



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

### Barberton Mines (Pty) Ltd

DMRE File Ref: MP 30/5/1/2/2/10220 MR (190 MR)

### Mining Right and Environmental Authorisation Amendment Application for the New Consort Mine



Dunrose Trading 186 (Pty) Ltd  
t/a Shango Solutions

HHK House  
Cnr. Ethel Ave and Ruth Cr.  
Northcliff  
Gauteng

P. O. Box 2591  
Cresta  
2118

Phone: +27 11 678 6504  
Fax: +27 11 678 9731

E-mail: [zizo@shango.co.za](mailto:zizo@shango.co.za)  
Website: [www.shango.co.za](http://www.shango.co.za)

## BARBERTON MINES

**April 2024**

## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- This Background Information Document provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party, with an overview of the proposed project.
- The Background Information Document invites you, as an Interested and Affected Party, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.
- The Background Information Document provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party, with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme.
- The Background Information Document also provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party, an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. INTRODUCTION..... 1
- 2. AIM OF THE BID..... 1
- 3. PROJECT LOCALITY ..... 1
- 4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS .....3
- 5. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS .....3
- 6. AVAILABILITY OF THE BAR AND EMPR AND DETAILS OF THE OPEN DAYS.....3
- 7. PERIOD FOR WHICH THE AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IS REQUIRED..... 4
- 8. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT .....4
- 9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS .....4
- 10. INVITATION TO REGISTER.....4

**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Locality Map..... 2

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Barberton Mines (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Barberton Mines), which forms part of Pan African Resources PLC, owns and operates the New Consort Mine near the town of Barberton in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. Mining in the area commenced in the 1880's. The mine is operated under a mining right (Reference Number MP 30/5/1/2/2/10220 MR (190 MR)) and an approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

Barberton Mines wish to make changes to the mining right by adding the following properties:

- A portion of the Farm 652 JU (formerly Mundts Concession Section C Kaap Block)
- A portion of the Farm 934 JU (formerly Mundts Concession Section C Kaap Block)
- A portion of the Remainder of Portion 8 of the Farm Riverside 245 JU (formerly Riverside 245 JU)
- A portion of the Farm Barberton Nature Reserve 954 JU (formerly Mundts Concession Section C Kaap Block)

These properties have historically been part of the authorised old order mining right area (Mining Licence 30/2003) and this is indicated in the Regulation 42 Plan (OT5/3/2/591) of the converted new order mining right. However, these properties were omitted in Annexure "A" to the new order mining right, indicating an administrative error.

In order to amend Annexure "A" to the mining right, it is necessary that a Section 102 template, accompanied by an Environmental Authorisation amendment application, are completed and submitted to the regulatory authority, the DMRE, for decision-making. The amendment application process requires the submission of a Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme Report (BAR and EMPR) as well as the undertaking of a Public Participation Process (PPP). Shango Solutions has been appointed by Barberton Mines as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist in complying with these requirements.

The mining right amendment application has been lodged in terms of Section 102 of the MPRDA and the environmental authorisation amendment application has been lodged in terms of Section 21D of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended) to the Mpumalanga DMRE Regional Manager.

## 2. AIM OF THE BID

Public Participation forms an integral part of the Basic Assessment process. The Background Information Document (BID) offers the reader the opportunity to obtain information, comment, raise issues of concern and collaborate in the development of the process. The distribution of this document is a crucial step in advising the reader on how to become involved in the process.

This document aims to provide the reader with basic information regarding the proposed project which includes:

- An introduction to the project, including location details.
- An indication of the proposed activities and the legal framework in which the project is executed.
- Environmental impacts that may potentially occur.
- An explanation of the Public Participation Process (PPP) to be followed.
- An explanation of how to become involved as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).

## 3. PROJECT LOCALITY

The application area measures 154,1674 hectares (ha) in areal extent of and it situated in the Magisterial District of Barberton, approximately 16 kilometres (km) east-north of Barberton town in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (Figure 1).



## 4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The proposed amendment will include the following application processes with associated activities:

- BAR and EMPR.
- Undertaking a PPP.

It is anticipated that the following NEMA EIA listed activity will be triggered by this application:

- **Listing Notice 1 - Activity 21D of GNR 983 of 2014, as amended on 11 June 2021:** Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an amendment or variation to a right or permit in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as well as any other applicable activity contained in this Listing Notice or Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required for such amendment.


## 5. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Assessment process will be followed for this amendment application. The key steps involved in a Basic Assessment process are described below.

### Initiation and Application

- Compile and submit amendment application forms.

### Public Participation Process

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- Identification of I&APs.
  - Preparation of notification documents (BID, letter, advert, site notice, registration form).
  - Notification of I&APs and relevant stakeholders of the project.
  - Placement of site notices and advertisement.

### BAR and EMPR

- Compilation of baseline environment data and identification of potential impacts associated with the project.
- Assessment of alternative project aspects.
- Specialist studies undertaken (if applicable).
- Potential impacts are rated and mitigation measures proposed.
- Monitoring programmes proposed to ensure mitigation measures are efficient.
- Draft BAR/EMPR is made available to the public and Authorities for public review and comment.
- Final BAR/EMPR is updated to include all comments prior to submission to the DMRE.
- DMRE accepts the BAR/EMPR or requests additional information.

### Record of Decision

- DMRE makes a decision and either approves or rejects the amendment application
- All I&APs are notified of the outcome of the amendment application, and their right to appeal.

## 6. AVAILABILITY OF THE BAR AND EMPR AND DETAILS OF THE OPEN DAYS

The draft BAR and EMPR will be made available for public review, for a period of 30 days, from the **10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 until the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**, for the perusal and comment of all I&APs. Hardcopies of the report will be available from the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the following public venues:

Venue	Address	Contact Details
Mlambongwane Community Meeting Place	S 25.646921, E 31.051807	072 615 0798
Barberton Golf Club	De Villiers Street, Barberton, 1300 GPS co-ordinates: -25.79207, 31.04074	013 712 2923

Furthermore, an electronic copy will also be obtainable on the Shango Solutions website ([www.shango.co.za/public-documents/](http://www.shango.co.za/public-documents/)) from the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024. In order to present the findings of the Basic Assessment process to the public and to solicit comments on the report, two Open Days will be held. The schedule for the Open Days is as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Contact Details
24 April 2024	10:00 - 18:00	Mlambongwane Community Meeting Place	072 615 0798
26 April 2024	10:00 - 18:00	Barberton Golf Club	013 712 2923

All input from the public with regards to the draft BAR and EMPR will be incorporated into the revised report that will be submitted to the Competent Authority, the DMRE.

## 7. PERIOD FOR WHICH THE AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IS REQUIRED

The amended environmental authorisation is required for the same duration as the associated amended mining right.

## 8. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

If the amendment application is approved, the process will rectify this administrative error and there will be an alignment between the Regulation 42 Plan, the Mining Right and Annexure "A" to the New Consort Mine Mining Right.

## 9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The reader is hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information that may contribute to the Basic Assessment process. Public involvement is an essential component of the process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the proposed activities and to be involved in decisions that affect them. It also affords the EAP the opportunity to address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing the EAP to assess all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

## 10. INVITATION TO REGISTER

In order to ensure that you are identified and registered as an I&AP (if you are not already identified as one) and to comment on the BAR and EMPR, please complete and submit the attached questionnaire and your comments to Shango Solutions by **no later than the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**.

It is important to note that the Basic Assessment process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes. 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 by no later than the date provided above. Please include the project reference name (New Consort MR and EA Amendment) in all correspondence. Please note that only registered I&APs will be notified of further opportunities for involvement in this process.

**Any queries, comments, or concerns with regards to this amendment application can be directed to Shango Solutions:**

- Tel: 011 678 6504
- Fax: 011 678 9731
- E-mail: [zizo@shango.co.za](mailto:zizo@shango.co.za)
- Contact person: Ms Zizo Siwendu
- Project name: New Consort MR and EA Amendment
- Postal address: P.O. Box 2591, Cresta, 2118, South Africa

**Any comments or concerns regarding this amendment application can also be directed to the Department of Mineral Resources (and a copy sent to Shango Solutions):**

- Tel: 013 653 0500
- Fax: 013 656 1474
- Contact person: Ms Mashudu Maduka
- Postal address: Private Bag X7279, Emalahleni, 1035
- DMRE reference number: MP 30/5/1/2/2/10220 MR (190 MR)
- Attention: Regional Manager: Mineral and Petroleum Regulation Mpumalanga Regional Office