

Our ref: 11.44 Wakkerstroom Luneburg

29 August 2012

Ms. Lizelle Prosch
WSP Environment and Energy
Lizelle.Prosch@WSPGroup.co.za

Dear Ms. Prosch

RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED YZERMYN UNDERGROUND COAL MINE (MP30/5/1/1/2/215PR) OVER THE PROPERTIES GOEDGEVONDEN 95HT, KROMHOEK 93HT, YZERMYN 96HT AND ZOETFONTEIN 94HT

Your application for environmental authorisation for the aforementioned Yzermyn Coal Mine has reference.

Please note that the MTPA has never been informed of the application for prospecting over the aforementioned properties and therefore the MTPA objects to the granting of these rights on the grounds that no consultation has taken place with the relevant authorities.

The area in question forms part of a larger area proposed to be declared as a Protected Environment under the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act (57 of 2003) and considerable work, time and investment have been put into the process of engagement with landowners and other parties to have the area declared and is approaching the final stages of declaration.

The work of expanding the protected areas within this part of the province also forms part of a project initiated by the National Grasslands Programme in 2008 and with support from WWF-SA and therefore considerable investments have been made within this area by the respective organisations.

The area in question is classified as a sensitive area from a biodiversity conservation perspective and is identified as such within the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan (MTPA, 2006) which was endorsed by the Mpumalanga Provincial Cabinet in 2008.

Furthermore, the properties in question also form part of a larger area proposed for exclusion from mining in terms of Section 49 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Figure 1) and the proposal to have the area identified under Section 49 of the MPRDA was submitted to the DMR in 2011 on the following grounds:-

- The area is critically important from a water production perspective;
- The area is largely classed as irreplaceable within the MBCP and thus crucial for the achievement of provincial conservation targets;
- The area is listed as a threatened ecosystem in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act; and
- The area is identified as important for provincial and national protected area expansion.

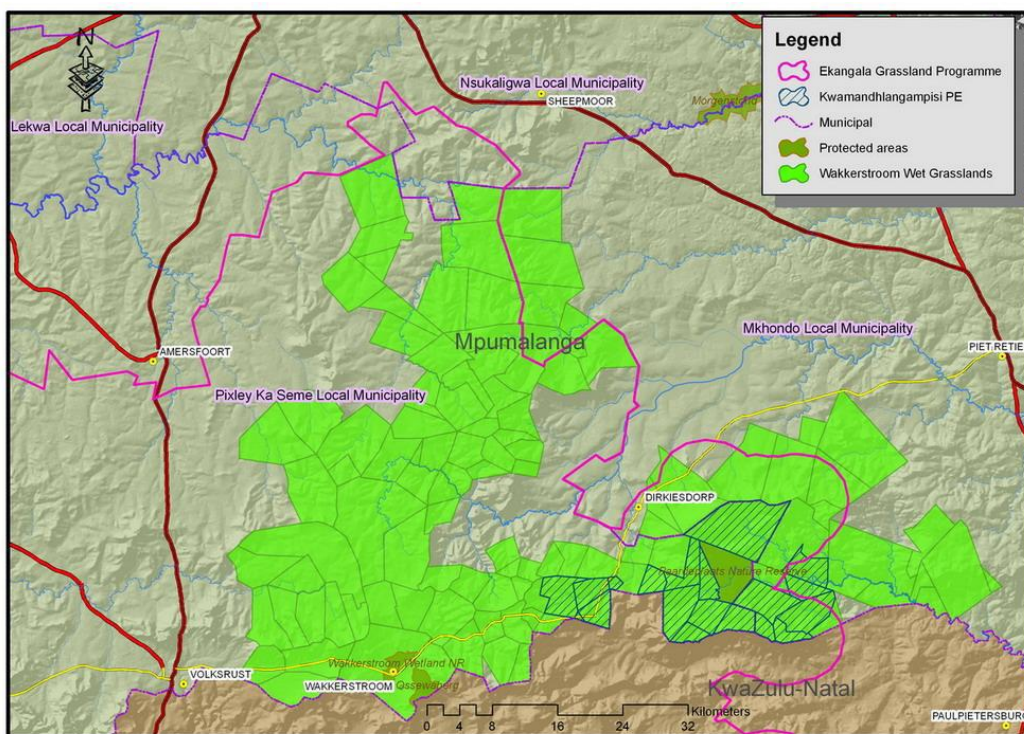


Figure 1: Extent of the Wakkerstroom Wet Grasslands proposed under Section 49 of the MPRDA.

The MTPA therefore strongly object to any mining activities within the Wakkerstroom Wet Grasslands area.

The MTPA hereby registers as a stakeholder in the Environmental Authorisation process.

Please forward any correspondence in this regard to enviroteq@gmail.com or contact Mr. Brian Morris at 0845797979.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. B.E. Morris
SENIOR MANAGER
PROTECTED AREAS EXPANSION
MPUMALANGA TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY

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