

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TRONOX KZN SANDS (PTY) LTD: FAIRBREEZE MINE EXTENSION INTO HELEZA MOYA FARM

NOVEMBER 2023

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) introduces and provides stakeholders with information about a proposed application by Tronox's Fairbreeze Mine for environmental approval to extend mining into a portion the Heleza Moya farm, which falls within the approved Mining Rights Area.

This document forms part of a Basic Assessment and stakeholder consultation process being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA). The legal process is described in more detail further on in this document.

This BID provides early information about the project, the environmental approvals process and the role of stakeholders in this process to enable stakeholders to comment on the project and raise questions and concerns to inform the scope of the Basic Assessment. The Draft Basic Assessment Report, supporting specialist studies and Environmental Management Program (EMP) will be made available for stakeholders to comment on.

Stakeholders are invited to register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) and to actively participate in the process by:

- Completing the Registration and Comment Sheet either in writing, via email or by using the online link provided in this BID, and
- Providing comments on the application by contacting the WSP Public Participation Office at the details shown to the right.



INTRODUCTION TO THE HELEZA MOYA PROJECT

Tronox KZN Sands (Pty) Ltd (Tronox) has operated the Fairbreeze Mine, located south-west of Mtunzini, for nearly 10 years. The mine comprises four approved mining areas (Pits A, B, C and C-Extension), an onsite Primary Wet Plant (PWP) and a fines residue storage facility (RSF). Heavy mineral concentrate from the PWP containing ilmenite, zircon, rutile and other mining coproducts, is transported by road to the Tronox Central Processing Complex (CPC) in Empangeni which includes a Mineral Separation Plant (MSP) and smelter where titanium dioxide and pig iron are produced.

In 2022 Tronox acquired the 118 ha Heleza Moya property, located between the Fairbreeze PWP and the Pit B mining area, and incorporated this property into the Fairbreeze Mining Rights Area (MRA). Tronox is now making application to extend their mineral sands mining into parts of Heleza Moya to enable this area to be mined together with the approved Pit B orebody which lies on the immediate north and west of Heleza Moya. The Heleza Moya property in relation to the full MRA, approved infrastructure and mining areas is shown in **Figure 1**, together with the proposed development areas on the Heleza Moya property.

Tronox has appointed WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the EA process.

Any person, group of people or organisation interested in, or affected by, the proposed development can register as a stakeholder.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd;

PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685;

Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Link: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

PROJECT LOCATION, PROPERTY DETAILS

Fairbreeze Mine is in the uMlalazi Local Municipality that falls under the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, in KwaZulu-Natal. The Fairbreeze MRA (see Figure 1) borders Mtunzini village in the northeast and extends down the coast, abutting against the Umlalazi Nature Reserve, for roughly 13 km before cutting across due west to the N2 national road. The approved Fairbreeze mining areas Pit B, Pit C and Pit C-Extension and the primary wet pant (PWP), are located between the N2 highway and the coastal railway line. Pit A is bisected by the rail line, which turns away from the coast south of Pit B. Inland of the N2, the Fairbreeze Mega Sebeka residue storage facility (RSF) and the approved Everglades RSF extension, which is under construction, can be found together with the RSF water management infrastructure. Most of the land within the MRA was, or remains, under commercial timber plantations or sugarcane fields.

The project that is now being assessed relates to the land parcel identified as Remainder of Portion 3 of Lot Emoyeni No. 9105. This small farm was previously owned by Heleza Moya Farming (Pty) Ltd. As mentioned earlier Tronox acquired this 118 ha property in 2022 and incorporated the land parcel into the Fairbreeze MRA. Within the 118 ha Heleza Moya property an area of 73 ha, which is closest to the approved Pit B ore body is proposed to be mined and an area of approximately 10 ha will be used for topsoil stockpiling and materials laydown.

THE SITE CONDITION

The property in question has been actively farmed. The property contains a farmhouse, together with a number of agricultural labour accommodation units. The majority of arable land on this property has previously been utilised for the cultivation of sugar cane or commercial forestry. The property dips to the south-east towards the coast.

The lowest proportion of property adjacent to the coastal railway line contains a small stream which has its origins to the west of the site between FBB and FBA ore bodies and close to the N2. This stream flows onto the site in the southern corner of site, continuing along the south-eastern boundary of the property to exit at the eastern corner of site. At the point that the stream exits the property there is a small patch of natural coastal woody vegetation (a small forest patch). A small tributary to this stream originates on the property close to the western boundary of the property.

The riparian areas in the lower portion of the site have been identified and the proposed mine plan does not encroach into these areas. The proposed layout in relation to the site environmental condition is reflected in Figure 1, which follows this briefing document.

PROJECT INFORMATION

There are four ore bodies presently forming part of the Fairbreeze Mine, known as:

- Fairbreeze A (FBA)
- Fairbreeze B (FBB)
- Fairbreeze C (FBC)
- Fairbreeze C extension (FBCX)

The current proposal is to expand the FBB ore body to include economically viable mineralised areas within the Heleza Moya farm. Figure 1 indicates the extent of the area that will be disturbed by the proposed mining activities (indicated by the shaded area in the figure on the left), and associated support infrastructure at the Heleza Moya Farm.

No new processing or waste disposal infrastructure will be required. This is because the required mineral beneficiation plant and infrastructure to support the mining activity and fleet are already in place and authorized under the Fairbreeze EA (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) Ref: KZN30/5/1/2/2/123MR) and includes water supply, power supply, on and off ramps at the N2 highway, a primary processing plant and fine residue storage facility.

The remaining Life of Mine (LoM) at the existing Fairbreeze Mine is approximately 15 years (i.e., 2037) at a mining rate of 2 160 tons per hour (tph).

Adding in the proposed Heleza Moya mineable reserves will increase the LoM by 2 years (i.e., 2039). There is no change in the rate of mining and therefore no change in established infrastructure is needed. Similarly, the fine residue facility has capacity to accommodate the additional fine residues.

MINING PROCESS

The proposed mining method will be exactly the same as is currently used at Fairbreeze. This involves the removal of vegetation and the stripping of topsoil to expose the mineralised sands. Topsoil is stockpiled at identified areas and protected for use in rehabilitation when mining is finished.

The mining method used at Fairbreeze mine is Hydraulic Monitoring. A jet of high-pressure water is aimed at a mining face, cutting into and loosening the *in-situ* sand so that it collapses onto the pit floor. The water acts as a carrier medium for the run of mine (ROM) sands which are washed to a sump from where they are pumped to the existing Fairbreeze Primary Wet Plant (PWP) for processing. A heavy mineral concentrate is produced at the PWP which will then be trucked by road to the Tronox CPC at Empangeni for refinement. The fine discard or slimes material from the PWP will be pumped to an existing RSF, while the coarse washed sand tailings will be pumped back to the mining area to backfill the mining void. Water pumped back to mined out areas with the washed sands is recovered in in-pit sumps and recycled to be used in hydraulic mining.

PROJECT MOTIVATION

The Heleza Moya farm was not acquired when the original mine was started. This small piece of mineralised land lies right inside the mining right. Tronox has now purchased this piece of land and it allows the Fairbreeze Mine plan to be optimised to include the northern mineralised portions of this site and mine them together with the Pit B orebody, adding two years to the mine life. Through this, the economic contribution of Fairbreeze mine is also extended by two years.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

The following specialist studies, which were informed by the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment's (DFFE's) Screening Tool, and contributions from experts will be undertaken as part of the BA process:

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| ▪ Heritage and Palaeontological Screening | ▪ Social Impact Assessment |
| ▪ Air Quality Impact Statement | ▪ Groundwater Model, Impact Assessment and Water Balance |
| ▪ Noise Impact Statement | ▪ Surface Water Impact Assessment |
| ▪ Ecological Assessment: Flora and Fauna | ▪ Visual Impact Statement |
| ▪ Soils and Agricultural Potential | ▪ Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Plan |

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of stakeholder engagement is to consult with interested and affected parties in the public and private sectors as part of the decision-making process on projects which may affect them. The process aims to develop and maintain open channels of communication between the project team and stakeholders. This process provides stakeholders with the opportunity to express their views and concerns regarding the proposed project. As such, it is intended that your involvement as a stakeholder on this project will influence:

- The scope of the investigations that will inform the BA.
- Project alternatives under consideration.
- Methods for involvement and communication with stakeholders.
- Mitigation measures that could be employed for the project.

Additionally, stakeholders have a local contextual understanding that needs to be recognised and considered.

In terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA), personal information provided by I&APs will only be used for the sole purposes of this project and will only be shared with the relevant Government Departments as per the regulatory requirements and will not be shared with anyone else without their consent.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legislative context which applies to this project for the proposed applications includes the following key legislation:

- National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) and NEMA EIA Regulations (2014), as amended,
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008).

Although the Heleza Moya property has been consolidated into the MRA of Fairbreeze Mine (MR reference: KZN/30/5/1/2/2/123MR), no application to mine this land has been made. An Environmental Authorisation application to mine on identified parts of Heleza Moya must be submitted to the DMRE KZN Regional Office. A Basic Assessment (BA) process must be undertaken to support the application for EA. This BA process is undertaken in terms of Government Notice Regulations (GN R.) No. 982 and 983 of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.

The activity triggering the requirement for an authorisation is detailed below:

Listed Activity	Description	Applicability
Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended by GN R. 517 of 2021), Activity 21D	Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an amendment or variation to a right or permit in terms of section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required for such amendment	A S102 application will be submitted to include Heleza Moya Farm into the mining right

This BA process will follow the requirements listed in Section 19-20 and Appendix 1 of GNR 982 of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.

Fine residue will be stored at the licenced Mega Sebeka Residue Storage Facility (MSRSF)/Everglades.

THE GENERAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	DURATION	START ↓ FINISH
Pre-Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information gathering Legal review and screening, identifying EIA listed activities Pre-application consultation with Competent Authority (CA) 	1-2 months	
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile and lodge EA application Receive acknowledgement of receipt of application (10 Days) Compile draft BA Report (which includes specialist studies) 	2-4 months	
Public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenting period of Draft Basic Assessment Report including focus group meeting (if required) (30 days) Comments and Responses Report (CRR) 	2 months	
Submission of Basic Assessment Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of final BA Report to CA Issuance of Decision by the CA (107 days of report submission) 	3½ months	
Decision & Notifications & Appeal Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA grants/refuses authorisation Notification to registered I&APs of the CA's Decision Notification to registered I&APs of Appeal Process (14 Days of receipt of decision) Opportunity for appeal (20 days) 	0-3 months	

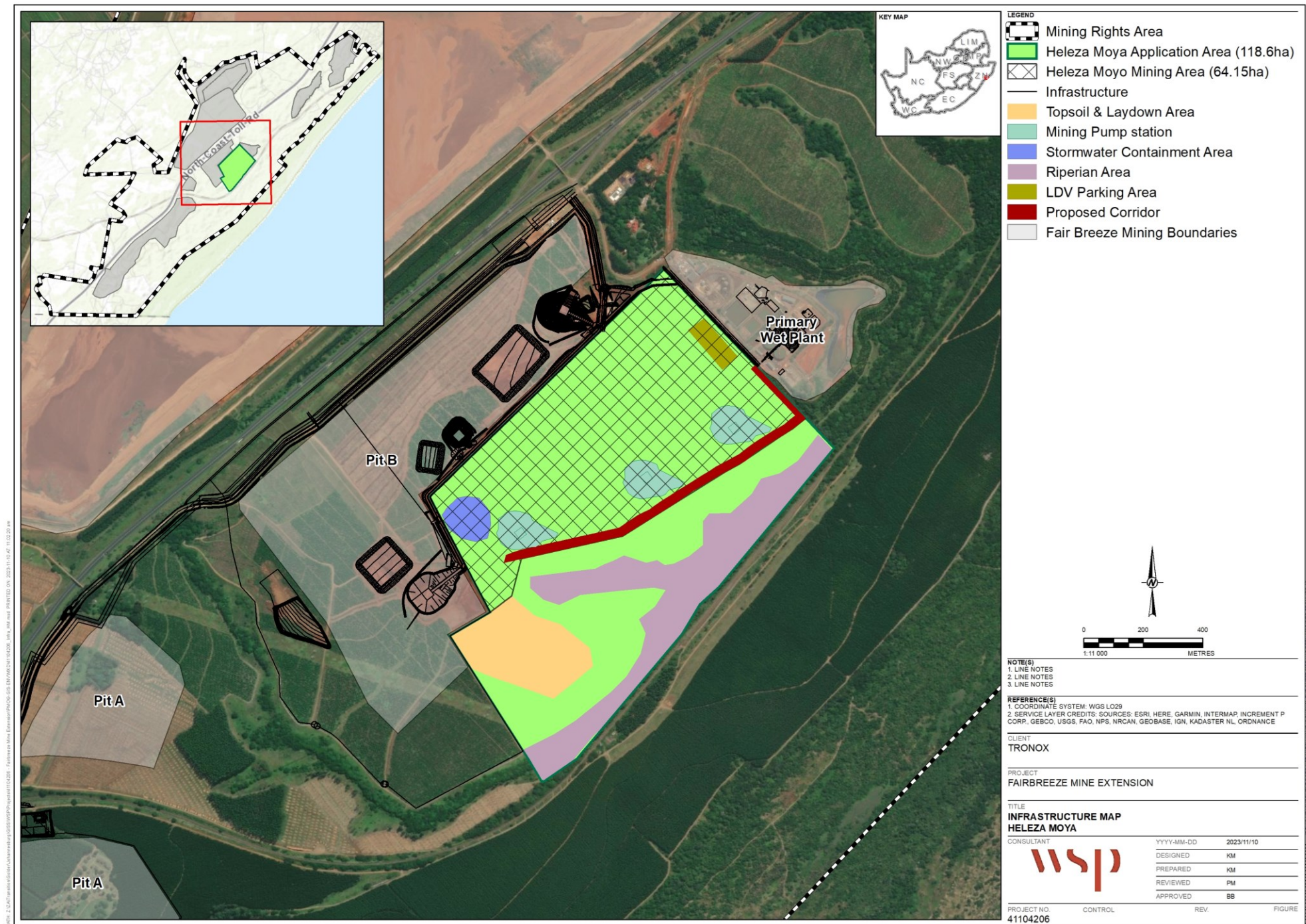


Figure 1: Heleza Moya conceptual layout map