

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED TOSACO BLOCK 1 EXPLORATION RIGHT EIA PROJECT



### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

- This Background Information Document (BID) provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), an overview of the proposed project.
- The BID invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.
- The BID provides you, as an I&AP with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports.
- The BID also provides you, as an I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project.

### INTRODUCTION:

Tosaco Energy (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant - Tosaco) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the necessary authorisation processes, including compiling the necessary reports and undertaking the statutory consultation processes, in support of the proposed project as described herein.

It is anticipated that several listed or regulated activities contained in the following legislation will be potentially be triggered by the proposed project:

- National Environmental Management Act- NEMA (Act 107 of 1998- as amended);

The exact enviro-legal requirements and activities will be confirmed during the Authority pre-application meetings and scoping phase of this project.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) promulgated under the NEMA (as amended). A full EIA process will be followed which involves a scoping phase which is the 'feasibility' and largely desk-top assessment stage of the project, followed by more detailed assessments in the EIA phase.

#### Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:

- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation/Licensing Applications as well as the public participation processes which will be undertaken for the proposed project;
- Allow Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to obtain a broad understanding of the proposed project and to request or share information; and
- Provide details on how I&APs can register their interest with and submit comments on the project. It is important to note that only registered I&APs will receive further communication regarding the project for the duration of the EIA process (i.e. invitation to review and comment on the Scoping and EIA Reports).



## LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

### LOCATION

The proposed project area is defined as offshore exploration Block 1, located offshore between Alexander Bay, extending south along the western coastline to approximately Hondeklip Bay and approximately 250 km offshore of the coast of the Northern Cape. Block 1 outline corner coordinate points are as follows:

| Point | Latitude      | Longitude     |
|-------|---------------|---------------|
| 1     | 28°38'05.74"S | 16°27'16.69"E |
| 2     | 28°48'53.51"S | 16°18'33.84"E |
| 3     | 30°00'01.41"S | 14°25'59.40"E |
| 4     | 30°00'01.23"S | 17°09'39.83"E |

Closest towns or point of interest: Alexandra Bay, Hondeklip Bay and Port Nolloth. Please refer to locality map at the end of this BID.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Tosaco has applied for an Exploration Right for offshore oil and gas in Block 1, located along the West Coast of South Africa. The exploration works programme includes the following:

| Year | Activity  |
|------|---|
| 1    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of all available technical data:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Geographical Information System (GIS) data;</li> <li>○ Geophysical data, geological data, borehole data and log data;</li> <li>○ Third party technical reports;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reprocessing of existing geological/geophysical data.</li> <li>• Preliminary estimation of contingent resources.</li> <li>• Prepare conceptual design and program of future geophysical and geological exploration and appraisal.</li> </ul> |
| 2    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and preparation of possible seismic survey.</li> </ul>  |
| 3    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible 2D and/ or 3D seismic survey.</li> <li>• Processing and interpretation of seismic data.</li> <li>• Evaluation and estimation of contingent resources based on new data.</li> </ul>  |

## LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed project requires certain authorisations, approvals, permits, and/or licences. The following requirements have specifically been identified:

| Relevant Legislation         | Listed activities or triggers   | Authorisation, Approval, Licence, or Permit requirement: |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Chapter 5 of the NEMA</b> | <p>GNR 984 (2014, as amended): Activity 18: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an exploration right as contemplated in section 79 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including-</p> <p>(a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks; or</p> <p>(b) the primary processing of a petroleum resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating or water removal;</p> <p>but excluding the secondary processing of a petroleum resource, including the beneficiation or refining of gas, oil or petroleum products in which case activity 5 in this Notice applies.</p> | Environmental Authorisation (EA)                         |



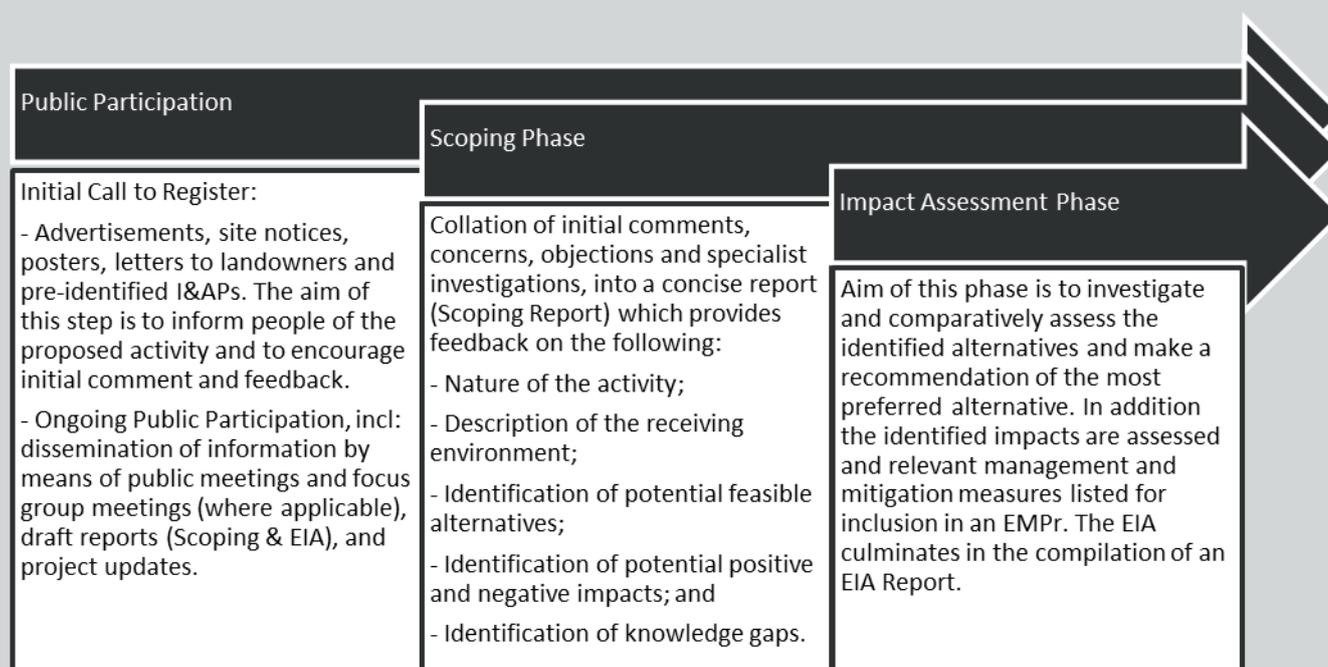
As a consequence of triggering the provisions above, there is a requirement to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIA). The EIA is to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR982, 2014 as amended). Additional listed activities and/or water uses may be identified during the process.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An EIA process is a planning and decision making tool, to describe and assess the physical, biological, social, and economic impacts which a given development or project may have. To be able to inform the decision-making process, it is important for public issues and concerns to be identified timeously, to enable the EIA team to evaluate them.

The EIA process allows for the environmental consequences of a proposed project to be identified up-front, investigated throughout the impact assessment process, and taken into consideration by the decision-making authorities. The EAP and various specialists also identify potential negative and positive impacts that could arise as a result of the proposed project and identify applicable mitigation measures required, to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts.

A board overview of EIA process is provided:



Once the relevant processes have been completed and the final documentation submitted to the competent authority, the competent authority reviews the application and makes an informed decision. The I&APs will be informed of the decision and their right to appeal in the event that they disagree with the decision.

## PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

One of the key drivers to a successful EIA is to ensure that potential impacts (both positive and negative) are identified and investigated. Additional impacts may be identified during the Scoping phase and relevant specialists will be included into the EIA team in order to accurately and objectively assess these potential impacts. A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project have been identified. Preliminary identified potential impacts to be assessed in this EIA process include amongst others:

- Fishing Sector Impacts
- Physiological injury and/or mortality
- Behavioural avoidance
- Reduced reproductive success/spawning
- Masking of environmental sounds and communication
- Strandings and/or oiling of seabirds
- Collision with or entanglement of turtles/marine mammals in towed acoustic apparatus
- Indirect impacts due to effects on prey



The above-mentioned impacts should not be construed as the only impacts that will be identified during the course of the EIA. Based on public consultation, specialist input and further detailed assessments, additional impacts will likely be identified and assessed.

All potential impacts will be identified and assessed following an impact assessment methodology guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the environmental risk (ER) by considering the consequence (C) of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the probability/likelihood (P) of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a prioritisation factor (PF) which is applied to the ER to determine the overall significance (S).

Furthermore, based on the identified impacts and their ratings, mitigation and management measures are recommended for the applicant and these are included in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) towards ensuring that any negative impacts that cannot be avoided are minimised and managed, and positive impacts maximised.

Specialist studies may be utilised to guide and inform the assessment of the potential impacts. The specialist studies identified to be included in this assessment include:

- Marine Ecological Assessment; and
- Fisheries Impact Assessment.

The need for further specialist studies may be identified through the scoping process.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Should you feel that you may be interested in, or affected by, this project, it is essential that you register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in which case you will be kept informed regarding the project and afforded an opportunity to participate in the process. Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding the project and associated updates. You may register and/or comment as an I&AP in any of the following ways:

- Complete the I&AP registration form and questionnaire and return it to EIMS via email, fax or post;
- Submit written comments, registrations, or requests to EIMS via email, fax or post; and/or
- Via telephone call.

It is important to note that the EIA process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes and as such, in order to ensure your continued and valuable involvement in the project, we request that your registration requests and any preliminary comments are submitted to EIMS (contact details provided below) by **19 March 2021**.

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of further participation opportunities, as well as the availability of the Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Report upon which comments will be solicited.

### **Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS)**

**Contact Person: Cheyenne Muthukarapan**

**EIMS Reference Number: 1415**

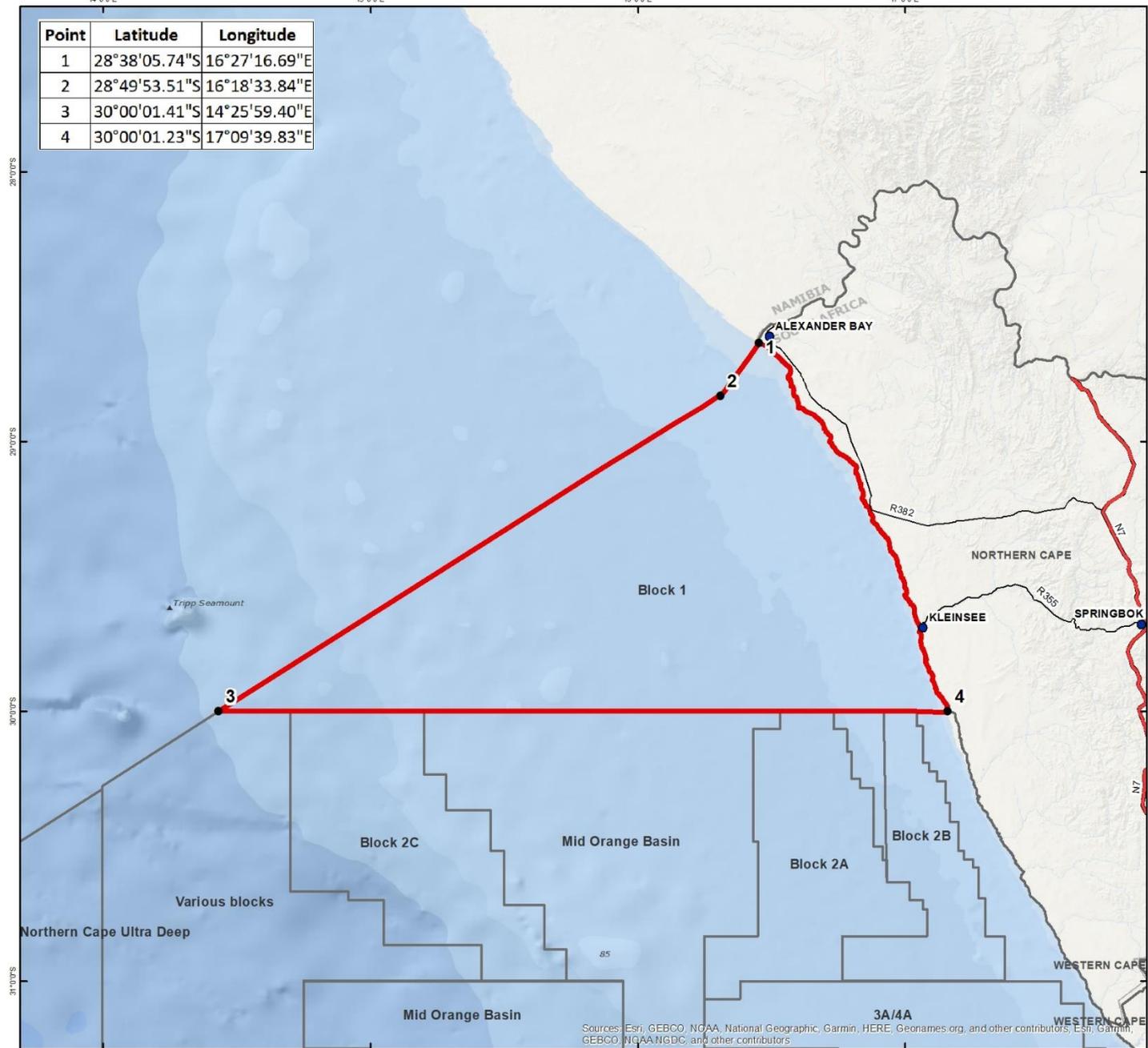
**Postal Address: Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083; Pinetown; 2123**

**Telephone: Telephone: (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047**

**E-mail: [tosacoer@eims.co.za](mailto:tosacoer@eims.co.za)**



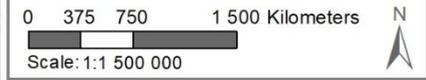
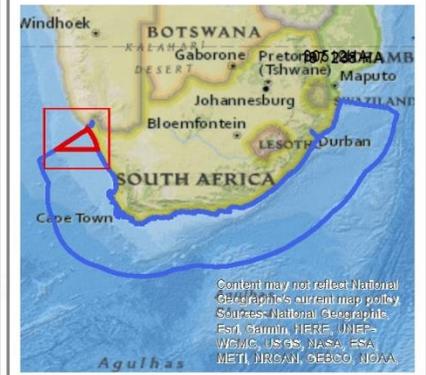
| Point | Latitude      | Longitude     |
|-------|---------------|---------------|
| 1     | 28°38'05.74"S | 16°27'16.69"E |
| 2     | 28°49'53.51"S | 16°18'33.84"E |
| 3     | 30°00'01.41"S | 14°25'59.40"E |
| 4     | 30°00'01.23"S | 17°09'39.83"E |



## Locality Map

Block 1 Exploration Right Application  
Tosaco Energy (Pty) Ltd

- Legend**
- Towns
  - Roads
  - Block 1
  - Offshore Permits Rights
  - Boundary Points
  - Exclusive Economic Zone



Data Sources:  
PASA, ESRI

Coord System: WGS84  
1415\_Locality Map\_21-02-08

Date: 2021/02/08  
EIMS Ref: 1415

Compiled: GPK  
Reviewed: LW  
Approved: LW



Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, Garmin, HERE, Geonames.org, and other contributors, Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NQAA, NGDC, and other contributors.