



# VELE COLLIERY

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

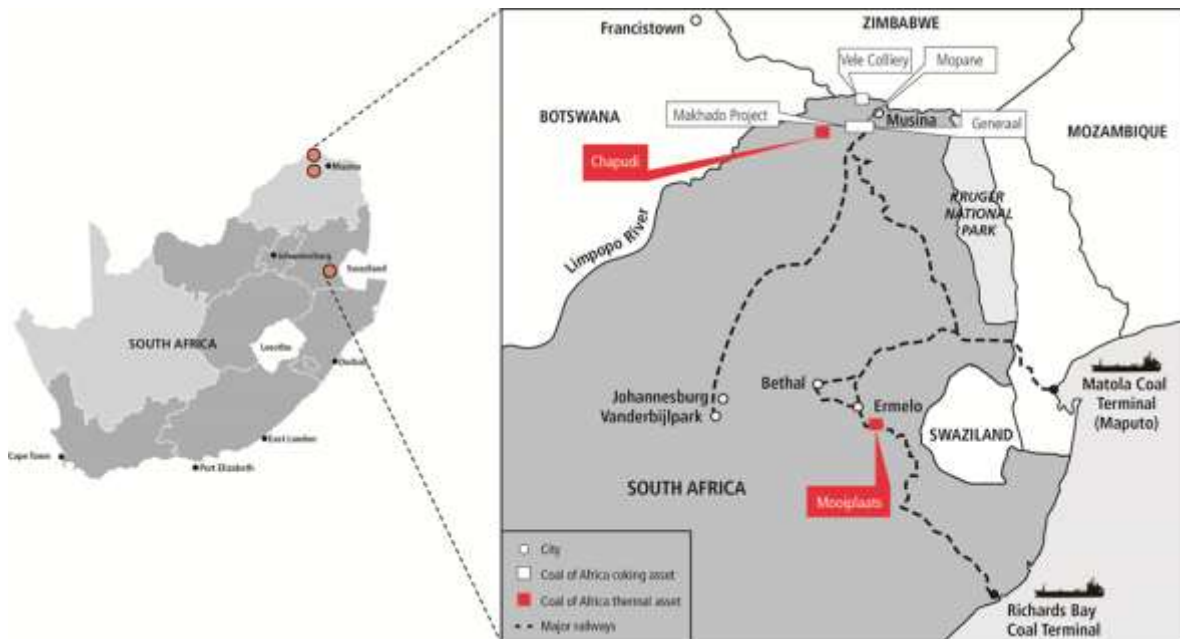
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998)

DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/2008

2 June 2014

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Coal of Africa Limited (CoAL) is an emerging developer of high-quality thermal and coking coal, with its assets located primarily in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, following the implementation of a restructuring and repositioning process.



### PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The Background Information Document (BID) provides Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with information on the Environmental Authorisation amendment process for the Vele Colliery which is being undertaken by CoAL. IAPs are invited to comment on the proposed Amendment Report.

Complete the attached comment form and return to Naledi Development:

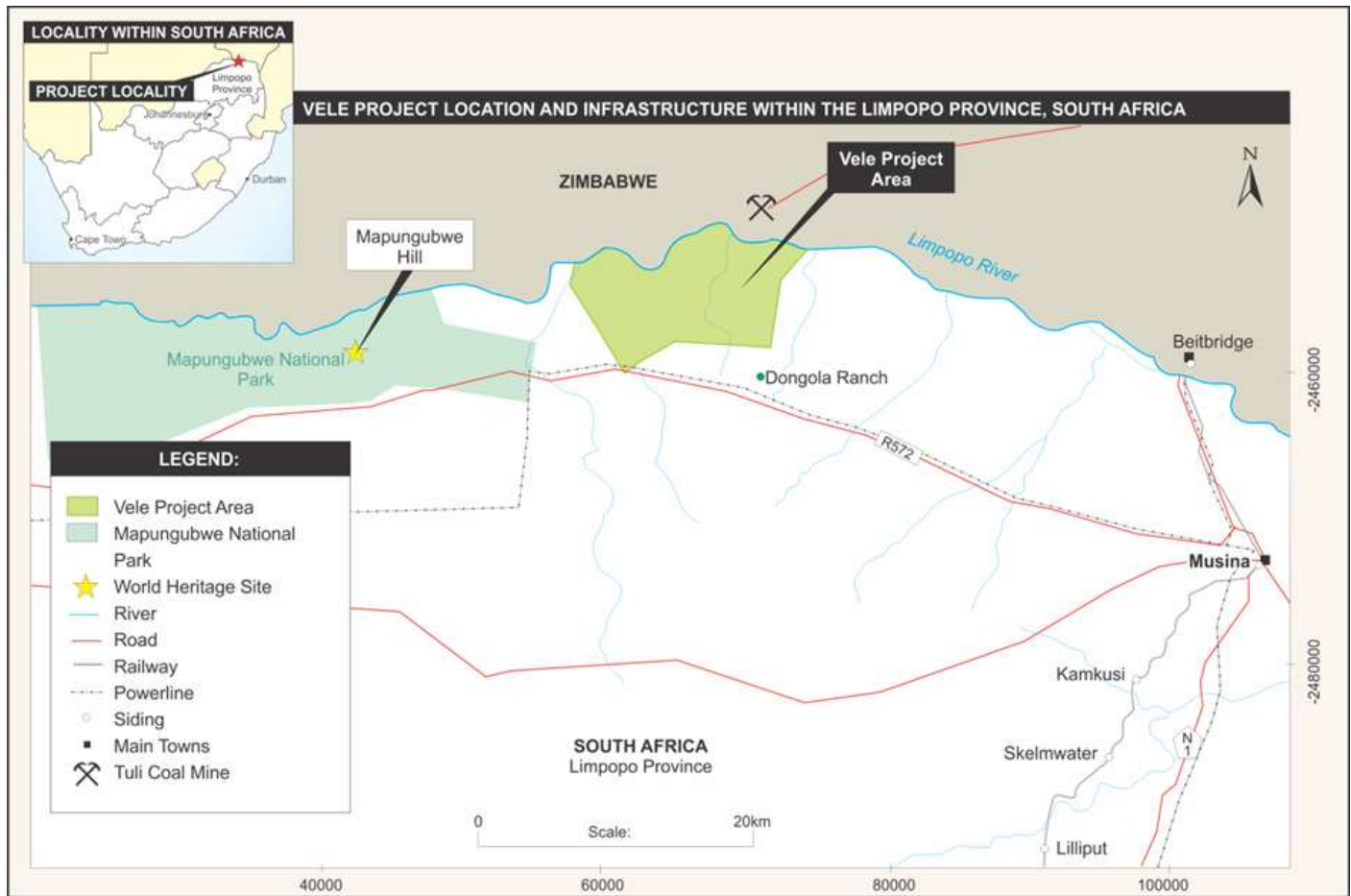
Naledi Development Restructured (Pty) Ltd

Lizinda Dickson

Tel: (012) 543 9093; Fax: (086) 236 1672

Email: [vele.pmp@gmail.com](mailto:vele.pmp@gmail.com)

## 2 PROJECT LOCATION



The Vele Colliery is situated in the magisterial district of Musina in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The Project area is bounded in the north by the Limpopo River, which defines the international border with Zimbabwe. The easternmost boundary of Mapungubwe National Park is situated approximately 5 km to the west of the westernmost boundary of the Vele Project area. The mining area for the next sixteen years is situated approximately 14 km from the Mapungubwe National Park eastern boundary. The Mapungubwe World Heritage Site (Mapungubwe Hill) is situated approximately 20 km to the west of the westernmost boundary of the Vele Project Area. The nearest town is Musina, situated approximately 40 km to the southeast of the Vele Project area.

## 3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Vele Colliery, owned by Limpopo Coal Company (LCC), a wholly owned subsidiary of CoAL, started production of thermal coal in January 2012, producing 697 953 tonnes of Run-of-Mine (ROM) coal, yielding 195 756 tonnes of export quality coal up to June 2013.

Extensive product quality testing of the coking coal commenced in August 2013, after the approval of the Plant Modification Project (PMP) concept by the CoAL board. The product testing confirmed the quality of the coal, and the Colliery's ability to produce both Semi Soft Coking Coal (SSCC) and a range of thermal products. The current single stage processing plant would require

modification to a two stage processing plant, enabling the production of three products: SSCC, Eskom thermal coal and sized thermal coal. All modifications are situated within the existing plant footprint and therefore covered by the existing specialist studies and Environmental Authorisations. The Colliery was placed under care and maintenance in preparation for the implementation of the PMP.

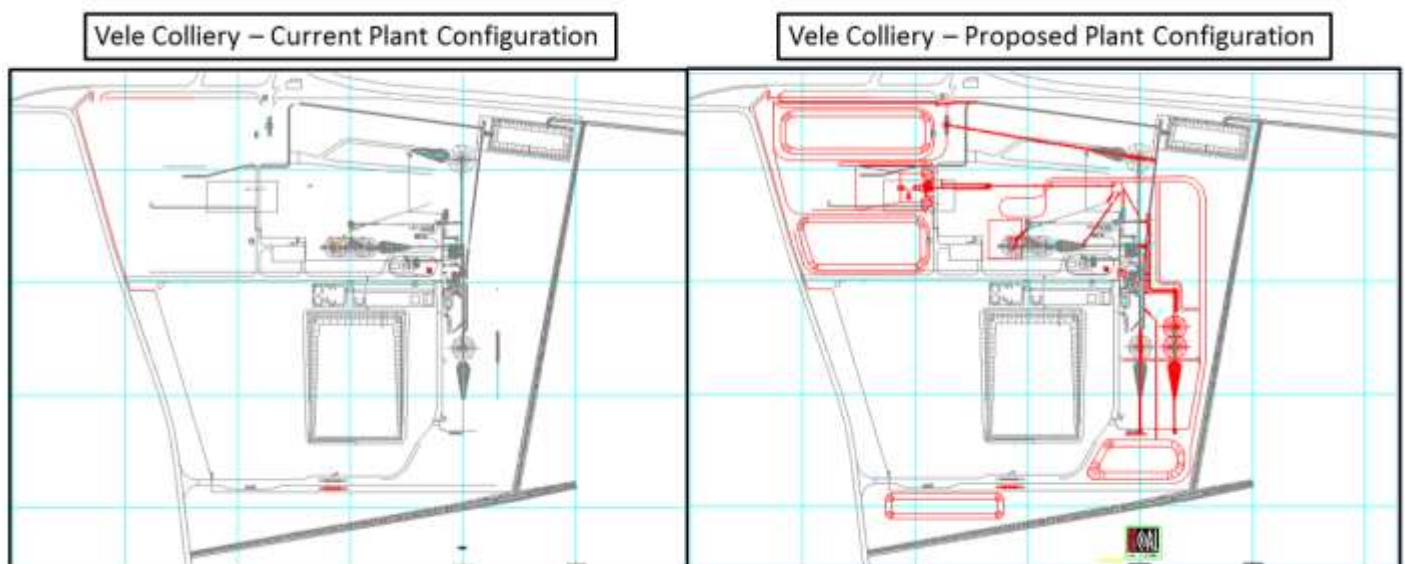
Mining operations over the next 16 years will be centred around the East Pit as approved in the Environmental Management Programme (EMP). No underground mining is planned during this period.

## 4 PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Vele Colliery currently consists of opencast mining operations, associated workshops and stores and a coal beneficiation plant. Other facilities at the mine include the following:

- Topsoil and overburden stockpiles
- ROM coal storage areas
- ROM coal crushing plant (primary, secondary and tertiary crusher)
- Associated conveyors from the crusher to storage stockpiles and from the washing plant to the product storage stockpiles
- Product stockpile areas
- Haul roads and service roads
- Change-houses and offices
- Clean water management infrastructure, including: storm water canals, flood protection berms, surface water dam and abstraction boreholes and reticulation system, including clean water storage dam
- Dirty water management infrastructure, including: dirty water dams and a sewage treatment facility
- Temporary slimes dam
- Discard stockpile

The current and proposed plant configurations are illustrated in the diagrams below.



## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Vele Colliery was granted its New Order Mining Right (NOMR) on 19 March 2010 on the farms Overvlakte 125 MS (Ptn 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14 and RE), Bergen Op Zoom 124 MS, Semple 155 MS and Voorspoed 836 MS.

The Colliery is in possession of an approved EMP, approved in terms of Section 39 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002. The extent of the mining right application area is 8663 hectares.

The Integrated Water Use License (IWUL) and amended license was granted by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) in terms of the National Water Act, 1998.

The Company was granted the Environmental Authorisation in terms of Section 24G of NEMA in July and October 2011.

The Company seeks to amend certain approved activities, and has submitted applications in this regard to the Department of Environmental Affairs, as follows:

Current Environmental Authorisation	Amendment applied for
<p><b>GNR 387 Listed Activity 6: The construction of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more</b></p>	
<p>The construction of a slurry dam covering a total area of 5.17 ha on the farm Bergen Op Zoom 124 MS. The dam is required for slurry material (to be processed). The height of the dam is 7.4 metres. The dam is lined with 1.5mm HDPE plastic liner over 50mm of compacted material. The bulk material was compacted to a 90% density. When completed, the total capacity of the slurry dam will be 132 440 cm<sup>3</sup> and planned to store 120 000 m<sup>3</sup> of slurry material.</p>	<p>The amendment is sought to rectify the typographical error in the Environmental Authorisation, 132 440 cm<sup>3</sup> must be amended to 132 440 m<sup>3</sup>.</p>
<p>The EA, dated 5 July 2011 and 30 October 2011 provides for the constructed infrastructure to include Pollution Control Dams (PCD's).</p>	<p>There are currently only two PCD's in use at Vele Colliery with the following capacity: One PCD for a maximum quantity of 15 500m<sup>3</sup> into the opencast dirty water dam, and a second PCD for a maximum quantity of 23 250m<sup>3</sup> into the process dirty water dam.</p> <p>A third PCD with a 10 000m<sup>3</sup> capacity and not exceeding the 5m wall height will be constructed within the mining area. The combined quantity of the current two PCD's plus the additional PCD will be 48 750m<sup>3</sup>, which will fall below the limit that triggers a new listed activity. This therefore does not require an amendment, but is for information purposes only.</p> <p>The life of mine operations indicates that a third PCD will ensure compliance with sound environment practice in terms of dirty water management and pollution prevention.</p>



Current Environmental Authorisation	Amendment applied for																																																																
<b>GNR 386 Listed Activity 15: The construction of a road that is wider than 4 metres or that has a reserve wider than 6 metres, excluding roads that fall within the ambit of another listed activity or which are access roads of less than 30 metres long</b>																																																																	
<p>Haul Road: The haul road network links the open cast pit area with the modular processing plant and the workshop area. LCC intend to use the road to transport ore from the open pit to the modular processing plant by haul trucks and other heavy machinery, during the operational phase of the mine. The haul road traverses the farms Bergen of Zoom 124 MS and Overvlakte 125 MS in a north-easterly and easterly directions. The haul road is 55m wide (to accommodate large trucks), 2.89 km and covers an area of 15.97 ha.</p> <p>Access Road: The haul road network includes the new access road constructed within the licensed mining area and covers an extent of 6.3 ha and is 4.8 km in length. The road runs in a north-south direction and traverses the farm Bergen Op Zoom, the road is planned to link Vele Colliery with the main R572.</p>	<p>The application seeks to amend this provision. This haul road is to be extended by an additional 3 km of which 1.3 km is a re-routing of the approved road to accommodate future mine activities.</p> <p>The application seeks to provide for the intention as noted in the current Environmental Authorisation i.e. the plan to link the Vele Colliery with the main R572. The access road is to be extended to 10.14 km in length, covering an area of 14.5 ha. The Environmental Authorisation failed to include the connection of the road within the mining area to the main R572 despite this being highlighted in the main report and the specialist studies submitted. Final extent will consist of an area of 14.5 ha and will be 10.14 km in length.</p>																																																																
<b>GNR 386 Listed Activity 12: The transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Ac No. 10 of 2004)</b>																																																																	
<p>The total area of indigenous vegetation cleared for construction and development is tabulated below. The description as detailed in the Environmental Authorisation only includes the indigenous vegetation (ha) that was disturbed at the time of the Section 24G application.</p>	<p>The current Environmental Authorisation does not include the full scope of work over the life of mine. The amendment seeks to address the omission, as tabulated below.</p>																																																																
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## 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Process is a process in which IAPs are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to amendment activities and/or the Authorisation amendment process.

The draft Amendment to the Environmental Authorisation is available for comment for a period of 30 calendar days from Wednesday, 4 June 2014 at the following places:

- Musina Library
- Mapungubwe National Park Reception
- Blouberg Municipal Satellite Office in Alldays
- Jacana Environmentals cc (7 Landdros Mare Street, Polokwane)
- Naledi Development (143 Sefako Makgatho Drive, Sinoville, Pretoria)
- Downloaded from Coal of Africa Limited Website ([www.coalofafrica.com](http://www.coalofafrica.com))
- Downloaded from this link: <https://naledidev.sharefile.com/d/sa51d2079eb44404b>

The comments received will be incorporated into the final Amendment Report and then submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs. IAPs will be notified when the final Amendment Report is available, as well as the final decision made by the Department.

Please submit your comments on the attached form (or separate document) and submit these to Naledi Development on or before Friday 4 July 2014.

Naledi Development Restructured (Pty) Ltd  
Lizinda Dickson  
Tel: (012) 543 9093; Fax: (086) 236 1672  
Email: [vele.pmp@gmail.com](mailto:vele.pmp@gmail.com)

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MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998)

2 June 2014

### REGISTRATION / COMMENT FORM

DEA Reference No: 12/12/20/2008

Please complete the Comment Sheet and submit to Lizinda Dickson of Naledi Development  
Restructured (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 15283, Sinoville, Pretoria, 0182, Tel: (012) 543 9093; Fax: 086 236 1672

E-mail: vele.pmp@gmail.com

Title		First Name	
Initials		Surname	
Organisation			
Property (if applicable)			
Tel number		Fax	
Email		Cell	
Comments			
<i>Please feel free to attach a separate document</i>			

Name	Signature	Date
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*Thank you for your participation*