ALIWAL QUARRY

ERF NO 2928 (A PORTION OF ERF 1) & A PORTION OF PORTION 5 OF THE FARM MELK SPRUIT NO 12, WALTER SISULU MUNICIPAL AREA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

CLOSURE PLAN

DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER

EC 30/5/1/2/2/0215 MR & EC0017MR/102

OCTOBER 2025

PREPARED FOR:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd is the consultants responsible for the EMPR amendment application, and considering this, an Annual- and Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan (*in aliis verbis* Closure Plan) was accordingly drafted in support of the said EMPR.

The purpose of this document is to provide site management with an Annual Rehabilitation Plan as well as the Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Closure Plan, compiled in terms of the NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No. 25 of 2014) read with the Regulations pertaining to the Financial Provision for Prospecting, Exploration, Mining or Production Operations, November 2015 (GN 1228, Financial Provision Regulations 2015 (as amended). The amendment of the closure plan entails a review of the following aspects:

1. Annual rehabilitation as reflected in the annual rehabilitation plan;
2. Final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of the mining operations at the end of the life of operations as reflected in the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan;
3. Remediation of latent or residual environmental impacts which may become known in the future, as reflected in the environmental risk assessment report.

Annual Rehabilitation Plan

The MR Holder will annually report on the planned annual rehabilitation actions.

Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan

The decommissioning phase will entail the reinstatement of the processing area by removing the stockpiled material, site infrastructure/equipment no longer needed by the landowners and landscaping the disturbed footprints. Due to the impracticality of importing large volumes of fill to restore the excavation to its original topography, the rehabilitation option is to develop the excavation into a landscape feature. This will entail creating a series of irregular benches along the quarry faces, the top edges of each face being blasted away to form scree slopes on the benches below, thereby reducing the overall face angle.

Environmental Risk Assessment Report:

The floor of the excavation may reveal fluctuating water levels after rehabilitation. Considering this, it is important to adequately block access to the excavation (soil berm / oversize rock in entrance) to prevent unauthorized access to humans (especially children) and domestic animals upon closure of the mine.

LIST OF DEFINITIONS

Abandonment: The act of abandoning and relinquishment of a mining claim or intention to mine, a voluntary surrender of the claim or mine to the next party.

Appropriately qualified: A person who has training in the skills appropriate to the type of work to be done, and experience of the type of mine and of the size, complexity and safety classification of the deposit or the environmental conditions (or both) pertaining to the specific project.

Closure Plan: Annual Rehabilitation and Final Rehabilitation, Decommission and Closure Plan.

Biodiversity: Biodiversity is an abbreviation of “biological diversity”. It means the variety of living things – the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

Closure: The act of reinstating a redundant mine which is acceptable for final mine closure.

Context of an environmental impact: The overall environmental setting in which an environmental impact occurs. It includes all "natural" components and characteristics (or both) and all "human and social" components and characteristics (or both). It has both spatial and time dimensions.

Design: The documented result of a systematic process during which all relevant factors and criteria are considered. The design includes the design report, the working drawings and the operations manual.

Environmental impact: Any change in the state of a component of the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, that wholly or partially results from activities, projects, or developments.

Environmental integrity: The reliability of performance of the environmental impact management measures associated with the facility, with respect to the environmental performance objectives.

Environmental management programme: A programme contemplated in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 submitted to and approved by the Director: Mineral Development and detailing the plan to be adopted and implemented by a mine for managing the environmental effects of the operations of the mine.

Environmental objectives: Those objectives that represent the desired state of environmental components that have been adopted for the mine.

Intensity of an environmental impact: The severity of the consequences of an environmental impact, as judged by suitably qualified persons.

Manager of a mine (general manager): Any competent person appointed in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 29 of 1996), to be responsible for the control, management and direction of a mine.

Rehabilitated land: Is defined as land that has previously been mined through or areas, which have been disturbed by the mining process. These areas have been levelled, covered with topsoil, fertilized, seeded, and can support a sustained long-term vegetation cover.

Redundant: No longer required for mining operation.

Reliability: The probability that a specified event will not occur in a specified time (usually expressed as a ratio, when measured in quantitative terms).

Risk: The probability that a specified event, such as failure, will occur in a specified time.

Scheduled closure: Planned closure of the mine

Significant environmental impact: An impact in respect of which consultation (with the relevant authorities and other interested and affected parties) on the context and intensity of its effects provides reasonable grounds for mitigating measures to be included in the environmental management programme. Significance is determined by the integration of the context and intensity of the effects of the impact, and the likelihood that the impact will occur.

Topsoil: means the layer of soil covering the earth which –
(a) provides a suitable environment for the germination of seed;
(b) allows for penetration of water; and
(c) Is a source of microorganisms, plant nutrients and in some cases seed.

Unscheduled closure: The closure cost associated with immediate closure and provision.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CoM	Chamber of Mines
DMPR	Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Performance Assessment
EMPR	Environmental Management Program
I&AP's	Interested and Affected Parties
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002)
MR Holder	Aliwal Dolerite Quarry (Pty) Ltd
NWA	National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NEM:AQA	National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No 39 of 2004)
NEM:BA	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004)
NEM:WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)
SAMREC	South African Mineral Resource Committee
WCMR	Waste Classification and Management Regulations
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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1. INTRODUCTION

Aliwal Dolerite Quarry (Pty) Ltd holds a mining right (EC 30/5/1/2/2/0215 MR) to mine dolerite over 55.5166 ha of Erf No 2928 (a portion of Erf 1), near Maletswai in the Walter Sisulu Municipality of the Eastern Cape. The Mining Right (MR) is valid until 24 March 2040, with the possibility of renewal. The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) approved a Section 102 application (EC0017MR/102) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) in December 2022 to expand the mining footprint. This approval increased the mining footprint of 55.5166 ha with an additional 6.7824 ha that extends over a portion of Portion 5 of the farm Melk Spruit No 12.

The 2025 environmental performance audit concluded that the 2011 Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) of Aliwal Quarry does not fully comply with Appendix 4 of GNR 982. The Quarry has since made various changes and/or improvements on site, and management identified the need to amend/update the EMPR to adequately manage and/or mitigate the environmental impacts associated with the activity as well as ensure legal compliance. The Quarry would also like to consolidate the 2011 EMPR and 2018 EMPR, that was approved as part of the Section 102 amendment application.

Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd (“Greenmined”) is the appointed consultant responsible for the amendment of the EMPR. Accordingly, an Annual Rehabilitation Plan and a Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Closure Plan”) have been drafted to accompany the EMPR amendment application. This Closure Plan outlines the rehabilitation methods to be implemented for the restoration of the mining footprint and has been compiled in accordance with Government Notice 940 under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) [NEMA], the NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No. 25 of 2014), the Financial Provisioning Regulations (Government Notice 1228 of November 2015, as amended), as well as Regulation 62 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA]. The information contained in this report was sourced during the EMPR amendment process to ensure compliance with the relevant legislative requirements for annual and final rehabilitation, decommissioning, and closure planning.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Aliwal Quarry has been in existence since 1976, and Aliwal Dolerite Quarry (Pty) Ltd commenced with the mining of the area in 2010. The dolerite that the mine exploits is an intrusive formation that pushed through the underlying Tarkastad Subgroup of the Beaufort

Group. The mine is an opencast operation whereby aggregates of all sizes are produced at the on-site processing plant. The solid dolerite deposit is blasted and loaded by excavator onto dumper trucks that transports the rock to the crusher. The mine is one of the major suppliers of aggregate for the construction industry in the Maletswai area. Products are transported from the site by road.

The Quarry periodically operates 24-hours, 7-days a week especially when material is needed for road related projects. Blasting is permitted only between 08:00 and 19:00, Mondays to Saturdays, and is not allowed on Sundays and public holidays. The day time shift entails the following main activities:

- Drilling and blasting;
- Excavation, loading and hauling material to the processing plant;
- Crushing, screening and stockpiling of material;
- Dispatch; and
- Maintenance and cleaning of the plant.

During the night shift activities are limited to the following:

- Drilling;
- Excavation, loading and hauling of material to the processing plant;
- Crushing, screening and stockpiling of material; and
- Cleaning and maintenance of the plant.

Sub-contractors are periodically engaged for contract crushing and mining activities and typically establish temporary site camps within the mining boundaries during operations. Also refer to *4.3 Operational Phase* for a more comprehensive description of the mine operations.

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE CLOSURE PLAN

The purpose of the Closure Plan is to describe the rehabilitation processes that need to take place to ensure that the mine reaches its full environmental potential upon closure.

The primary objective, at the end of the mine's life, is to obtain a closure certificate in as short a period as possible whilst still complying with the requirements of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA]. To realise this, the following main objectives must be achieved:

- Demolish and remove all buildings and/or infrastructure that will no longer be required by the landowners, as well as all waste material, in accordance with the requirements

of this EMPr and/or the Provincial Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR).

- Θ Shape and contour all disturbed areas in accordance with the approved Closure Plan.
- Θ Ensure that permanent changes to the topography resulting from mining activities are sustainable and do not pose erosion risks or safety hazards to the landowners or surrounding community.
- Θ Effectively utilise available topsoil to promote the re-establishment of vegetation.
- Θ Ensure that all rehabilitated areas are stable and self-sustaining with adequate vegetation cover.
- Θ Eradicate all invasive and alien plant species by intensive management of the mining area.

2. DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR

Aliwal Dolerite Quarry (Pty) Ltd appointed Greenmined Environmental (Pty) Ltd to prepare the closure plan. Ms. Christine Fouché is the responsible consultant for the project and holds a Diploma in Nature Conservation and a B.Sc. in Botany and Zoology (Full CV is attached as Appendix H of the 2025 EMPR).

Name of the Practitioner: Ms Christine Fouché (Senior Environmental Specialist)
Tel No: 021 851 2673
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Declaration of Independence:

I, Christine Fouché, in my capacity as environmental assessment practitioner declare that–

- Θ I act as independent environmental officer in this matter;
- Θ I will perform the work relating to this matter in an objective manner, even if the results and findings are not favourable to the holder of the authorisation;
- Θ I have expertise in conducting environmental related projects, including knowledge of the Act and regulations that have relevance to the activity;
- Θ I will adhere to and comply with all responsibilities as indicated in the National Environmental Management Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
- Θ I do not have and will not have any vested interest in the activity other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Christine Fouché Date: 06 October 2025

3. LEGAL BACKGROUND AND BEST PRACTICES

This section provides an overview of the legislative requirements applicable to the project, including the acts, guidelines and policies considered in the compilation of the Closure Plan.

3.1 THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996 (ACT NO. 108 OF 1996)

The legislative motivation for this project is underpinned by The Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), which establishes a duty on the State to respect, protect, promote, and fulfil the rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights, as set out in Section 7(2).

Section 24 of the Constitution – Environment

Section 24 states that:

Everyone has the right-

(a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
(b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that-
  (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
  (ii) promote conservation; and
  (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting a justifiable economic and social development.

This constitutional provision requires that activities which may significantly affect the environment must be assessed and authorised in accordance with applicable legislation to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development.

In addition, Section 24 of the Constitution forms the basis for national environmental management legislation, such as the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), which empowers the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (or relevant MECs) to identify:

- New activities that require environmental authorisation;
- Areas within which specified activities require environmental authorisation; and

- Existing activities that require assessment and reporting to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

3.2 THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 28 OF 2002) [MPRDA]

The table below summarises the relevant sections in terms of the MPRDA, 2002.

Table 1: Summary of the relevant rehabilitation sections of the MPRDA, 2002

SECTION	REQUIREMENT	DISCUSSION
Section 37	Environmental Principles	Requires that the principles in Section 2 of NEMA apply to all prospecting and mining operations. Also obliges sustainable development by integrating social, economic, and environmental factors into planning and implementation.
Section 38	Integrated Environmental Management	Requires mining right holders to manage environmental impacts in accordance with their approved EMPrs. Ensures environmental management throughout the lifecycle of operations.
Section 39	Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)	Details requirements for an EMPr, including baseline assessments, mitigation measures, closure objectives, and financial provisioning to manage environmental impacts. Note: Under One Environmental System (2014), EMPrs are submitted under NEMA but these MPRDA provisions still provide context.
Section 41	Financial Provision	Requires holders to provide financial provision for rehabilitation before commencing operations. Also requires annual assessment of environmental liability to ensure adequacy of financial provisioning.
Section 42	Consultation with Landowners and Interested Parties	Requires consultation with landowners and lawful occupiers regarding environmental management and closure.
Section 43	Closure and Closure Certificate	States that a mining right holder remains responsible for environmental liabilities until a closure certificate is issued. Requires application to the Regional Manager and verification that final rehabilitation, decommissioning, and closure objectives have been met.
Section 44	Removal of Infrastructure	Prohibits removal of buildings, structures, or objects without approval when operations end, ensuring that remaining infrastructure is either properly decommissioned or retained for post-mining land use where beneficial.
Section 45	Minister's Responsibility for Remediation	Provides that if a holder fails to rehabilitate or remediate environmental damage, the Minister may undertake such work and recover costs from the holder.

3.2.1 Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Regulations, 2004 (GN R. 527 of 23 April 2004)

In terms of Government Notice R.527 of 23 April 2004 (MPRDA Regulations), the following closure objectives must be incorporated into an EMPr:

- Θ "Identify key objectives for closure to guide project design and operational management";
- Θ "Develop measures to manage environmental impacts during operations and closure";
- Θ "Provide future land use objectives for the site post-closure"; and
- Θ "Provide proposed closure costs to inform financial provisioning".

Note: Under the One Environmental System, EMPRs are now compiled in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, which integrate these requirements with updated financial provision and closure planning standards.

The table below summarises the relevant sections.

Table 2: Summary of the relevant sections of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Regulations, 2004

SECTION	REQUIREMENT
Regulation 62 (Chapter 3, Part IV)	EMPrs must include closure objectives, proposed final land uses, management of residual and latent impacts, and detailed costing for closure to ensure financial provisioning aligns with operational and closure requirements.
Regulation 56-59 (Part III: Environmental Management Plans)	Sets out processes for compiling, assessing, and approving EMPrs.
Regulation 60-63 (Part IV: Environmental Management Programmes)	Details content of EMPrs including closure objectives, environmental risk management, and progressive rehabilitation.

3.2.2 Closure Certificate Process (Section 43)

The requirements for issuing a closure certificate is contained in Section 43 of the MPRDA as summarised below:

1. Application to the Regional Manager upon cessation of mining activities.

2. Demonstration of compliance with EMPr commitments, including final rehabilitation and mitigation of residual impacts.

3. DMPR inspection to verify closure implementation.

4. Issuance of certificate to formally release holder from ongoing environmental liabilities, except for latent or residual environmental impacts.

Under the One Environmental System, environmental authorisation (including closure activities) is regulated under NEMA, but closure certificates remain issued under the MPRDA by DMPR.

3.3 THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998) [NEMA]

The following sections of NEMA are relevant.

Table 3: NEMA, 1998 applicable sections

SECTION	REQUIREMENT	DISCUSSION
Section 2	Environmental Management Principles	All decisions and activities must integrate environmental, social, and economic factors to ensure sustainable development.
Section 24	Environmental Authorisation	Requires activities listed in the EIA Regulations (including mine closure activities) to undergo environmental impact assessments and obtain authorisation prior to commencement.
Section 24P	Financial Provisioning	Holders of environmental authorisations for mining operations must make financial provision for rehabilitation, closure, and remediation of environmental damage, reviewed annually.
Section 28	Duty of Care	Any person who causes, has caused, or may cause significant pollution or degradation must take reasonable measures to prevent, minimise, or remedy such damage.
Section 44	Regulations	Empowers the Minister to make regulations regarding rehabilitation, closure, and financial provisioning for mining and related activities.

3.3.1 NEMA Financial Provisioning Regulations (GN R. 1147 of 2015, amended)

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Financial Provisioning Regulations, initially published as GNR 1147 in Government Gazette 39425 on 20 November 2015, required holders of mining rights, permits, and authorisations to make financial provision for rehabilitation, decommissioning, closure, and

remediation of environmental damage. A transitional period of 39 months was originally provided, with the initial compliance date set for 19 February 2019, later extended multiple times, with the most recent extension moving the compliance deadline to 19 February 2024 in terms of GNR 1889 of 2022.

The draft Financial Provisioning Regulations, 2021, and subsequent draft amendments published in 2022 and 2023, indicate that the finalisation of new regulations is imminent, with an emphasis on risk-based costing, concurrent rehabilitation, and improved auditing and reporting standards.

In terms of these regulations, the MR Holder must annually review and update their financial provision assessments to cover:

- Annual rehabilitation (progressive rehabilitation during operations)
- Final rehabilitation and decommissioning
- Remediation of latent and residual environmental impacts

These updates must comply with the format and minimum content requirements stipulated in the regulations, including detailed cost tables and calculations similar to those set out in Appendix 5 (Annual Rehabilitation Report) and Appendix 6 (Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Remediation Report) of the 2015 regulations.

The upcoming revised regulations are expected to replace the 2015 provisions, introducing more flexible financial instruments, enhanced auditing obligations, and stronger alignment with mine closure objectives under the One Environmental System.

3.3.2 NEMA EIA Regulations (GN R. 982, as amended)

Under the NEMA EIA Regulations, the decommissioning and closure of facilities, including mining infrastructure and associated activities, may trigger listed activities under Listing Notices 1, 2, or 3, requiring environmental authorisation prior to implementation. Furthermore, Part 3 (Regulations 31 to 35) of the EIA Regulations specifies the requirements and procedures for obtaining amendments to existing environmental authorisations or obtaining specific decommissioning authorisations related to mine closure.

3.3.3 NEMA Waste Act, 2008 (Act No 59 of 2008) [NEM:WA]

The rehabilitation measures must align with the objectives of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), which aims to protect health, well-being, and the environment by providing reasonable measures for minimising natural resource consumption, avoiding and minimising waste generation, promoting waste reduction, re-use, recycling, and recovery, treating and safely disposing of waste as a last resort, preventing pollution and ecological degradation, securing ecologically sustainable development while promoting justifiable economic and social development, ensuring effective delivery of waste services, remediating land where contamination presents or may present a significant risk to health or the environment, and achieving integrated waste management reporting and planning.

It further aims to ensure that people are aware of the impact of waste on their health, well-being, and the environment, provides for compliance with these measures, and generally gives effect to Section 24 of the Constitution to secure an environment that is not harmful to health and well-being.

The Waste Classification and Management Regulations, 2013 (GNR 634), promulgated under NEM:WA, facilitate the implementation of the waste hierarchy to divert waste away from landfill towards re-use, recovery, and treatment, separate waste classification from waste management, and provide measures to monitor progress. These regulations enable improved and efficient waste classification and management, safe and appropriate handling, storage, recovery, re-use, recycling, treatment, and disposal of waste, and facilitate accurate reporting on waste generation and management. All waste generators, excluding domestic generators, must classify the waste they generate within 180 days of generation, while wastes classified under the previous “Minimum Requirements for the Handling, Classification and Disposal of Hazardous Waste” (DWAF, 1998) must be re-classified and assessed within three years of the commencement of these regulations.

Additionally, Part 8 of Chapter 4 of NEM:WA introduces a legal regime for identifying contaminated land, determining its status and risks, and regulating the remediation process. It obliges owners of significantly contaminated land to report such contamination, imposes obligations on both landowners and polluters with potential financial consequences, and applies where pollution manifests after contamination

has occurred or where activities such as excavation change pre-existing contamination. This part is supported by norms and standards for remediation of contaminated land and soil quality, specifying soil screening values for human health and environmental protection. Importantly, it also affects land sales, as sellers who knowingly fail to disclose contamination commit an offence under this Act.

3.4 THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) [NWA]

The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) aims to provide for the management of South Africa's national water resources to achieve sustainable and equitable use for the benefit of all water users. The Act requires that water resources are protected to ensure their quality and availability, promotes integrated water resources management, and provides for the delegation of powers to institutions at regional or catchment level to enable effective governance. The purpose of the NWA is to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed, and controlled in ways that take into account the meeting of basic human needs of present and future generations, the promotion of equitable access to water, the redress of the results of past racial and gender discrimination, the sustainable use of water to benefit all users, the facilitation of social and economic development, and the protection of aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity.

The following sections of the NWA, 1998 are relevant.

Table 4: NWA, 1998 applicable sections

SECTION	REQUIREMENT	DISCUSSION
Section 19	Pollution Prevention	Imposes a duty on any person who owns, controls, occupies, or uses land to take reasonable measures to prevent pollution of water resources from occurring, continuing, or recurring. Where pollution cannot be prevented, appropriate measures must be taken to minimise and rectify it.
Section 20	Emergency Incidents	Requires any person responsible for a polluting incident, or any other incident which detrimentally affects a water resource, to report it immediately and to take reasonable measures to contain and minimise the effects, undertake clean-up, and remedy the situation.
Section 21	Water Uses	Defines water uses that require authorisation, including activities such as taking or storing water, impeding or diverting flow, discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource, disposing of waste in a manner that may detrimentally impact a water resource, altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse, removing

SECTION	REQUIREMENT	DISCUSSION
		underground water, or activities that may impact water quantity or quality.
Section 22	Water Use Authorisation	Specifies that a water use must be authorised by a general authorisation or licence or be permissible under Schedule 1. Authorisation includes compliance with conditions set by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

3.5 ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO MINE REHABILITATION

- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983);
- Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 29 of 1996)
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA)
- National Forests Act, 1998 (Act 84 of 1998)
- National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)

3.6 BEST PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES

Mine closure remains a global environmental and socio-economic challenge, with regulatory frameworks and best practice continuously evolving to address legacy impacts, sustainability, and social transition. In South Africa, several key guidelines and regulations guide mine closure planning and implementation.

The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) has published the “Financial Provisioning Regulations” (GNR. 1147 of 2015, amended in 2022) under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), which outline requirements for financial provisioning to manage rehabilitation, decommissioning, and closure obligations. These regulations aim to ensure that funds are available for environmental liabilities throughout the mine’s life and post-closure. The DMPR Mine Closure Guidelines (2005) remain a formal reference under Regulation 54(1) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), particularly for closure cost assessments. However, an updated national mine closure guideline is under development to align with integrated environmental management and the One Environmental System approach.

The Council for Geoscience (2020) has advanced work on the National Mine Closure Strategy, which focuses on risk-based closure planning, prioritisation of high-risk sites, and sustainable post-mining land use to reduce South Africa’s burden of derelict and ownerless mines.

Internationally, the ICMM (International Council on Mining and Metals) 2019 “Integrated Mine Closure: Good Practice Guide” (2nd edition) sets out industry-leading principles for closure planning. This guide emphasises:

- Θ Early integration of closure into project design.
- Θ Stakeholder engagement to support post-mining land use goals.
- Θ Progressive rehabilitation to reduce residual liabilities.
- Θ Social transition planning to mitigate economic impacts on communities post-closure.

Similarly, the Australian Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (2021) published its “Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry – Mine Closure” guideline. This updated document reaffirms that mine closure planning should begin during the project’s feasibility stage and continue as an iterative process throughout the life of mine. This ensures realistic final landform designs, cost-effective rehabilitation, and effective relinquishment pathways.

The World Bank (2018) in its report “Mine Closure: A Checklist for Governments” highlights that successful mine closure requires a combination of regulatory oversight, enforceable financial provision mechanisms, clear accountability for closure outcomes, and planning for post-mining economic diversification to avoid ghost towns or socio-economic decline.

Finally, the WWF-SA (2012) discussion document remains relevant in emphasizing financial adequacy for closure, but newer research by Centre for Environmental Rights (CER, 2019) and WWF-SA (2020) has stressed the persistent gaps in financial provision compliance and the urgent need for enforceable closure strategies to prevent the proliferation of abandoned mines.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROJECT CONTEXT

4.1 PROJECT LOCATION

Table 5: Location of the activity.

Farm Name	Θ Erf 2928 (a portion of Erf 1) Θ Portion 5 of the farm Melk Spruit No 12
Mining Area (Ha)	62.299 ha
Magisterial District	Joe Gqabi District Municipality

Distance and direction from the nearest town	Aliwal Quarry is located ±3 km south-west of Maletswai, near the R58 travelling to Burgersdorp.		
21 digit Surveyor General Code for each farm portion	Θ C00500010000292800000 Θ C00500000000001200005		
Mining Right Site Coordinates	A	-30° 42’ 13.85311”	26° 40’ 50.67110”
	B	-30° 42’ 14.52522”	26° 40’ 51.96911”
	C	-30° 42’ 15.26281”	26° 40’ 54.15002”
	D	-30° 42’ 16.69336”	26° 40’ 55.80857”
	E	-30° 42’ 19.43279”	26° 40’ 57.71013”
	F	-30° 42’ 26.37506”	26° 41’ 00.95086”
	G	-30° 42’ 28.79195”	26° 41’ 03.75398”
	H	-30° 42’ 29.36976”	26° 41’ 05.68111”
	J	-30° 42’ 29.87858”	26° 41’ 08.08949”
	K	-30° 42’ 29.49021”	26° 41’ 12.78943”
	L	-30° 42’ 33.91468”	26° 41’ 13.13291”
	M	-30° 42’ 43.18546”	26° 41’ 16.53533”
	N	-30° 42’ 53.37863”	26° 41’ 22.20009”
	P	-30° 42’ 56.47420”	26° 41’ 24.52185”
	Q	-30° 42’ 58.77362”	26° 41’ 27.55764”
	R	-30° 43’ 09.95726”	26° 41’ 09.97288”
	S	-30° 42’ 19.06215”	26° 40’ 53.01130”
S102 Extension Area Coordinates	T	-30° 42’ 44.17218”	26° 40’ 57.47018”
	U	-30° 42’ 43.41183”	26° 41’ 01.12263”
	V	-30° 43’ 02.59775”	26° 41’ 07.51693”
	W	-30° 43’ 03.67082”	26° 41’ 03.18488”

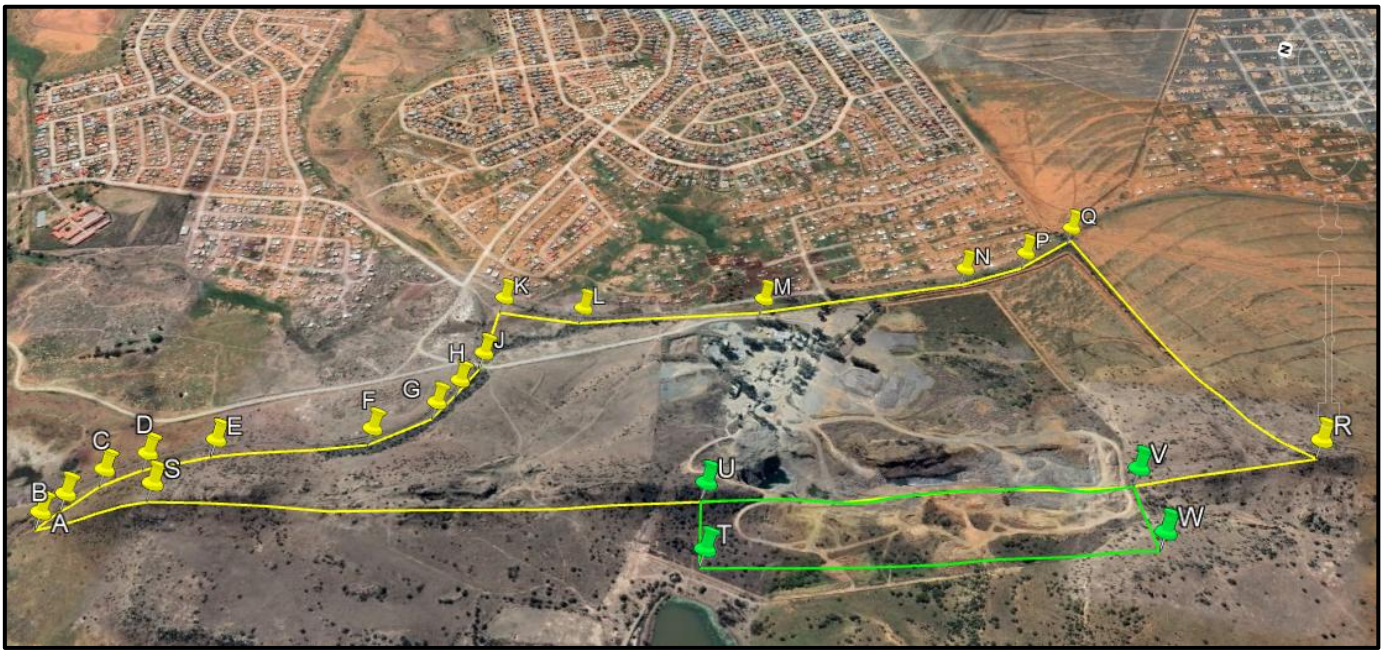

Figure 1: Satellite view of the Aliwal Quarry mining footprint (yellow polygon). The Section 102 Extension Area is indicated by the green polygon (image obtained from Google Earth). Note: To optimise space, true north is directed to the left.

4.2 SITE ESTABLISHMENT PHASE

Aliwal Quarry has been in continuous operation for ±49 years. As such, the site has already undergone full establishment in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements. Consequently, the site establishment phase is no longer applicable to this operation.

4.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

4.3.1 Mining Footprint

The approved mining footprint of Aliwal Quarry extends over ±55.6 ha. However, the MR Holder currently (2025) utilises only ±28 hectares of the total footprint for mining-related activities. The northern and most southern parts of the property remain largely in a natural state. The active mining area is fenced off from the remaining property.

Historical the western section of the quarry pit extended over the mining boundary, and the MR Holder subsequently applied for approval of the Minister in terms of Section 102 of the MPRDA to expand the mining footprint with 6.7824 ha. The S102 Extension Area (approved in 2022) now allows the development of the quarry pit in a western direction. It further contributes to the softening of the high walls that were historically mined up to the boundary.

4.3.2 Mining Activities

The mine has one main quarry pit that spans ±9.8 ha (2025) of the mining footprint. The quarry pit runs in a north to south direction along the extent of the ridge on the property. The dolerite is loosened by conventional drilling and blasting methods. The frequence is dependent on the demand for product. Blast monitoring is implemented during each blast.

Following a blast, boulders that are too large (>500 mm) to be loaded into the primary crusher are broken by means of a hydraulic hammer. The muck pile (blasted rock) is removed from the pit using excavators and trackless mobile machinery (TMM's) and either deposited directly into the jaw crusher or deposited on the Run of Mine (RoM) stockpile for later processing through the secondary-, tertiary- and quaternary crushing and screening processes to result in the desired products. The material is stockpiled until transported to or collected by clients. All material removed from site is sent over the weighbridge to ensure the correct weight and prevent overloading.

Aliwal Quarry (the Quarry) also has the ability to wash the products if required by the client. Water from the washing plant is directed to the nearby settling ponds from where it can be recycled for reuse.

4.3.3 Site Infrastructure

Aliwal Quarry has well-established buildings and infrastructure that support its mining operations. The Quarry is accessed via a gravel road that turns off the R58 connecting Maletswai and Burgersdorp. In addition, the Burgersdorp – Dreunberg - Aliwal North – Zastron - Sannaspos railway line (no longer in use) runs along the north/north-eastern boundary of the mine, and the access road crosses the railway line before entering the mine.

The office building accommodates the administrative personnel. The mine has well established workshops, storage rooms, a wash bay that drains to an oil sump, and a paved area used for services. Ablution facilities associated with the office complex and workshops drain to a septic tank system, which is serviced as required. Offices and/or stores are also associated with the wash plant, crusher plant, and weighbridge. A change/break room with ablutions is available to the employees near the workshop.

The following main areas are defined at the mine as shown in the following figure:

A. Entrance Gate and Guard House;
B. Office Block;
C. Workshops and Storage Areas;
D. Change Room and Ablutions;
E. Washing Plant Area;
F. Settling Ponds;
G. Stockpile Areas;
H. Processing Area;
I. Control Room;
J. Eskom Substation;
K. Salvage Yard;
L. Quarry Pit;
M. Waste Rock Dump;
N. Diesel Depot;
O. Eskom Transformer Station.

Figure 2: Satellite view of the various operational areas at Aliwal Quarry where the yellow line shows the mine boundary and the green line indicates the S102 extension area (image obtained from Google Earth).

4.3.4 Water Use

Potable water for domestic purposes is obtained from the onsite borehole. The water is pumped to a tank prior to use. Production water (for dust suppression and washing of material) is extracted from the quarry sump (which originates from rainwater). The water used at the plant for the washing and screening of material flows via gravity to the nearby settling ponds. The water captured in the settling ponds is recirculated to the plant for reuse. Sediment within the settling ponds is allowed to dry out and then mixed into the product or used to rehabilitate mined areas.

Aliwal Quarry has a water use authorisation (reference no: 23086205) to use water from a borehole, the quarry sump and the last tank of the oil sump. The water use authorisation also allows for the storage of water in the quarry sump and the spraying of water for dust suppression purposes.

4.3.5 Electricity Use

The mining operation is supplied with Eskom power, and Gensets are used as back-up power.

4.3.6 Servicing and Maintenance

The well-equipped workshops of the Quarry, that form part of the office complex, are used for the repair and maintenance of all mining related equipment and machinery. Water from the wash bay and service areas drains into an oil separator.

Fuel is stored in a 9 000 l tank in a roofed and bunded area. Chemicals are stored in designated storage areas in accordance with the product specific material safety data sheets.

4.3.7 Waste Management

The MR Holder has an integrated waste management policy, and the company strives to recycle where possible. All non-polluting equipment / material which could potentially have a future use is stored within the salvage yard.

Presently, waste is separated into waste that can be re-used, and those that must be removed from the site. General waste (that cannot be reused) is removed by the municipality to the Maletswai landfill site. Hazardous waste is removed from site by qualified hazardous waste handling contractors.

Ablution facilities associated with the office complex and workshops drain to a septic tank and French drain system, which is serviced as required.

4.3.8 Labour Component

Presently (September 2025), Aliwal Quarry has a permanent labour component of 21 employees. Sub-contractors are periodically employed for contract crushing and mining operations, who then bring their own personnel. The permanent employees of the Quarry mainly reside in Maletswai and are daily transported to site. No employees (permanent and/or sub-contractor) reside on site.

4.4 TOPOGRAPHY

The natural (pre-mining) topography of the site can be described as flat along the eastern section (±1 360 asml) of the mining environment, while the western section is dominated by a ridge that rises some 50 m from the flat eastern section to ±1 420 asml. The excavation associated with the mine is mining into this ridge. Areas where mining took place have historically resulted in steep gradients that are most obvious on the western side of the excavation. The approval of the Section 102 Extension Area and subsequent increase in the mining footprint now allows the gradual correction of these steep gradients.

4.5 VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS

The visual environment surrounding the Quarry is characterised by a combination of natural rural landscape elements and existing human interventions. While the broader setting is generally open with wide horizons, the mining area is bordered by a number of roads, a railway line, and the Joe Gqabi Residential Settlement to the east. These features introduce a strong anthropogenic component to the local visual character and reduce the overall sense of visual naturalness.

As a result, the visual absorption capacity (landscape's ability to incorporate visual elements without significantly altering its overall visual character or quality) of the immediate area is relatively higher than in a purely natural or agricultural setting. The presence of established infrastructure and the residential development means that the Quarry, although visually prominent, is less dissimilar than it would be in an undisturbed rural landscape. Nevertheless, exposed quarry faces, stockpiles, and operational equipment still present as noticeable features, particularly where they contrast sharply with the surrounding natural areas.

Overall, the visual character of the area can be described as open and moderately transformed, with the quarry forming one of several human-induced landscape modifications visible within a setting that already accommodates roads, rail, and residential development.

4.6 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE AMBIANCE

The air quality in the surrounding area is influenced by both natural and anthropogenic factors. Baseline conditions are shaped by the semi-arid climate, which results in naturally dusty conditions, particularly during dry and windy months. Existing sources of particulate matter include unpaved roads, vehicle movement, and domestic activities within the adjacent Joe Gqabi settlement. The surrounding road network also contributes intermittently to localised emissions from vehicle exhaust and entrained dust.

Aliwal Quarry contributes to the air quality of the area through the following:

- Quarrying operations, including blasting, crushing, and materials handling.
- Heavy vehicle movement on unpaved haul roads, which can further increase dust levels.
- Windblown dust from cleared areas, stockpiles and exposed rock surfaces.

Overall, ambient air quality can be described as moderately affected by dust and local emissions, with background concentrations elevated relative to purely rural areas due to the proximity of housing, transport infrastructure, and quarry-related activities. Sensitive receptors include the nearby Joe Gqabi community, where dust deposition and potential nuisance from suspended particulates may be more pronounced.

The ambient noise environment in the vicinity of the Quarry reflects the influence of road traffic, community activities, and quarry operations. Existing sources of sound include vehicle movement on surrounding roads, localised household and community noise from the Joe Gqabi settlement, and intermittent agricultural activity in the broader area. Consequently, baseline noise levels are elevated above those typical of remote rural areas due to the presence of settlement and road activity.

Within and around the Quarry, elevated noise levels are associated with:

- Θ Blasting, which produces sharp, short-duration noise events.
- Θ Drilling, crushing, and screening operations, which generate continuous mechanical noise during operational hours.
- Θ Heavy machinery and truck movement, both within the site and on access routes.

Overall, the noise environment can be described as moderately elevated due to community and traffic activity, with quarry operations being the principal contributor to high-intensity and peak noise events.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOIL

The region which the Quarry is currently exploiting comprises a dolerite extrusion that overlies the sedimentary sandstones & mudstones of the Burgersdorp Formation of the Tarkastad Subgroup belonging to the Beaufort Group that forms part of the Karoo Supergroup.

The Tarkastad Subgroup had formed during the late Mesozoic – to early Palaezoic eras some 250 to 285 million years ago. The early Triassic Period, of which the upper sequences of the Tarkastad Subgroup had formed, is characterized by an abundance of sandstone and red mudstone rhythmite formations. This red mudstone is the marker and indicator between the Adelaide – and Tarkastad Subgroup that both form part of the Beaufort Group. The Tarkastad Subgroup is furthermore spilt into an upper Burgersdorp Formation (red mudstone rich) and a lower Katberg Formation (sandstone rich).

The sandstones & mudstones of the Burgersdorp Formation contain about 42% quarts, 9% feldspar, 34% lithic fragments and about 14% matrix (Johnson, 1991). Volcanic rock fragments continue to be an important component of the Burgersdorp Formation. The dolerite extrusion at Aliwal Quarry resulted in a steeply ascending hill-shaped mountain ridge. It is a dark grey dolerite (higher concentration of feldspar) with a consistent texture. The targeted mineral in the quarry is therefore the dolerite.

According to the 2011 EMPR the soil present at the mining area is a shallow covering of weathered dolerite material. The adjoining area consists of sandstone and a mixture of brown and grey mudstone. Further away the soils are of an alluvial nature.

4.8 HYDROLOGY

The area surrounding Aliwal Quarry falls within a semi-arid catchment characterised by low and variable rainfall, with surface water flow occurring primarily in the form of ephemeral drainage lines during seasonal rainfall events. Permanent water bodies are limited, and groundwater is an important resource for both domestic and agricultural use in the region. Drainage features in the immediate vicinity of the Quarry are typically shallow and weakly defined.

The mine is situated within the Kraai sub-water management area that forms part of the Upper Orange Water Management Area (ID 12). Due to the topography of the site, most of the rain water falling within the mining footprint will flow in an easterly direction. The majority of water emanating from the western section of the mine will end up in the quarry sump. Once in the quarry pit the water is used for processing and dust suppression purposes. Runoff from the opposite (western) side of the ridge will flow down the hill and dissipate into the surrounding veld. Rain falling east of the quarry pit will flow overland in an easterly direction towards the access road and Joe Gqabi settlement. From the road there is a series on non-perennial streams that directs water in a northerly direction through some of the suburbs of Aliwal towards the Orange River. The Orange River is ±1.9 km to the north of the mine. Only in times of extremely high rainfall does water from the mine flow towards these non-perennial streams. In the majority of rainfall events water runoff from the mine infiltrates into the ground without reaching the streams.

According to the 2011 EMPR, the largest part of the Joe Gqabi District Municipality falls within the Minor Groundwater System type. A CSIR study conducted into groundwater potential of South Africa defines a Minor Groundwater System as a systems which can supply a community of 1 510 people from a single borehole at 30 ℓ/c per day. Properly managed boreholes in these systems can generate an average yield of 1.58 ℓ/s. The borehole of the quarry is ±60 m deep.

Also refer to Section F of the 2025 EMPR.

4.9 TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY AND GROUNDCOVER

According to Mucina and Rutherford (2012) the natural vegetation types of the study area comprises the Upper Gariep Alluvial Vegetation (AZa4). The vegetation type is classified as Vulnerable and according to Mucina and Rutherford (2012) only 3% is statutorily conserved in the Tussen Die Riviere, Gariep Dam and Oviston Nature Reserves.

As the mine has been in operation since 1976, the majority of the vegetation cover is disturbed. According to the land use maps of the area, it is recognised that there is no natural vegetation remaining in the vicinity of the quarry. This is a result of extensive overgrazing by community owned cattle. The recent extension of the excavation into the S102 extension area also caused the removal of the vegetation along the side and top of the ridge. Blue Gum trees were historically planted along the perimeter of the crushing plant and stockpile areas. These trees have the beneficial impact of reducing the dispersal of dust from the mine and lowering the visibility of mining related structures towards the east.

An ecological walk-through (2018) identified five plant species (refer to the 2025 EMPR) listed under Schedule 4 of the Eastern Cape Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance, 1974 (No 19 of 1974) (ECNCO), meaning the species is legally protected within the province. No red data species were identified during the 2018 site assessment. It is therefore important that site management familiarise themselves with the protected species and should any of these plants need to be removed the activity will have to be permitted by the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Also refer to Section F of the Amended EMPR.

4.10 FAUNA

The 2011 EMPR mentions that apart from small game and rodents occurring on the steeper slopes to the south of the mine, there are no other wild animals close to the mine. Rock hare, steenbok and rodents are present but not plentiful in the area surrounding the mine. The 2018 ecological walk-through confirmed the presence of Rock hyrax and steenbok within the mining area. The community's cattle, sheep, and goats also (illegally) enter the mining footprint on occasion.

In summary, the Quarry has been operational for at least 49 years, and the faunal component has become accustomed to the mining operations. No endangered and/or

protected species reside within the active mining footprint that warrants special consideration.

Also refer to Section F of the Amended EMPR.

4.11 CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

The 2011 EMPR and site management confirmed that there are no sites of archaeological or cultural importance within the mining area. The local community also did not identify any site of historical importance, and to date no complaints with regard to the impact of the mine on surrounding land uses of cultural/heritage concern have been received.

The Quarry has a Chance Find Protocol that all employees receive training on when joining the team. This protocol will be implemented should any discoveries be made during the operational and/or rehabilitation phases.

4.12 LAND USE

As previously mentioned, Aliwal Quarry has been operational for many years, with the most northern and southern portions of the mining area fenced off from the active mining area. The railway line and access road separates the mining area from the Joe Gqabi settlement to the east, while the western ridge screens the majority of the mining activities from the western farms. Mining of this ridge and expanding the excavation into the S102 Extension Area will however increase the visibility of the mining operations towards the west. Apart from the Joe Gqabi settlement, the surrounding areas are mainly used for agricultural purposes, with a piggery established on Portion 5 of Melk Spruit No 12.

Also refer to Section F of the Amended EMPR.

5. ANNUAL REHABILITATION PLAN

Appendix 3 to the Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 states that the objective of the annual rehabilitation plan is to:

a) review concurrent rehabilitation and remediation activities already implemented;
b) establish rehabilitation and remediation goals and outcomes for the forthcoming 12 months, which contribute to the gradual achievement of the post-mining land use, closure vision and objectives identified the holder's final rehabilitation, decommissioning, and mine closure plan;
c) establish a plan, schedule, and budget for rehabilitation for the forthcoming 12 months;
d) identify and address shortcomings experienced in the preceding 12 months of rehabilitation; and
e) evaluate and update the cost of rehabilitation for the 12-month period and for closure, for purposes of supplementing the financial provision guarantee or other financial provision instrument.

5.1 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW TIMEFRAMES

The annual rehabilitation plan will be applicable for a 12-month period commencing from the date of approval thereof by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources. The document will be reviewed during the 11th month of the operating period to ensure the timeous submission of the subsequent annual review.

5.2 MONITORING RESULTS

5.2.1 Control of Invasive Plant Species

The MR Holder continuously monitors the mining footprint for alien invasive plant species in accordance with the Invasive Plant Species Management Plan of the site (Appendix E of the 2025 EMPR). The most common invasive plant species that occur in the disturbed areas include (but not limited to) the following:

Θ *Argemone mexicana*	Mexican Poppy	NEM:BA Category 1b
Θ *Datura ferox*	Large Thorn Apple	NEM:BA Category 1b
Θ *Nicotiana glauca*	Wild Tobacco	NEM:BA Category 1b
Θ *Opuntia* spp.	Prickly Pear	NEM:BA Category 1b
Θ *Solanum sisymbrifolium*	Dense-thorned Bitter Appel	NEM:BA Category 1b
Θ *Xanthium strumarium*	Large Cocklebur	NEM:BA Category 1b

The monitoring and management of invasive plant species will continue throughout the operational-, and decommissioning phases of the project.

5.2.2 Noise Monitoring

The MR Holder contracts a qualified Occupational Hygienist to quarterly monitor and report on the personal noise exposure of the employees working at the quarry. The monitoring is done in accordance with the SANS 10083:2004 (Edition 5) sampling method as well as NEM:AQA; SANS 10103:2008.

Noise zones are demarcated on site as recommended by the specialist and all employees working within the noise zones or with noisy equipment are supplied with sufficient ear protection.

5.2.3 Blast Monitoring

The ground vibrations of each blast event are monitored and subsequently captured into a report stating its compliance with the USBM limits (RI 8507, 1980).

5.2.4 Fallout Dust Monitoring

Aliwal Quarry conducts monthly monitoring of fallout dust levels, and the results are compared with the standards prescribed in the National Dust Control Regulations, 2013 (as amended). The site has four dust monitoring units that are designated as follows:

1. East of Office;
2. North of Office;
3. West of Plant;
4. South of Plant.

5.2.5 Water Quality Monitoring

Aliwal Quarry implements a water quality monitoring programme that includes the annual testing of borehole water to verify its compliance with drinking water standards. In addition, water samples are taken from the wash bay oil sump to screen for the presence of hydrocarbons, ensuring that potential contamination is promptly identified and addressed. The water quality of the quarry pit is also monitored to track any changes that may arise from mining-related activities. These monitoring efforts form part of the quarry's broader commitment to environmental

compliance and pollution prevention. All laboratory results and associated records are maintained on site and are readily available for auditing and regulatory review.

5.3 SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED

Currently, no shortcomings were identified that require amendment of the Annual Rehabilitation Plan in terms of the Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 to be submitted to DMPR for approval. Site management must take note that rehabilitated areas must be managed as no-go areas to allow the re-establishment of the cover crop. Rehabilitation is only deemed successful once the cover crop is well established.

5.4 REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES FOR FORTHCOMING 12 MONTHS

Site management is currently undertaking activities (2024/2025) to construct a bridge using oversized material at the quarry pit. This bridge will shorten the route between the eastern and western sides of the pit. At the same time, refilling of the Pit 1 dam/sump is in progress. Oversized rocks and overburden are being used both for bridge construction and for filling the dam/sump. These initiatives contribute to the rehabilitation of previously mined areas and form part of the ongoing progressive rehabilitation program. The quarry will continue to report annually on the progress of rehabilitation activities.

5.5 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

As mentioned earlier, the quarry will continue to report annually on the progress of rehabilitation activities.

5.6 COSTING

The following table outlines the estimated costs associated with the progressive rehabilitation in progress at the Quarry for the 2024/2025 period, along with the expenses incurred by the company in implementing the required environmental monitoring plans.

Table 6: Annual rehabilitation and monitoring related cost.

PROPOSED ANNUAL MONITORING COST	
ITEM	**ANNUAL COST**
Rehabilitation of the southern part of the old quarry	±R 477 000.00
Blast Monitoring	No additional cost
Dust and Noise Monitoring	±R 84 800.00

PROPOSED ANNUAL MONITORING COST	
ITEM	**ANNUAL COST**
Water Monitoring	±R 4 000.00
TOTAL	±R 565 800.00

6. REHABILITATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND MINE CLOSURE PLAN

The objective of the final rehabilitation, decommissioning and mine closure plan (according to the MPRDA) is to identify a post-mining land use that is feasible through;

a) providing the vision, objectives, targets and criteria for final rehabilitation, decommissioning, and closure of the project;
b) outlining the design principles for closure;
c) explaining the risk assessment approach and outcomes and link closure activities to risk rehabilitation;
d) detailing the closure actions that clearly indicate the measures that will be taken to mitigate and/or manage identified risks and describes the nature of residual risks that will need to be monitored and managed post closure;
e) committing to a schedule, budget, roles and responsibilities for final rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure of each relevant activity or item of infrastructure;
f) identifying knowledge gaps and how these will be addressed and filled;
g) detailing the full closure costs for the life of project at increasing levels of accuracy as the project develops and approaches closure in line with the final land use proposed; and
h) outlining monitoring, auditing, and reporting requirements.
(Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 Appendix 4)

The following objectives are leading closure indicators, which need to be applied across all the domains, and read in conjunction with the principles, which embody the strategic objectives. The closure plan must address all the areas associated with closing the operations, of which rehabilitation and re-vegetation forms part of as component. The first step in developing the overall mine closure strategy is to identify potential post mining land use options and establish key objectives for closure to be incorporated in the project design.

The preferred post mining land use for the mine is to restore the natural vegetation (where possible) and allow the continued use of the surrounding area for grazing. In this context, the primary objectives for the closure of the mining operations are:

- Demolish and remove all buildings and/or infrastructure that will no longer be required by the landowners, as well as all waste material, in accordance with the requirements of this EMPr and/or the Provincial Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR).
- Shape and contour all disturbed areas in accordance with the approved Closure Plan.
- Ensure that permanent changes to the topography resulting from mining activities are sustainable and do not pose erosion risks or safety hazards to the landowners or surrounding community.

- Effectively utilise available topsoil to promote the re-establishment of vegetation.
- Ensure that all rehabilitated areas are stable and self-sustaining with adequate vegetation cover.
- Eradicate all invasive and alien plant species by intensive management of the mining area.

6.1 CLOSURE STRATEGY GUIDED BY ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The overall objective of the closure plan is to minimize adverse environmental impacts associated with the mining activity whilst maximising the future utilisation of the property. The idea, therefore, is to leave the mined areas in a condition that reduces all negative impacts associated with the activity. Significant aspects to be borne in mind in this regard is visibility of the mining scars, re-vegetation of the mining footprint, stability, and environmental risk in an old mine environment. The rehabilitated and immediate surroundings must also be free of invasive plant species.

The rehabilitation procedures was formulated to optimise the extraction of the raw material while creating a stable excavation that will not present an unreasonable safety risk once the mine was closed. Mining operations will be conducted in stages, corresponding to the creation of precision blasted quarry sides and benches towards the base of the workings. The decommissioning phase and closure of the quarry piy will also involve removal of all debris and rehabilitation of areas not rehabilitated during the operational phases of the project. This will comprise the scarification of compacted areas, reshaping of areas, topsoiling and regeneration of all prepared surfaces. All infrastructure/equipment not required by the landowners will be dissembled, and all other infrastructural development such as haulage roads and stockpile areas will be rehabilitated.

Upon closure of the mining area infrastructure, equipment, plant, and other items used during the mining period and no longer needed by the landowners will be removed. The MR Holder will, for as far as it is reasonably practicable, rehabilitate the environment affected by the mining operation to its natural or a predetermined state or to a land use which conforms to the generally accepted principle of sustainable development.

6.2 DESIGN PRINCIPLES

6.2.1 Excavation

The design principles proposed for the rehabilitation of Aliwal Quarry was determined through discussions with site management, guidance from the 2011 EMPR, and the minimum closure objectives as prescribed by DMPR.

Upon closure of the mine the MR Holder will contract the expertise of a rock engineer to guide the final design of the quarry pit. The rock engineer will be directed by the following:

- Θ The excavation must be developed into a landscape feature, by creating a series of irregular benches along the faces. The top edges of each face being blasted away to form scree slopes on the benches below, thereby reducing the overall face angle (<85˚).

- Θ Presently, it is proposed that the benches must be ±12 m high x 3 m wide. However, site management must be directed by the rock engineer regarding the final layout of the benches.

- Θ The benches of the excavation must be top-dressed with topsoil and vegetated with an appropriate grass mix if vegetation does not naturally establish in the area within six months of the replacement of the topsoil.

6.2.2 Processing- and Stockpile Areas

The processing- and stockpile areas will be reinstated and the footprint landscaped as listed below.

- Θ Coarse natural material used for the construction of ramps must be removed and dumped into the excavation.
- Θ Stockpiles must be removed during the decommissioning phase, the area ripped, and the topsoil returned to its original depth to provide a growth medium.
- Θ On completion of operations, all structures or objects shall be dealt with in accordance with section 44 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002):
    - Where sites have been rendered devoid of vegetation/grass or where soils have been compacted owing to traffic, the surface shall be scarified or ripped.

- The site shall be seeded with a vegetation seed mix adapted to reflect the local indigenous flora.

Θ Photographs of the processing area, before and during the mining operation and after rehabilitation, shall be taken at selected fixed points and kept on record for the information of the DMPR Regional Manager.

Θ On completion of mining operations, the surface of these areas, if compacted due to hauling and dumping operations, shall be scarified to a depth of at least 200 mm and graded to an even surface condition. Where applicable/possible topsoil needs to be returned to its original depth over the area.

Θ The area shall then be fertilized if necessary to allow vegetation to establish rapidly. The site shall be seeded with a local, adapted indigenous seed mix.

6.2.3 Offices, Workshops, and Storage Areas

The buildings (such as the offices, workshops, ablutions, and storage areas) and roads of the mine will most likely be retained for future use by the landowner and will therefore not be demolished unless required by the landowner.

6.3 POST-MINING LAND USE

Upon replacement of the topsoil, the areas around the excavation will once again be available for grazing purposes, and the planting of the grass layer (to protect the topsoil) will tie in with the proposed land use.

Figure 3: Satellite image of the processing and associated mining areas (green shaded polygon) that will revert to grazing use upon rehabilitation, while the excavation (blue shaded polygons) will be rendered safe and left as a landscape feature. The mining footprint is indicated by the yellow line, while the green line indicates the S102 Extension Area.

6.4 CLOSURE ACTIONS

The closure goals and objectives are to ensure that post-use rehabilitation achieves a stable and functioning landform consistent with the surrounding landscape, other environmental values and agreed land use.

The MR Holder will comply with the minimum closure objectives as prescribed by the DMPR and detailed below:

6.4.1 Rehabilitation of the Excavated Areas

- Θ The excavated areas must serve as a final depositing area for the placement of overburden. Rocks and coarse material removed from the excavation must be dumped into the excavation.
- Θ No waste may be permitted to be deposited in the excavation.
- Θ Once overburden, rocks and coarse natural materials have been added to the excavation and it was profiled with acceptable contours and erosion control measures, the topsoil previously stored must be returned to its original depth over the area.
- Θ The areas must be fertilized if necessary to allow vegetation to establish rapidly. The site shall be seeded with a local or adapted indigenous seed mix to propagate the locally or regionally occurring flora, should natural vegetation not re-establish within 6 months from closure of the site.
- Θ If a reasonable assessment indicates that the re-establishment of vegetation is unacceptably slow, the Regional Manager may require that the soil be analysed and any deleterious effects on the soil arising from the mining operation be corrected and the area be seeded with a vegetation seed mix to his or her specification.

6.4.2 Rehabilitation of Processing- and Stockpile Areas

- Θ Coarse natural material used for the construction of ramps must be removed and dumped into the excavation.
- Θ Stockpiles must be removed during the decommissioning phase, the area ripped, and the topsoil returned to its original depth to provide a growth medium.
- Θ On completion of operations, all structures or objects shall be dealt with in accordance with section 44 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002):

- Where sites have been rendered devoid of vegetation/grass or where soils have been compacted owing to traffic, the surface shall be scarified or ripped.
- The site shall be seeded with a vegetation seed mix adapted to reflect the local indigenous flora.

Θ Photographs of the processing area, before and during the mining operation and after rehabilitation, shall be taken at selected fixed points and kept on record for the information of the DMPR Regional Manager.

Θ On completion of mining operations, the surface of these areas, if compacted due to hauling and dumping operations, shall be scarified to a depth of at least 200 mm and graded to an even surface condition. Where applicable/possible topsoil needs to be returned to its original depth over the area.

Θ The area shall then be fertilized if necessary to allow vegetation to establish rapidly. The site shall be seeded with a local, adapted indigenous seed mix.

Θ If a reasonable assessment indicates that the re-establishment of vegetation is unacceptably slow, the DMPR Regional Manager may require that the soil be analysed and any deleterious effects on the soil arising from the mining operation be corrected and the area be seeded with a seed mix to his or her specification.

6.4.3 Final Rehabilitation

Θ Rehabilitation of the surface area shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), maintenance, and clearing of invasive plant species.

Θ All equipment, plant, and other items used during the mining period must be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).

Θ Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, must be removed entirely from the mining area and disposed of at a recognized landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.

Θ The management of invasive plant species must be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities. Species regarded as Category 1a and 1b invasive species in terms of NEM:BA (National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 and regulations applicable thereto) need to be eradicated from the site.

- Final rehabilitation must be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager (DMPR).

6.4.4 Revegetation of Rehabilitated Areas

All reinstated areas must be revegetated to establish a stable grass layer that will tie-in with the end-use of the site. The use of a commercial seed mix is recommended, and for dryland areas, the seed mix should not be less than half the standard sowing rate and include annuals (e.g. wheat or rye) and perennials e.g. Couch Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). The seed mix can be augmented by Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*) and Red Grass (*Themeda triandra*).

6.4.5 Maintenance and Monitoring

Rehabilitated areas need to be monitored and managed after the initial rehabilitation. The mine's primary tool for maintenance of the rehabilitated area will be monitoring of the reinstated areas until the closure certificate is issued. If areas are identified that are considered unsatisfactory then maintenance may include, but not be limited to:

- Replanting failed or unsatisfactory areas;
- Repairing any erosion problems; and
- Pest and invasive plant species control.

6.4.6 Success Criteria and Monitoring

To assess when the rehabilitation and re-vegetation process is complete, the mine will develop a set of completion criteria. These criteria will be reviewed by senior management before being submitted to the regulatory authorities (DMPR) for approval and sign off.

The approved set of completion criteria will be used as a basis for assessing the closure of the mining operations, with the mine required to comply with the specified criteria before the land management can be relinquished. The completion criteria will be reviewed every two years with the closure plan and updated to include findings of the mine rehabilitation research and development program as well as additional requirements of the regulatory authorities.

When selecting completion criteria, consideration must be given to the climatic conditions in the area. Using simple percentage species and percentage cover may

not be appropriate, as this is dependent on when the samples are taken. If the baseline was established during a wet year and the assessment undertaken during drought, the criteria will not be met. The rehabilitated and re-vegetated areas will be monitored to determine the progress of the programme. Monitoring is likely to be a combination of methods and may include photographic monitoring, transects and standard plot areas.

6.4.7 Impact Specific Procedures

The table below provides a summary of the impact specific procedures associated with the closure of the mine.

Table 7: Summary of the impact specific procedures

CLOSURE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	ACTION REQUIRED
SOCIO-ECONOMIC		
Θ The retrenchment process will be followed as per requirements of the applicable legal process; and Θ All existing social investments will be phased out over an agreed period with beneficiaries.	Θ Progressive rehabilitation must be implemented if possible as mining progress.	Θ Any commitments made to I&AP'S will be attended to the relevant I&AP's satisfaction as agreed upon between the I&AP'S and the mine.
TOPOGRAPHY AND EROSION CONTROL		
Θ The area will have contours constructed to prevent soil erosion.	Θ All slopes which may incur erosion will be profiled in such a way that a preferential down drain can be installed; Θ Erosion control measures such as contour banks and cut off berms should be constructed, and soil vegetated in rehabilitated areas. On gentle slopes, water will be encouraged to flow off the rehabilitated surface as surface flow, as quickly as possible without causing erosion.	Θ Should it be noted that designs are not being followed, rehabilitation activities will cease, and corrective measures will be taken to ensure design specifications are achieved. Specialists will be consulted if necessary; Θ Any pooling (outside excavation) will be addressed by filling depression and / or grading areas and re-vegetating such sites; Θ Any erosion will also be addressed utilising contour berms, gabion structures if necessary or a specialist will be consulted if necessary. Any eroded soils will be lifted and returned to the affected area; Θ Any deficiencies will be corrected by placing material in these areas as per the closure plan; Θ Any compacted soils will be ripped or disked and re-vegetated with indigenous flora. Vegetation will then be monitored in these areas; Θ All recommendations made by the specialists will be implemented where deemed appropriate;

CLOSURE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	ACTION REQUIRED
		Θ An invasive plant species management program will be implemented for the control and eradication of alien invasive species on site. This plan will give preference to mechanical control methods. Any chemicals utilised will be used responsibly. Where required DWS will be consulted with regards to the use of certain chemicals.
ECOLOGY		
Θ The rehabilitated area will be protected from surface disturbance to allow vegetation to establish and stabilise.	Θ Vegetation in rehabilitated areas will have equivalent values as surrounding natural ecosystems; Θ The rehabilitated ecosystem will have equivalent functions and resilience as the target ecosystem; Θ Soil properties will be appropriate to support the target ecosystem; Θ The rehabilitated areas will provide appropriate habitat for fauna.	Θ Should it be noted that designs are not being followed, rehabilitation activities will be amended to ensure corrective measures will be taken to ensure design specifications are achieved. Specialists will be consulted if necessary; Θ An invasive plant species management programme will be implemented for the control and eradication of alien invasive species on site. This plan will give preference to mechanical control methods. Any chemicals utilised must be used responsibly.
LAND USE		
Θ To ensure that rehabilitation is done to such an extent that land use potential is regained for farming use and associated zoning.	Θ Only after the shaped areas have been inspected and approved by the Mine Manager/Site Manager will topsoil be placed to a depth of 300 mm. The topsoil layer must be as even as possible, i.e. it must be smooth, and the depth must remain consistent throughout; Θ Once the topsoil has been replaced, vehicle movement will be restricted to prevent compaction of the topsoil; Θ Rehabilitated areas will be vegetated within the same growing season (at the end of the rainy season). A suitable seedbed will be prepared to enhance the penetration and absorption of water, thereby giving the seed the best possible chance to germinate. The seeding depth should be very shallow to provide better germination. For most grass species seeding depth is approximately 5-15 mm; Θ Rehabilitated areas will be re-vegetated with local indigenous flora as far as possible; and	Θ N/A

CLOSURE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	ACTION REQUIRED
	Θ Once the seed mixture has been sown, the land must be rolled to ensure consolidation around the seeds and effective moisture retention.	

6.5 CLOSURE SCHEDULE

At this stage it is proposed that the rehabilitation of the mining area will take approximately twelve months to complete.

Control of invasive plant species is an important aspect after topsoil replacement and seeding has been completed in an area. Site management will implement an invasive plant species management plan during the 12-month aftercare period to address germination of problem plants in the area. Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

According to the MPRDA Section 43 (4) refers to the issues of a closure certificate and stipulates the following:

"Section 43(4) Issuing of a closure certificate -

(4) An application for a closure certificate must be made to the Regional Manager in whose region the land in question is situated within 180 days of the occurrence of the lapsing, abandonment, cancellation, cessation, relinquishment, or completion contemplated in subsection (3) and must be accompanied by the prescribed environmental risk report.

Table 8: Closure schedule.

CLOSURE SCHEDULE	
DECOMMISSIONING / CLOSURE ACTION	**TIMEFRAME**
EXCAVATION	
Quarry Pit: Θ Slope all faces according to final design principals; Θ Deposit available building rubble and overburden into the quarry floor;	Week 1 – 15
Haul Roads: Θ Rip, level, and landscape all haul roads no longer required by landowners; Θ Leave the haul roads around the excavation in an acceptable condition to be used by the landowners after mine closure;	Week 16 - 18

CLOSURE SCHEDULE	
DECOMMISSIONING / CLOSURE ACTION	**TIMEFRAME**
General Surface: Θ Cover the final floor of the quarry pit, the top of the benches and access road slopes with 300 mm of topsoil and re-vegetate with indigenous grasses.	Week 18 - 29
PROCESSING AREA	
Crushing Plant: Θ Dismantle and remove the crushing plant and associated infrastructure and ramps; Θ Remove concrete foundations associated with the plants; Θ Refill the settling ponds;	Week 29 - 41
Stockpile Area: Θ Remove all remaining stockpiled material; Θ Remove overburden dumps;	Week 41 - 43
Supporting infrastructure: Θ Remove all mobile containers/temporary infrastructure; Θ Break up the concrete bunded areas and concrete associated with the weigh bridge and other supporting infrastructure; Θ Demolish the buildings and auxiliary structures (if no longer needed by the landowners); Θ Clean-up any contaminated soil; Θ Remove diesel- and used oil tanks; Θ Remove all waste to a suitable licenced waste disposal facility.	Week 43 - 48
General Surface: Θ Scarify all compacted areas; Θ Level and landscape entire footprint area; Θ Cover with topsoil; Θ Seed the footprint area with an indigenous grass seed mix after topsoiling.	Week 48 - 52
MAINTENANCE AND AFTER CARE	
Θ Erosion Monitoring Θ Weeds and Invasive Plant Control	12 months duration after final closure of the mining area

6.6 IMPLEMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CLOSURE PLAN

Implementation of the closure plan is ultimately the responsibility of the MR Holder. Upon commencement of the closure phase daily compliance monitoring will be the responsibility of the site manager. The site manager will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the guidelines as stipulated in the EMPR as well as the prevention and/or rectification of environmental incidents. The MR Holder will appoint an Environmental Control Officer to oversee compliance of the rehabilitation/closure activities.

6.6.1 Site Management Responsibility List

- Inspect area for erosion, pooling and/or compaction;
- Floral surveys need to be conducted to monitor cover abundance, plant succession and community structure;
- Monitor any ecologically sensitive species should it be observed on site.

6.6.2 Management of Information and Data

The Final Closure Plan must include a description of the management strategies, and all information and data relevant to mine closures. These records are valuable during all phases of mining to provide:

- A history of closure and implementation at the site;
- A history of past developments;
- Information for incorporation into state and national natural resource databases; and
- The potential for improved future land use planning and/or site development.

6.7 IDENTIFIED GAPS IN THE PLAN

The assumptions made in this plan, which relate to the closure objectives and associated impacts on the receiving environment, stem from site specific information gathered by the project team. No gaps in the Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan could be identified.

6.8 RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

The specific rehabilitation outcomes against which the effectiveness of completed rehabilitation must be measured are:

1. that the topography has been sufficiently rehabilitated without unsafe excavation edges;
2. that topsoil has been spread on the surface;
3. that there is a potential rooting depth of at least 300 mm, of non-compacted soil material, which is suitable for root growth, across the mining area;
4. that there is no visible erosion across the area, or down-slope of it as a result of mining, and that no part of the area has been left unacceptably vulnerable to erosion;
5. that a successful cover crop has been established across the area.

In addition to the above, the following relinquishment criteria is proposed for the closure activities of Aliwal Quarry:

Table 9: Relinquishment criteria for closure activities.

RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE ACTIVITIES			
CATEGORY	**RELINQUISHMENT CRITERIA**	**INDICATORS**	**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**
Removal of all unwanted equipment.	No visible man-made structures, that are not required by the landowners, should remain.	Closeout inspection by site management upon end of decommissioning phase.	Photographic evidence that infrastructure has been removed.
Soil erosion	Implementation of erosion control measures or the establishment of vegetation in denuded areas.	Engineered structures to control water flow	Proof in final closure report that required structures are in place and functional.
Vegetation	Seeding of a cover crop after topsoiling.	Biodiversity monitoring	Monitoring report
Invasive plant management	Continuous management of invasive plants until the establishment of the first cover crop.	Biodiversity monitoring	Monitoring report
Land Use	Land capability and productivity like that, which existed prior to mining.	Land capability and productivity	Comparison to equivalent areas.

6.9 CLOSURE COST ESTIMATE

Financial provision, as required under Section 41 and Regulations 53 and 54 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA), refers to the amount that must be set aside to rehabilitate environmental damage caused by mining operations. This provision covers both sudden and premature closure during the operational life of the project as well as final, planned closure. The financial provision must reflect the actual cost the Department would incur to rehabilitate the area should the holder of the right liquidate or abscond. Financial provision for environmental rehabilitation and mine closure is therefore an integral requirement of the MPRDA framework to ensure that mining does not leave a legacy of environmental degradation.

Refer to Appendix F of the 2025 EMPR for the most recent (2025) review of the mine's closure cost estimate. (*Note, this document is not a public document, and therefore not attached to the draft EMPR*).

6.10 MOTIVATION FOR AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE FINAL REHABILITATION, DECOMMISSIONING AND MINE CLOSURE PLAN

The Final Rehabilitation, Decommissioning and Mine Closure Plan of Aliwal Quarry was revised and renewed in support of the EMPR amendment to be submitted to the DMPR for approval.

7. MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING

In compliance with applicable legislation, the MR Holder will conduct monitoring of the rehabilitation activities for the duration of the decommissioning and closure phase. The compliance of the site will be audited, and reporting will be done to the relevant authorities. The table below stipulates the actions to be followed in this regard. Monitoring, auditing, and reporting needs to be conducted until mine closure has been approved by the DMPR and the closure certificate obtained.

Table 10: Monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements

MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS			
AUDIT	**RESPONSIBLE PERSON**	**FREQUENCY OF AUDIT**	**CLOSE OUT APPROACH**
LEGISLATED AUDITING AND REPORTING			
Environmental Auditing	**Internal Review**		
	Site manager to ensure compliance with Environmental Management Programme and Closure Plan.	Daily compliance monitoring.	Any non-conformance must immediately be addressed by site management and weekly reported on.
	External Auditing		
	External Environmental Consultant	Annual auditing and reporting to the DMPR.	Depending on the significance of the findings, site management has a maximum of four weeks to address and close out auditing results.
Financial Provision Review	Financial Provision Review	Annual review of the financial provision and reporting of the findings to the DMPR.	Should the review of the financial provision indicate a shortfall the holder of the right would increase the financial provision to meet the audited financial provision within 90 days from the date of the signature.

MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS			
AUDIT	**RESPONSIBLE PERSON**	**FREQUENCY OF AUDIT**	**CLOSE OUT APPROACH**
		MONITORING	
Dust Monitoring	Dust Monitoring Consultant	Daily Dust Monitoring	Site management has a maximum of two weeks to develop and implement a dust management plan should the dust levels increase, and such a plan is required by DMPR or the municipality.
Invader Plant Monitoring	Site Management	Annual Monitoring	Site management has a maximum of two weeks to review and implement the invader plant control plan should Category 1a & b plants in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 15 of 1973) and the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014 (amended 2016) germinate on-site.
Noise Monitoring	Noise Monitoring Specialist	Quarterly Noise Monitoring	Site management has a maximum of one week to designate additional noise zone where applicable. Hearing protection equipment must always be available to employees.

7.1 SCHEDULE FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following table stipulates the reporting requirements and how document updating will be handled:

Table 11: Reporting requirements.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS			
AUDIT	**LEGISLATION**	**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**	**UPDATE DISCLOSURE**
Environmental Auditing	NEMA; EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)	Reporting on the environmental compliance of the mining area will be in accordance with Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. The environmental audit report will contain the information set out in Appendix 7 of the said Regulation.	The environmental audit report will indicate the ability of the EMPR and Closure Plan to adequately manage the activity. Should the reports not be sufficient, amendment will be proposed.
Financial Provision Review	NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 25 of 2014) Financial Provision Regulations, 2015	Reporting on the financial provision for closure of the mining area will be in accordance with Section 24P of the NEMA Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 25 of 2014) read with the Financial Provision Regulations 2015.	The auditor will report on the adequacy of the financial provision and any adjustments that need to be made to the financial provision.
Health and Safety Auditing	Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996	Reporting on the health and safety compliance of the mining area will be in accordance with the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996.	The safety manager will annually update the Code of Practices applicable to the site.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

The objective of the environmental risk assessment report is to:

a) ensure timeous risk reduction through appropriate interventions;
b) identify and quantify the potential latent environmental risks related to post closure;
c) detail the approach to managing the risks;
d) quantity the potential liabilities associated with the management of the risks; and
e) outline monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements.
(Financial Provision Regulations, 2015 Appendix 4)

8.1 ASSESSMENT PROCESS USED TO IDENTIFY AND QUANTIFY LATENT RISKS

8.1.1 Methodology

The methodology for the assessment of the potential latent risks entailed the use of the following:

DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

Environmental significance:

The concept of significance is at the core of impact identification, evaluation, and decision-making. The concept remains largely undefined and there is no international consensus on a single definition. The following common elements are recognised from the various interpretations:

- Θ Environmental significance is a value judgement
- Θ The degree of environmental significance depends on the nature of the risk
- Θ The importance is rated in terms of both biophysical and socio-economic values
- Θ Determining significance involves the amount of change to the environment perceived to be acceptable to affected communities.

Significance can be differentiated into risk magnitude and risk significance. Risk magnitude is the measurable change (i.e. intensity, duration and likelihood). Risk significance is the value placed on the change by different affected parties (i.e. level of acceptability).

The concept of risk has two dimensions, namely the consequence of an event or set of circumstances, and the likelihood of particular consequences being realised (Environment Australia (1999) Environmental Risk Management).

Impact

The positive or negative effects on human well-being and / or the environment.

Consequence

The intermediate or outcome of an event or situation OR it is the result, on the environment, of an event.

Likelihood

A qualitative term covering both probability and frequency.

Frequency

The number of occurrences of a defined event in a given time or rate.

Probability

The likelihood of a specific outcome measured by the ratio of a specific outcome to the total number of possible outcomes.

Environment

Surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation (ISO 14004, 1996).

Methodology that will be used

The environmental significance assessment methodology is based on the following determination:

Environmental Significance = Overall Consequence x Overall Likelihood

Determination of Overall Consequence

Consequence analysis is a mixture of quantitative and qualitative information, and the outcome can be positive or negative. Several factors can be used to determine consequence. For the purpose of determining the environmental significance in terms of consequence, the following factors were chosen: ***Severity/Intensity, Duration and Extent/Spatial Scale***. Each factor is assigned a rating of 1 to 5, as described in the tables below.

Determination of Severity / Intensity

Severity relates to the nature of the event, aspect or impact to the environment and describes how severe the aspects impact on the biophysical and socio-economic environment.

The following table will be used to obtain an overall rating for severity, taking into consideration the various criteria.

Table 12: Rating of severity used in the assessment of potential latent risks.

Type of criteria	Rating				
	1	2	3	4	5
Quantitative	0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
Qualitative	Insignificant / Non-harmful	Small / Potentially harmful	Significant/ Harmful	Great/ Very harmful	Disastrous Extremely harmful
Social/ Community response	Acceptable / I&AP satisfied	Slightly tolerable / Possible objections	Intolerable/ Sporadic complaints	Unacceptable / Widespread complaints	Totally unacceptable / Possible legal action
Irreversibility	Very low cost to mitigate/ High potential to mitigate impacts to level of insignificance/ Easily reversible	Low cost to mitigate	Substantial cost to mitigate/ Potential to mitigate impacts/ Potential to reverse impact	High cost to mitigate	Prohibitive cost to mitigate/ Little or no mechanism to mitigate impact Irreversible
Biophysical (Air quality, water quantity and quality, waste production, fauna and flora)	Insignificant change / deterioration or disturbance	Moderate change / deterioration or disturbance	Significant change / deterioration or disturbance	Very significant change / deterioration or disturbance	Disastrous change / deterioration or disturbance

Determination of Duration

Duration refers to the amount of time that the environment will be affected by the event, risk, or impact, if no intervention e.g. remedial action takes place.

Table 13: Rating of duration used in the assessment of potential latent risks.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Up to ONE MONTH
2	ONE MONTH to THREE MONTHS (QUARTER)
3	THREE MONTHS to ONE YEAR
4	ONE to TEN YEARS
5	Beyond TEN YEARS

Determination of Extent/Spatial Scale

Extent or spatial scale is the area affected by the event, aspect, or impact.

Table 14: Rating of extent / spatial scale used in the assessment of potential latent risks.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Immediate, fully contained area
2	Surrounding area
3	Within Business Unit area of responsibility
4	Within the farm/neighbouring farm area
5	Regional, National, International

Determination of Overall Consequence

Overall consequence is determined by adding the factors determined above and summarized below and then dividing the sum by 3.

Table 15: Example of calculating overall consequence in the assessment of potential latent risks.

CONSEQUENCE	RATING
Severity	Example 4
Duration	Example 2
Extent	Example 4
SUBTOTAL	**10**
TOTAL CONSEQUENCE: (Subtotal divided by 3)	**3.3**

Determination of Likelihood

The determination of likelihood is a combination of Frequency and Probability. Each factor is assigned a rating of 1 to 5, as described below and in tables 6 and 7.

Determination of Frequency

Frequency refers to how often the specific activity, related to the event, aspect, or impact, is undertaken.

Table 16: Rating of frequency used in the assessment of potential latent risks.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Once a year or once/more during operation
2	Once/more in 6 Months
3	Once/more a Month
4	Once/more a Week
5	Daily

Determination of Probability

Probability refers to how often the activity or aspect has an impact on the environment.

Table 17: Rating of probability used in the assessment of potential latent risks.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Almost never / almost impossible
2	Very seldom / highly unlikely
3	Infrequent / unlikely / seldom
4	Often / regularly / likely / possible
5	Daily / highly likely / definitely

Overall Likelihood

Overall likelihood is calculated by adding the factors determined above and summarised below and then dividing the sum by 2.

Table 18: Example of calculating overall likelihood in the assessment of potential latent risks.

CONSEQUENCE	RATING
Frequency	Example 4
Probability	Example 2
SUBTOTAL	**6**
TOTAL LIKELIHOOD (Subtotal divided by 2)	**3**

Determination of Overall Environmental Significance

The multiplication of overall consequence with overall likelihood will provide the significance of the risk, which is a number that will then fall into a range of **Insignificant risk, Uncertain risk** or **Significant Risk**, as shown in the table below.

Table 19: Determination of overall environmental significance in the assessment of potential latent risks.

SIGNIFICANCE OR RISK	INSIGNIFICANT RISK (CC)	UNCERTAIN RISK (BB)	POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT RISK (AA)
Overall Consequence X Overall Likelihood	1 - 4.9	5 - 9.9	10 – 19.9

Qualitative description or magnitude of Environmental Significance

This description is qualitative and is an indication of the nature or magnitude of the Environmental Significance. It also guides the prioritisations and decision making process associated with this event, aspect, or impact.

Table 20: Description of environmental significance and related action required in the assessment of potential latent risks.

SIGNIFICANCE	AN INSIGNIFICANT RISK (CC)	A UNCERTAIN RISK (BB)	A POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT RISK (AA)
Impact Magnitude	Impact is of very low order and therefore likely to have very little real effect. Acceptable.	Impact is of low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. Acceptable.	Impact is real and substantial in relation to other impacts. Pose a risk to the company. Unacceptable
Action Required	Maintain current management measures. Where possible improve.	Maintain current management measures. Implement monitoring and evaluate to determine potential increase in risk. Where possible improve	Improve management measures to reduce risk.

Based on the above, the significance rating scale has been determined as follows:

A potential Risk (aa)	Risks of a substantial order. Mitigation and / or remedial activity would be feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.
An uncertain risk (bb)	Risk would be negligible. Almost no mitigation and or remedial activity would be needed, and any minor steps, which might be needed, would be easy, cheap, and simple.
An insignificant risk (cc)	There would be very small to no risk.

8.1.2 Description of Latent Risks

Once adequately rehabilitated, the excavation will nevertheless behave as a sump and collect surface run-off after wet periods. The floor of the quarry may, therefore, reveal fluctuating water levels depending on rainfall patterns. Considering this, it is important to adequately block access to the excavation (soil berm / oversize rock in entrance) to prevent unauthorized access to humans (especially children) and domestic animals upon closure of the mine.

8.1.3 Results and Finding of Risk Assessment

Potential Impact: Safety risk posed by stagnant water in the excavation

Rating Prior To Mitigation: **Potential Significant Risk**

			Consequence			Likelihood	**Significance**
Severity	Duration	Extend		Probability	Frequency		
3	5	1	3	5	5	5	**15**

8.1.4 Changes to the Risk Assessment Results

It is proposed that access to the excavation must be blocked (soil berm / oversize rock in entrance) to prevent unauthorized access to humans (especially children) and domestic animals upon closure of the mine. Should this mitigation measure/management practice be implemented the significance of the risk can be reduced to an Insignificant risk.

Potential Impact: Safety risk posed by stagnant water in the excavation

Rating After Mitigation: **Insignificant Risk**

			Consequence			Likelihood	**Significance**
Severity	Duration	Extend		Probability	Frequency		
2	5	1	2.6	2	1	1.5	**3.9**

8.2 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Apart from restricting entrance to the excavation, the following additional management activities may be considered to prevent stagnant water from becoming a safety risk:

- Design and maintain diversion channels, berms, and drains to redirect stormwater away from the excavation.
- Erect clear warning signs near areas where water may accumulate temporarily.

8.3 COST ESTIMATE

If the entrances to the excavation are blocked during the decommissioning phase, as part of the rehabilitation of the mining area, no additional costs will be incurred as the MR Holder's own machinery will be employed and the oversize rock/unwanted soil from the mining area will be used.

8.4 MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The efficiency of the blockage/berm at the entrance to the excavation must be monitored for a 12-month duration after final closure of the mining area, and improvements must be implemented should shortcomings be identified.

9. CONCLUSION

This Closure Plan needs to be followed together with the EMPR and its amendments when it is decided that the end of mining has been reached. This document gives the necessary information when planning the rehabilitation of the mine together with the cost associated with the rehabilitation.

Aliwal Dolerite Quarry (Pty) Ltd commits itself to providing all the necessary resources to ensure that the rehabilitation of the mine is done in such a way that will be acceptable to all parties involved.

10. SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Christine Fouché	*Christine Fouché*	06 October 2025

11. UNDERTAKING BY MINING RIGHT HOLDER

I, ……., the undersigned and duly authorised thereto by ..... ……. that Aliwal Dolerite Quarry (Pty) Ltd will comply with the provisions of the MPRDA and its Regulations as set out in Government Gazette no. 26275 (23 April 2004), as well as NEMA.

I have studied and understand the contents of this document and duly undertake to adhere to the conditions as set out therein, unless specifically or otherwise agreed to in writing.

Signed at …….. on this ……day of ……2025……

FINAL DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED

_____

Name:

Designation:

12. REFERENCES

- Θ Chamber of Mines of South Africa, 1981. Guidelines for the rehabilitation of land disturbed by surface product mining in South Africa, Johannesburg
- Θ Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, 2003. Draft: A practical procedure for the identification and delineation of wetlands andarian areas, Pretoria
- Θ Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Integrated Environmental Management Information Series: Impacts Significance
- Θ Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) (2007b) Best Practice Guideline A4: Pollution control dams. The Government Printer, Pretoria