



**ROAD PAVEMENTS
FORUM**

Bitumen Imports - South Africa April 2025

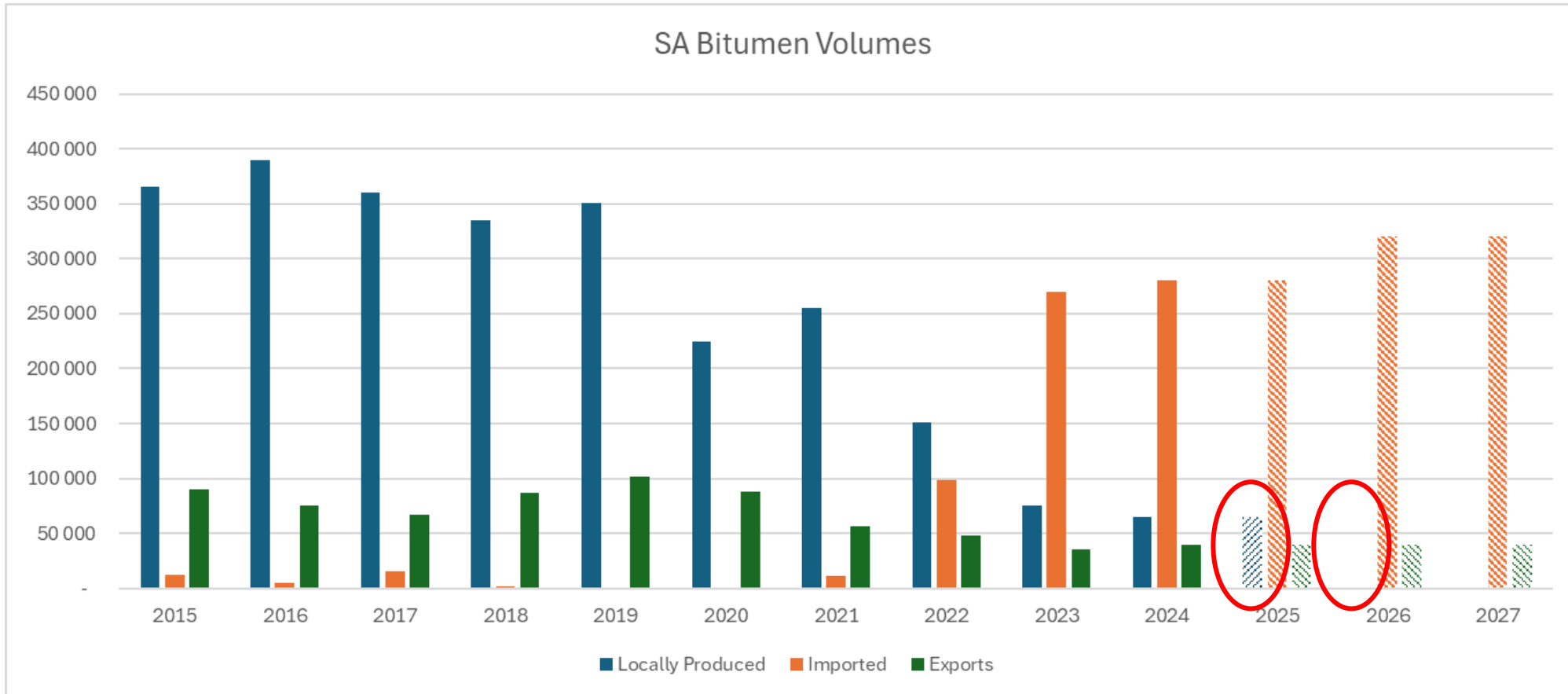


Recent History

Refineries

- 4 refineries historically producing bitumen
- 3 Refineries experienced force majeure level events.
 - CALREF (Astron) explosion 2020,
 - ENREF fire 2020,
 - SAPREF KZN floods 2022.
- SAPREF and ENREF closed indefinitely. (Accounted for 60% of SA refining capacity)
- Astron refinery running again with no bitumen production.
- NATREF refinery is the last remaining refinery producing bitumen, reported to stop bitumen manufacturing in September 2025.
- Production changes due to compliance to clean fuel requirements and changes in crude.

Recent History



Initial Industry Reaction

- Overnight fundamental change in supply logistics and price
- Industry knee jerk reaction
 - Significant capex for storage
 - Working capital pressures due to increased stock levels & cash outlays
- South Africa becomes the bitumen “El Dorado”
- Slow start to bulk terminal solutions
- Initial impact on contract management was minimal as Shell, Masana, Total, Sasol were technically still active
- The bitumen supply landscape changes (out with the old in with the new)



Initial Industry Reaction (cont.)

Specification & Quality

- All this coincided during the major shift in industry specification and the challenges associated in implementing the PG specifications.
- Import variety creates concerns around quality.
- Certain grades were and still are harder to come by (10/20)
- Bitumen testing became critical and impacts on design and formulations became a daily battle.



Where are we today?

- 250kt plus annual imports
- Bulk bitumen vessels in Durban port every month
- Better understanding of sources & quality
- Major investments in bulk storage infrastructure ongoing
- Proper health and safety procedures linked to discharge of bitumen
- Improved testing of bitumen quality
- Supply vs Demand imbalance ongoing
- Still somewhat reactive trying to fit a new world order into an old model.

How do we move forward.....?

- Are we understanding client expectations?
- Is the current bitumen import business model sustainable?
- How do we ensure that bitumen imports line up with national commitments on transformation, carbon reduction, job creation, empowerment....?

Let's engage.....

