



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

### Applicant:

Lime Sales Limited  
PO Box 160  
Milnerton  
7435  
Tel: 021 552 3090

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir/ Madam

19 September 2018

**RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO 28 OF 2002) AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998 NEMA) AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS OF 2014 (AS AMENDED BY GNR 326 EFFECTIVE 7 APRIL 2017)**

Lime Sales Limited intends to apply for a mining permit for the mining of aggregate, 5 ha, on a portion of Portion 2 (Remaining Extent) of the farm Aroams 57, Registration Division of Namaqualand RD, Northern Cape.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The on a portion of Portion 2 (Remaining Extent) of the farm Aroams 57, Registration Division of Namaqualand RD, Northern Cape is situated approximately 8.84 km East Aggeneys, Northern Cape Province. The area earmarked for the proposed mining falls on a section of the farm that was previously used as an existing quarry and the intention of this application is to increase the existing quarry on the left. The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining area are as follow:

| Site Coordinates               |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Decimal Degrees                | Degrees; Minutes: Seconds       |
| ■ A – 29.169714°S; 18.991503°E | ■ A 29°10'10.97"S 18°59'29.41"E |
| ■ B – 29.169424°S; 18.993927°E | ■ B 29°10'9.93"S 18°59'38.14"E  |
| ■ C – 29.169963°S; 18.993924°E | ■ C 29°10'11.87"S 18°59'38.13"E |
| ■ D – 29.169816°S; 18.994834°E | ■ D 29°10'11.34"S 18°59'41.40"E |
| ■ E - 29.170214°S; 18.994001°E | ■ E 29°10'12.77"S 18°59'38.40"E |
| ■ F - 29.170657°S; 18.994091°E | ■ F 29°10'14.37"S 18°59'38.73"E |
| ■ G - 29.170624°S; 18.994532°E | ■ G 29°10'14.25"S 18°59'40.31"E |

**the goal isn't to live forever, it is to protect a planet that will**

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|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ■ H - 29.171368°S; 18.994995°E | ■ H 29°10'16.92"S 18°59'41.98"E |
| ■ I - 29.171830°S; 18.992989°E | ■ I 29°10'18.59"S 18°59'34.76"E |
| ■ A – 29.169714°S; 18.991503°E | ■ A 29°10'10.97"S 18°59'29.41"E |

### **LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

An application for a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA] will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) [NEMA] and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended by GNR 326 effective 7 April 2017), and therefore requires a basic assessment process to obtain environmental authorisation:

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 21:

*Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including —*

- (a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource [,]; or [including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)]*
- (b) the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing;*

*but excluding the secondary processing of a mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in Listing Notice 2 applies.*

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 22:

*The decommissioning of any activity requiring –*

- (i) a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); or*
- (ii) a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure;*

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*but excluding the decommissioning of an activity relating to the secondary processing of a –*  
*(a) mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource; or*  
*(b) petroleum resource, including the refining of gas, beneficiation, oil or petroleum products; –*  
*in which case activity 31 in this Notice applies.*

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 27:

*The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.*

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 28:

*Commercial and industrial developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.*

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 35:

*The expansion of residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes, where the increased development footprint will exceed 1 000 square meters; excluding—*

- (i) where such land has been remediated in terms of part 8 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies; or*
- (ii) where an environmental authorisation has been obtained for the decommissioning of such a mine or industry in terms of this Notice or any previous NEMA notice; or*
- (iii) where a closure certificate has been issued in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) for such land.*

Other legislation triggered by the proposed project includes:

- An application for a Mining Permit in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resource.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed mining site will be an extension of the existing quarry pit previously distributed by stone aggregate mining activities. The mining methods will make use of blasting means of explosives in order to loosen the hard rock, the material is then loaded and hauled out of the excavation to the mobile crushing and screening plants. The

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aggregate will be stockpiles and transported to clients via trucks and trailers. All activities will be contained within the boundaries of the site.

The proposed mining area is approximately 5 ha in extent and the applicant, Lime Sales Limited, intends to win material from the area for at least 2 years with a possible extension of another 3 years. The aggregate / stone gravel to be removed from the quarry will be used for road construction in the vicinity. The proposed quarry will therefore contribute to the upgrading / maintenance of road infrastructure in and around the Aggeneys area.

The mining activities will consist out of the following:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil;
- Blasting;
- Excavating;
- Crushing;
- Stockpiling and transporting;
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site; and
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetation the disturbed area.

The mining site will contain the following:

- Drilling equipment;
- Excavating equipment;
- Earth moving equipment;
- Mobile crushing and screening plants;
- Temporary office;
- Site vehicles;
- Parking area for visitors and site vehicles;
- Site storage containers;
- Generator or bunded area;
- Workshop; and
- Chemical ablution facilities.

### **DUST:**

- Speed on the access road will be limited to 40 km/h to prevent the generation of excess dust.
- Roads will be sprayed with water or an environmentally friendly dust-allaying agent that contains no PCB's (e.g. DAS products) if dust is generated above acceptable limits.

### **NOISE:**

- It will be ensured that employees and staff conduct themselves in an acceptable manner while on site.

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- All mining vehicles will be equipped with silencers and maintained in a road worthy condition in terms of the Road Transport Act.
- The noise generated from the mining machinery will be similar to noise generated along the R33 by public vehicles. Blasting noise will be instantaneous and of short duration. This will only occur once every two to three weeks.
- The type, duration and timing of the blasting procedures will be planned with due cognisance of other land users and structures in the vicinity.
- Surrounding land owners will be notified in writing prior to blasting occasions.

### **ACCESS ROUTE:**

- The existing access road to the site will be used. No new roads will be needed for this activity.
- The applicant will be responsible for the maintenance of the road for the duration of the mining activities
- Should any other access roads to the mining area be required it will be established in consultation with the landowner however existing roads will be used as far as practicable.

### **SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:**

No drainage channels occur within the mining area and there is no dendritic system which could be disturbed. Given the variability of semi-arid rainfall, the calculation of the mean annual runoff (MAR) would be of no use. The MAR is very low given the low rainfall (less than 250 mm/year) occurring mainly in the winter months, high evaporation rates, and shallow grade of the slope toward the drainage channels and the permeability of the soils. The surface water quality (when available after severe rainstorms) is suitable for animal consumption but not as potable water. No natural wetlands exist in the area.

- The proposed mining area will be further than 100m from any natural water source.
- The proposed activities are not expected to have a negative impact on the ground water of the area.

### **VEGETATION:**

The mining area is situated within the Nama-Karoo Biome. The vegetation consists of Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type (NKb 3 according to Mucina and Rutherford, 2006) covering an area of 45478.96 ha that is rated as least threatened with little of the area transformed. Erosion in this vegetation type is deemed to range from very low (60%) to low (33%).

A large amount of pioneer species occurs within the proposed mining area due to previous disturbance dominated by *Galenia fruticosa* and *Tetragonia arbuscula*.

The dominant species outside the disturbed area is covered by sparse open grassland, with prominent *Stipagrostis* grass species, along with scattered drought resistant dwarf shrubs. No protected plant species could be identified at the time of the site inspection.

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### **GEOLOGY & SOILS:**

According to Mucina and Rutherford, 2006 a third of the geology of the area is covered by recent (Quaternary) alluvium and calcrete. The soils of most of the area are red-yellow apedal soils, with a high base status and <300mm deep, typical of Ag and Ae land types. The soils are typically weakly structured with low organic content. These soils drain freely which results in a soil surface susceptible to erosion, especially wind erosion when the vegetation cover is sparse and gully erosion in areas where storm-water is allowed to concentrate. The soils in the area are generally not suitable for dry land crop production therefore the pre-mining land capacity is categorized as Class III grazing land. The productivity of the area is very low at 8 – 10 Ha/SSU.

The area is characterized by an expansive, undulating landscape. The area is dominated by a plain of dry grasslands with scattered ancient rocky outcrops, named Inselbergs. The proposed mine will be established for the winning of aggregates to be used in the construction industry. The area was chosen as it is adjacent to the area previously disturbed for mining purposes and would therefore minimize the impact on the surrounding natural environment as well as consolidate the mining related impacts on the farm to one area.

### **CLIMATE:**

Aggeneys normally receives about 34 mm of rain per year, with most of the rainfall occurring mainly during autumn. Figure 1 shows the average rainfall values for Aggeneys per month. It receives the lowest rainfall (0 mm) in December and the highest (9 mm) in March. The monthly distribution of average daily maximum temperatures in Figure 2 shows the average midday temperatures for Aggeneys range from 17.7 °C in July to 31.6 °C in January. The region is coldest during July when temperatures drops to 3 °C on an average during the night. Refer to Figure 3 below for an indication of the monthly variation of average minimum daily temperatures.

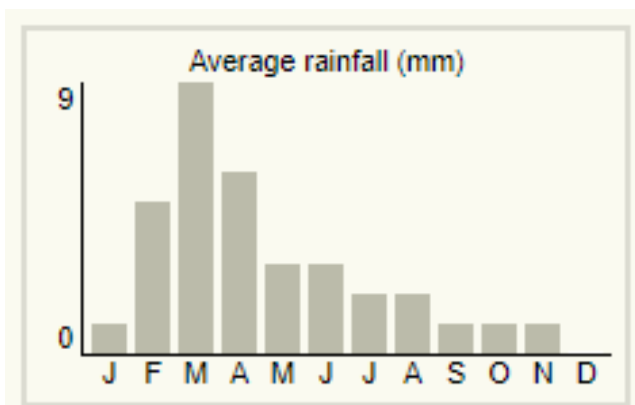


Figure 1: Average rainfall for Aggeneys

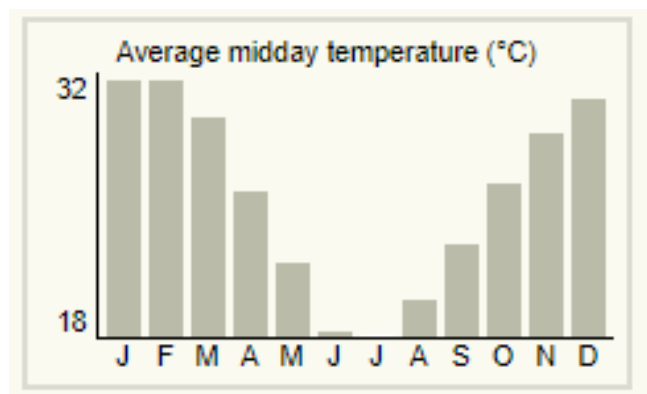


Figure 2: Average midday temperature

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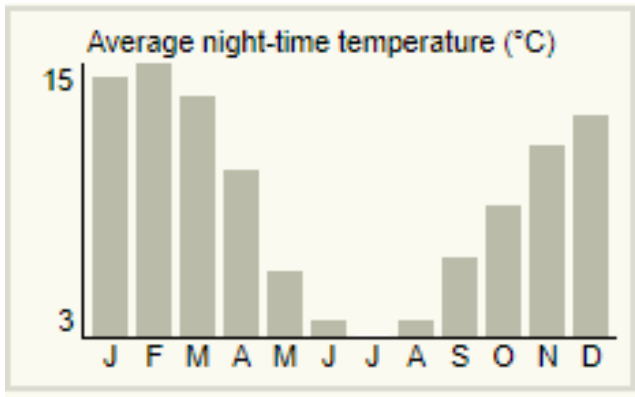


Figure 3: Average night-time temperature

### **SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST:**

No sites of archaeological or cultural importance were identified during the site inspection. As the proposed mining activity will take place within an area previously utilized for mining purposes, the activity is not anticipated to have a negative impact on any archaeological or cultural aspects.

### **FAUNA:**

Various small mammals and reptiles occur on the property. Larger herbivore species are very scarce or absent due to the conflicting land use.

The fauna at the site will not be impacted by the proposed mining activity as they will be able to move away or through the site, without being harmed. Workers should be informed and managed to ensure that no fauna at the site is harmed. Upon commencement of the proposed mining activities, a fence surrounding the mining area should be erected to prevent sheep entering the site.

- The fauna at the site will not be impacted by the proposed mining activity as they will be able to move away or through the site, without being harmed. Workers should be educated and managed to ensure that no fauna at the site is harmed.

### **VISUAL EXPOSURE:**

- The mining area was identified to constitute the lowest possible visual impact on the surrounding environment.
- The surrounding area has previously been disturbed by mining activities, and this application entails the extension of the existing mining area.
- The crusher plant and all stockpiling will be done on the area previously disturbed for mining purposes, and no new processing areas will need to be opened.
- The applicant should however ensure that housekeeping is managed to standard, as this will mitigate the visual impacts during the operational phase of the mine.

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- Upon closure the site will be rehabilitated and sloped to insure that the visual impact on the aesthetic value of the area is kept to a minimum.
- The site will have a neat appearance and be kept in good condition at all times

### **ABLUTION, WASTE WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL:**

- Ablution facilities will consist of chemical toilets hired from a contractor and serviced regularly.
- Any effluents containing oil, grease or other industrial substances will be collected in a suitable receptacle and removed from the site, either for resale or for appropriate disposal at a recognised facility.
- Spills would be cleaned up immediately to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager by removing the spillage together with the polluted soil and by disposing of them at a recognised facility.
- No mining waste will be generated. General waste will be disposed at the authorised Aggeneys Disposal facility.
- Non-biodegradable refuse such as glass bottles, plastic bags, metal scrap, etc., will be stored in a container at a collecting point and collected on a regular basis and disposed of at a recognised landfill site.
- Biodegradable refuse generated will be handled as indicated above.
- No waste will be burned or buried on site.

### **FINAL REHABILITATION:**

- Rehabilitation of the surface area shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), and weed / alien clearing.
- All infrastructures, equipment, and other items used during the mining period will be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).
- Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, will be removed entirely from the mining area and disposed of at a recognised landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.
- Weed / Alien clearing will be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities. Species categorised as weeds according to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) [NEMBA] Alien and Invasive Species Regulation GNR 598 and 599 of 2014 Species regarded as need to be eradicated from the site on final closure.
- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

Lime Sales Limited will make use of temporary infrastructure during the mining operations. Workers will be transported to and from the site daily.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

This document is to inform you about the proposed activity and to determine whether there are any concerns or objections from Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) that need to be considered.



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As an Interested and Affected Party you are kindly requested to complete the comments form and give any comment, concern or input with regard to the current land use of the area, the environment as well as socio-economic conditions that you feel might be affected by the proposed activity. When submitting response please provide suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impact of each identified activity.

Please contact Yolandie Coetzee at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at [yolandie.c@greenmined.co.za](mailto:yolandie.c@greenmined.co.za) through any means should you need more information, have concerns or comments that need to be considered or if you want to be registered as an interested and / or affected party and would like to receive a copy of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) on or before **22 October 2018**. If we do not receive any comments from you within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be accepted that you do not have any objections / comments with regard to the project.

A register of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) will be opened and maintained containing the names, contact details and address of all persons who have submitted written comments, attended meetings or have in writing requested to be registered and all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity.

Please note that only registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be entitled to comment on reports and plans to be submitted to the Department provided that the party provide its name, contact details and address and discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which he / she may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.

The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Mpumalanga, for review purposes. This report will also be made available to the public for a 30 days review period. An electronic copy of the report will be published on the Greenmined Environmental website ([www.greenmined.com](http://www.greenmined.com)).

The DBAR will then be updated to reflect the comments received during the public commenting period. Upon which, the Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) will be submitted to the DMR for its consideration as part of the authorization process in terms of the NEMA regulation. A copy of the final report will be made available on the Greenmined Environmental website ([www.greenmined.com](http://www.greenmined.com)). All registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be notified in writing within 14 days of the date of the decision of the outcome of the application, including the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal.

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**CONTACT DETAILS:**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name/Naam</b>                |  |
| <b>Organisation/Instansie</b>   |  |
| <b>Interest/Belange</b>         |  |
| <b>Postal Address/Pos Adres</b> |  |
| <b>Tel</b>                      |  |
| <b>Fax/Faks</b>                 |  |
| <b>E-mail/E-pos</b>             |  |

**COMMENTS/ OPMERKINGS:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>No Objection:</b>                   |  |
| <b>Request additional information:</b> |  |
| <b>Concerns:</b>                       |  |

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Are there any other organisations or individuals that you feel should be invited to comment? If so, please provide their contact details:**

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Contact name:                 |
| Organisation (if applicable): |
| Address:                      |
|                               |
| Tel:                          |
| Fax                           |
| E-mail                        |

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|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Contact name:                 |
| Organisation (if applicable): |
| Address:                      |
|                               |
| Tel:                          |
| Fax                           |
| E-mail                        |

Your feedback is valued and will be addressed appropriately.

Kind Regards



Yolandie Coetzee  
Greenmined Environmental