

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL, AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF WATER USE LICENSES: HALFGEWONNEN COLLIERY

1. INTRODUCTION AND LEGAL CONTEXT

Halfgewonnen Colliery is an existing, operational coal mine that involves a number of Water Uses identified in the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) (NWA). Water Use at the Colliery are authorised in terms of two separate Water Use Licenses (WULs):

1. License Number 04/B11A/ACGIJ/427 issued on 25 March 2011 and expiring on 24 March 2021
2. License Number 04/B11A/G/2003 issued on 24 October 2012 and expiring on 23 October 2021.

The Mine must apply for renewal of the WULs and simultaneously apply for the two Licenses to be consolidated and amended to reflect the current status of the operations.

The application for renewal, amendment and consolidation will be subject to the procedures set out in the Regulations regarding the procedural requirements for water use license applications and appeals (the WULA Regulations, 2017) (Regulation 267 of 24 March 2017), and will include applications for the necessary GN704 exemptions.

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed by Overlooked Colliery Alpha Pty Ltd (the holder of the WUL and Mining Right at Halfgewonnen Colliery) to act as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and to manage the required application process and associated public participation process.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

License Number 04/B11A/ACGIJ/427; File No 16/2/7/B100/C173 authorises the following specific water uses at Halfgewonnen Colliery:

- (a) BH1–BH3 (abstraction for Domestic Use; Change House & Offices and Gardening)
- (b) Storage of clean water in two old Farm Dams (Farm Dam A and B)
- (c)&(i) River Diversion (tributary of the Olifants River)
- (g): Plant Pollution Control Dam (PCD); Dirty Water Dam A and B (underground PCDs); Pit 9 & 10 PCD; 7 x Septic Tanks; and
- (j): Pit 9 & 10 dewatering; Underground Pump (from Boxcut) and Underground Dam; dewatering of open pit extension (disposal of dewatered water to underground PCDs A and B).

License Number 04/B11A/G/2003; File No 16/2/7/B100/C825 authorises the following specific water uses at Halfgewonnen Colliery:

- (g) Discard Dump;
- (g) Run of Mine (RoM) & Product Stockpiles;
- (g) Slurry Dam (two compartments);
- (g) PCD A and B at the Discard Dump; and
- (g) Dust suppression

Some of the coordinates given in the existing licenses are not accurate, and some of the Licensed water uses are no longer taking place.

The purpose of the Application is therefore to:

- Ensure that Halfgewonnen Colliery has the appropriate authorisations in terms of the NWA to continue with their activities;
- Correct the errors contained in the previous WULs
- Include the necessary provisions of GN704 in the WULA;
- Consolidate the 2 WULs (ensure integrated environmental management, monitoring and auditing).

3. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), with information on the application process.

The reader is hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information that may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the application process.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: 011 794 6946 or info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za to register as an I&AP. Alternatively, please contact us by telephone or e-mail at the details provided herein.

For further information or to Register as an I&AP, please contact: Cabanga Environmental:

Lelani Claassen

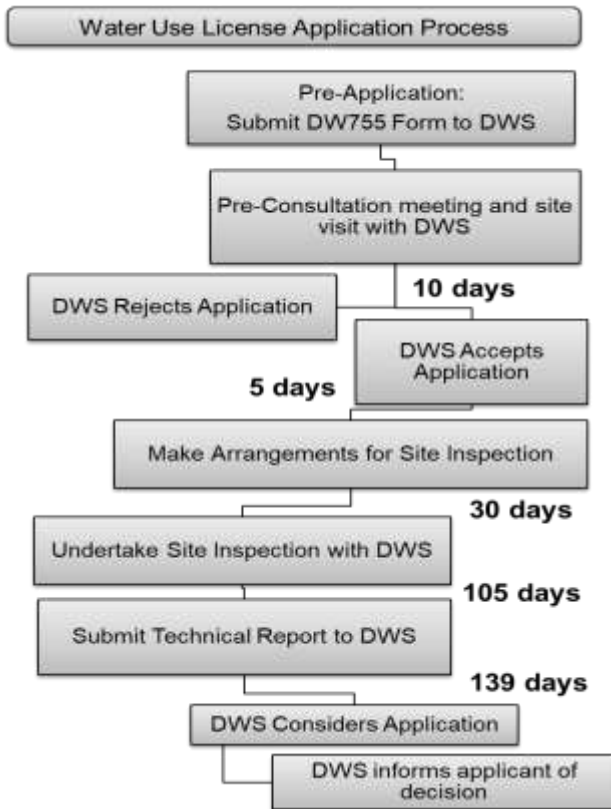
Tel: 011 794 7534

Fax: 011 794 6946

info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

An application for renewal / amendment / consolidation of a WUL is subject to the procedural requirements set out in the WUL Regulations, 2017, summarised in the figure hereunder:



The lead authority for the authorisation of water uses in terms of the National Water Act (NWA) is the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The water uses are existing and no changes to the surface infrastructure layout is proposed. The application will focus on the renewal of the validity period of the existing WULs, consolidation of the existing WULs and amendment of administrative details contained in the WULs.

As part of the application process, the following specialist studies will be updated:

- Freshwater Ecology Assessment (wetlands and aquatic systems);
- Surface water assessment (including updated stormwater management plan, and water and salt balance); and
- Groundwater assessment.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the assessment and application process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the activities and to be involved in decisions that may affect them. It enables I&APs to contribute local knowledge to the assessment process. It also affords the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) the opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing the assessment of all the potential impacts of the project.

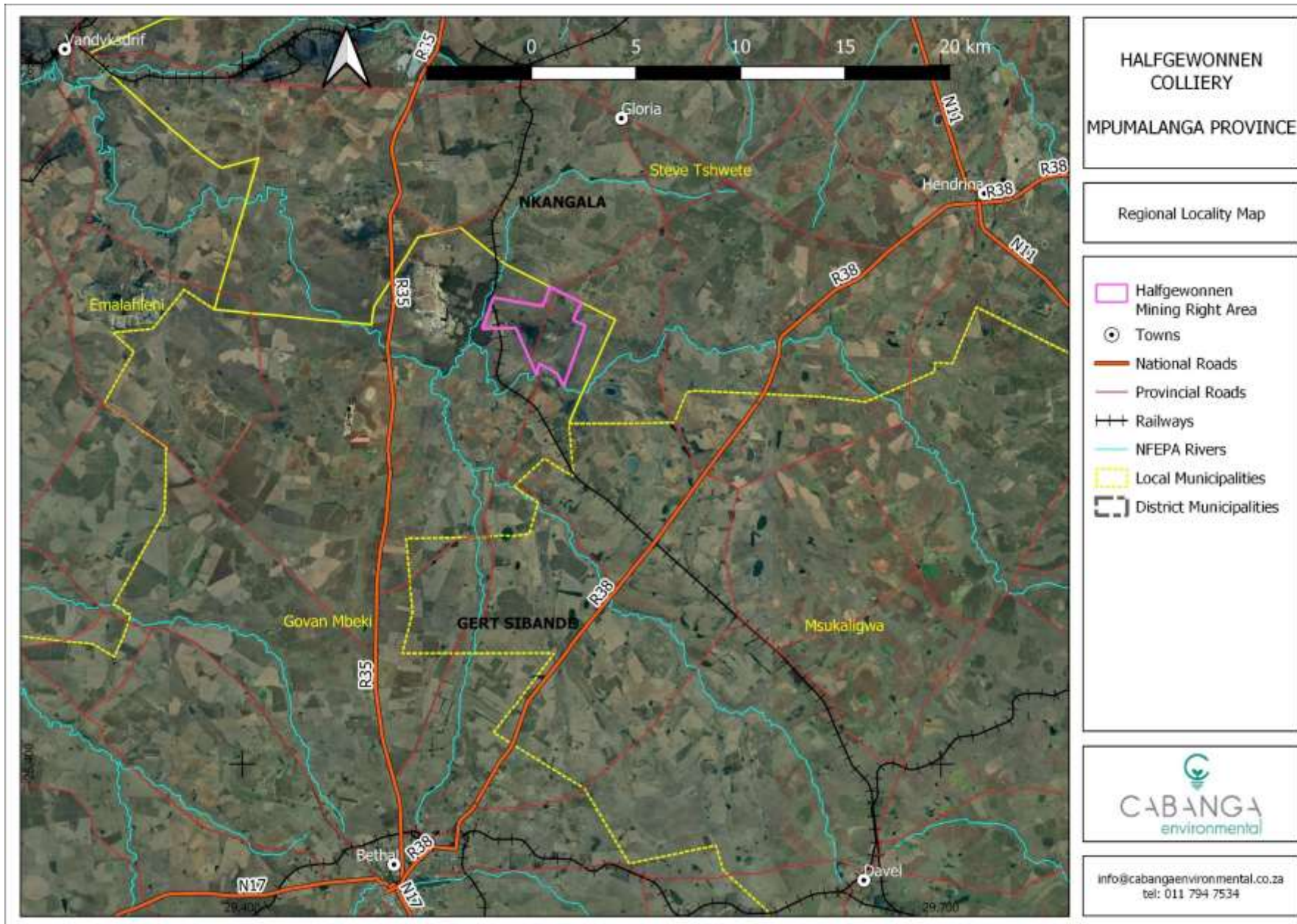
6. INVITATION TO COMMENT:

The Reader is invited to participate in the Application process, by registering as an I&AP. As a Registered I&AP you will be kept informed of the Application processes, invited to attend the public meeting and review draft reports compiled in terms of the applications. Furthermore, all comments that registered I&APs submit in terms of the Applications will be included in the relevant reports, and addressed throughout the process.

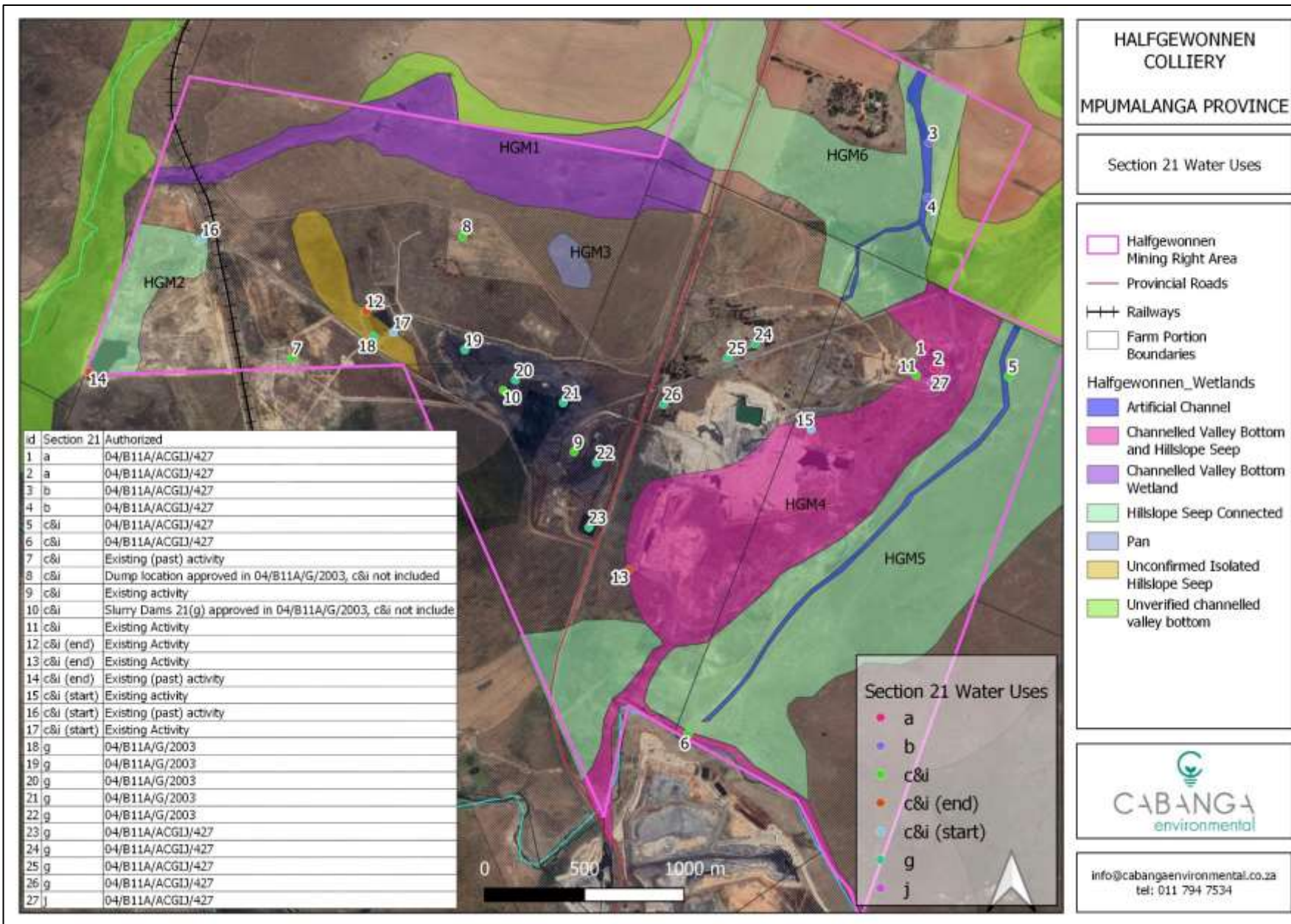
TO REGISTER: please provide us with your comments and contact details as soon as possible. The Draft Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP) Report is being prepared and will be made available for public comment soon. Details of the availability of the Report will be communicated to Registered I&APs. You are welcome to register and provide your comments at any time throughout the application process.



Contact Us:
 Lelani Claassen
 Pr.Sci.Nat 121645
 Registered EAP 2018/153
 Tel: 011 794 7534
 Fax: 011 794 6946
info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za



Plan 1: Regional Location of the Halfgewonnen Colliery



Plan 2: Water Uses and previous wetland delineation at Halfgewonnen Colliery

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE: HALFGEWONNEN WUL APPLICATION

To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail, fax or post:

Fax: (011) 794 6946
 info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za;
 Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162

Alternatively, please register on
www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za
click on "Public Participation"

Name:		Surname:	
-------	--	----------	--

Telephone No.:		Fax No.:	
----------------	--	----------	--

Post:	
-------	--

E-mail:	
---------	--

How would you prefer to be contacted?	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS
---------------------------------------	--

Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user? If no, what is your interest in the application? If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	--

Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this application? If yes, please elaborate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Do you feel that the activities impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions? How?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified?	
---	--

Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be protected (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas.)	
---	--

Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose?	
---	--

Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified? Please provide contact details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	--

Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries? (please feel free to submit separate sheets)	
--	--