

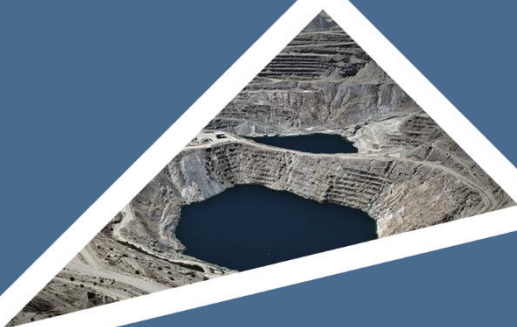


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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

EXPANSION OF THE OPENCAST PIT AT THE EXISTING RCM MINING  
OPERATIONS NEAR KROONDAL





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## Abbreviation List:

CSA:	Conservation South Africa
DFFE:	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DMRE:	Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
EA:	Environmental Authorisation
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS:	Environmental Impact Management Services
I&APs:	Interested and Affected Parties
NC COGHSTA:	Northern Cape Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs
NC DR&PW:	Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works
NCEDA:	Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency
NCHRA:	Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act
PPP:	Public Participation Process
SACAA:	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANDF:	South African Defence Force
SANRAL:	South African National Roads Agency Limited
WESSA:	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa





# 1 INTRODUCTION

Rustenburg Chrome Mining (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA- Act 107 of 1998)- Listed activities:
  - GN R983 (Listing Notice 1) Activity 21D and 27; and
  - GN R985 (Listing Notice 3) Activity 12.

Additional activities to be applied for may be raised and will be confirmed during the process.

The applicant owns and operates the Rustenburg Chrome Mine and intends to expand its existing opencast pit by an additional ~16 hectares. This will involve inter alia the amendment of the Mine Works Programme and the Environmental Management Programme, as well the clearance of vegetation.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*<sup>1</sup>. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Authorisation:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and





- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

### 3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

### 4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **APPENDIX 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.





## 4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Agricultural Research Council
- Agriculture South Africa (Agri SA)
- Bojanala Platinum District Municipality
- Eskom Soc Ltd
- National Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
- National Department of Human Settlements
- National Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE)
- National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)
- National Department of Tourism
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA)
- North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management
- North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
- North West Department of Human Settlements
- North West Department of Minerals and Energy
- North West Department of Social Development
- North West Department of Water and Sanitation
- North West Department Public Works and Roads
- North West Development Corporation Soc Ltd
- North West Parks Board
- North West Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
- North West Wetland Forum
- Rustenburg Local Municipality
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Parks (SANParks)
- South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)
- Transnet Soc Ltd

## 4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners.
- BirdLife South Africa
- Botanical Society
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)





- Council for Geoscience
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- Glencore Western Chrome Mines
- GroundWork South Africa
- Kroondal and Wards Environmental Forum (KWEF)
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MejconSA)
- Natural Justice
- Wetlands and Environmental society South Africa (WESSA)

## 5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

### 5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

#### 5.1.1 FAXES, REGISTERED MAIL AND EMAILS

Notification letters (in English and Afrikaans) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2025.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Contact details of the EAP.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 2** for initial notification and proofs.

#### 5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English and Afrikaans) describing the proposed project and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process were placed in the Rustenburg Herald with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2025. The Gazette Notice was placed in the North West Provincial Gazette on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and





- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 3** for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.

### 5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Seven (7) A1 Correx site notices (in English and Afrikaans) were placed at 7 locations around the proposed project study area on the 28<sup>th</sup> Of November 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

## 5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English and Afrikaans) regarding the availability of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications will be distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

A hard copy of the Basic Assessment Report will be placed at the Rustenburg Public Library for a period of 30 days. An electronic copy of the Basic Assessment Report will be made available on the EIMS Public Participation Website.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 5** for proof Basic Assessment Availability Notifications .

## 6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.





Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
<b>Initial Call to Register</b>	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	01 December 2025
	Placement of site notices.	Seven (7) A1 Correx site notices (in English and Afrikaans) were placed at 7 locations along the proposed project study area.	28 November 2025
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) describing the proposed project and BA process were placed in the Rustenburg Herald Newspaper. The Gazette Notice was placed in the North West Provincial Gazette.	28 November 2025 (Newspaper) 02 December 2025 (Gazette Notice)
<b>Availability of Basic Assessment Report for public review</b>	Placement of hard copy Basic Assessment Report.	One (1) hard copy of the report will be placed at the Rustenburg Public Library where members of the public could access the report.	TBA





Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
	Placement of Basic Assessment Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report will be placed on the EIMS website. A data free service will be made available to anyone who has limitations with respect to data downloads.	TBA

## 7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:

- I&AP registration.
- South African Civil Aviation Authority has no objection to the proposed project.
- Transnet properties has no objections to the proposed project.
- I&AP enquired about an opportunity for a public meeting or virtual engagement.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in **APPENDIX 6**. Please refer to **APPENDIX 7** for proof of correspondence.

## 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The comments received during the initial call to register period were used to inform the compilation of this PPR.





## 9 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: IAP DATABASE

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or [popia@eims.co.za](mailto:popia@eims.co.za)

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## APPENDIX 2: INITIAL NOTIFICATION PROOF

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## APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE NOTICE PROOF





## APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICE PROOF





## APPENDIX 5: BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABILITY NOTIFICATION

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## APPENDIX 6: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE





## APPENDIX 7: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT

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