

RESPONSE TO QUERIES:**23 April 2025****KROPZ PLC RESPONDS TO WWF'S COMMENTS
REGARDING ELANDSFONTEIN MINE**

Kropz Elandsfontein (Pty) Ltd ("Kropz") notes the recent commentary by WWF South Africa regarding the Company's mining activities at the Elandsfontein phosphate mine and provides the following context and factual clarity.

Kropz was granted a mining right by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) on 30 January 2015, to mine phosphate on portions 2 and 4 of the farm Elandsfontein 239. The farm is owned by Elandsfontein Land Holdings (Pty) Ltd ("ELH"), a subsidiary of the Kropz Group.

The phosphate ore body extends into the adjoining farm (portion 3 of Elandsfontein 349), which was incorporated in the West Coast National Park (WCNP) in 2013, at a time when Kropz was already in the process of applying for its mining rights.

In accordance with section 20(2) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), Kropz submitted an application on 14 March 2025 to SANParks, requesting the exclusion of this portion of land from the WCNP. Section 21(2) of NEMPAA provides a lawful mechanism for such an exclusion when there is agreement between the parties.

To compensate for the potential de-proclamation of the relevant area, Kropz has formally offered SANParks the inclusion of biodiversity-rich land bordering the WCNP, land which is of equal or greater conservation value than the current portion under consideration. This proposed land swap would not only consolidate the WCNP footprint but also support SANParks' long-term biodiversity goals with the addition of infrastructure and land access.

The Company currently remains in discussions with SANParks and the relevant regulatory authorities.

Phosphate deposits in this region are well-documented, dating back to prospecting activities by Samancor Ltd between 1982 and 1986. The phosphate-rich nature of the land in question is a matter of public record, with official drilling data held by the Council of Geoscience.

Currently, the mine supports over 500 direct jobs, primarily from the neighbouring town of Hopefield. With a conservative estimate of 1:10 dependency, over 5,000 individuals rely on the continued operation of the mine. In a country with one of the highest unemployment rates globally, the socio-economic contribution of Elandsfontein Mine is significant.

Kropz CEO Louis Loubser notes: “We are committed to responsible environmental stewardship and deeply committed to the sustainable use of South Africa’s natural resources. At the same time, we are fully aware of our responsibility to protect the livelihoods of our employees and their families. We operate under the firm belief that economic development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive - we can and must do both.

“Kropz has always complied and continues to comply fully with all its environmental authorisations and undergoes regular audits by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), and the DMRE. We maintain significant financial guarantees to ensure rehabilitation obligations are met at any stage, whether in the event of premature closure or eventual mine decommissioning.

“We have hosted multiple open days, welcoming the public and stakeholders to visit the mine, ask questions, and engage constructively with us. Over the past six months, we have also extended formal invitations to several organisations to visit the site, meet our team, and witness our operations firsthand. These offers remain open, as we continue to believe that transparent, inclusive dialogue is the only path forward.

“South Africans are not unfamiliar with the reality of rising unemployment, increasing poverty, and social unrest. These are not distant issues—they’re lived experiences in towns like Hopefield, Saldanha and Vredenburg. We ask that stakeholders consider the full spectrum of impacts: environmental, social, and economic, and bear in mind the social and economic contribution of Kropz to the region over the full life of mine.”

Kropz has recently initiated the local sale of phosphate to South African farmers, providing a sustainable, locally sourced alternative to imported products. It comes at a substantial discount to substitute products and offers significant benefits for our farmers. This shift

supports food security, reduces carbon emissions from long-distance imports, and contributes to a circular, environmentally conscious economy.

“We are aligned with the vision to build a future where humans live in harmony with nature, conserving biodiversity, using resources sustainably, and reducing pollution. In this we are completely aligned with the stated mission of the WWF. We invite the WWF to engage directly with us, so we can collectively ensure a prosperous future for the West Coast, our people, and the environment,” Loubser concluded.

Kropz welcomes all parties to engage in an honest and fact-based discussion about the future of Elandsfontein Mine and the region's sustainable development.

For further information visit www.kropz.com or contact:

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