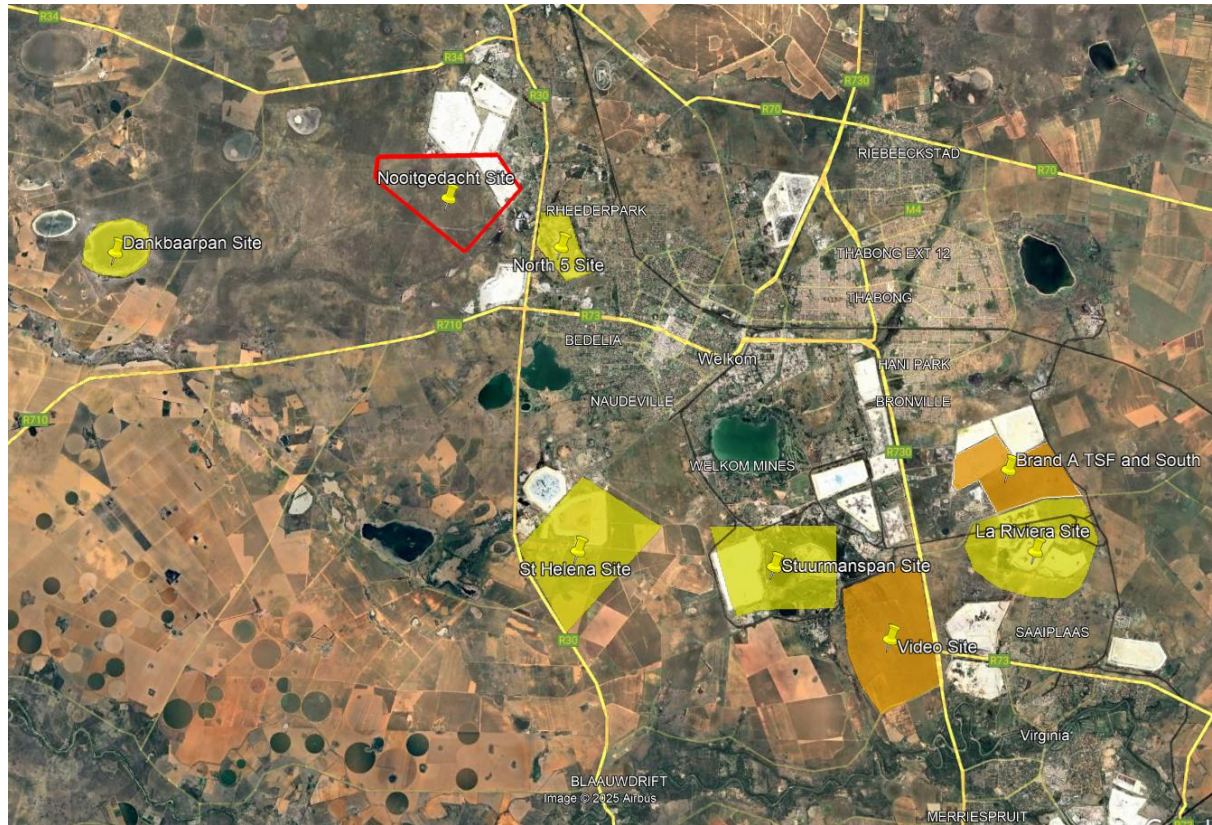
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Reviewed: JP

Approved: LW












SITE SELECTION



The assessment of location alternatives is limited due to the available open space in close proximity to the mining activities (and especially the gold processing plant). Several alternative sites were identified and assessed as part of a 2008 study completed by Golder Environmental. Based on feedback from various stakeholders including DWS and specialist input the Nooitgedacht area was identified as the preferred site.

In addition to the 2008 Golder site alternatives, an additional two sites were identified in 2025 namely Video Site and the Brand A TSF footprint extending south of the Brand TSF complex.

Underground deposition was identified but has limited potential (insufficient deposition volume) and furthermore DMPR rejected this option.

Site Name		Finding/ Comment
Nooitgedacht Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified SCC on site. No further significant environmental or socio-economic impacts.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable size for a TSF large enough to accommodate 800Mt of Reclaimed tailings residue and future Run of Mine residue
North 5 Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly adjacent to residential
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSN5 footprint is too small to accommodate 800Mt of tailings.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposition onto multiple smaller footprints was considered but was not financially viable
St Helena Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High levels of active agriculture land-use across >50% of the site
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After exclusion of active agriculture land the site is too small for the FSR project
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Helena 123 footprint is now being used for deposition from Saaiplaas Plant
Stuurmanspan Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avifauna SCCs may temporarily pass through the site due to the large wetlands
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the area is a wetland and after exclusion of the wetland area the site is too small
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct drainage into Sand River
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively used by locals for livestock grazing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some informal settlements
La Riviera Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small NFEPA seeps (wetlands) exist on site
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential areas located in northeastern corner
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Gold Saaiplaas Plant within footprint (active gold plant)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active agriculture immediately adjacent to the site
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No SCCs recorded nor expected, however avifauna SCCs may temporarily pass through the site due to the wetlands
Dankbaarpan Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately considered fatally flawed by the DWS due to being situated directly on a pan.
Video Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the time of the original site selection this was an active evaporation area for excess underground water and not considered.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsequently fatally flawed by the DWS due to proximity to the Sand River (<800 m).
Brand A and South Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the time of the original site selection Brand D was in active deposition and Brand A was dormant and Saaiplaas shaft was still in operation. Brand D is still in active deposition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand A has subsequently been reclaimed and deposition onto the footprint will not be able to accommodate the required deposition rate - multiple deposition sites not financially viable
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area south of the Brand TSF complex, once the Saaiplaas Shaft area is excluded, is too small
Underground Disposal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigated but provided limited potential - however rejected by DMPR as well as technical constraints associated with UG disposal

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- **NEMA EIA Regulations (2014, as amended)**
 - Process must be undertaken by an Independent Environmental Consultant
 - Timeframe based and prescribed legislative process
 - List of activities that cannot commence without an Environmental Authorisation
 - Listing Notice 1 & 3: **Basic assessment** – minimal risks in environment, process is about 6 – 8 months
 - Listing Notice 2: **Scoping & EIA process** – detrimental impact, longer process (12 months)
 - Both processes require public participation and specialist's assessment - this project is following full scoping and EIA process (2 public participation sessions).
- Assessment Reports must include assessment of project alternatives, impact and risk assessment and ranking process
- EA can either be positive and negative and is issued with specific conditions
- Conditions typically include authorised activity description, validity, compliance monitoring requirements (ECO) etc.
- Process allows for legislated appeal process by the public

PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED

The proposed project will require Environmental Authorisation via a full Scoping and EIA process for the following among others:

NEMA Listed activities

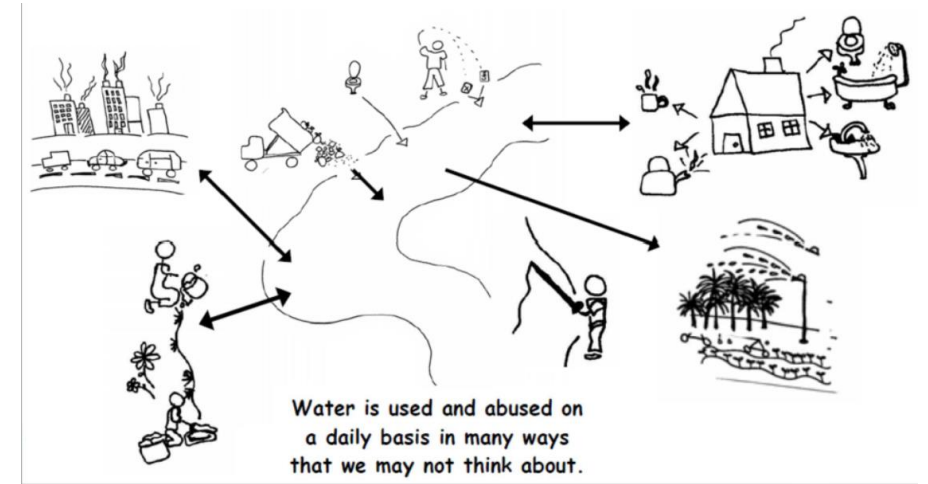
- GN 993 (Activity 10, 12, 19, 21D)
- GN 984 (Activity 6, 15)
- GN985 (Activity 12, 14)

NEMWA Listed activities (integrated application)

- GN921 (Activity A14, B7, B10 and B11)

WATER USE REQUIREMENTS

- National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)
- DWS Minister acts as the custodian of this scarce commodity.
- A person may only use water or disturb watercourses if authorized
- 11 different water uses that require authorisation from DWS before commencement (NWA Section 21 Activities)
- Applications may be a Water Use License (WULA) or a General Authorization (GA)
- GA (**low-risk activities**) is subject to registration process and can be finalized within 30 days after submission
- WULA (**medium to high-risk activities**) is required when risk of impact to a water resource is too high and decision within 90 days after submission of application documents
- The process requires Specialists studies (Risk-Matrix) in consultation with DWS





WATER USE REQUIREMENTS FOR NOOITGEDACHT

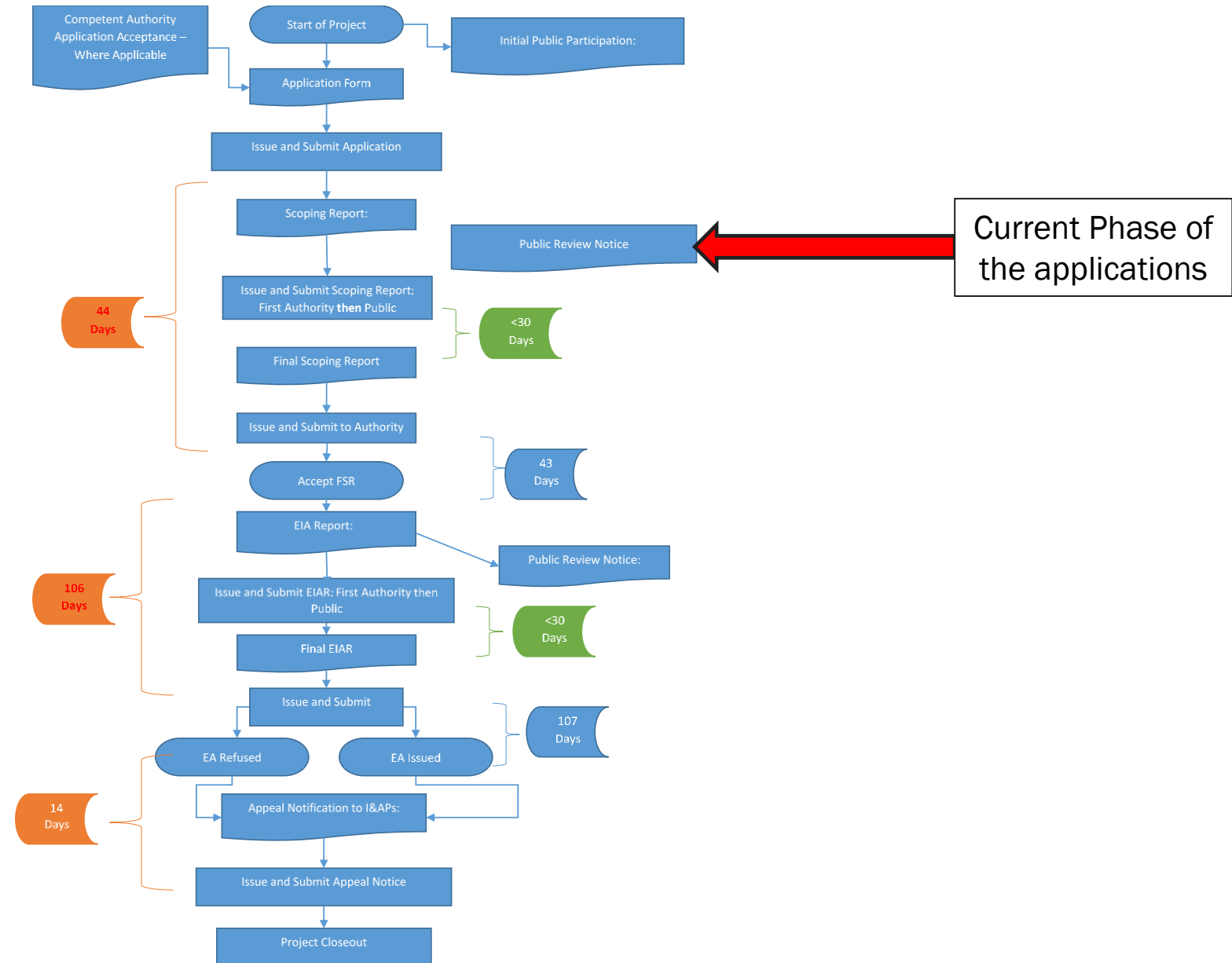
Section 21 Triggered Water Uses

- Section 21 (c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
- Section 21 (g) Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
- Section 21 (i) Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse



APPLICATION PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED

- **Integrated Environmental Authorisation:**
 - Scoping & EIA Process:
 - NEMA Triggered Listed Activities
 - NEMWA Triggered Listed Activities
- **Water Use Authorisation (Full WULA process)**





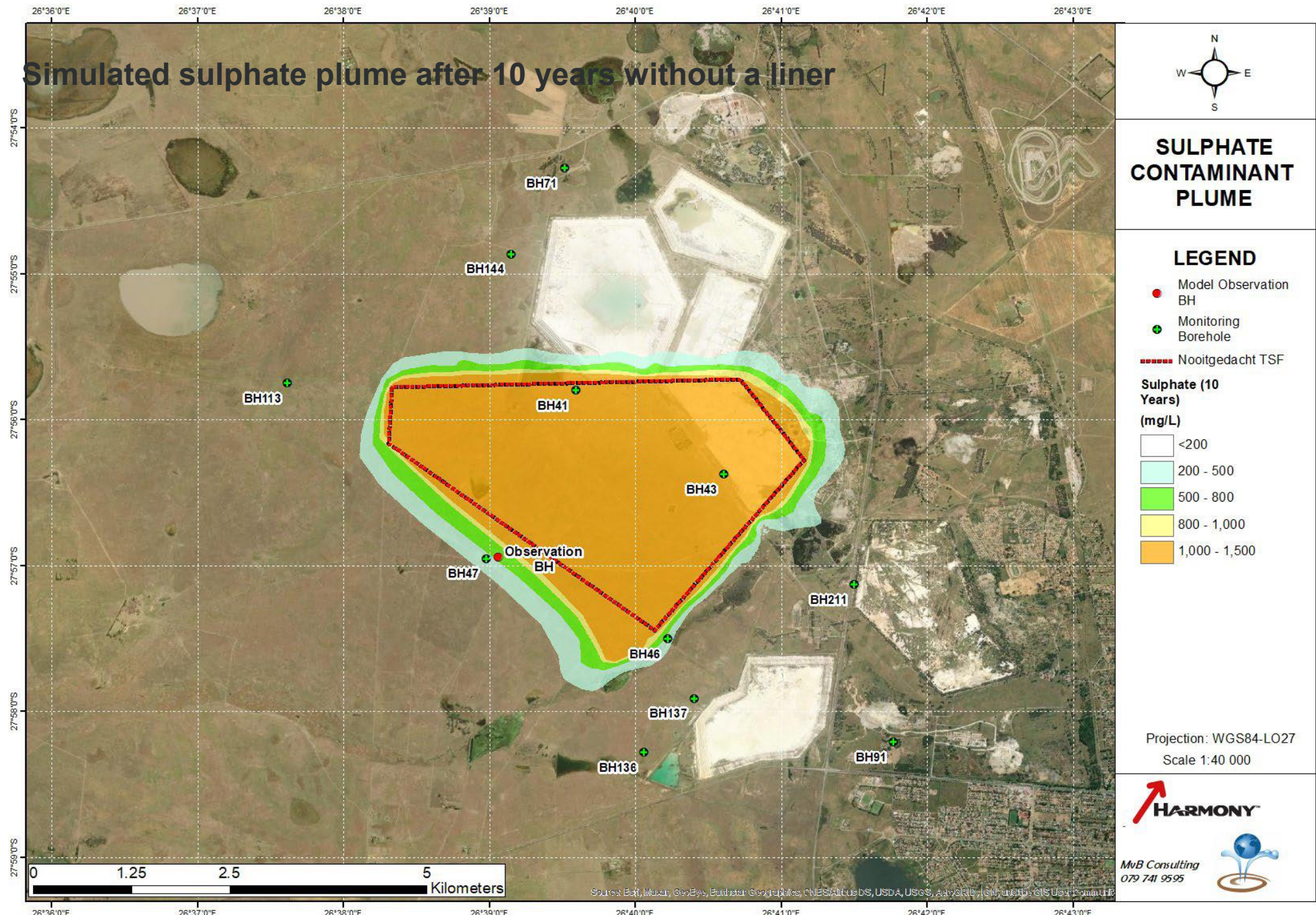
SCOPING PHASE AND FINDINGS

- **Purpose of Scoping Process:**
 - Identify the policies and legislation that are relevant to the activity
 - Motivate the need and desirability of the proposed activity
 - Identify and confirm the preferred activity and technology alternative through an impact and risk assessment and ranking
 - To identify the key issues to be addressed in the assessment phase
 - To agree on the level of assessment to be undertaken (methodology to be applied, the expertise required, as well as the extent of further consultation to be undertaken to determine the impacts and risks the activity), including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts
 - To identify suitable measures to avoid, manage, or mitigate identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored

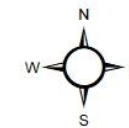
SITE CONDITIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM SPECIALIST STUDIES



Simulated sulphate plume after 10 years without a liner



Simulated sulphate plume after 50 years without a liner



SULPHATE CONTAMINANT PLUME

LEGEND

- Model Observation BH
- Monitoring Borehole

----- Nooitgedacht TSF

Sulphate (50
Years)

(mg/L)

- <200
- 200 - 500
- 500 - 800
- 800 - 1,000
- 1,000 - 1,500

Projection: WGS84-LO27

Scale 1:40 000



MvB Consulting
079 741 9595

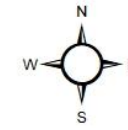


27°54'0"S
27°55'0"S
27°56'0"S
27°57'0"S
27°58'0"S
27°59'0"S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Simulated sulphate plume after 100 years without a liner



SULPHATE CONTAMINANT PLUME

LEGEND

- Model Observation BH
- Monitoring Borehole
- Nooitgedacht TSF

Sulphate (100 Years)

(mg/L)

- <200
- 200 - 500
- 500 - 800
- 800 - 1,000
- 1,000 - 1,500

Projection: WGS84-LO27
Scale 1:40 000



MvB Consulting
079 741 9595

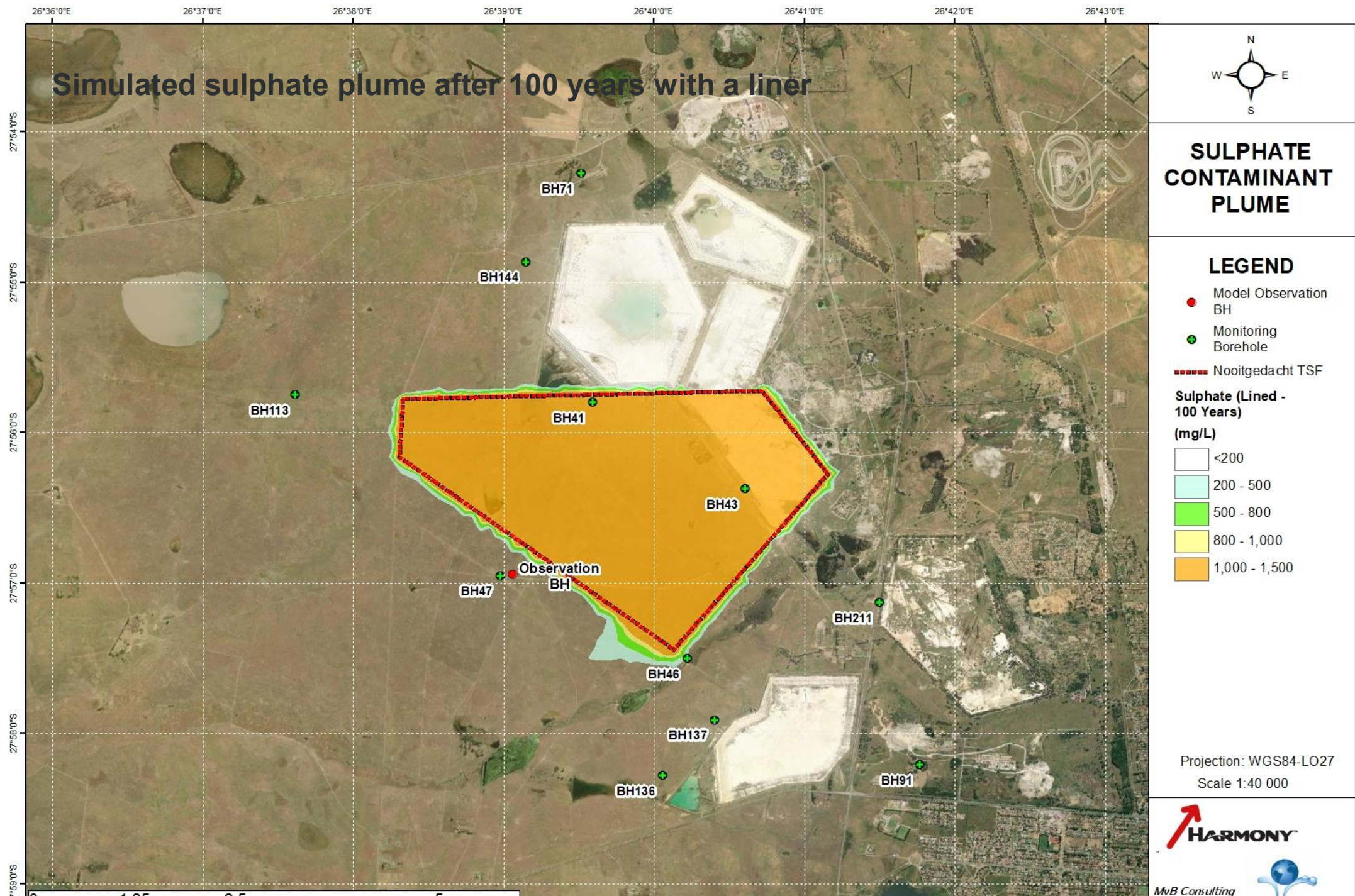


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27°59'0"S

0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

Source: Esri, Mapbox, DeLorme, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

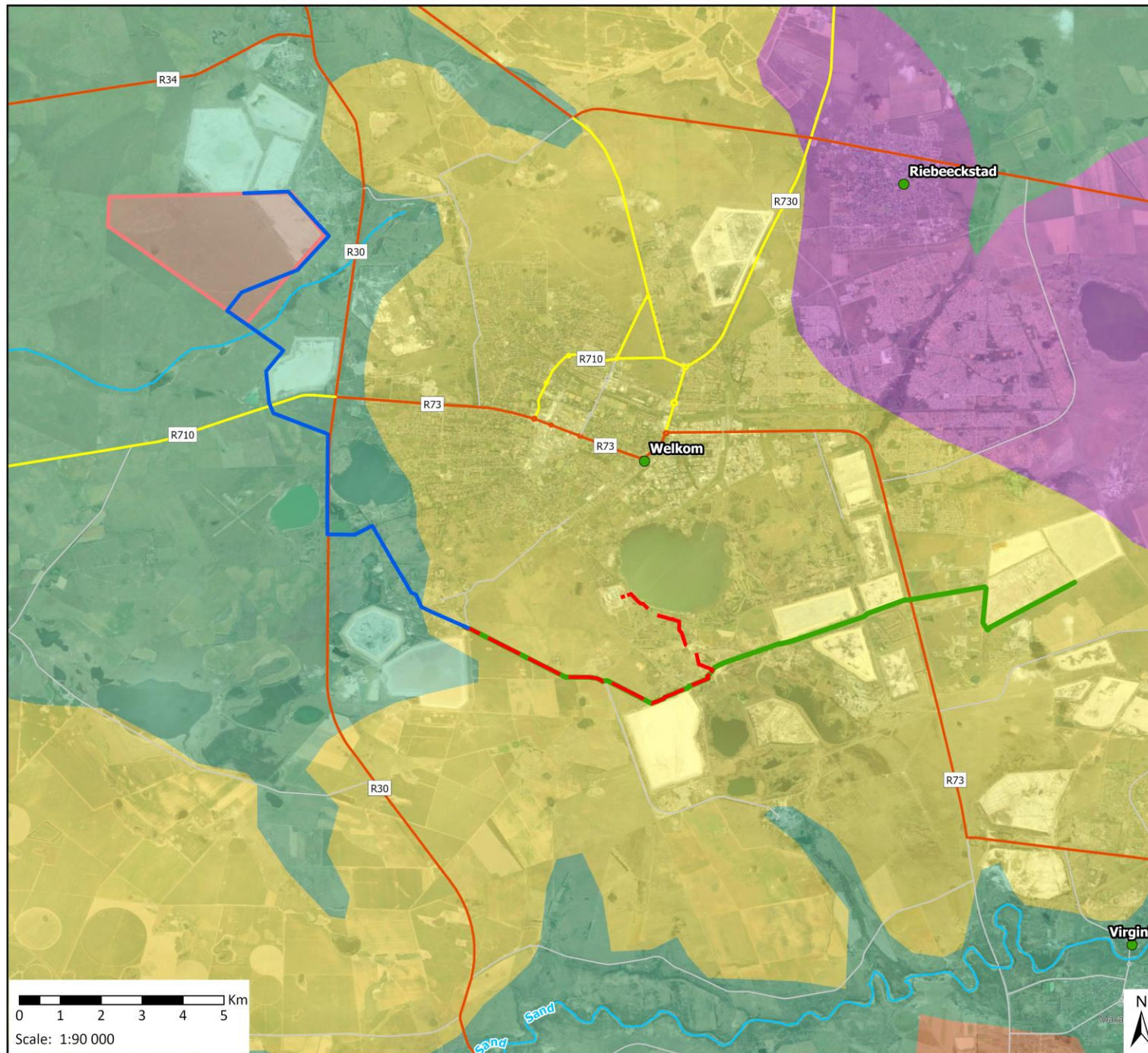
The barrier was designed in conjunction with and input from an Ex-DWS Chief Engineer (with >30 years experience) - barrier designed to perform at Class C performance and better.





BIODIVERSITY

- During the site visit the specialist found evidence of an SCC . A second survey that was undertaken in collaboration with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) focused primarily on the location of Sensitive Species 15. 62 locations found on site.
- Sensitive species 15 is categorised as VU on both a regional and an international scale. Additionally, the species is listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix II, as well as a Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS). It is endemic to South Africa, where it is found only in the grasslands of the northern Free State and the southwestern parts of Mpumalanga.
- Harmony in collaboration with professionals to undertake scientific research on translocation process and post translocation monitoring in line with IUCN guidelines.
- EWT, Harmony and Scientific team collaboration on development of translocation protocols. Translocation to take place only once EA is received. Scientific research headed by Prof Alexander on translocation and ongoing monitoring.



Simplified Soils Map

1565 Harmony Nooitgedacht TSF EIA WUL

Legend

- Proposed Tailings Storage Facility
- Pipelines from One Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from Central Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from St. Helena Booster Pump Station to FSN1
- Rivers
- Places
- Arterial Route
- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Ferric Luvisols (LVf)
Red, massive or weakly structured soils with high base status (association of well drained Lixisols, Cambisols, Luvisols)
- Calcic Luvisols (LVk)
Soils with a marked clay accumulation (association of Luvisols, Planosols and Solonetz. In addition one or more of Plinthosols, Vertisols and Cambisols may be present)
- Ferric Lixisols (LXf)
Red, yellow and greyish soils with high base status (association of Lixisols, Cambisols, Luvisols and Plinthosols. In addition, other soils with plinthic and gleyic properties may also be present)
- Haplic Lixisols (LXh)
Red, massive or weakly structured soils with high base status (association of well drained Lixisols, Cambisols, Luvisols)



Data Sources:

CSG; ESRI; SANBI; ARC
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Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree
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Date: 2024/06/19

EIMS Ref: 1565

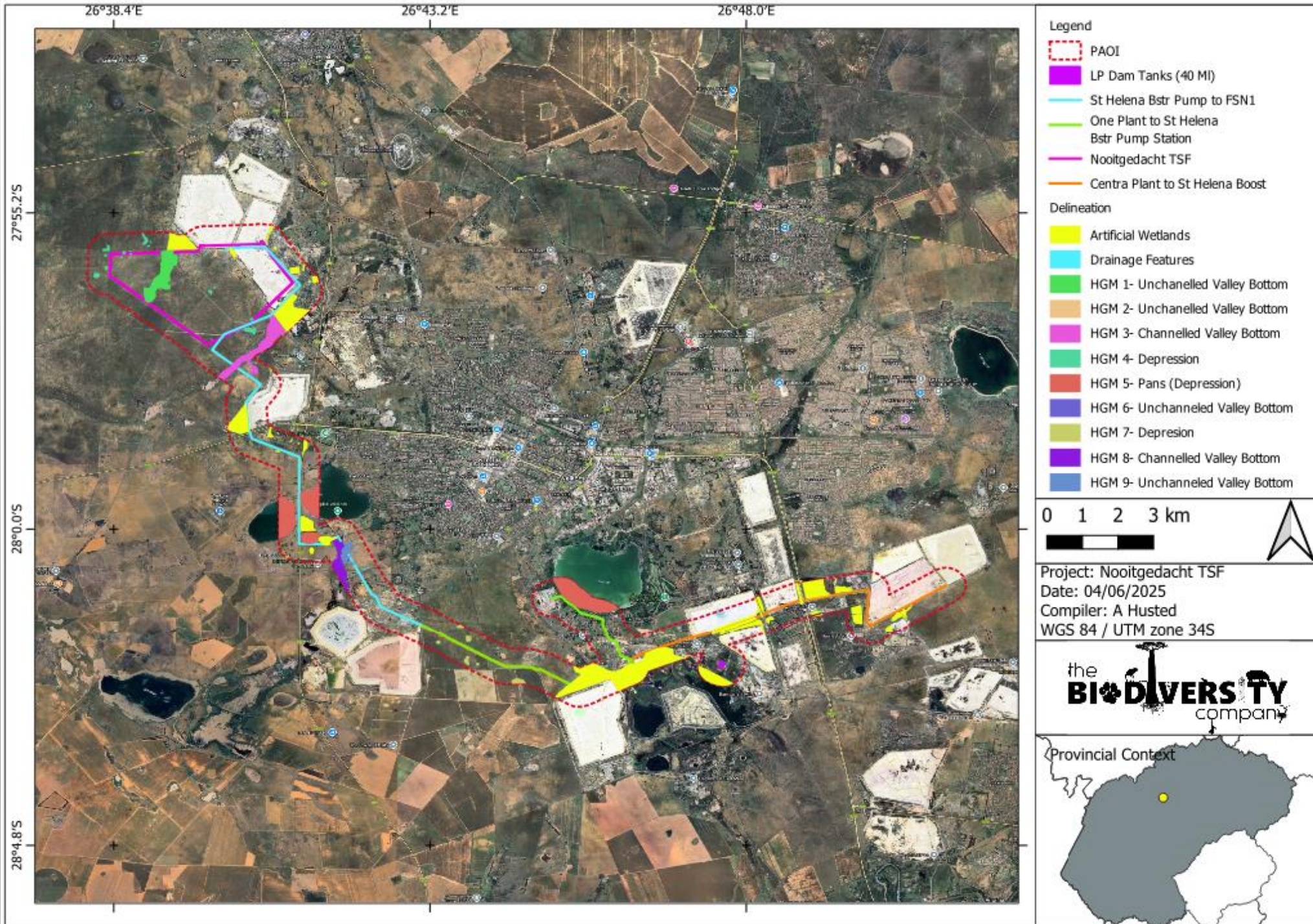
Compiled: JW

Reviewed: JP

Approved: LW



Several wetlands were identified and delineated within and in close proximity to the TSF site



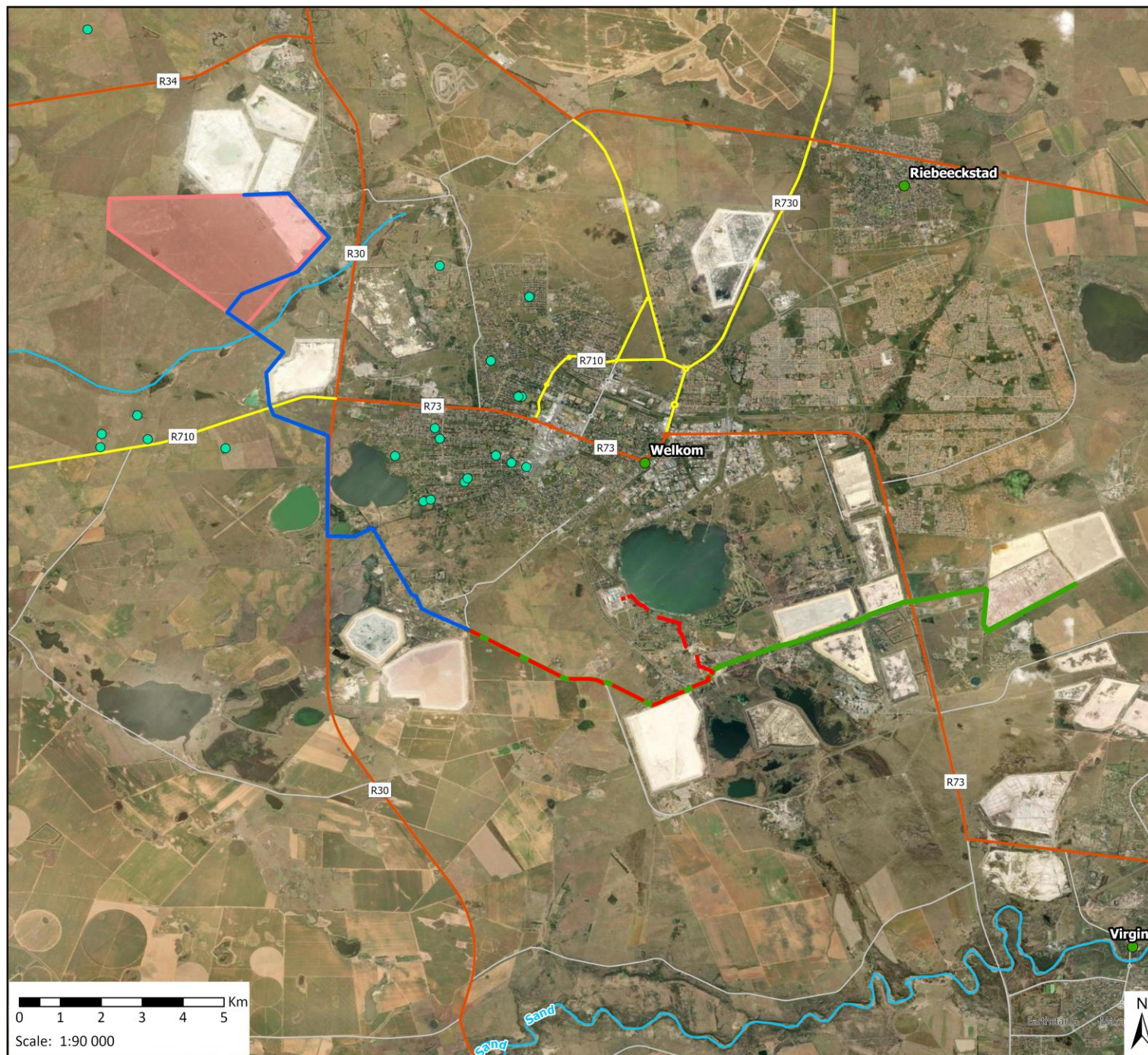


HYDROLOGY AND WETLANDS KEY MITIGATIONS

- Adhere to the prescribed wetland buffers (except for directly affected wetlands occurring within the TSF footprint). Restrict all non-essential activities (e.g. cement mixing and equipment or machinery storage) to outside of wetlands and their prescribed buffers.
- Conduct regular inspections along the TSF and pipeline routes to ensure the integrity of the facility i.e. check for leaks.
- Devise and implement a stormwater management plan.
- Use existing pipeline servitudes as far as possible.
- Surface water monitoring
- Flood-protection berm on the south-eastern side of the TSF.
- Store hydrocarbons off-site where possible or otherwise implement hydrocarbon storage with adequate bunding.
- Maintain and operate the TSF/RWD to limit the potential for overfilling of the RWD that leads to a spill.

AQSRs include residential areas, farmsteads, schools and hospitals.

The closest towns in the immediate region of the project include Welkom (located 4 km southeast of the Project boundary) and Odendaalsrus (located about 5 km north of the Project boundary).



Air Quality Constraints Map

1565 Harmony Nooitgedacht TSF EIA WUL

Legend

- Air Quality Sensitive Receptors
- Proposed Tailings Storage Facility
- Pipelines from One Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from Central Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from St. Helena Booster Pump Station to FSN1
- ~ Rivers
- Places
- Arterial Route
- Main Road
- Secondary Road



Data Sources:

CSG; ESRI; SANBI

Coord System: GCS WGS 1984

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Date: 2024/06/21

EIMS Ref: 1565

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Reviewed: JP

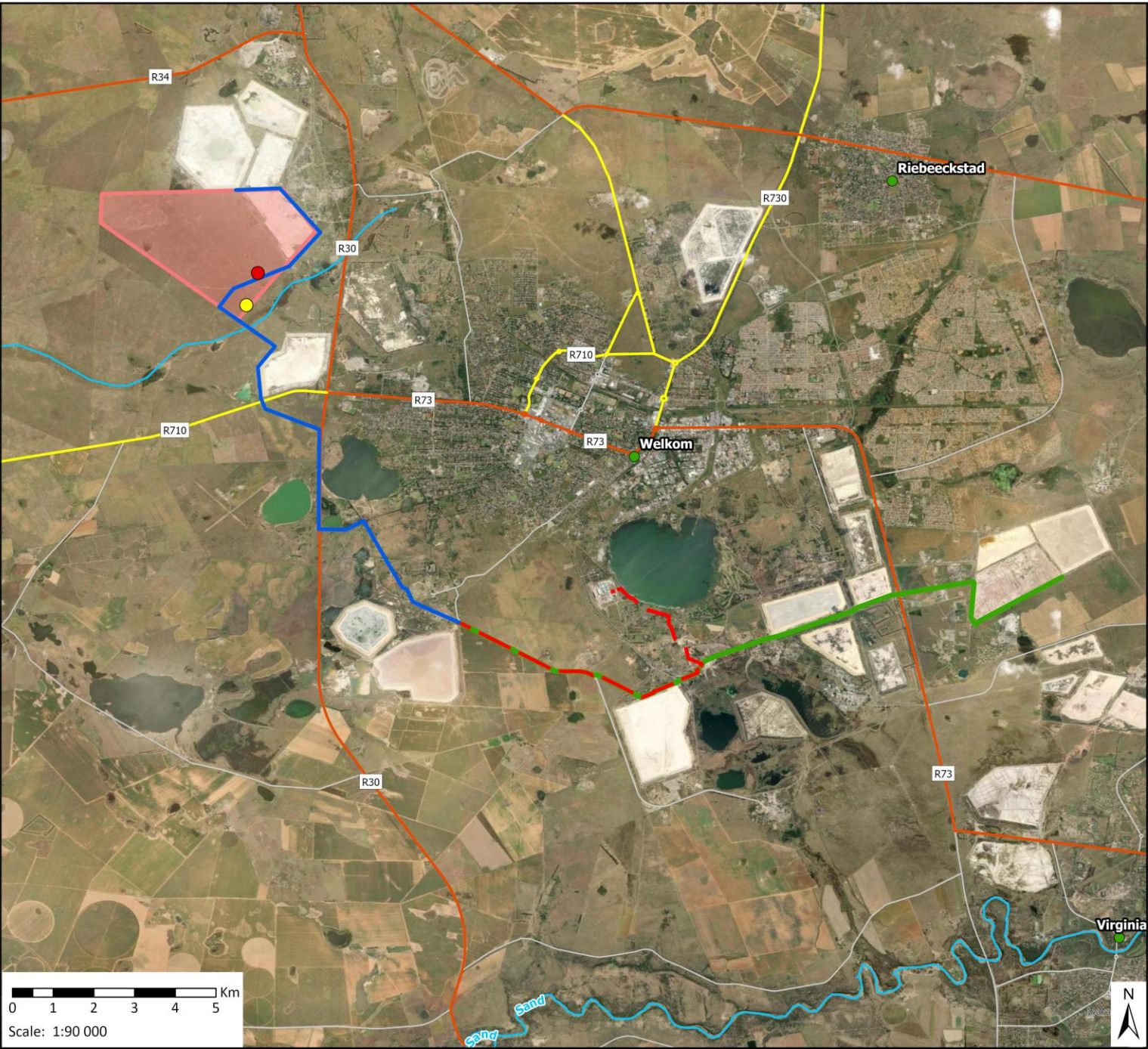
Approved: LW

The remains of a historical homestead were identified - high to medium heritage significance.

Informal burial ground – TSF and RWD design to avoid this area

A low local significance trig beacon was also identified in the centre of the TFS site. Avoidance is not possible so Harmony must apply for a HRA S34 permit for removal of the beacon as the structure is over 60 years old

Rarity of fossil heritage in the proposed development footprint



Heritage Constraints Map

1565 Harmony Nooitgedacht TSF EIA WUL

Legend

- Proposed Tailings Storage Facility
- Pipelines from One Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from Central Plant to St. Helena Booster Pump Station
- Pipeline from St. Helena Booster Pump Station to FSN1
- Rivers
- Places
- Arterial Route
- Main Road
- Secondary Road

Heritage Features

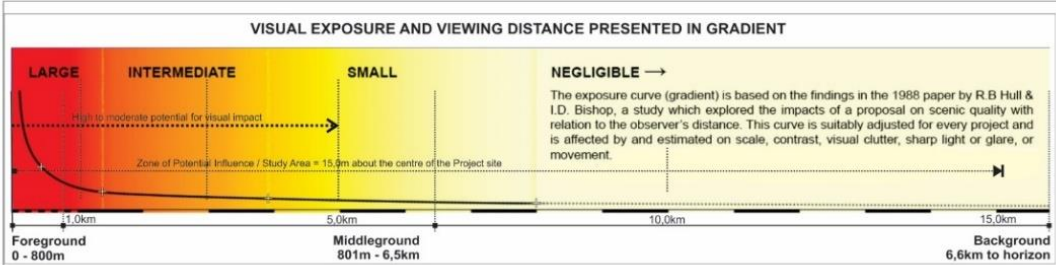
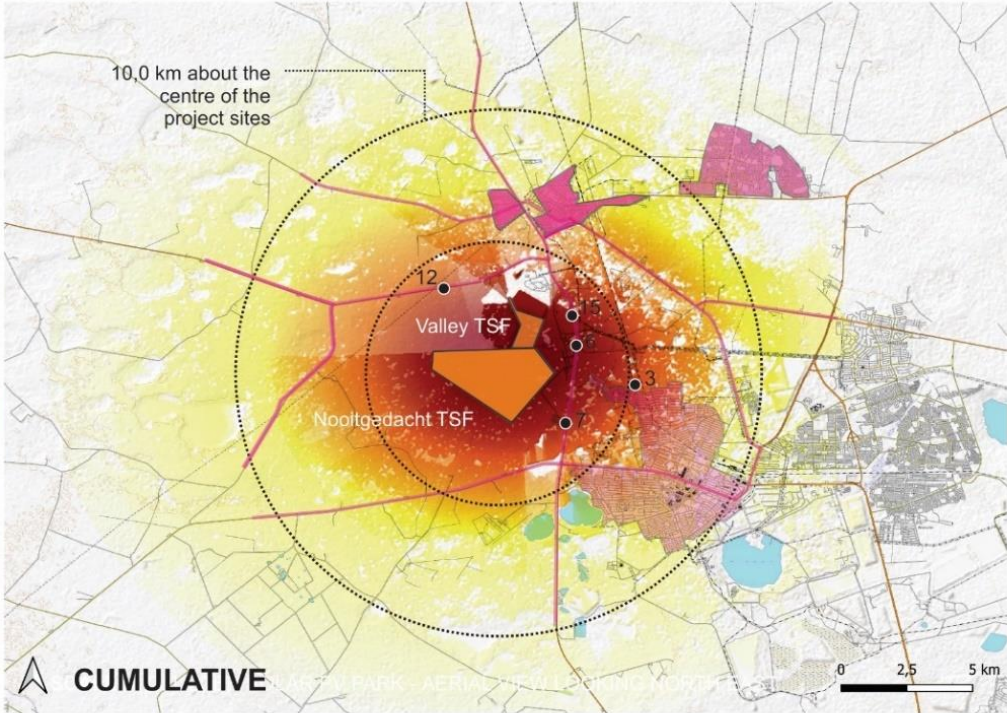
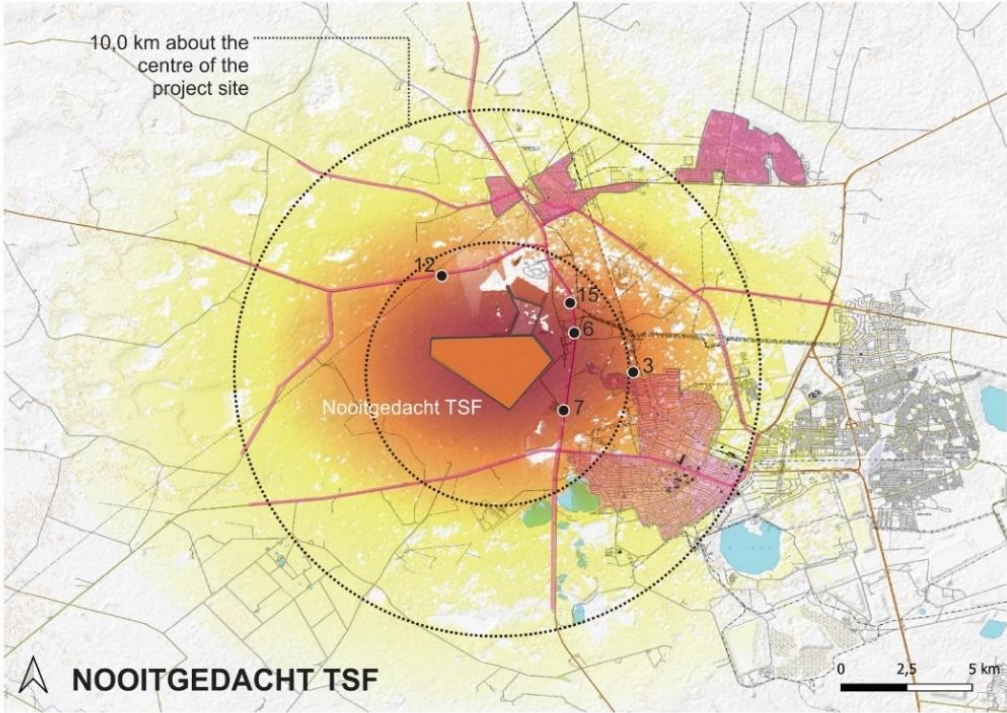
- Homestead
- Informal Burial Ground

Data Sources:
CSG; ESRI; SANBI
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Datum: WGS 1984
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Ref: 1565_Heritage_rev2

Date: 2024/07/29
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Approved: LW

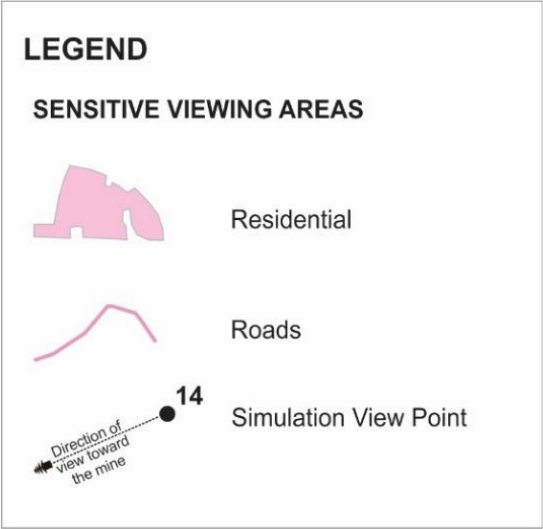
Visual receptors:

Farmsteads associated with rural development to the west, north west and south west of the Project site; Residential areas east of the development site (Rheederpark, Odendaalsrus, Flamingo Park, Seemeeu Park and Bedelia); and Travellers along the R34, R30 and R710 arterial routes.



The accuracy of the viewshed analysis depends on the quality of the input digital surface model (DSM). Readily available digital contours for the area are limited to 20m contours. GYLA has interpolated these down to 1m intervals to get better accuracy. However, these types of viewshed investigations (using readily available GIS software and terrain contours only) are limited in their accuracy due to their inability to incorporate vegetation information. On-site observations indicated that many views to the proposed development from within the study area, would be blocked due to topographic relief and the low height of the arrays.

The viewshed analyses have therefore presented as a comparative analysis between the visibility of the site as it currently exists (without development) and with the proposed visibility of the site with development.





CLIMATE CHANGE

The combined GHG emissions for project construction operations will be provided in the EIA report

Harmony will be required to report carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions annually via the NAEIS. Additional mitigation will be provided in the EIA report if required based on the recommendations from the Climate Change specialist study once completed.



HEALTH AND RADIATION

- **EXHALATION AND DISPERSION OF RADON GASES:** The total effective dose as a contribution from radon gas released from the tailings material at the TSF areas is well below the regulatory compliance criteria based on conceptual model predictions, which means that from a compliance perspective, no additional management or mitigation measures are required for radon inhalation
- **EMISSION AND DISPERSION OF PARTICULATE MATTER:** The contribution of dust inhalation is less than 10% (on average) of the total effective dose at selected receptor locations based on the conceptual model predictions for operation and post closure phases. This means that from a regulatory compliance perspective, no additional management or mitigation measures are required for dust inhalation. From a dose optimisation perspective, the following mitigation measures can be applied. Develop an air quality management plan for the proposed Nooitgedacht TSF, including air quality monitoring to ensure compliance at upwind and downwind locations; and
- Vegetation of exposed areas of the TSF and wind barriers to reduce wind erosion and/or the application of dust suppressants.
- **POST CLOSURE MITIGATION:** The total effective dose as a contribution from the windblown dust, as well as radon gas released from the remaining facilities, based on conceptual model predictions, is well below the regulatory compliance criteria. Mitigation: Implementation of a passive groundwater remediation & covering layer over the exposed area of the TSF areas to reduce wind erosion and radon exhalation



SAFETY - KEY MITIGATION MEASURES

- Install the liner / membrane according to design specifications and industry best practice to prevent UV exposure and degradation.
- Warning signs must be installed around the TSF. A 5m wide access road must be provided around the facility for operational and monitoring requirements.
- The facility is to be constructed and operated to ensure that the designed outer slope profile is achieved, and that operations are safe and environmentally responsible. Safe operating systems and procedures are to be implemented during operation of the facility.
- Monitoring of the facility is to be undertaken as outlined in the Operating, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual.
- A flood event may inundate households and associated infrastructure located near the facility and the populated area to the north east of the Nooitgedacht TSF and therefore a TSF failure contingency plan together with an Emergency Response Process for the potentially affected communities should be in place prior to operations commencing.



KEY SOCIAL MITIGATION MEASURES

- Harmony must establish an environmental forum that include all the affected farmers - neighbouring and downstream. Results of water and dust monitoring must be shared with the public through the forum.
- If current water delivery points are affected by the placing of the new TSF new points must be determined with input from the farmers. These points must be easily accessible. If water pipes are required, the mine must provide and install the pipes.
- If there are actual losses due to the activities performed by Harmony, the landowner should be compensated for their losses. Harmony must have a claims procedure that is communicated to all affected landowners.
- Harmony must continue to implement their grievance mechanism and ensure that it is community-friendly. It is important to have documented evidence of community/mine interactions.
- Conduct a water census and repeat periodically as recommended by the relevant specialists. Keep the affected people informed about the census and monitoring results. Share water monitoring results with farmers once a year.

IDENTIFIED SPECIALIST STUDIES FOR EIA

- Biodiversity (Terrestrial);
- Heritage;
- Agriculture Potential, Soils and Land capability;
- Geohydrology;
- Aquatic and Wetland (including hydroponology);
- Air quality;
- Climate Change;
- Closure Costing and Rehabilitation;
- Socio-Economic;
- Hydrology;
- Palaeontology;
- Traffic;
- Noise;
- Visual; and
- Health Risk and Radiological.
- Visual
- Health Risk and Radiological
- Climate change

SCOPING ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Alternatives:
 - Process / technology Alternatives

(a) Spigotting Deposition;



or

(b) Paddock / Daywall Deposition;



or

(c) Cyclone Deposition (preferred)



SCOPING ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Alternatives:

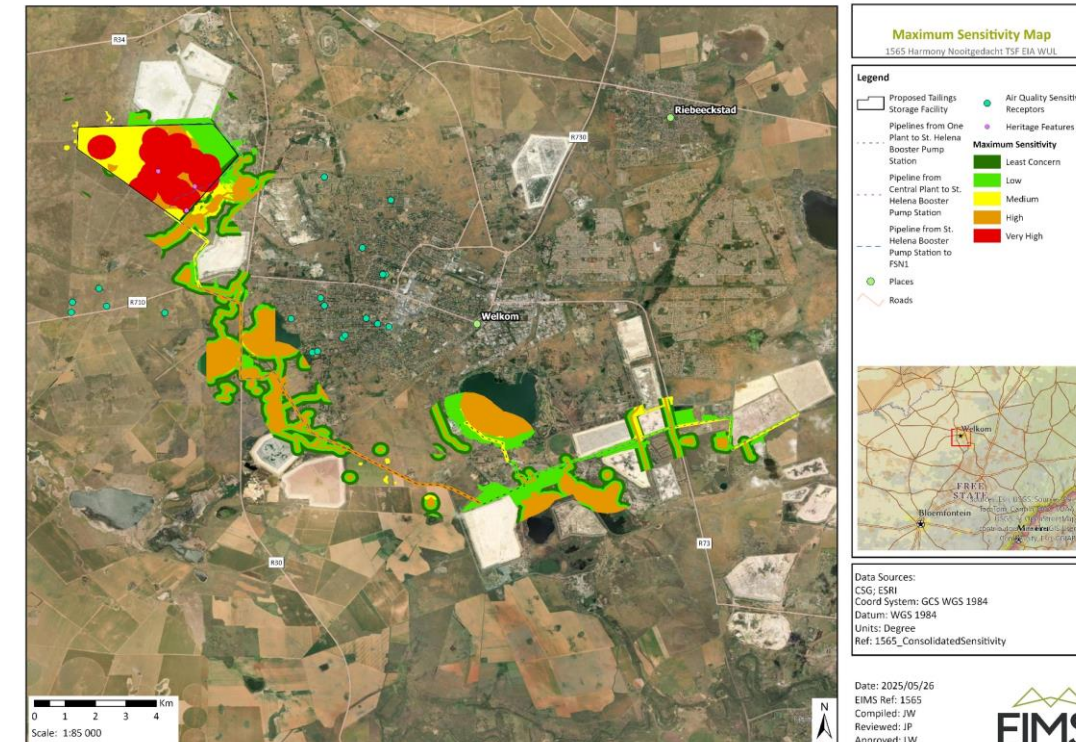
- Low Pressure Water system Alternatives

(a) Two HDPE lined earth dams –190m X 125m; or (b) Two concrete tanks – footprint 95m X 45m; or (c) Twelve Steel tanks (210m X 65m)



SCOPING ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT CONTINUED

- **Layout alternatives:** The EIA process being undertaken includes the assessment of potential impacts and the identification of environmental sensitivities within and in the vicinity of the proposed project area, thereby allowing for the recommendation of mitigation measures towards the avoidance, minimisation and / or management of the anticipated impacts. The layout will be planned to avoid any no-go areas identified from the various specialist studies.
- Note that some redesigns have already been undertaken (RWD, topsoil stockpiles and TSF facility)



KEY FINDINGS - SCOPING

The following preliminary identified impacts were determined to have a potentially moderate final significance at this stage:

- Mortality / disturbance of wildlife, specifically identified Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) ; during construction and operation;
- Fragmentation of ecosystems during construction;
- Reduction in air quality during operation;
- Decrease in runoff during construction, operation and decommissioning;
- Pollutants entering the surface water environment during operation;
- Groundwater quality impacts during operation and decommissioning / closure phases;
- Siltation of water resources during operation;
- Disturbance and degradation of wetlands during construction;
- Potential leaks and discharges leading to pollution of surrounding environment during operation;
- Visual impacts on sense of place during operation;
- Loss of land capability during construction;
- Impact on livelihoods during operation;
- Increase in social pathologies during construction;
- Impact on community expectations and social license to operate during construction and operation;
- Impacts on health and wellbeing;
- Reclamation and rehabilitation of Harmony's existing Freestate TSFs (positive impact); and
- Continued employment and economic impacts during construction and operation (positive impact).




INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Initial call to register: 16 June 2025
- Submission of Application form: 11 December 2025
- Public Review of Scoping Report: 12 December 2025 – 2 February 2026
- Submit Final Scoping: early February 2026
- Public Review of EIA Report: April 2026
- Submit Final EIR: May 2026
- Decision expected: August 2026

QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION

- Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS)
 - Contact Person: Mbali Tshabalala
 - P.O. Box 2083 Pinegowrie 2123
 - Phone: 011 789 7170
 - Fax: 086 571 9047
 - E-mail: nooitgedacht@eims.co.za
 - Reference: 1565
 - www.eims.co.za



		MINUTES OF MEETING	
<i>EIMS Ref</i>	1565	<i>Project Name</i>	HARMONY NOOITGEDACHT TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY

MEETING DETAILS

Meeting	Public Meeting Meeting		
Meeting Venue	Odendaalsrus Municipality Conference Room	Date	2026/01/14
		Time	12H00 – 14H00
<p><i>A Public Meeting was scheduled with all registered I&APs in the vicinity of the proposed project area. The aim of the meeting was to engage members of the public as part of the public participation process for the Harmony Nooitgedacht Tailings Storage Facility (EIA). Specifically, the session aimed at discussing the Scoping Report, providing clarifications or additional information to concerns and/or questions as well as recording the comments to add to the comments and responses as part of the public participation for the project.</i></p>			

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Public Meeting Register

Appendix 2 – Public Meeting Presentation

AGENDA

Available in **Appendix 2**.

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of Meeting
3. Presentation: Nooitgedacht TSF Project description and overview
4. EIA and Water Use Licensing Application Processes
5. Key Findings from Scoping Phase
6. Way Forward and Timeframes
7. Discussion / Questions

MINUTES

Item No	Item
1	<p>Presentation</p> <p>John Von Mayer (JvM) from EIMS Welcomed the attendees, confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, described the purpose of the meeting, and continued with the presentations.</p> <p>The full Presentation is available as Appendix 2.</p> <p>The summary of the presentation can be found below:</p>

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EIMS Ref

1565

Project Name

HARMONY NOOITGEDACHT TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY

Item No	Item
	<p>Project Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant: Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd. • Purpose: Construct a new Nooitgedacht Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) to provide long-term deposition. • Reason: Current TSFs are reaching capacity; project enables continued mining operations, job retention, and rehabilitation of old contaminated sites. • Location: Near Welkom, Free State. <p>Key Project Components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSF footprint ~895 ha, height 93 m, capacity 804 million tonnes. • Cyclone + spigot deposition method (preferred for stability and water recovery). • New infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 slurry pipelines (2x10 km, 16 km, 17 km). ○ 40 ML water storage facility. ○ Access roads, return-water dam, pipeline servitudes. <p>Site Selection Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple alternatives assessed. • Most alternatives discarded due to size constraints, wetlands, agricultural land, proximity to communities, or DWS rejection. • Nooitgedacht identified as the preferred viable site. <p>Environmental & Water Use Licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Scoping & EIA process required (12 months). • Various triggered activities under NEMA, NEMWA and National Water Act. • Water Use License Application process runs parallel to the EIA. <p>Key Environmental Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater: Simulations show significant sulphate plume <i>without a liner</i>; engineered Class C barrier system designed to prevent this. • Biodiversity: Presence of a Species of Conservation Concern (Sensitive Species 15) – 62 locations recorded at the time of publication of the Scoping Report. A translocation program will follow IUCN guidelines. • Agriculture: Loss of some moderate-potential soils, but overall limited impact as most land is not actively cultivated. • Wetlands: Several wetlands present – buffers and strict management required.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality: Predicted dust and PM concentrations remain within national standards. • Heritage: Old homestead and informal graves recorded; avoidance or permitting required. • Radiation & Health: Radon and dust exposure remain below regulatory limits. • Safety: Emergency response plan required due to potential flood impacts. <p>Social Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish environmental forums with farmers. • Share water & dust monitoring data annually. • Provide replacement water points if affected. • Compensation for verified losses. • Strengthen community grievance mechanisms. <p>Key Impacts Identified (Moderate significance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife disturbance and habitat fragmentation. • Reduced runoff, water pollution risks, wetland disturbance. • Groundwater quality risks. • Air quality reduction. • Loss of land capability. • Social impacts (livelihood disruptions, expectations, construction-related issues). • Positive impacts: rehabilitation of old TSFs, job continuity, economic support. <p>Project Estimated Timeframes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping Report review: Dec 2025 – Feb 2026 • Final Scoping: Feb 2026 • EIA Review: April 2026 • Final EIA Submission: May 2026 • Decision expected: August 2026
2	Questions / Comments and Responses
	The following is a summary of the comments and questions that were recorded during the proceedings of the meeting and the responses provided.
a.	Comment / Concern / Question & Responses – <i>Relocation plan for species 15</i>

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HARMONY NOOITGEDACHT TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY

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	<p>Main Points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concern regarding the relocation plan 2. Limited scientific data on the species in that particular area 3. Previous relocation attempts provided poor usable data 4. Suggestion of staggered relocation to provide more accurate scientific data <p>Alan Voster (AV) stated that his primary reason for attending the public meeting was concern about Sensitive Species 15. He indicated that his questions have received unclear answers from various organisations and he needed clarity and a more concrete explanations. He explained that he has spent many years observing the species in the area and working informally with various researchers and organisations. He expressed concern about the proposed relocation, noting that existing scientific data on species 15 translocation are very limited. He also asked who is responsible for drafting the relocation plan and emphasised that he would like to direct specific questions to the right people. He also questioned earlier survey results that identified only 28 individuals, since subsequent surveys have confirmed at least 62 burrow locations, suggesting a much higher-density population than initially reported.</p> <p>JvM responded that the biodiversity specialist (The Biodiversity Company) will draft the relocation plan, in consultation with the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Professor Graham Alexander (Wits). Harmony is still searching for a suitable relocation site that meets strict criteria, including appropriate soils and habitat, sufficient size, and a suitable existing or potential species 15 population. Once a suitable site is identified, Harmony would need to secure the land and finalise a detailed relocation plan. A version of this plan – either high-level or detailed, depending on progress – is intended to be included in the EIA Report for public review. He also acknowledged that there is limited precedent for species 15 relocation and that this would effectively be a pilot project that will require careful planning, expert input and ongoing monitoring. He stressed that if the specialists conclude that relocation cannot be done responsibly, or if risks remain too high, he would not feel comfortable recommending that the project proceed.</p> <p>AV outlined his personal involvement in earlier surveys and his role in supporting students and researchers working on species 15. He described previous attempts at translocation in other projects (such as when a racetrack was developed), noting that those efforts were not properly monitored and thus provide little usable data. He stressed that relocation without sound baseline data and long-term follow-up poses a serious risk of losing an entire colony. Additionally, he suggested that, if relocation proceeds, it might be safer to move only part of the population initially, monitor survival and breeding success over a number of years, and only then decide whether to move additional individuals. He emphasised that reproduction, not just short-term survival, is the key indicator of successful translocation. He also highlighted uncertainties about how the species 15 that has already been relocated would interact with any existing populations at a recipient site, noting that current science does not yet provide clear answers.</p>

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Item No	Item
	<p>Brian Whitfield (BW) explained that Harmony recognises the sensitivity of the issue and does not intend to “remove and walk away” from species 15. He confirmed that Harmony views this as an opportunity to apply significant resources to a robust, scientifically sound relocation and monitoring programme, developed under the guidance of leading experts. He added that Harmony has begun engaging Professor Alexander and the Endangered Wildlife Trust and is seeking their formal input and fee proposals to start designing the programme. He stated that Harmony’s intention is to implement any relocation in the way that the experts recommend, and to contribute to published scientific knowledge on species 15 conservation. He welcomed AV’s experience and indicated that Harmony and the experts would be open to further discussions and collaboration.</p> <p>JvM agreed that relocation should not involve moving all individuals at once and indicated that a phased approach is likely, in which a subset of individuals is moved and monitored before any further relocation. The details (such as the number of individuals per phase and the monitoring period) will need to be determined by the specialists and set out in the relocation plan. He emphasised the need for a high degree of confidence in the approach before any relocation proceeds. He added that the existing species 15 population already occurs adjacent to active mining infrastructure, and that, over time, continued mining activities could pose increasing risks to the animals. He suggested that, if designed and implemented successfully, relocation could also have long-term conservation benefits by securing a suitable and protected habitat for the population. He stressed again that the issue is complex and will require thorough investigation and documentation as part of the EIA process.</p> <p>AV confirmed that he will continue to follow the process closely and intends to scrutinise the relocation proposal carefully in his role as a member of the public. He reiterated his willingness to cooperate constructively to maximise the chances of a successful outcome for the species.</p> <p>BW reiterated that Harmony is committed to following expert guidance, subjecting the plan to rigorous scientific scrutiny and ensuring long-term monitoring rather than short-term relocation only. He welcomed AV’s offer of cooperation and indicated that Harmony, Professor Alexander or the Endangered Wildlife Trust may contact AV for further input as the plan is developed.</p>
b.	<p>Comment / Concern / Question & Responses – <i>Concluding agreements</i></p> <p>JvM, BW, and AV agreed that there will be continued attempts to identify and assess potential relocation sites for Sensitive Species 15 including engagement with landowners and experts.</p> <p>JvM assured that he will include a detailed plan of study for the EIA phase (as contained in the Scoping Report) and implement specialist studies accordingly.</p> <p>There was an agreement to develop and implement social mitigation measures, including a farmer forum, grievance mechanism, claims process and periodic water census, as recommended by the social specialist.</p> <p>It was agreed that the project team will maintain communication with interested and affected parties, including individuals such as AV who have specialist local knowledge on species 15.</p>
c.	Closing

		MINUTES OF MEETING	
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Item No	Item
	<p>JvM thanked attendees for their participation, reminded them to sign the attendance register and encouraged them again to review the Scoping Report and to submit any further questions or comments via the provided contact details.</p> <p>The meeting was then closed</p>